



High Commissioner felicitates newly elected British Pakistani MPs



H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK conveyed his heartiest felicitations to all the 10 newly elected British Pakistani Members of Parliament (MPs).

In his message, the High Commissioner termed them as role models and an inspiration for the Pakistani diaspora. He said their success in election was a testimony of their leadership qualities and political sagacity.

The High Commissioner said the increase in number of British Pakistani MPs from previously 07 to currently 10 was a vivid manifestation of the enhanced political engagement of our community in the UK.

“While we celebrate the success of newly elected MPs, we hope that Pakistan-UK bilateral relations would touch new heights of understanding and cooperation during the term of newly elected members of the House of Commons”, said the High Commissioner.

Pakistan starts exports from Gwadar Port

Pakistan started exports from Gwadar Port in the second week of May 2015. Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Mr Kamran Michael who visited Pakistan High Commission London on 6 May 2015, stated this in his address to the community as well as media representatives. Prior to this, the Gwadar Port was being used for imports only. This would be a new step towards expansion of trade and economic development of Pakistan, added the Minister.

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, High

Commissioner, welcoming the Minister to the High Commission requested the Minister to inform the community about the benefits of Gwadar Port and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which envisages an investment of \$46 billion in Pakistan.

The High Commissioner, on this occasion, also congratulated Mr Zubair Gul, who was present on the occasion, on his appointment as Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis.

Addressing the community, the



Minister said: “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, for which \$46 billion Chinese investment has been agreed, will bring about unprecedented development and prosperity to the people of Pakistan. In order to enhance the efficacy of Gwadar Port, 2281 acres of land have already been earmarked where tax free industrial zones and ware houses would be established. Pakistan's economic future is linked with successful operation of Gwadar

Port as it would help increase our exports and generate economic activity in the region. All this is according to the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.”

The Minister invited the expatriate community to take advantage of the investment opportunities in Pakistan and assured them of the safety of their investment. He also appreciated the role of Pakistani diaspora in the development of the country.



Governor Balochistan visits the High Commission

Governor Balochistan, Muhammad Khan Achakzai visited the High Commission and met H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, at his office on 27 May 2015.

The High Commissioner updated the Governor on friendly relations between Pakistan and the United

Kingdom as well as High Commission's efforts to further strengthen these ties. He apprised the Governor of the positive contribution of Pakistani diaspora towards the development of the British society, especially their emerging role in the British politics as manifested in the recent general

elections in which as many as 10 British Pakistanis were elected as Mps. The Governor shared his assessment of the overall situation in Balochistan, especially, improving law and order situation in the province. The investment opportunities in mineral-rich Balochistan were also discussed.



Allama Iqbal remembered at the High Commission Mehfil-e-Mushaira attracts large number of Iqbal fans

Pakistan High Commission London organized a Mushaira (poetic recital), to pay tribute to great visionary poet philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal on 8 May 2015. The event was held in collaboration with Urdu Markaz London. Besides remembering Allama Iqbal, the Mehfil-e-Mushaira was aimed to promote the literary culture of Pakistan as well as reinvigorating a sense of pride, belonging and hope in the Pakistani community living in the UK.

Some of the prominent British Pakistani poets recited their popular poems and received applause from the audience. Renowned scholar of Iqbaliat, Professor Muhammad Sharif Baqa, delivered a talk on "prophesies" of Allama Iqbal reflecting on his vision and thought about the future developments in the world.

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK presided over the event. In his address, the High Commissioner appreciated the

poets for their efforts and hard work in serving the national language and spreading the message of love for Pakistan, amongst the diaspora. He emphasized on the need of encouraging and promoting young Urdu poets who could introduce British Pakistani youth to their language and culture in a better way.

Deliberating upon the various aspects of Iqbal's poetry and philosophy, the High Commissioner said that the teachings of Iqbal had been a great source of inspiration for us and there was a need to spread his universal message of hope and human dignity in the world. Appreciating the role of Urdu Markaz London and its Chairman Dr Javaid Sheikh, the High Commissioner assured the Urdu Markaz of his cooperation in organizing such events in future. He said that the High Commission would continue to provide a platform for cultural events to engage our community in the UK.



Dr Javaid Sheikh, Chairman Urdu Markaz London gave an overview of the activities and role of Urdu Markaz in promoting Urdu language in the UK. Dr David Matthews, who is a renowned scholar of Urdu language, spoke on the poetry of Iqbal. Broadcaster and social activist Durdana Ansari OBE enthralled the audience by singing a poem of Allama Iqbal in her melodious voice.

The poets included Faizan Arif

who conducted the Mushaira, Basir Kazmi, Seemi Barlas, Yashab Tamanna, Saleem Figgar, Shahbaz Khawaja, Saira Batool, Khaliq Majid, Dr Hilal Farid, Ehsan Shahid, Aisha Khalid, and Najma Usman.

Dr Israr Hussain, Minister (Consular Affairs) moderated the event. A large number of Pakistani community and representatives of media attended the Mushaira and were served over a dinner.

MRP service starts at Manchester and Birmingham Consulates

The Consulates of Pakistan in Manchester and Birmingham have started issuing Machine Readable Passports (MRPs). This has met the longstanding demand of the Pakistani community there. H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, during his meetings with the Pakistani community in the past, had assured them of the provision of this facility on priority basis.

The facility will be available through the online appointment system and will significantly

reduce waiting time and long queues at the Consulates. The start of MRP service is in continuation of the ongoing efforts of the High Commission and its Consulates to facilitate the community through improved consular services.

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Chairman NADRA visits the UK Important steps taken to facilitate community



Chairman NADRA Usman Y. Mobin along with his three-member team visited the Pakistan High Commission London and called on H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, the High Commissioner, in his office ON

29 May 2015.

The High Commissioner gave an overview of the NADRA issues to the Chairman and apprised him of the problems faced by the Pakistani community in this regard. As a

result of consulataions, NADRA Registration Centre (NRC) at Glasgow has become operational and NADRA Registration Centres (NRCs) have started processing Smart Cards at the High Commission and its four Consulates from 1st June 2015 with 10-year validity. The Smart Card will have enhanced security features to counter forgery. It will also help expedite airport immigration process. It has also been decided that additional hardware (computers, furniture, etc.) will be provided at NADRA Registration

Centres (NRCs) to increase processing of applications. More staff will also be hired.

The Chairman NADRA visited all the four Consulates of Pakistan in Birmingham, Manchester, Bradford and Glasgow to assess and address the needs of the NRCs. His UK visit took place on the directions of Minister for Interior, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, so that issues pertaining to NADRA could be addressed on priority basis and the expatriate Pakistanis could be facilitated.

National Management Course group visits the UK



A nine-member group of senior civil servants presently attending the National Management Course (NMC) at the National School of Public Policy (NSPP), Lahore came to the UK on a study tour. The group also visited the Pakistan High Commission London on 28 May 2015.

Welcoming the group to the Pakistan High Commission London, H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, the High Commissioner, briefed the officers on Pakistan-UK relations and the role of Pakistan High Commission in furthering these ties. The High Commissioner said that both the countries historically and traditionally enjoyed strong and cordial relations which had become even stronger in recent years.

The officers were informed that bilateral relations encompassed diverse fields of trade and

economy; culture and art; health and education; and security. The High Commissioner appreciated UK's assistance to Pakistan in education sector as well as in award of GSP Plus status to Pakistan in the European Union due to which Pakistan exports registered 18% growth during the last year. The group was also apprised of the positive contribution of Pakistani diaspora towards UK's national life, especially their emerging role in the British politics as manifested in the recent general elections in which as many as 10 British Pakistanis were elected as

MPs. The course participants were also informed about High Commission's community outreach programme and efforts to improve consular services.

At the end, Brigadier (Retd) Anwar ul Haq, faculty member, thanked the Pakistan High Commission for extending facilitation in organizing the visit and coordinating the meetings and briefings at the distinguished British institutions for the group. He also appreciated initiatives of the High Commissioner for community engagement and improving consular services.

During their UK tour, the course participants visited prestigious British institutions and attended meetings and briefings by expert professionals and senior managers in diverse fields. The purpose of the visit was to study various institutions and systems of the United Kingdom.

The National School of Public Policy (NSPP) Lahore is a premier institution for the study of public policy, management and related research & analysis in Pakistan with the objective of improving the quality of pre and in-service training and education of all those engaged in public service.



Pakistan moving towards energy self-sufficiency First Thar Coal Fired Power Plant to be operational in 2017

Implementation Agreement (IA) and Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) of 660 MW first coal-fired power plant on local Thar coal was signed by PPIB, NTDC and M/s Engro Powergen Limited (EPGL) at the Ministry of Water & Power on 4 May 2015.

According to details, Engro Powergen would develop a project of 660 MW (2 x 330 MW each) utilizing indigenous Thar

lignite coal to be supplied by Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company which is the lease holder of Thar Block-II. This is a pilot project that will utilize Thar coal for power generation and its development will reduce Pakistan's dependence on costly oil based power generation thus saving millions of dollars of foreign exchange. It is expected that the first unit of the Project will start

producing electricity by December 2017.

The State Minister for Water and Power Chaudhry Abid Sher Ali said the abundant coal resource largely unexploited, was estimated at around 186 billion tons out of which 175 billion tons were found in Thar alone. He said that present government was committed to utilizing these resources for power generation. He further

said that Thar coal would become Energy Capital of Pakistan in next few years and would be developed and utilized on commercial basis.



Six-year-old Hamza becomes world's youngest MS PowerPoint specialist



Hamza's parents Seemab and Asim bought him his first laptop when he was two

A six year old British Pakistani boy, Hamza Shahzad has set a new world record by becoming the world's youngest MS PowerPoint specialist. Hamza made this record by clearing the examination of MS PowerPoint specialist. Shahzad also had another world record to his credit being the youngest MS Office professional. He set this record by getting the Microsoft

Certification in MS Office 2013. Shahzad scored 850 points out of 1,000 while the required passing score for the Microsoft PowerPoint was just 700. He attended the exam in Microsoft Institute in London.

Hamza got 90 % in creating and managing presentations, 50 % in inserting and formatting shapes and slides, 67 % in creating side content, 100 % in

applying transition and animations and 100 % in managing multiple presentations.

This is not the first time that any Pakistani kid has performed so well in different fields especially in the field of computer. Before that, Arfa Karim became the youngest Microsoft Certified Professional at the age of just nine years.

Beauty On Your Doorstep



Lake Saiful Maluk

Many of us wish we had some more time to explore Pakistan as we are often struggling to turn down the countless invitations from all the people we have not seen for so long.

So here are some short trips that are worth considering if time is not on your side.

Margalla Hills, Islamabad

The Margalla Hills are part of the Lesser Himalaya and start at the northern edge of Islamabad. As well as some well-known tourist spots on the hills, there are five numbered trails that wind their way up to the popular Pir Sohawa area. So if you are a keen walker and need an escape from the

relatives for the day then these are for you. Note that the best time for these walks is from February to April. They can still be done in the summer but start before 7am.

Murree and the Galis

Ever popular with domestic tourists, these are an extension of the Margalla Hills and quite a lot higher. Still only an hour and a half away from Islamabad, there is plenty of accommodation, bazaars and restaurants. It can sometimes be too touristy but there are also plenty of options to go off the beaten track for some peace and quiet. Do this as a day trip or an overnight stay.

Naran, Kaghan Valley

For those who can make a long weekend then, keep heading north into the scenic Kaghan Valley to the town of Naran. It is about a seven-hour journey to Naran from Islamabad but it is certainly worth it if you have a few days to recharge your energies. Although attracting many domestic tourists, the sheer expanse of this stunning valley means that there are plenty of opportunities to disappear and immerse yourself in the surroundings. Activities include, horse riding, camping, hiking, rafting and fishing.

But the lakes are the main draw

to the valley with Pakistan's most well known and one the most beautiful, Saif-ul Maluk. Named after a prince who fell in love with a fairy, it is only 8km north of Naran. Get here early in the day before the crowds and enjoy a tranquil walk around the lake.



Margalla Hills



Kaghan Valley



Road to Naran

High Commission participates in CFAB's Fair



The Pakistan High Commission London participated in the International Spring Fair and Food Festival organized by Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB) held at the Kensington Town Hall on 12-13 May 2015. A large number of locals and nationals of various countries attended the fair including Princess Alexandra.

Led by Mrs Sadaf Abbas, wife of the High Commissioner, the spouses of the High Commission's officers organized the stall and other cultural activities at the fair. The objective was to introduce locals to Pakistani culture through

handicrafts and cuisine and to raise funds for the CFAB charity. The traditional hand embroidered shawls, clothes, traditional khusas and jewellery were greatly admired by the visitors. The High Commission's

food stall proved very popular, where visitors enjoyed rich Pakistani cuisine particularly Bariyani and sweetmeats. Truck art of Pakistan was another attraction for the visitors. Princess Alexandra visited



Pakistan High Commission's stall and saw with keen interest the specimens of cultural heritage of Pakistan. She was presented with a souvenir as well.

At this occasion, Pakistani folk singer Shahid Lohar, who is the grandson of great Pakistani folk singer Alam Lohar, gave a wonderful performance and spellbound the visitors. He also sang famous Jugni and received thunderous



Princess Alexandra at Pakistani Stall.

applause from the crowd.

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK commended the efforts of the spouses of High Commission's officers for actively promoting Pakistan's culture and traditional products through participation in local community events.

The funds raised have been donated to the Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB), a UK-based charity working for the protection and promotion of the rights of children and vulnerable adults across international borders. Over 80 diplomatic missions took part in the event.