



# Pakistan High Commission

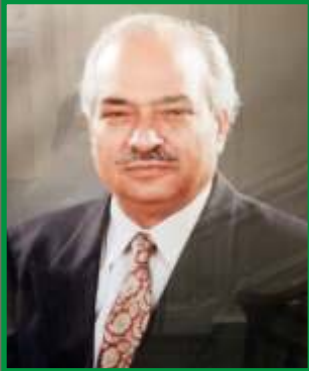
London

Issue 01

January, 2012

Vol 01

## Message from the High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Wajid Shamsul Hasan



Dear Friends,  
Greetings!

I hope your new year has started off well.

I am happy to share with you that Pakistan High Commission is bringing out this news letter to update the British people and our Diaspora on the recent developments in Pakistan, Pakistan's bilateral interaction with the UK and the regional countries of interest to the international community and events related to Pakistan. The news letter is an effort to strengthen connections between the Mission and the Pakistani community in the UK. The initiative reflects our continued commitment to a cohesive and well connected Pakistani community in the UK.

This news letter will provide a vital instrument for this Mission to effectively and efficiently fulfil its mandate of conducting Pakistan's foreign relations and commercial diplomacy in order to promote a regional and international environment that supports Pakistan's economic growth, development, and security needs. This initiative will greatly enhance the Mission's effectiveness in provision of vital information to Pakistani Diaspora, prospective investors, business people, tourists, students interested in pursuing education in Pakistan, and researchers interested in the monuments of unaging intellect buried in the archaeological sites of the Indus Valley. In addition, it will enable us to better portray Pakistan's real image under its democratic leadership that, I am sure, is positively different from what is shown in the international media.

We remain open to suggestions and comments to enable us to continuously improve our presentation.

We look forward to working closely with our worthy readers.



## Lord Green and Baroness Warsi visit Pakistan

Lord Stephen Keith Green of Hurstpierpoint made his maiden visit as the UK Minister for Trade & Investment, to Pakistan on 11-12 January 2012. Lord Green was accompanied by Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Co-Chairperson of the Conservative Party.

The Minister and Baroness Warsi called on the Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani in Islamabad. They also called on Governor Sindh, Chief Minister Sindh and Chief Minister Punjab and the Minister for Finance besides other senior officials. A large part of the visit was assigned to meeting Pakistani businessmen to encourage them to trade with the UK. In Karachi, Lord Green visited the manufacturing facilities of GlaxoSmithKline and also inaugurated the first outlet of UK-based retailer Debenhams.

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi commented on the important visit, *"The UK is investing in Pakistan's future. Lord Green's first visit to Pakistan as Trade Minister is a sign of the UK's commitment to the longstanding partnership between our two countries. Lord Green and I are looking forward to further strengthening the unbreakable partnership between our two countries."*

## Pakistan, UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue

Pakistan and the United Kingdom have been working since 2009 to establish a Summit Level Strategic Dialogue to comprehensively upgrade relations in diverse fields. During Prime Minister David Cameron's visit to Pakistan in April 2011 the Summit level Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) was formally launched. Various strands of bilateral cooperation under the ESD included Political, Trade & Commerce, Finance and Macroeconomic Stability, Defence & Security, Health & Education, and Cultural fields. The cooperation in the fields would be led by the respective ministers, who would meet periodically. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries would review periodically the progress and report to the two Prime Ministers before their annual Summit. Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar's visit during February 2012 to the UK is in this context.

## Prospects of Mining Sector in Pakistan



A mining sector report on Pakistan has been published on 27 January 2012 in the Mining Journal (pp 16-17), which is a weekly publication from London on the prospects of mining sector in Pakistan.

The report notes that "Pakistan's natural resources sector has so far been underexplored and underdeveloped. There is evidence that the risks, while not unfounded, are overstated, and the rewards are significant for those investors willing to make the first move."

The report is available to view online at [www.mining-journal.com](http://www.mining-journal.com)

## Pakistan - EU move to consolidate relations

Pakistan and the EU have taken steps to institutionalise the two-way interaction at the Summit level by initiating a 5-Year Engagement Plan, of late, which is in the final stages. EU is Pakistan's major trading, investment and development assistance partner. Currently the relations are guided by a Ministerial level Joint Commission that meets regularly.

Pakistan had been endeavouring for a preferential access to the EU markets for enhancement of its trade with the EU. The two-pronged approach involving the WTO route and the EU's GSP Plus Scheme has yet to yield results.

The WTO route has been hindered by mainly India for almost two years. However, recent thaw in tense relations, resumption of dialogue for peace, Pakistan's goodwill gestures towards India and an effective role played by the UK in support of Pakistan have led to the softening of the Indian stance.



## Pakistan Senate passes two Bills for Women

The Senate of Pakistan has recently unanimously passed two landmark bills providing for deterrent punishments for anti-women acts and acid crimes. Both the Bills amend the Pakistan Penal Code 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedures 1898. Bills were earlier adopted by the National Assembly. Pakistan High Commission would like to mention the tremendous good work done by Acid Survivors Trust

International (ASTI) in partnership with Acid Survivors Foundation in Pakistan.

## Envoys' Conference - Discussing the new Terms of Engagement

Compelled by America's repeated disregard for the sovereignty of Pakistan and the enormous sacrifices that Pakistan had rendered as the non-NATO Major Ally with the lives of 34,000 civilians and over 5,000 Armed Forces and security personnel while suffering from over US\$ 70 billion in economic losses, the democratic Government of Pakistan convened an Envoys' Conference on 12-13 December 2011 to review relations with the US and NATO/ISAF and prepare recommendations for consideration by the Parliament.

The NATO supplies, which Pakistan facilitated without any charges or levy since October 2001 while its own economy, people, transport sector, infrastructure and environment suffered, remain closed pending a decision by the Parliamentary Committee on National Security.

With the closure of Pakistan's routes, US and NATO are now relying on Northern Distribution Network (NDN), which involves routes passing through Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Russia and Kazakhstan.

## British High Commissioner for enhanced Pak-UK trade

H.E. Adam Thomson, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, was the guest speaker at the quarterly meeting of the Pakistan Britain Trade



& Investment Forum (BTIF) held on 9 January 2011 in London. The High Commissioner spoke at length on the political and economic outlook in Pakistan and defined plans for enhancing UK's trade & investment relations with Pakistan through one to one targeted interventions an interactions with businesses in both markets.

*Continued on to next page*



## New Silk Road will bridge Pakistan and China

Pakistan is keen to establish Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Kashgar and Khorgos in China's Xinjiang Province. President Asif Ali Zardari has keenly pursued to consolidate relations with China, which is an all-weather, reliable and sincere friend of Pakistan. The President is a frequent visitor to China. Pakistan sees Xinjiang as a natural bridge between the two countries. Plans to establish trans-border economic zones on both sides are on board. Both countries would establish manufacturing hubs, trade houses, and clearing houses. The bilateral segment of this Silk Route would be expanded



to transform into a trans-regional economic zone encompassing Pakistan, China, Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.

## PM urges Press Officers to highlight national policies



Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has called upon the Press Officers posted in the country's missions abroad to highlight national policies reflecting the real image of Pakistan. He was talking to a group of Press Officers at the PM House, participating in the annual Consultative Conference being organized by the External Publicity Wing of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Minister for Information & Broadcasting Dr.

Firdous Ashiq Awan was also present.

The Prime Minister underlined the maximum utilization of all types of media by the public information professionals to cope with challenges faced by the image of the country abroad. Such a pro-active approach by the Press Officers would help establish meaningful linkages with the international community, he added. The Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan apprised the Prime Minister of the details and objectives of Consultative Conference.

### *Continued from last page*

Economic, political and border problems among the Central Asian States and the Russian factor are major impediments in the smooth maintaining of supplies for the NATO/ISAF Forces through NDN.

## Chitral, Tajikistan 205 km Highway to make region economic hub

Chitral of Northern Areas of Pakistan would be linked to Tajikistan through a 205 kms long road at the cost of Rs. 18 billion to make the region an

economic and commercial hub. The first phase of Lowari Tunnel has been completed.

## Community Welfare Division at Pakistan High Commission

The Community Welfare Division at Pakistan High Commission in London is dedicated to provide services to the Pakistani



community in the United Kingdom. The Division is headed by Minister of Community Welfare Mr. Salis Kiani whereas Mrs. Shehnaz Mazhar is Community Welfare Counsellor. This Division promotes the socio-cultural events in the Pakistani community and works for the social and economic integration of the British Pakistanis in the UK. It also helps the Pakistani community on various individual and collective issues. Welfare Division serves as a bridge between overseas Pakistanis and various government offices in Pakistan. Presently two such offices are working for the welfare of Pakistani community, one in London and the other in Manchester.

## South Asian Review (SAR) launched at Pakistan High Commission

The literary journal South Asian Review: Tracing the Tradition, Embracing the Emerging, Creative Writing special issue (31.3, 2010), was recently launched at a ceremony hosted by Pakistan High Commissioner for UK Wajid Shamsul Hasan at the Pakistan High Commission, London. The publication features over fifty contributors from Pakistan and the Diaspora. The Review includes not only some of Pakistan's major figures in the partition and post-partition period, now deceased, who adopted English as the language of their creative expression, but also some younger and emerging writers who are carving out a path for



## Nazir Sabir: A pilgrim to the mountain tops

The world renowned Pakistani mountaineer Nazir Sabir gave a talk on his K2 and Everest climbs as well as the mountain heritage in Pakistan at Pakistan High Commission recently and said the mountainous region of Pakistan is a paradise for the mountaineers of the world. In his enthralling hour-long presentation embellished with stunning imagery Nazir Sabir explained the unique details of his 1977 expedition to K-2 covering its

geology, sociology and history. He also briefed the audience of his success to reach the highest mountain of the world Mount Everest in 2001.

The mountain K-2 with an altitude of 8611 meters is known as the "Savage Mountain" because of its difficult climb and extreme cold conditions.

The event was avidly attended by media persons, members of the Pakistani society and the British society.

He visited the UK at the invitation of World Expeditions, and was also given an audience by the Queen.



themselves overseas and at home. Ms. Rukhsana Ahmad, a well-known novelist and playwright moderated the event and underlined the importance of literary discourse in the society. The two Guest-Editors of the SAR Dr. Fawzia Afzal-Khan and Dr. Waseem Anwar introduced the volume and presented their works.

Contributing authors who presented their work included Aamina Naseer, Sabyn Javeri-Jilani, Rizwan Akhtar, Qaisra Shahraz, and Amer Hussein.

**Feedback**  
[pressinfo@phclondon.org](mailto:pressinfo@phclondon.org)