



TROOPING THE COLOUR—HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, accompanied by his spouse Mrs Sadaf Abbas attended the annual “Trooping the Colour” ceremony in London on 13 June 2015. At the end of the ceremony, the High Commissioner had an audience with British Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street and conveyed to him greetings from Prime

Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The High Commissioner felicitated him on his government's re-election and briefed him on the developments in the country. Prime Minister Cameron reciprocated warm greetings for the Pakistani leadership. He also interacted with several British leaders and members of the diplomatic fraternity.



Machine Readable Passport (MRP) service inaugurated at Birmingham and Manchester Consulates



H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK,

inaugurated the Machine Readable Passport (MRP), service in Consulate of Pakistan in Birmingham and Manchester on 5 and 6 June 2015 respectively. This was a long-standing demand of the Pakistani community that has now been fulfilled. This service will facilitate more than 500,000 British Pakistanis living in those areas. The inaugural ceremonies were attended by MPs, MEPs, Mayors, Councillors, prominent

members of the Pakistani community and representatives of the media. He also held a separate meeting with Afzal Khan MEP and discussed matters pertaining to GSP Plus status to Pakistan by the European Parliament and its positive impact on the economy of Pakistan. The High Commissioner expressed his resolve to further improve the delivery of the consular services to the community as per the instructions of the Prime Minister

of Pakistan. He particularly mentioned the efforts of Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan who took personal interest in providing this facility. Appreciating High Commissioner's initiative to reach out to the community, Khalid Mehmood MP said: “It is important to recognize that we have a High Commissioner who is making his mark. It is encouraging to see someone who is focused on the issues of the diaspora.”

Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza and Speaker House of Commons, Rt. Hon. John Bercow invited to CPC in Islamabad



H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK called on Lord

Speaker, House of Lords, Baroness D'Souza and Speaker House of Commons, Rt. Hon. John Bercow at their offices in the British Parliament and reiterated invitation to the Hon. Speakers to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), scheduled to be held in Islamabad from 30 September to 8 October 2015. The High Commissioner conveyed to the Hon. Speakers greetings from the Hon. Chairman Senate and the Hon. Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan. The Hon. Speakers lauded

Pakistani Parliamentarians' active participation in Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) activities. They also expressed appreciation for the important role that Pakistani Parliamentarians were playing in the South Asian Women Parliamentarians caucus and for their participation in the CPA, UK Workshop for Women Parliamentarians held in July last year in London. It was noted that Pakistan and UK shared a very strong relationship and such Parliamentary exchanges



would further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Throne Room of The Mountain Gods

This is how author, photographer and mountain climber, Galen Rowell described Concordia in his book of the same name. For those of you fortunate enough to ever experience the views from Concordia, you will know the title was fitting.

For many, Concordia may still not sound familiar and that is understandable but there will be very few who will not have heard of the great mountain that can be seen from Concordia – K2.

At 8611m, it is Pakistan's highest mountain and the 2nd highest in the world. It is one of the most technical and hardest in the world to summit and has earned the name the Savage Mountain due to the high number of deaths and failed attempts to conquer it. Of the 14 mountains in the world that are over 8000m, it is still the only one that has not been conquered in winter.

The K-2 Base Camp trek is the most popular in Pakistan and even then, the numbers it attracts are small when compared to the Everest Base Camp trek. The clear advantage is that the route is not busy and the scenery, pristine. It is a tough trek and not for beginners as one can easily be trekking for 8-10 hours per day.

In order to get to the trailhead,

one will have to first take a two-day drive to the beautiful mountain town of Skardu. From here, it is a one-day jeep drive to Askole where the trek starts. It will take six days to reach Concordia of which the last three days involve trekking and even camping on the great Baltoro Glacier. A 63 km long, it is one of the longest outside of the Polar Regions.

Concordia is at the confluence of the Baltoro and Godwin-Austen glaciers and it is only on that sixth day that the awe-inspiring pyramid of K-2 is fully visible in all its glory. But it is not just K-2 as there are three other 8000 m mountains in the vicinity – Broad Peak, Gasherbrum I and Gasherbrum II not to mention the many stunning peaks all around to delight any fan of the mountains.

Returning can be either back via the Baltoro or via the 5600 m Gondogoro Pass. This is the only place on the planet where one is able to view four 8000 m mountains. This route will take you back via the picturesque Hushe Valley and back to Skardu over another six days.

This is a once in a lifetime trek and the mountain gods are waiting – will you join them?



K2 at Sunrise



Trekking on the Vigne Glacier to the Gondogoro Pass



The Hushe Valley from the Gondogoro Pass



The snout of the Baltoro Glacier

Summer Farewell of the Naval Attaches Association



Summer Farewell Function of the Naval Attaches' Association was hosted by Commodore Mushtaq Ahmed, Doyen of the Naval

Attaches' Association at Pakistan High Commission London on 8 June 2015. Large number of association members,



associate members and Honorary members along with their spouses attended the event. Traditional Pakistani folk

music added colour to the event. The guests enjoyed the evening with tasty and aromatic Pakistani cuisine.

High Commissioner enquires after health of Peshawar School student Ahmed Nawaz



The High Commissioner enquired after the health of Ahmed Nawaz, the student who was critically injured in the horrific terrorist attack on the Army Public School Peshawar last December.

The High Commissioner conveyed to Ahmed Nawaz and the family, the well wishes on

behalf of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He praised Ahmed Nawaz's bravery with which he is coping with the after effects of the attack. The High Commissioner also paid tributes to the unprecedented courage of the students and the teachers of the Army Public School Peshawar.

The High Commissioner visited the family in Birmingham on 6 June 2015, and spent some time with Ahmed Nawaz and his parents. He also offered his heartfelt condolences to the father, Muhammad Nawaz, whose other son, Harris Nawaz, was martyred in that attack.

Pakistan expects understanding and support from friends in defeating terrorism: High Commissioner



H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner has said that Pakistan expects understanding and support from friends like the UK in defeating extremism and terrorism from its soil. He stated this in his keynote address at the 62nd Annual Dinner of The Pakistan Society at the Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn, London on 3 June 2015.

The High Commissioner said: "We realize the importance of

developing understanding and co-operation between our countries and peoples and further broadening this relationship not only through diplomacy but in trade, education, culture, arts and tourism. The focused and tireless efforts of the pioneers and members of The Pakistan Society over the years have helped those bonds flourish from strength to strength."

In his speech as the Guest of

Honour, General Sir Nicholas Carter, British Chief of the General Staff, shed light on the close military relations between the UK and Pakistan. He appreciated Pakistan's successful military operation against extremists and terrorists as well as improving cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan for regional peace and stability.

The Pakistan Society was founded in 1951. The Patrons of

the Society are HRH the Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh and H.E. the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Based in London, the Pakistan Society endeavours to increase public knowledge in Britain of the arts, history, antiquities and geography of Pakistan, as well as its economic life and political institutions through regular lectures, meetings and social events.

High Commissioner's visit to Slough and Reading

As a part of his ongoing outreach programme, H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK visited Slough and Reading on 12 & 14 June 2015, respectively, and met the Pakistani community living in those areas.

A large number of community members attended the gathering and shared community issues with the High

Commissioner. They included Mayors, Councillors, business persons, academia and media persons.

The High Commissioner interacted with the community members individually and listened to their views about community issues as well as their suggestions to resolve them. He assured the community of the provision of better consular services and informed them about the steps taken in that direction during the last few months.

The High Commissioner urged the community to remain united



on national issues and support Pakistan in its national development agenda. He also asked them to be law abiding citizens of the UK and make the most of the opportunities available to them in socio-economic and political life of this

country. The reception dinner in Slough was organised by Muhammad Naeem Abbasi. The community reception in Reading was organized by Mian Muhammad Salim, a community leader.

High Commissioner terms Sajjad Kerim MEP and boxer Amir Khan as the role models and pride of Pakistan

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, termed Sajjad Kerim MEP and boxer Amir Khan as the role models and pride of Pakistan. He was speaking as the Guest of Honour at a reception dinner on 7 June 2015 in Manchester to celebrate recently conferred prestigious civil awards of Pakistan, i.e. Sitar-e-Quaid-i-Azam and President of Pakistan Pride of Performance on Sajjad Kerim MEP and boxer Amir Khan, respectively.

In his address the on the

occasion, the High Commissioner commended the contribution of both the awardees and said that conferment of awards was a testimony to their invaluable contribution in their respective fields. Terming them as role models, the High Commissioner urged the youth to emulate their attributes of hard work and dedication.

In his address, Sajjad Kerim thanked the government of Pakistan for the award and dedicated it to the entire

overseas Pakistani community all over the world. He particularly appreciated High Commissioner's participation in the celebration of awards.

In his remarks, Amir Khan thanked the government of Pakistan for awarding him with the Pride of Performance. He expressed his desire to launch an academy for the training of young boxers in Pakistan. Amir Khan urged the young British Pakistani to be proud of their origin and work hard.



Road "Nawab Court" named after former Pakistan Navy Officer

A former Pakistan Navy Chief Petty Officer, Mr Nawab Ali was honoured when a road "Nawab Court" was named after him at a special ceremony at Chesham, Buckinghamshire, London on 12 June 2015. Mr Nawab Ali served Royal as well as Pakistan Navy during and after World War II. He was one of the first Pakistanis to move to Chesham

in 1952 and made significant contributions to the community through his extra-ordinary social service.

During World War II, he served in the Royal Navy, whilst deployed in Burma, and Malta; later he opted to join Pakistan Navy and after receiving retirement he returned to the UK and settled in Chesham. He was present at

the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and was awarded the Queen's Coronation medal as well. Commodore Mushtaq Ahmed, Defence & Naval Adviser represented Pakistan High Commission and Pakistan Navy at the ceremony.





Pakistani mangoes attract crowds at "Taste of London" food festival

Pakistani mangoes which enjoy unique position in the global market due to their exquisite taste, distinct flavour and sweetness, pulled crowds of mango lovers at the annual "Taste of London" food festival at the Regent's Park held from 17-



21 June 2015. The response from the visitors was overwhelming as there were

long queues for mango tasting in front of the Pakistani stall.

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK inaugurated the stall. Speaking on that occasion, the High Commissioner said that the Pakistani mangoes aromatic rich taste makes them the best in the world.

Commending the initiative of the Commercial Wing of the High Commission, to participate in the festival, the High Commissioner said that it would surely



introduce Pakistani mangoes to the wider world in a better way and increase Pakistan's exports. Pakistan High Commission London, in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), participated in this event.

This year, too, Pakistani mangoes were presented to the Royal household and dignitaries on behalf of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Pakistani mangoes are very much liked in the Royal household.

Top position holder students from Pakistan visit the High Commission

A group of thirty five top position holder students of Matric, Intermediate and Graduation levels from all federating units of Pakistan were hosted to a reception at Pakistan High Commission London on 16 June 2015.

Welcoming the students, H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, congratulated them on their academic achievements. He hoped that their interaction with a host of public and private

institutions in the UK would be productive and rewarding.

The High Commissioner appreciated the vision of Chief Minister Punjab, Muhammad Shahbaz Shairf for sending the students to visit foreign educational institutions and get deeper understanding of diverse cultures.

The Government of Punjab has undertaken this initiative to familiarize the bright and promising students from all over Pakistan, with the leading

educational institutions of the European countries.

The group, during its three-week stay in the UK visited

prestigious academic institutions, British Parliament and some media houses in the UK.



Salman Ahmad "The Queen's Young Leaders" award



Brave and courageous polio-affected Salman Ahmad from Pakistan received "The Queen's Young Leaders"

award for 2015. His achievements were recognized when he collected his award from Her Majesty The Queen at a ceremony held at the Buckingham Palace on 22 June 2015.

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK represented Pakistan at the award ceremony. He also met talented Salman Ahmad and commended him for his achievements.

Salman Ahmad, 27, was affected by polio in his childhood but he refused to let his mobility problems hold him back. He co-founded the GADE Foundation, which aims to encourage young men and women to become more involved in enterprise. It has so far established groups at 26 universities to organize its activities at a grassroots level. Salman hopes to change attitudes towards disabled

people. He is the recipient of several international awards.

The Queen's Young Leader Award recognizes and celebrates exceptional people aged 18-29 from across the Commonwealth, who are taking the lead in their communities and using their skills to transform lives. Winners of this prestigious Award collect their Award from Her Majesty The Queen.

Pakistani Flying Officer wins "Best Overseas Award" at Royal Air Force Academy, Cranwell

Flying Officer of Pakistan Air Force (PAF), Junaid Saleem achieved the singular distinction of winning the "Best Overseas Award" at Royal Air Force (RAF) Academy at Cranwell.



Pakistan High Commission London arranged a brief ceremony to celebrate Junaid Saleem's achievement on 25 June 2015. Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Syed Ibne

Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK congratulated the Officer on his remarkable success that brought good name to Pakistan. He said that such a success was

testimony to the high professional standards of Pakistan Air Force which had always stood up to its reputation with pride. He urged the Cadet Officer to keep up the high standards of professionalism set by Pakistan Air Force throughout his career.

Junaid Saleem was successfully commissioned on 18 June 2015. Mr Toby Dennis, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire decorated him with the Award at a special ceremony.