



### PRIME MINISTER ATTENDED THE LONDON CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, on the invitation of British Prime Minister David Cameron, attended the London Conference on Afghanistan on 4 December 2014. In his address, the Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's strong solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and urged the international community to help the Afghan leadership realize their vision. He said Pakistan and Afghanistan were committed to advancing their common goal of a peaceful, stable, united and prosperous Afghanistan. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also underlined the need to send a clear message of

deeper engagement with Afghanistan, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the dignity of its people. He called for the need to address the urgent fiscal crisis and provide sustained financial assistance to through the "Transformation Decade" for building a secure and self-reliant Afghanistan. The Prime Minister stressed development cooperation to meet the development priorities of the Afghan government besides strengthening efforts in the fight against narcotics production and trafficking. He also urged the international community to support the new



government's desire to bring back five million Afghan refugees living abroad, by helping to create conducive conditions for their sustainable reintegration. The Conference was co-hosted by

the Governments of the UK and Afghanistan. The Prime Minister thanked the British Prime Minister for organizing this important Conference on Afghanistan.

### PRIME MINISTER HELD BREAKFAST MEETING WITH DAVID CAMERON



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held a breakfast meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street on 5 December 2014. During the

meeting, bilateral relations, matters of mutual interest and the regional situation came under discussion. The Prime Minister appreciated UK's assistance in Pakistan's social sector development, particularly, in health and education. He invited British investments in the energy sector of Pakistan. The Prime Minister stated that Pakistan had suffered the most in fight against terrorism and its sacrifices needed to be recognized by the international community. He added that a stable, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan was in Pakistan's best interest and reiterated Pakistan's desire for forging co-operative relations with the new Afghan government. Prime Minister Cameron,

appreciating Pakistan's sacrifices in fight against terrorism, assured of his government's support to Pakistan in its efforts to root out the menace of terrorism from the country. Later, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani joined the two leaders. Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah was also present on the occasion. In the backdrop of the London Conference on Afghanistan, regional situation with particular reference to Afghanistan was discussed and commitments made in the Conference were reiterated during the meeting. The leaders expressed their resolve to work together for a stable, prosperous and peaceful Afghanistan which

could bring about regional stability. Adviser to the Prime Minister Mr Sartaj Aziz and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi were also present in the meeting. British Secretary for International Development Justine Greening and Home Secretary Theresa May called on the Prime Minister during his UK visit and discussed issues of bilateral interest. Managing Director, World Bank Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Executive of Rostec-Global Resources Andrei Korobov also called on the Prime Minister and discussed issues relating the economy and energy.

### MALALA BECOMES THE YOUNGEST EVER RECIPIENT OF A NOBEL PRIZE

Malala Yousafzai became the youngest ever Nobel laureate when she received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway on 10 December 2014. Malala said she was there to stand up for the rights of forgotten and frightened children, and raise their voice rather than pity them. In her Nobel speech, Malala said the award was not just for her: "It is for those forgotten

children who want education. It is for those frightened children who want peace. It is for those voiceless children who want change. "I am here to stand up for their rights, raise their voice. It is not time to pity them. It is time to take action so it becomes the last time that we see a child deprived of education." "I will continue this fight until I see every child in school," she added.

Ms Yousafzai said she was dedicating the prize money to the Malala Fund, to promote girls' education. Malala received her award from the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel committee, in the presence of King Harald V of Norway. In his message, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said: "The dream of Malala regarding girls' education shall be realised."





## US SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY CALLED ON THE PRIME MINISTER IN LONDON

U S Secretary of State John Kerry called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in London on 4 December 2014. Both the sides discussed a range of issues including regional situation and security cooperation. Prime Minister was accompanied by his Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi and High Commissioner Syed Ibne Abbas. The Prime Minister updated Secretary Kerry on the successful ongoing

Operation Zarb-e-Azb informing that more than 80% of the area had been cleared of miscreants. He stated that the Operation would continue till the complete elimination of militants and terrorists. The Prime Minister said a stable, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan was in Pakistan's best interest and said his country looked forward to having a good working relationship with the new Afghan government. Secretary Kerry acknowledged Pakistan's contribution and sacrifices in



fight against extremism and terrorism. He welcomed improvement in ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan and

regarded it a step towards regional stability and assured full support of the US in this regard.

## PRIME MINISTER MET THE PRINCE OF WALES



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif met HRH Charles Philip, the Prince of Wales at Clarence House London on 5 December 2014. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the excellent Pakistan-UK relations which were further

strengthened by strong Pakistani diaspora in the UK. He appreciated the UK's assistance in health and education sectors of Pakistan. The Prime Minister commended the Commonwealth's positive role in the lives of over 2.2 billion citizens living in member countries and assured Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth values and

principles. He also appreciated the royal family's patronage of global charities and invited Prince Charles to visit Pakistan at his convenience. HRH Prince Charles commended Pakistan's valuable contribution to the Commonwealth. The Prince of Wales also appreciated government's economic reforms agenda.

## PRIME MINISTER LAUDS AGA KHAN'S SERVICES IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFT OF THE POOR

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif lauded services of Prince Karim Aga Khan across the world, particularly in Pakistan in areas of health and education, and overall socio-economic uplift of the poor. He expressed these views during a meeting with Prince Karim Aga Khan in London on 4 December 2014. The Prime Minister also noted with appreciation the continuous support of the Aga Khan Development Network and Aga Khan Foundation in taking lead in a number of important social sector projects, especially in Gilgit Baltistan. He assured Aga Khan that the government



would continue to work with the Aga Khan Foundation in its socio-economic uplift schemes. The Prime Minister said the government was keen to exploit the economic potential of Gilgit-Baltistan especially the energy and natural resources for the prosperity of the local residents and the entire Pakistan. It was agreed to work together for making small hydro-power projects in northern areas to provide electricity for rural areas. Aga Khan expressed his desire to create linkages between Aga Khan's universities in Central Asia and Karakoram University in Gilgit-Baltistan.



## CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL HELD AT THE PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION

The Pakistan High Commission London held a Candle Light Vigil on 17 December 2014, in the memory of the innocent lives lost in horrendous attack on school in Peshawar. Hundreds of people turned up to express solidarity with the families of the victims. On this occasion, two-minute silence was observed and prayers were offered for the 149 victims.

In his remarks on the occasion, Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK thanked the attendees for their overwhelming support and solidarity with the victims, the families and the people of Pakistan in this difficult hour.

He said: "We are really touched by this show of

solidarity from the people and leadership from across the world. This barbaric act will further strengthen our resolve to get rid of the forces of darkness. The entire nation stands united and the government would go after these terrorists, whatever it takes."

Rehman Chishti, MP also attended the vigil on behalf of the UK government. He condemned the horrific attack on the school and expressed solidarity with the people and the government of Pakistan. Mr Chishti reiterated UK government's offer of assistance to Pakistan in its fight against terror.

The High Commission also organized Quran Khawani to offer prayers for the Peshawar victims on 23 December



2014. The ladies of the High Commission expressed solidarity with the families of the victims.

The Candle Light Vigils and Quran Khawani were organized across the UK by various community organizations to express their solidarity with the families of

the victims.

Pakistan High Commission wishes to acknowledge with deep gratitude the overwhelming support and solidarity expressed by the people of the United Kingdom in the wake of the Peshawar tragedy.

## BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY VISITED THE HIGH COMMISSION TO SIGN THE CONDOLENCE BOOK



Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond, British Foreign Secretary, on behalf of the British government, visited the Pakistan High Commission London on 19 December 2014 to sign the Condolence Book opened at the Mission in the wake of Peshawar terrorist attack.

Speaking to High Commissioner Syed Ibne Abbas, the Foreign Secretary condemned the attack on the school in Peshawar and

conveyed his government's commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people and the government of Pakistan in its fight against extremism and terrorism. He also acknowledged that Pakistan had rendered more sacrifices in fight against terror than any other country in the world.

The High Commissioner thanked Secretary Hammond for the UK government's solidarity with Pakistan in this

difficult hour and for the recognition of Pakistan's sacrifices in fight against terror.

A large number of people belonging to the British civil society including Parliamentarians, British Pakistanis, academics and diplomats visited the High Commission to record their remarks in the Condolence Book opened at the Mission for three days to observe national mourning.

## SEMINAR "HUMAN RIGHTS IN KASHMIR" HELD AT THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

The High Commission in collaboration with the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Third World Solidarity organized a seminar entitled "Human Rights in Kashmir" at the British Parliament on 15 December 2014. Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, Chairman Kashmir Committee was the Chief Guest at the occasion.

In his address, Maulana Fazal ur Rehman pointed out the gross human rights violations in Indian-held Kashmir and urged the international community to break silence on the atrocities committed by the Indian security forces. He appreciated the British parliamentarians for highlighting the human rights issues in Kashmir. Maulana called freedom and respect to be inalienable rights, for which the Kashmiris had been fighting for the last six decades. He also conveyed Pakistan's desire to have a

meaningful dialogue with India to resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully.

High Commissioner Syed Ibne Abbas reminded the audience of the commitment the international community made to the people of Kashmir in the form of UN resolutions to support their

desire for dialogue with India to resolve the outstanding dispute.

Other speakers including Anas Sarwar MP, Lord Qurban Hussain and Councillor Mushtaq Lasharie highlighted the plight of the Kashmiri people and condemned the continued

among the British parliamentarians. They urged the international community to bring diplomatic and political pressure on the Indian government to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.



right to self determination. He pledged Government of Pakistan's continued moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle. The High Commissioner reiterated the Government's

human rights violations committed by the Indian security forces. They noted that the increased frequency of Kashmir related debates in both houses of the parliament had helped develop a better understanding of the issue

The event was attended by a diverse group of audience including parliamentarians, media representatives, professionals, students and prominent members of British Pakistani and Kashmiri communities.



## LAHORE—CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HEART OF PAKISTAN

The beginning of the year is a great time to visit the cultural and historical heart of Pakistan - Lahore.

Whether you are wandering the bazaars, enjoying a rickshaw ride, or sampling some amazing fusion food, you will definitely not be disappointed. We thought we'd let you in on just a few of our favourite but lesser known sites and sounds whilst on your travels.

### Wazir Khan Masjid

Built during 1634-35, there will be few who disagree that this is the most beautiful mosque of the Mughal period. The complex tile work and fresco

paintings are sublime and the internal calligraphy is stunning. Here, one can easily sit and be lost in thought for many an hour. In fact, we'd suggest you do just that!

### Hiran Minar

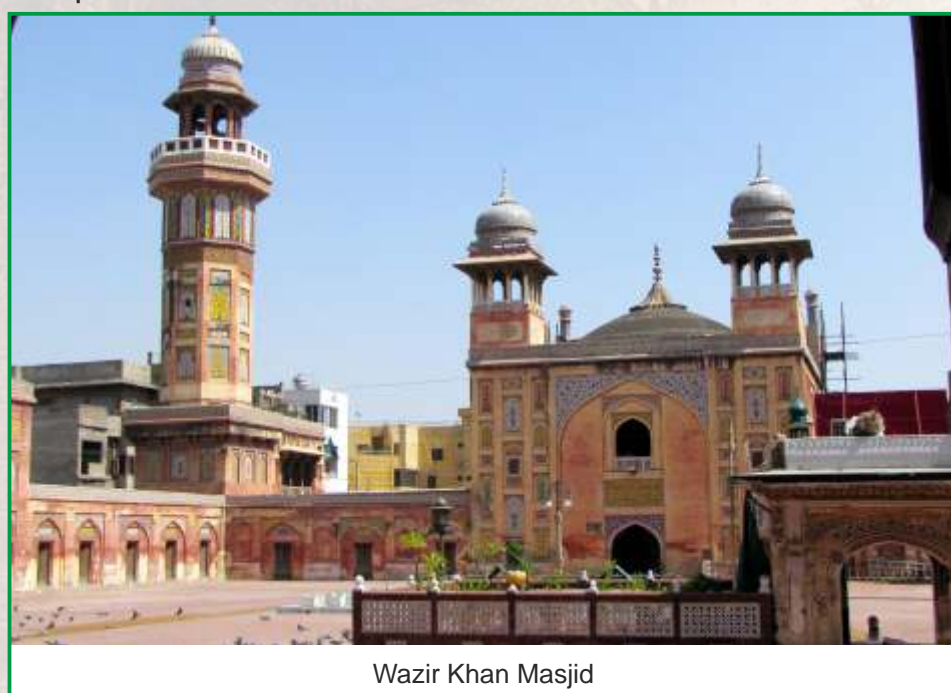
Located in Sheikhpura, on the outskirts of Lahore, this could be the only royal monument dedicated to a pet in the world. Built by Emperor Jehangir for his pet deer, Mansraj, it is a single 30m high minaret but also linked by a causeway to an octagonal pavilion surrounded by water providing access for royal animals. The water tank and pavilion was built by Shah



Hiran Minar

Jehan in an idyllic setting and is a fine example of Mughal architecture so it's no surprise that it is on the tentative list for UNESCO world heritage status.

natural light openings awaiting them. Servants would scrub and oil the weary travellers so that they could be at their very best when meeting the emperor.



Wazir Khan Masjid

### Shahi Hamam

The old city of Lahore had thirteen gates and the just inside one of the most well known, Delhi Gate, is the Shahi Hamam or Royal Baths. It was built in 1633 by the then Governor of Punjab or Wazir Khan during the reign of emperor Shah Jehan. Royal guests arriving from Delhi would be pampered in one of the 21 rooms where hot, scented baths surrounded by exquisite floral paintings and

### Old City Walk

From Delhi Gate, simply walk through the maze of narrow alleys from one bazaar to another and marvel at the many types of ware on offer. You will walk from rows of fabric shops to one dedicated to pots and pans. From here it will become a bangles market and then merge into spices and then into musical instruments. And all around will be sounds of old Lahore truly alive.

## COFFEE MORNING FOR ATTACHES' SPOUSES

A Coffee Morning for Attaches' spouses was organized at Pakistan High Commission London on 3 December 2014. A large number of spouses of Navy, Army and Air Force Attaches in London attended the event. Mrs Sadaf Abbas, wife of the High Commissioner



was the chief guest whereas Mrs Saadia and Mrs Natasha Zulfiquar gave a presentation on Pakistan and its culture. Cultural items and souvenirs were also put on display on this occasion. The guests relished the traditional Pakistani cuisine served on the occasion.

## YOUTH CONVENTION—14 FEBRUARY, 2015 TO BE ORGANIZED BY PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION LONDON—SAVE THE DATE

Pakistan High Commission, London will organize a Youth Convention on Saturday, the 14th February 2015. The objective of this initiative is to reach out and connect with the British-Pakistani youth as well as the Pakistani students who come to study in the United Kingdom. Cognizant of the enormous potential of the British-Pakistani youth, the

High Commission plans to showcase the opportunities for youth and discuss the issues impacting their academic and professional careers.

The day long Convention will feature renowned role models in various fields and speakers from diverse disciplines concerning youth. For further information, please visit our website: [www.phclondon.org](http://www.phclondon.org).

