

Bridge Communications & Research – BCR

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Bridge-Europa – Nov 2016

Part of Pakistan Awareness Initiative –PAI

Voicing against injustice – in memory of those journalists lost in search of truth

CONTEXT

Countries and Donor agencies are listed in Alphabetical order

	News about Denmark's involvements in Pakistan	Pages 01 – 43
	News about France's involvements in Pakistan	Pages 43 – 67
	News about Germany's involvements in Pakistan	Pages 67 – 112
	News about The Netherland's involvements in Pakistan	Pages 112 - 139
	News about Norway's involvements in Pakistan	Pages 139
	News about Sweden's involvements in Pakistan	Page 139 – 146
	News about the U.K's involvements in Pakistan	Pages 146 – 176
	The objectives and Why Bridge-Europa	Page 177

Denmark

October 26

The Future of Pakistan! #Equality #GirlPower #Empowerment



October 26

A girl can do ANYTHING she wants!

The power and importance of young ambitious and empowered girls echoed through the halls of the Pakistan Girl Guides Association, when Ambassador Ole Thonke visited them today.

More than 150 Girl Guides celebrated International Day of the Girl with the Ambassador by sharing their experiences of being Girl Guides of Pakistan. They also made an impression through their songs and 'Guide claps' showcasing the strength of being a young woman and ...

See More





October 25

Promotion of Culture, Peace and Prosperity - Denmark supports Culture of Pakistan

Mr. Jakob Rogild Jakobsen, Deputy Head of Mission and Ms. Aase Panoliaskou, Consul of the Embassy inaugurated the "Handmade in Pakistan" Exhibition organised by Aik Hunar Aik Nagar (AHAN) at the Heritage Museum in Lahore. AHAN is funded by the Danish Centre for Culture and Development (CKU).

The event showcased products prepared by rural artisans across all four provinces of Pakistan such as tex...





International Rural Woman Day - Fighting poverty stitch by stitch

October 15

Denmark supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which focus on empowering rural women to end poverty and hunger, achieve food security and empower all women and girls.

Read the story about Kanwal, 20, an artisan from Thatta in rural Sindh, who is part of a project that aims to support local artisans to enhance their opportunities and empowering them to combat poverty for themselves and their families.

Under the project, Kanwal and other rural woman artisans are working with design students of renowned design institutes in Karachi to learn contemporary designs and stitching techniques to cater to the trending market demands as well.

The project is funded by Danish Centre for Culture and Development in collaboration with Community World Service Asia

Kanwal also participated in the Embassy's 'Innovative Denmark' event held in Islamabad earlier this year, where she showed visitors how to do traditional stitches and shared her skills.



<http://communityworldservice.asia/fighting-poverty-one-stitch-at-a-time/>

October 13, Today Ambassador Ole Thonke called on Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs

In a constructive meeting, reflecting the strength and history of Pakistan-Denmark ties, both dignitaries reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Ambassador Thonke shared that Danish exports to Pakistan have grown by 43 percent in the first half of 2016, which was a result of addressing Pakistan's challenges through use of Danish technology and promoting business opportunities for Danish commercial companies in Pakistan. He also highlighted the fact that the bilateral ties have been reinforced by 25,000 Pakistani Diaspora in Denmark, which is contributing to different fields including parliament, education, medicine and business.

The Ambassador and the Advisor agreed that relations between two countries should be further strengthened in regards to business and commercial, people-to-people contact and cultural relations.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz encouraged more Danish companies to get involved in Pakistan in areas such as sustainable energy, where Danish companies are particularly strong – they also talked about the prospect for wind energy in Pakistan.



Increasing Trade relations between Denmark and Pakistan

Danish exports to Pakistan have grown by 43% in 1st half of 2016.

This amazing result is because of our active trade team at the Embassy. Every day they are working on bringing innovative solutions to address Pakistan's challenges through use of Danish technology and by promoting business opportunities for Danish companies in Pakistan. This is also helping create jobs in Denmark and Pakistan.



World Teacher Day - Tell us YOUR story - October 6

Today is World Teacher Day. It is an occasion to celebrate all of those who shape the minds of future generations.

Education is a corner stone of Denmark's development priorities and in Pakistan, we are working with Unicef and the Multi Donor Trust Fund to support education in KP, FATA and Balochistan. Part of the program support is aimed at strengthening teacher training skills.

Embassy's new Defense Attaché visits Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) in Karachi – October 05

The Embassy's new Defense Attaché, Colonel Kim Schmidt has just arrived to take up his new assignment in #Pakistan.

He made his first visit to #Karachi, where he met with Rear Admiral Jamil Akhtar, DG Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) to discuss the on-going partnership between PMSA and the Government of #Denmark.

Col. Schmidt and Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Jakob Jakobsen were also invited to attend the international seminar on "Marine Pollution due to Oil Spill and its response mechanism", where Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Khan Hasham Bin Saddique was the Chief Guest. The seminar was organized by PMSA to enhance awareness about the #maritime regulations for countering oil spill in Karachi Harbor and adjoining costs among the general practitioners, decision makers and stakeholders.

PMSA is a partner of Denmark's stabilization program and are collaborating within the areas of #Search and #Rescue and #Countering#Pollution at sea.



Farewell note from Colonel Thor A. Hilton, Embassy's Defence Attache - October 01

Dear colleagues and friends from Pakistan,

Two fantastic years have come to an end and it is time for me to leave Islamabad and Pakistan. Never did I know, what an adventure I entered with the job as Defence Attachè in Pakistan. But many Pakistani people and colleagues welcomed me and took me into their country and lives and gave me a much better understanding of Pakistan. And together with my great Danish and international colleagues, who also made it possible for me to do my best in work, I established a life that I will never regret or forget.

Pakistan is an important player in a troubled region with challenges that in the end also should concern Europe. We shall therefore - though so far from Denmark - continue to engage with and support the Pakistani people, relevant persons and institutions with the aim to support security, economic and social growth out here and thereby in the end support the stabilisation of an important country . That is my wish! DKPKDKPKDKPKDKPK



Did you know that the Danish Commercial Counsellor in Pakistan has previously served as a negotiator for Denmark and the EU at the UN climate change talks? September 29

On Friday, he was invited to be guest speaker at the Aitchison College Model United Nations Diplomatic Meet in Lahore, where more than 600 students attended. Mr. Assar Qureshi shared his experiences from the UN climate change talks, the outcomes of the Paris agreement reached at

COP21 last year, and Denmark's green energy transformation since the 1970's.

It was great to see that many of the Model United Nations participants, who hailed from some of Pakistan's premiere educational institutions, had a keen interest in climate change diplomacy and the daunting task faced by the international community in preventing further global warming.

#climadiplo #workingfordk



Climate Change Diplomacy Week - Raising awareness on climate change in Pakistan - September 25

Today Ambassador Thonke participated in the #Climate #ChangeDiplomacy Week celebrations in Islamabad, which was organised by European Union in Pakistan in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan. #Pakistan has been ranked as one of the most vulnerable countries as regard to consequences of climate change. To address this strong risk, Ambassador Thonke joined other diplomats and people from all walks of life on a designated #cycling route to raise awareness on the importance of curtailing the #growth of #greenhouse #emissions by promoting #ecofriendly modes of #transportation.

Creating a #green and #sustainable society is one of Denmark's key goals. More than 20% of Denmark's #energy already comes from #renewableenergy and the goal is to reach 100% by 2050. The Danish #cycling#culture is another example of a green and sustainable society.

Did you know that around 40% of #Denmark's capital's population commute to work on a #bicycle?

How are you playing your part in addressing climate change?

#Climadiplo





Ambassador Thonke makes his first visit to the largest city of Pakistan.

September 23

Ambassador Ole Thonke has had a dynamic week in #Karachi, where he held meetings with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Chief Minister Sindh, Mr. Murad Ali Shah and Dr. Ishrat ul Ebad Khan - Governor Sindh.

Ambassador Thonke discussed matters of bilateral relations and shared that many Danish companies were actively engaged in Sindh contributing with their expertise in the areas of #water, #health, #energy and #logistics. He highlighted the vast investment opportunities in various other sectors, where Danish companies were also globally on the forefront and had potential to contribute to development in Sindh.

Ambassador Thonke also met with leading Danish companies Maersk Group, Grundfos Engineering, Lundbeck and Damco to discuss their work and future #business #opportunities in Pakistan. He praised the teams for their visible contribution to improving commercial ties between #Denmark and #Pakistan and for providing #quality #services and #products to the people of Pakistan. Ambassador Thonke also rang the Maersk announcement bell.

To promote the positive role of the youth in Pakistan, the Ambassador also gave a presentation to the students of IBA - Institute of Business Administration, Karachi about Denmark and the areas of interventions being supported by the Government of Denmark in Pakistan.

Concluding his visit, he also met paid a visit to the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture who is collaborating with Center for kultur og Udvikling/ Danish Center for Culture and Development in supporting #rural #artisanwomen from Sindh to improve #access to #market #linkages through network and #training on designing and business entrepreneurship. Ambassador Thonke met with the women artisans who shared how the students of IVS have been actively supporting them in improving their artisan #skills and increasing their #livelihood opportunities.



Today Ambassador Ole Thonke called on Minister of Finance, Mr. Ishaq Dar. September 17

Ambassador Thonke expressed grief and sorrow over the #terror #attackin #Mohmand #Agency, which has resulted in the loss of precious lives.

He added that there is no doubt that #Pakistan has offered great#sacrifices in the #fight against #terrorism. Ambassador Thonke also praised Pakistan's #Armed #Forces, #law #enforcement #agencies and the#Government for their efforts and sacrifices to fight terrorism, which is a key priority to achieve #peace and #stability in Pakistan and the region.

The Ambassador also congratulated Pakistan on the successful completion of the #IMF Fund Facility Program, which shows a positive sign on the reforms, which Denmark highly appreciates, as it will generate greater#investment prospects in Pakistan. He shared that plans are underway to secure the biggest #Danish #investment in Pakistan of 2 billion USD for a 1000 MW #wind #power project. The Finance Minister said that it is the desire of the present government to render all possible assistance and support to the Danish Government and he looks forward to build further on the #economic and #cultural relations between the two countries.



The Embassy wishes everyone #Eid #Mubarik! September 13

Today #Ambassador #Thonke celebrated his first Eid in #Pakistan with a Pakistani family in #Rawalpindi. He also saw how Muslims perform the 'Sacrifice Feast' for Eid-ul-Adha. Together they celebrated this special occasion with good food, laughs and selfies 😊) How are you celebrating your Eid?





Danish Solutions for Energy Crisis in Pakistan. September 10 ·

Pakistan's demand for energy is significantly higher than the production in Pakistan and the country is currently facing an Energy Crisis. It is estimated that the country loses up to 3% of its GDP per annum because of power shortages.

To highlight potential solutions for the Energy Sector in Pakistan, the Embassy in collaboration with the global industry leader Ramboll A/S Denmark, organised a series of seminars and business meetings in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad this week.

Speaking at the seminar in Islamabad, Ambassador Ole Thonke said that the Government of #Denmark is actively supporting the Government of #Pakistan's five year #energy #plan which aims to end the energy #crisis and #load #shedding by 2018. Ambassador Thonke shared that through private sector engagement, Denmark is facilitating support to Pakistan not only for Energy production but also for policy reforms, safety enhancements and load and grid management.

Mogens Skov, Ramboll's Global Division Director also spoke on the occasion and highlighted that Ramboll's decades of experience with planning, design and implementation of #sustainable, #efficient and #reliable #energy #solutions worldwide enabled Ramboll to present a full spectrum of technologies and comprehensive solutions for the Pakistani market, particularly in the energy sector.

Mr. Assar Qureshi, Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy appreciated the visit of the Ramboll delegation together with their local partners Élan by adding that it will help in developing and diversifying the energy sector in Pakistan.



Impressions from the field - Support to SME sector in KP August 30

Islampur in #KP, #Pakistan, was one of the worst hit areas by insurgency and most its inhabitants were forced to leave during the military operation in 2008-09. All hand looms were shut down and stored raw material was damaged.

The Government of Denmark was among the first donors to pledge its support to the Multi Donor Trust Fund for KP FATA and Balochistan to support the reconstruction, rehabilitation, reforms and other interventions needed to build peace and sustainable development in the areas.

Through the MDTF, Denmark has helped rehabilitate around 152 handlooms, created 24,000 jobs, and restored 1,200 small and medium enterprises in #KP and #FATA.

On a recent visit to Islampur, Mr. Patchamuthu Illango, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan and Mr. Jakob Jakobsen, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy met with beneficiaries and shared their impressions from the field:

Ambassador Greetings from Denmark - August 27

During the annual Ambassador week, Ambassador Thonke met with three former Danish Ambassadors who have served in Pakistan.

They shared positive memories and discussed the future of Pakistan. They send greetings and best wishes to everyone in Pakistan DKPK



Inspirational meeting with Pakistani Diaspora in Denmark - August 25

Denmark has an estimated 25,000 citizens who are of Pakistani origin. They form the fifth

largest #disapora community in #Denmark and are contributing effectively to both #development and #economic #growth in Denmark and Pakistan.

During his visit to Denmark, Ambassador Thonke was invited by the DPAC Danish Pakistani Affairs Council - Dansk Pakistansk Råd to meet representatives of the Pakistani diaspora and know more about the various initiatives undertaken by the Danish-Pakistani community in Denmark.

Ambassador Thonke was briefed about both political, development and commercial engagements by the members which reflected their commitment to contributing towards both development in Denmark as well as in Pakistan.

Ambassador Thonke appreciated the passion shown by the members and highlighted the important role of the diaspora in continuing to strengthen the bilateral relations between Denmark and Pakistan.





Congratulations #Team #Pakistan PK on being the new No.1 Test Team in International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings.

What an amazing and well deserved achievement by Captain Misbah-ul-Haq and his team.
#No1TestTeam August 22



Interfaith dialogue with Danish Imam Baig - August 19

Ambassador Thonke met with Imam Naveed Baig in Denmark to discuss #interfaith harmony.

"We have much more in common than differences, which is why it is important to focus on common strengths and encourage more dialogue between different faiths to promote #tolerance and #peace" said Ambassador Thonke.

Imam Baig stated that #Islam encouraged dialogue and tolerance with other faith members and emphasized on protecting minority and vulnerable groups as equal members of any society. Ambassador Thonke reaffirmed the Embassy's continuous support to promote interfaith dialogue in Pakistan and Denmark.



Ms. Rushy Rashid is one of the many successful diaspora members living in Denmark. August 18

Today Ambassador Ole Thonke met her in Copenhagen, where she is working as a journalist and hosts her own program Radio24syv - Rushys Roulette. Ms. Rashid is one of the pioneer diaspora members, who is actively engaged in the national debate on #democratic #values #human#rights #integration and #diversity as well as other top political and social issues related to minorities in Denmark.

She also works with different institutions and holds lectures to further strengthen the debate in addition to being on the Board of several national development organisations such as Dansk Røde Kors (Danish Red Cross) and Danmission.

Ambassador Thonke discussed the positive role of the #Pakistani#diaspora, who he said were well integrated and contributing to the societal development in Denmark as well as strengthening bilateral relations between #Denmark and #Pakistan through #development and#commercial collaborations.

He said the Embassy was keen on further strengthening collaboration with diaspora members, who he considered as 'Goodwill Ambassadors' for both Denmark and Pakistan.



Dear Pakistan

Jashn-e-Azadi Mubarik PK

August 14 marks the #Independence #Day of #Pakistan.

It is a day that is celebrated by honoring those who devoted their lives for Pakistan's #freedom and #independence - and remembering those who sacrificed.

We often hear about the many challenges Pakistan has. Today we want to focus on the strength of the people of Pakistan and the many opportunities which Pakistan holds as a #free, #independent and #democratic country.

#Unity #Faith #Discipline

Picture: Ambassador Ole Thonke visiting Minar-e-Pakistan



National Youth Conference 2016: Empowerment of Youth for strengthening democracy - August 10

Today Mr. Jakob Jakobsen, Chargé d'Affaires addressed a large group of youth representatives and young parliamentarians from across Pakistan at the opening session of the National Youth Conference on “#Youth,#Democracy and #Pakistan: Road to #2030”.

Mr. Jakobsen highlighted the important role of the youth to build inclusive and tolerant communities, where everyone has access to basic rights and mutual respect and understanding. He stressed on the need to celebrate diversity to achieve social and economic justice.

Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan also addressed the young participants and encouraged them to participate in politics and to vote with their conscious at every opportunity. He also implored the need to end #child #labour and to focus on #educationinstead.

Young speakers spoke about the challenges of the youth but also underlined the vast opportunities and possibilities for the youth. They shared inspirational stories marking that nothing is impossible if you believe in the power of your dreams and responsibilities.

Concluding the event, Mr. Sadiq presented shields and certificate to 10 Youth Champions from across the country to recognize their social services in the field of education, employment and sports. The conference was organized by the Young Parliamentarians Forum(YPF), National Assembly of

Pakistan to commemorate the #International#Youth #Day and to launch the Annual Progress Report of the Forum, in collaboration with Improving Parliamentary Performance in Pakistan (IP3) and Oxfam in Pakistan

#IYD2016 #Youth2030 #YPPForYouth #Tabeer Hum





Denmark supports Rehabilitation of SMEs and Education in KPK:

Embassy Team meets program beneficiaries in Swat - August 08

Mr. Jakob Jakobsen, Deputy Head of Mission and the Embassy Development Team visited Swat to meet local beneficiaries of the Multi Donor Trust Fund for KP FATA and Balochistan (MDTF), which is being supported by the Government of Denmark and administered by the World Bank Pakistan. The Embassy team was accompanied by Mr. Patchamuthu Illangovan, Country Director World Bank Pakistan.

The team visited the Islampur #Handlooms #Weaving Cluster in #Swatdistrict, which is one of the many handlooms which were shut down after the militant #insurgency. The team also visited the Al-Falah Public High School, which was one of the many educational institutes, which was blown up by militants and had to close down. Once it did reopen, the school was, like many other schools, fully or partially damaged and lacked basic infrastructure and facilities. With the support of the MDTF, the school is now fully operational with more than 650 #students enrolled and 33#teachers. Speaking to the beneficiaries, Mr. Jakobsen was happy to witness that support to the #SME sector and #Education has led to more job creation, strengthening of educational skills and a stronger engagement and empowerment of the local communities.

“The local communities are now part of the decision making that will promote peace, stability and economic growth in their areas. This is indeed remarkable progress”, said Mr. Jakob Jakobsen. In response to the 2009 militant conflict, the Government of Denmark has since 2010 contributed a total of USD 12.1 million to MDTF to support the rehabilitation efforts in #KPK, #FATA and #Balochistan. Through eleven projects, the MDTF is supporting local services, #growth and job creation and working on #policy #reform and #governance including other interventions needed to build #state-citizen #trust and create conditions for sustainable development in the conflict affected areas.





Ambassador's first visit to Lahore - August 04

Ambassador Ole Thonke made his first visit to #Lahore where he met with Chief Minister of Punjab Mr. Shahbaz Sharif to discuss the on-going and future potential in the #trade and #investment relations between #Denmarkand #Pakistan.

Ambassador Thonke also explored the cultural side of Lahore and visited both the Lahore Fort and Badshahi Mosque.

He also met with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and was briefed about the Human Rights situation in Pakistan.





Message from the Ambassador - August 02

Today is a very special day for me, as I take on a new responsibility as the Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan. It is indeed a great honor for me.

Together with a highly talented team at the Embassy, we will work to continuously strengthen the relations between our two countries. My job will simply be to identify and explore areas of common interest. And I see plenty of opportunities.

Throughout the years, #Denmark has worked together with local partners to improve social and economic cohesion in #Pakistan. Important values in this context are promotion of #human #rights and #gender #equality. As part of this, we have contributed with around USD 130 million in#development and #humanitarian aid since 2010.

Denmark is also host to a relative large Pakistani #diaspora, who are benefiting actively to the Danish economy and #welfare #state. This provides a solid base for our relations.

Moving forward, my main focus will be on enhancing our trade and economic relations. We opened our commercial section only three years ago. Since then, our team of experts has effectively promoted the market opportunities in Pakistan for Danish companies.

I believe that Danish knowledge and technology can deliver much needed solutions for Pakistan in areas such as #green #energy, #clean #water,#health and #agri-business. Equally important,

the #export opportunities for Pakistani businesses to Denmark are significant, especially in the textile industry.

I fully believe that to enhance the ties between countries, it is essential to build a wide range of relations – from the highest level of government and business to the individual citizens – based on mutual #respect, understanding and open #dialogue. I will therefore want to engage as much as possible with the diverse people of Pakistan – especially the#youth. It was therefore a great experience to visit the Pakistan Monument and meeting the friendly people of Pakistan as one of my first experiences in Pakistan.

Through our Public Diplomacy we will provide information about the opportunities and results of our friendly and exciting relations. I hope that this will serve as a window of information to learn about Denmark as well as a bridge to deepen the friendship between our two countries.

Our Facebook page has been a key tool for us to engage and share information about our activities in Pakistan and about Denmark in general. I also invite you to follow me on Twitter @DKinPK to stay directly connected.

I look forward to your continuous support in developing and strengthening the important ties between Denmark and Pakistan.

**Ole Thonke
Ambassador**





Welcome to new Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan - August 02

Today is a very special day at the Embassy.

Today, Mr. Ole Thonke presented his credentials to the President of Pakistan and officially took charge of his new and exciting role as Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan.

Please join us in welcoming him to Pakistan DKPK



Ginani Festival held in Gilgit after 30 years - July 28

The traditional festival of Ginani was formally held in Chalt, Nagar Valley in Gilgit for the first time in the past 30 years.

Raja Qasim Khan, the son of the former Mir of Nagar, participated in his royal attire at the event. The #festival marks the start of the new harvesting season and was organized by the Hashoo Foundation and Nagar Arts and Cultural Council (NACC) with financial support from the Center for kultur og Udvikling/ Danish Center for Culture and Development

A number of local elders and youth of Nagar gathered to celebrate the traditional festivity. Mr. Ole Ramsing, Project Manager of #CKU and Amjad Ali Khan, Project Officer of Hashoo Foundation also attended the event.

Talking to the audience, Ole Ramsing expressed his happiness for being invited to the event and being among the people of Nagar. He congratulated the management on organizing the event and shared his hope for establishment of a #music school in Nagar, similar to the one that has recently been started in Hunza. He said that such steps will help preserve the unique #culture and #music of this region.

Picture Credit: GB Culture





Goodbyes! July 22

Today the Embassy's Development Counsellor, Mr. Jan Riemer will be leaving Pakistan and joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen.

Mr. Jan worked at the Embassy for over a year overseeing the development program for Pakistan. He was a keen traveler in Pakistan and shared many of his exciting travel stories with his friends and colleagues at the Embassy.

We wish Jan and his family the very best for the future and look forward to having him visit Pakistan again.



‘Freedom of expression’ is a cornerstone of #democracy and #liberty.

July 21

That was the key message of today’s International Conference on Media Regulation, which was held in Islamabad.

Mr Jakob Rogild Jakobsen, Deputy Head of Mission was one of the key speakers at the inaugural session of the conference, where representatives from civil society, media and international development experts came together to discuss the challenges and reforms needed for#media #regulation in Pakistan.

The conference was organized by the IMS (International Media Support) in collaboration with Pak Institute for Peace Studies and funded by the Government of #Denmark.

Mr. Jakob appreciated the intense process of research, consultation and analysis that has been carried out by IMS and their local partners to understand the developments of the #media #law in Pakistan and recommend the needed reforms that will promote and ensure the rights of#freedom of #expression for every citizen in #Pakistan.

All participants echoed that Freedom of Expression gives independence to individuals and communities and is essential for societal #tolerance, cultural exchange and self-restraint.



Stories We Tell | Aao Sunnayein Kahani - July 19

The Embassy's development team visited one of the twelve delightfully colourful #story #telling #booths which are placed around the city of#Lahore.

The story telling project is an initiative by The School of Visual Arts and Design (SVAD) at the Beaconhouse National University in collaboration with the Lahore Biennale Foundation and

the Danish Centre for Culture and Development (CKU), funded by the Government of Denmark. The audio-visual #storytelling project is designed to encourage the revival of informal storytelling around the city and to create a crossover between #communities and #people, by creating an avenue for the exchange of ideas and stories. It also aims to create an #intercultural #dialogue by using site-specific community projects as a trigger point for the collection and generation of stories and narratives, which would encourage citizens of Lahore to narrate their personal experiences and initiate a public exchange discourse.

BNU, Bagh-e-Jinnah and the New Food Street were the first amongst the many public spaces that were host to storytelling booths that not only record people's stories, but also enabled the storytellers to hear stories recorded by fellow #citizens of #Lahore.

If you are in Lahore, don't miss out on the opportunity to tell your story and connect with other citizens.







Advisor Sartaj Aziz meets Danish Foreign Minister Kristian Jensen - July 17

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, and the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Kristian Jensen, met in the margins of the Mongolian capital, Ulaan Bator.

The Special Advisor and the Foreign Minister agreed that relations between #Pakistan and #Denmark are very good. They also agreed that they can be strengthened even further, especially in areas of #businessand commercial relations, people-to-people contact and cultural relations.

Sartaj Aziz encouraged more Danish companies to get involved in Pakistan in areas such as #sustainable #energy, where Danish companies are particularly strong. They talked about the prospects for #wind energy.

Minister Kristian Jensen informed the Advisor on his recent trip to Afghanistan, and they discussed current regional developments.

Minister Kristian Jensen stressed that Denmark recognises that the people of Pakistan has suffered much from #terrorism, and that Denmark fully supports Pakistan's fight against terrorism. He also encouraged Pakistan to help bring about a #reconciliation #process in #Afghanistan.

Stakeholders consulted for effective policy to promote diversity in cultural expressions - July 14

Today, UNESCO with the support of the Danish Centre for Culture and Development, held its first consultative meeting to discuss the state of affairs of Pakistan's culture and creative sectors.

The meeting was held in Lahore and gathered representatives from the government, civil society and private sector to discuss and make recommendations on policies for the creative sector and the signing of the 2005 UNESCO Convention for the protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expressions

Participating in the consultative session, Mr. Jan Riemer, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy said that culture remains an important element in building up vibrant, free and democratic societies and more generally, is a catalyst in development processes. He emphasized that Pakistan is a very diverse country with each region having its own rich history of progressive art and culture, which was important to protect and promote.

Pakistan has not yet signed the Convention for Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions which was adopted by UNESCO Member States in 2005. By signing the Convention, the creative sectors would be facilitated in accessing domestic and international marketplaces where their artistic works/expressions can be recognized and compensated.





Music has no boundaries: East meets West - July 12

Irrespective of nationalities, heritage, culture or ethnicity, music is one source that breaks all boundaries and makes people come together as one.

That is how we felt when the Danish folk music duo Elof & Wamberg, who visited Pakistan for the very first time, met with the amazing local band Richie & The Leo Twins.

They had never met or played together before, but once they started playing, they created magic. We caught a very special moment with them playing together for the very first time, showcasing a blend of Western and Eastern music.

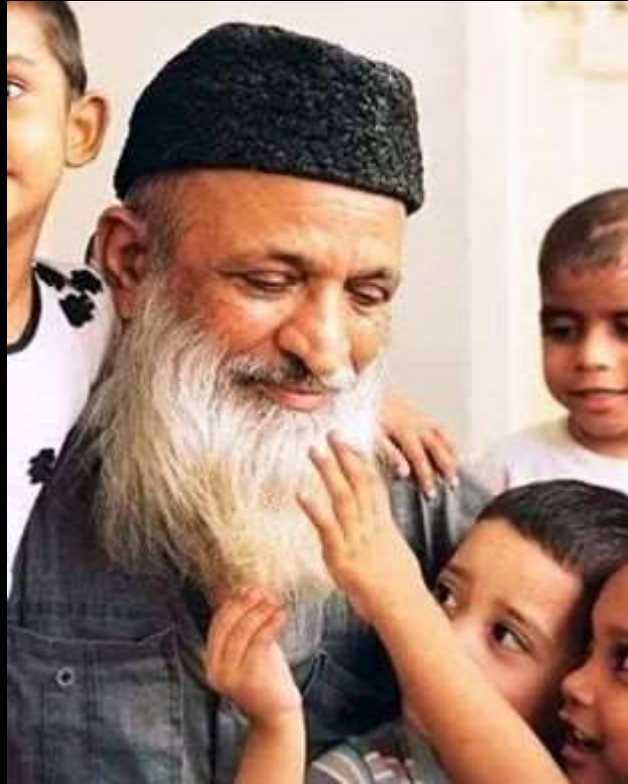
The Embassy is deeply saddened by the sad demise of Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi. July 09

Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi was a prominent Pakistani philanthropist, social activist, ascetic, and above all a world known and respected humanitarian, who devoted his life to helping the poor and the destitute.

Through his welfare foundation, Mr. Edhi developed the world's largest ambulance network in Pakistan, including numerous nursing homes, orphanages, clinics and women's shelters, along with rehabilitation centres across the country.

He helped anyone who was poor and vulnerable regardless of their race, religion or gender. Despite all his success, Mr. Edhi was known for his humbleness and living a simple life. Mr. Edhi not only helped the needy but also lived his life amongst them.

We would like to pay a special tribute to Mr. Edhi and his great work for the cause of humanity. Our thoughts and prayers are with his grieving family and the people of Pakistan, who today mourn the loss of a great human being. #Edhi#Respect



Denmark supports media safety program for journalists in Pakistan -

June 04

Pakistan is one of the five countries in the world with the highest number of attacks against media workers.

In light of the dire situation for journalists in Pakistan, the IMS (International Media Support) is in collaboration with local partners, funded by the Government of Denmark, implementing a two year media development program. The program has a strong focus on #media #safety.

Through this program, more than 1500 journalists from across the country will be trained in safety techniques while reporting from conflict-affected areas. So far, 29 training sessions have been conducted in in 29 districts of the country, in which more than 585 journalists have participated. The trainings have been conducted by Cpdj Pakistan.

Six press clubs across Pakistan, which represent over half of Pakistan's community of 18,000 journalists, have with IMS technical support and advice, also established #journalist #safety resource #hubs at their premises. These safety hubs aim to assist journalists in distress, document attacks against journalists and advocate authorities at provincial and national levels to address the safety cases.

With support from IMS program, some of Pakistan's leading journalists, media managers, human rights activists and civil society members have also formed an expert group to draft

a national agenda that outlines for the first time ever a priority action plan on effecting broad-ranging media reforms.

You can read more about the IMS program for Pakistan in IMS' annual report 2015-16, which has just been published (please click below)



IMS Annual Report 2015-2016: Sustaining independent media in times of conflict – International <https://www.mediasupport.org/ims-annual-report-2015-2016-sustaining-independent-media-times-conflict/>

Jawad Shafique has achieved one of the highest 'GPA' scores in Denmark's history.

Jawad, who is a Danish student of Pakistani origin attained a towering high of 13.6 in his final exams this year.

Seven years ago, Jawad's brother did the same by achieving a high score of 12.3 but this time it is Jawad - the 'wonder boy' as his teachers fondly call him.

Congratulations Jawad! DKPKDKPKDKPKDKPKDKPKDKPK



France

Pakistan - Attack against the Quetta Police Training Centre

(24-25 October 2016)

“France condemns the attack of last night in Quetta (Balochistan) against the Police Training Centre, the provisional toll reported sixty dead and many dozens injured.

In these tragic circumstances, France presents its condolences to the families of victims.

France recalls its commitment and stands with the Pakistani authorities in front of terrorism”.

October 13

#Didyouknow that one of the best and most renowned French chefs was born in Kohat, Pakistan ?
Discover the fascinating story of Sylvestre Wahid, who was recently awarded 2 Michelin stars for his new Parisian restaurant, Hotel Thoumieux, and his brother Jonathan Wahid, one of the finest pastry and desert chefs in France today.

<http://www.lci.fr/.../sylvestre-wahid-la-nouvelle-incarnation...>





October 10

#StudyinFrance! Campus France finally in Pakistan! Campus France chapters will open across the country in Faisalabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Peshawar in October and November 2016. They will help Pakistani students seeking to study in France.

The first chapter opened last week in Islamabad at Alliance Française d'Islamabad.

Know more about it following Campus France Pakistan new Facebook page: <https://goo.gl/ha3m7G>

October 9

Congratulations to all organizers and artists for this great initiative "Climate Change & Art". #Climateaction in Pakistan, from #COP21 to #COP22

https://www.facebook.com/EmbassyofFranceinPakistan/photos/?ref=page_internal

October 8

Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister of Law & Climate Change together with H.E. Martine Dorance, French Ambassador to Pakistan, inaugurated yesterday the exhibition "Climate Change & Art: A practitioner's retreat". at gallery 6 Islamabad. The exhibition highlights through art, the effects climate change has had on the Northern areas of Pakistan, in particular Swat - a paradise under threat.

Exhibition on now at Gallery 6, F6 Supermarket, Islamabad



October 7

Yesterday, **Alliance française de Karachi** hosted a lecture by French researcher Michel Boivin (CNRS-EHESS), Zahida Reman Jatt (University of Sindh) and Kamran Khumber (EHESS) on a provisional report on Jhulelal, as a part of Udero Lal Research Project fieldwork.

"Culture of Jhulelal is about shared space" on Dawn:<http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php...>



“Climate Change and Art”: inauguration of a special exhibition (7 october 2016, Islamabad)

Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister of Law and Climate Change together with H.E. Martine Dorance, French Ambassador to Pakistan, inaugurated yesterday the exhibition "Climate Change and Art: A practitioner's retreat". at gallery 6 Islamabad. The exhibition highlights through art, the effects climate change has had on the Northern areas of Pakistan, in particular Swat - a paradise under threat.





October 3

Hats off to Udaari team for highlighting child abuse and social taboos attached to it. Powerful message by Zebo "Main victim nahi main survivor hoon. Main beychari nahi banoo gee, main apney mujrim ko sazaa dilwaoon gee. Sharam mujhai nahi ussay karnee chahiye."



September 25

Celebrating Climate Diplomacy Week in Pakistan today! #ClimaDiplo

A symbolic bike ride on Constitution Avenue in the capital aimed at raising awareness on #climatechange, followed by the screening at #PNCA of the documentary "The Karakorum Anomaly", which shows the effects of climate change on the mountains and glaciers of Pakistan. Renowned mountaineer Nazir Sabir, Ambassadors of France, as president of COP21, Morocco as president of COP22, the EU Ambassador, the Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and the representative of WWF Pakistan underlined the importance of tackling the issue and contributing to raise awareness as Pakistan is ranked as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Thanks for the initiative to the EU Delegation together with WWF : from #COP21 and preparing for #COP22, let's continue to raise awareness in Pakistan!





September 16

Today, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was received by Jean-Marc Ayrault, French Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development in Paris. They discussed trade and economic relations between France and Pakistan, as well as regional issues and the fight against terrorism.

<http://www.ambafrance-pk.org/Finance-Minister-Ishaq-Dar-vis...>

France and Pakistan Finance Ministers Michel Sapin and Ishaq Dar met in Paris yesterday. French Finance Minister underlined that “Pakistan has made impressive economic gains in the last three years” and that “France is willing to bolster trade and economic ties with Pakistan and to mutually benefit from the conducive investment environment in the country.” Both agreed to facilitate the businessmen and significantly raise the current level of bilateral trade.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar also met with French car manufacturers Peugeot and Renault, who expressed serious interest in investing in the automobile sector in Pakistan.

September 14 ·

We congratulate Ms. Sidratul Muntaha alias Sidra Khan from Swabi for securing first position in online Chartered Accounts exam among the students from 180 countries: “Loey Shey Jinney!”



Swabi girl tops world in CA exams

SWABI - A shrewd girl student from Swabi took the country's name at heights by obtaining first position among students from 180 countries in Chartered Accounts

NATION.COM.PK

September 13

Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization addressed today the MEDEF in Paris, urging French industrialists, businessmen and investors to invest in Pakistan. "The French companies should take full benefit of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project which will link Pakistan with Afghanistan, CARs and Europe", he said. Accompanied by the Chairman of the Board of Investment, Miftah Ismail, and a delegation of Pakistani businessmen, he also addressed the Pakistan France Business Council in Paris.

<http://eng.medef.com/>



September 8

Pakistan France Science Education Cooperation: two French experts participated this week to a professional development session organized by the Pakistan Science Foundation, the ECO Science Foundation and the French Foundation “La Main à la Pâte”.

On these pictures, together with the Cooperation attaché of the Embassy, inaugurating the Training of Master Trainers on Inquiry Based Science Education, with more than 200 participants.

To know more about La Main à la Pâte foundation, which promotes inquiry-based learning, check out their brochure and website: <http://goo.gl/LewpF0and> and <http://www.fondation-lamap.org/en/international>





September 5-

We congratulate Pakistani painter, Khadim Ali, for being named among top 40 young artists in Asia Pacific by Apollo.



September 3

After Samar Khan, Ikra Saleem and Maryam Atta Malik, we congratulate PIA pilots Maryam Masood and Erum Masood for making history by becoming the first pair of sisters to fly Boeing-777 airplanes at the same time.



September 2

Future Pakistani designers from the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design - PIFD at the famous École Boulle in Paris #PIFD



September 2

The Embassy of France in Pakistan is saddened by and condemns today's attacks on Mardan courthouse and on Peshawar Christian colony. We express our condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

France assures Pakistan of its solidarity in the fight against terrorism.

August 30

French firm Alstom Hydro France to refurbish Mangla station's six units.

<http://www.brecorder.com/.../316026-wapda-sings-contract-for-...>



August 19

Federal Minister for Climate Change Zahid Hamid chaired a meeting on Pakistan's preparations for the COP22 with all the stakeholders: provinces, relevant ministries and civil society. H.E. Mrs Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France, appraised the participants on the French Presidency of COP21 and highlighted Pakistan's potential in overcoming the challenges of climate change. H.E.Mr Mustapha Salahdine, Ambassador of Morocco, informed the audience of the issues that will come under discussions next November in Marrakech where the COP22 will take place under Moroccan presidency.



Message by H.E. Mrs. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan, 14th August 2016

Message by H.E. Mrs. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan, 14th August 2016



Dear Pakistani Friends,

On the occasion of Youm-e-Azadi, it gives me great pleasure to express my warmest felicitations to all citizens of Pakistan. In celebrating the birth of Pakistan, we pay tribute to all of the women and men, first among them the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, whose vision, courage and perseverance made this achievement possible.

As he took oath as the first Governor General of Pakistan on 15th August 1947, Muhammad Ali Jinnah stated that the creation of Pakistan gave to its citizens “an opportunity to demonstrate to the world how can a nation, containing many elements, live in peace and amity and work for the betterment of all its citizens irrespective of caste and creed”. He added the wish “to live peacefully and maintain cordial and friendly relations with [...] immediate neighbors and with the world at large”. Sharing this ideal, in November 1947, France became one of the first countries to establish formal diplomatic relations with Pakistan, thus ushering a relationship based on mutual respect and common values. Ever since then, the ties between our two countries have expanded in all fields: political, cultural, economic and most importantly people-to-people.

As it enters its 69th year of existence, Pakistan has accomplished a lot, oftentimes in difficult circumstances. As a young State, it still faces immense challenges. But it can count on friendly countries such as France to help overcoming them and to contribute to the realization of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Pakistan.

Again, I wish you all a happy Independence Day. Long live Pakistan. Long live the France-Pakistan friendship.

**Martine DORANCE
Ambassador of France to Pakistan**

August 15 - French President François Hollande meets with Mr Jawed Akhai, Chairman of the pharmaceutical group Martin Dow, a leading Pakistani investor in France.



August 12

At a seminar organized by the World Bank and SDPI on Pakistan and Climate Change, HE. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, and Mustapha Salahddinne, Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan, have commented on the transition from the COP21 (presided by France) to the COP22 (which will be presided by Morocco). France and Morocco will continue to work closely to make the Paris Agreement on Climate Change a success.



August 12

HE. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, bestowed the title of “Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Merite” upon Mr. Shabbir Ahmed, Chief Executive of DL Nash, at a dinner reception

hosted by Mr. Francois Dall'Orso, Consul General of France in Karachi.



France condemns the attack against the Quetta Civil Hospital

**Statement of Deputy Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
(8 August 2016)**

France condemns the cowardly attack that targeted this morning Quetta Civil Hospital in the province of Baluchistan in Pakistan.

We express our condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

France assures Pakistan of its solidarity in the fight against terrorism.

**Quetta attack: Statement by the President of the French Republic,
Mr. François Hollande**

(Paris, 8 August 2016)

“A suicide attack against a crowd that gathered in front of the Quetta Hospital in southern Pakistan, killed 70 people and left over 110 injured.

The President of the Republic condemns this heinous act and expresses full solidarity of France to the people of Pakistan, already badly hit by the terrible attack in Lahore in March.

Terrorist attack - Message from the Embassy of France in Pakistan

Dear compatriots,

Last night, 14 of July 2016, in Nice, a terrorist attack targeted women, men and children gathered together to celebrate our national day. Our sincerest thoughts are with their families and their relatives with whom we share their pain and emotion.

The President of the Republic has ordered three days of national mourning, until Monday 18 of July. Consequently, the French music concerts scheduled tonight in Lahore and Sunday evening in Islamabad have been canceled. The reception for the national day scheduled Saturday night in Lahore has been transformed into a ceremony of remembrance to pay tribute to the memories of the victims of the attack.

The terrorist threat that is targeting France and French nationals is not limited to the homeland. Therefore, it remains indispensable to renew vigilance in an already sensitive local security context. It is especially advised to avoid crowded areas (malls, markets) and public gatherings or demonstrations. It is also recommended to change itineraries and habits.

The Embassy of France in Pakistan and the Consulate general of France in Karachi are fully mobilized to keep you informed and to offer assistance, in coordination with local authorities and the chefs d'ilot. If needed, you can reach the Embassy or the Consulate by calling the emergency numbers featured on their websites.

The Embassy of France in Pakistan.

August 8 ·

Hamid Mir reporting from France after the latest terrorist attacks

<https://jang.com.pk/.../151002-hamid-mir-column-2016-08-04-hu...>

August 5

The Ambassador of France H.E Martine Dorance met with Mr. Ismail Qureshi, Rector of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) which has a longstanding partnership with the French National School of Administration (ENA)



August 5

During her visit to the Punjab Institute of Language Arts & Culture (PILAC) the Ambassador of France H.E Martine Dorance went on-air on Punjab Rung FM 95



August 5

After her meeting with Mr. Tahir Raza Hamdani, Director General of Punjab Institute of Language Arts and Culture (PILAC), the Ambassador of France H.E Martine Dorance was interviewed by City-42 news channel



July 28

A delegation of Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan and Pakistani Universities headed by Chairman HEC, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed visited France to attend Pakistan Day which was organized by French Embassy in Pakistan, Campus France and Embassy of Pakistan in France on June 1, 2016 at Paris. The purpose of the visit was to have meetings with higher educational institutes of France, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Conference of University Presidents, and visit the Senate of France.

French Embassy in Pakistan extended its full cooperation and support to make this visit successful. H.E. Mrs. Martine Dorance, French Ambassador to Pakistan personally visited France along with her team including, Mr. Andre de Bussy, Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs, and Mr. Alban Schwerer Educational and Scientific Attaché to attend the Pakistan Day in France.

H.E. Mr. Ghalib Iqbal, Ambassador of Pakistan to France extended its full cooperation through its office to facilitate the visit program.

A Memorandum of understanding between HEC and Campus France was signed by Chairman HEC and General Manager of Campus France and was witnessed by French Ambassador in Pakistan.



July 28

FRANCE grants 250.000 euros of scholarships for youth of less developed or deprived areas of Pakistan with an emphasis on female students.

On July 21 the selecting committee HEC-FRANCE needs based scholarship program phase IV met in Islamabad, together with all participating Universities through a video conference. The committee was co-chaired by Hashmi Syed Adviser Human Resource Department HEC and Andre de Bussy Counsellor for development and cultural affairs. A total of scholarships 143 were attributed.



July 22

The Embassy of France in Pakistan warmly thanks everyone who has joined the people of France in mourning following the terrorist attack in Nice, France, on our National Day; your show of solidarity and expressions of condolence have been deeply moving.





July 21

Dear friends,

It's my great pleasure to announce the launch of the official Facebook page of the Embassy of France in Islamabad.

The page celebrates France in Pakistan. It is open to everyone and we encourage you to interact with us, as a new mean of communication. On it you will find information about Pakistan and France's strong and longstanding relationship. We will also post interesting facts on French culture, lifestyle, tourism, as well as videos, pictures and information on events.

I hope you enjoy our page!

Martine Dorance

Ambassador of France to Pakistan



Germany

Germany condemns the attack in Quetta

We condemn the cruel attack on the police school in Quetta in which over 60 people were killed. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the victims.

We offer our sincere condolences to the people of Pakistan.

This heinous attack shows once again that international terrorism is a threat for us all against which we have to fight together.

Terrorists are trying to split society with violence and hate. We have to and we will oppose this perfidious logic resolutely.

October 28

Mr Brinksmeier, Head of the Press and Cultural Section, was visiting the German Section of COMSATS and made a courtesy call with the director of Lok Virsa and the gallerist of the Nomad gallery to exchange ideas of possible projects of cooperation.





Letter of condolences from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Angela Merkel, to His Excellency Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

His Excellency Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Islamabad

Dear Prime Minister,

I was shocked to learn of the perfidious attack on a police training college in your country that claimed many lives. Please accept my heartfelt condolences. The Federal Government condemns this barbaric act of terror in the strongest possible terms.

My deepest sympathy goes out to the families of the victims. I wish all those who have been injured a full and speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Angela Merkel
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

“Interaction of Young Pakistani Scientists with Nobel Laureates” is a joint program of PIEAS, HEC and the Council for Nobel Laureate Meetings in Lindau (Germany), which provides a unique opportunity to talented graduates / young researchers to interact with 30 to 40 Nobel Laureates and more than 500 fellow participants from over 75 countries, at Lindau (Germany). Fourteen teams of young scholars from Pakistan have already participated in the past fourteen annual meetings since 2003.

As per MoU signed between PIEAS and Lindau Council, up to ten Pakistani Chemistry and four Economic sciences candidates will be nominated. The Selection Board recommend the suitable

candidates after interviewing the short listed candidates. The interviews were conducted on 24 October 2016 for Chemistry, and 25 October 2016 for Economic Sciences at HEC. Nearly 30 short listed candidates were be called for the interviews



October 25

German Ambassador Lepel is making the headlines

again!

Today's Express Tribune is quoting Ms. Lepel: "For 30 years, Pakistan has spent vast resources to accommodate [Afghans], and must be commended"



October 25

We condemn the cruel attack on the police school in Quetta in which over 60 people were killed. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the victims.

We offer our sincere condolences to the people of Pakistan.

This heinous attack shows once again that international terrorism is a threat for us all against which we have to fight together.

Terrorists are trying to split society with violence and hate. We have to and we will oppose this perfidious logic resolutely.

October 25

Germany has joined the endgame against Polio in Pakistan!

German Deputy Head of Mission announced our support of 2.5 Million Euro for 2016 at World Polio Day Summit organized by Rotary International.



October 24

The "Oktoberfest" in Lahore was a great success!

A German band came from Bavaria and ensured a good atmosphere. Thanks to the Annemarie Schimmel Haus for organizing the event and bringing a little bit of German folk festival feeling to Lahore.





October 24

KP (Local Government and Rural Development Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) is successfully implementing a major local government reform that will bring the state closer to the citizen. Germany supports the reform as well as donor coordination in this important area.

KP govt praised for implementing LG system

Bureau report

PESHAWAR: Participants at the Strategic Development Partnership Framework's (SDPF) sectoral coordination committee meeting on Thursday lauded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for implementing what they termed a comprehensive local governance system in the province.

The SDPF is a common platform of the government and donors working towards the improved citizen participation and bringing the state closer to the citizen through empowering communities to lead the devel-

opment agenda at the grass-roots level.

The coordination committee is the subsidiary of the SDPF. It provides a common forum to the provincial government, through its Local Government Elections and Rural Development Department (LGE&RDD), and donors to take up matters related to the decentralization and local governance in the province.

Those, who spoke at the SDPF committee meeting, praised the provincial government for putting in efforts for introducing the local government system in the province.

The SDPF meeting was held at the LGE&RDD committee room at the civil secretariat. It was chaired by Secretary Local Government Syed Jamaluddin Shah, while representatives of the donors' agencies, including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GIZ, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), European Union (EU) and Sub-National Governance (SNG) programme turned up there.

The secretary for LGE & RDD said the provincial government despite a number of challenges implemented the local government system at the lowest tier of the governance in the province.

The official said the operational and development budget were almost doubled.

October 21

Germany continues to support the rule of law in Pakistan. This week, three Embassy colleagues visited Karachi and a project to build investigative capacities of the police and to improve prosecution services, implemented by the German Development Agency GIZ. The team met with police and prosecution representatives and visited the Police Training Centre in Saeedabad where GIZ built a crime scene training room and refurbished the accommodation for female recruits. We look forward to continuing this fruitful cooperation in one of the most important fields for Pakistan's long-term development.



October 18

Recently in the Port Qasim Industrial Area, Consul General Rainer Schmiedchen inaugurated a highly sophisticated German industrial equipment.

Later investment possibilities were discussed with leading members of the Bin Qasim Association of Trade & Industry.



October 10

Are you keen to learn German language? Here are some German proverbs with their English translation you will find interesting. Do you know any German proverb and its meaning?

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/.../german-proverbs-translated-liter...>



"DRUNKEN PEOPLE AND CHILDREN
ARE THE ONLY ONES TELLING THE TRUTH"

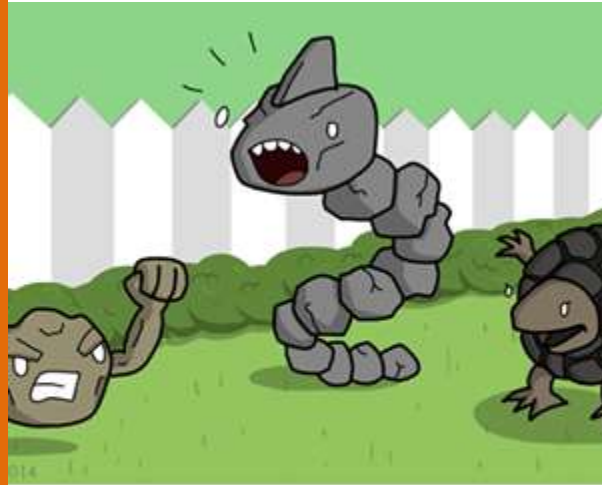
12 German Proverbs Translated Literally Into English



"YOU WALK ME ANIMALLY ON THE COUCH"



THERE IS NO STANDING ON ONE LEG



ONLY THE HARD COME IN THE GARDE



جرمنی پاکستان میں

October 7

Germany believes in vocational training.

We are glad that the first-ever international TVET conference with representation of almost 30

countries took place in Islamabad this week. German Ambassador Ina Lepel addressed the importance of supporting Technical and Vocational Education and Training. The conference was realized with the help from NAVTTC and our co-donors EU and Norway.



State Minister for Federal Education & Professional Training Engr. Baligh-ur-Rehman, Mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz, Executive Director NAVTTC, Zulfiqar Ahmad Choema, German Ambassador Ms. Ina Lepel and Sri Lankan High Commissioner are sitting on the stage.





October 6

We were delighted to receive a large group of students from FATA and Afghanistan at the German Embassy yesterday. The Embassy is supporting these students through a Youth Development Programme which is designed to prepare aspiring students with seminars and exposure visits for creating positive social change in the future. Meeting such a dynamic and highly motivated group of students that showed a remarkable commitment for a better future of their respective communities was truly inspiring. We wish them all the best for their future!





October 1

The "German weeks" are about to start!

'This year, the German Consulate General Karachi and Goethe-Institut Karachi (Pakistan) will be hosting 17 events, including musical concerts, exhibitions, spelling competitions, workshops and lectures. The two-month-long event will start on October 3 and culminate on December 13.'



September 30

"Together with the GPCCI, the German government will continue to encourage German companies to visit Pakistan and evaluate opportunities.

This is also the goal of the delegation accompanying me: to learn more about Pakistan, to explore the market, to look for business partners and to start or to expand their trade and investment here"

These were the words of Mr. Stephan Steinlein, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, at the

opening of the bureau of the "German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry" in Lahore.

Have a look at the link below for his complete speech:

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/.../2016/160923-StS-S_D-PAK_HK...





September 29

Ina Lepel, German Ambassador, and Stephan Steinlein, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, visited the Walled City of Lahore last week.

Germany is funding a restoration and conservation project in the Walled City in partnership with Aga Khan Trust for Culture and WCLA. Currently they are working on the conservation of the Wazir Khan Mosque.

The Ambassador and the State Secretary were impressed by Lahore's imposing historic buildings.





September 28

We can all make our own personal contributions to environmental protection!

Some of our colleagues from the embassy set a good example: They went to Nathiagali and cleaned the trail Nathia to Dungagali.

Do you also want to help saving our environment?

Here are 15 easy ways to become environmentally friendly:

<http://www.conserve-energy-future.com/15-easy-ways-to-becom...>



September 26

A delegation from the German Language School in Hürth visited NUML in order to enhance the cooperation between both Institutes. There was a mutual understanding that there is a high demand in particular for more German Language teachers in Pakistan as well that language training should not just encompass learning words and grammar but also the other countries culture.



September 25

German Ambassador Ina Lepel cycles for greater climate action!

On the occasion of the European Union's Climate Change Diplomacy Week, Ambassador Lepel, together with many other dignitaries, participated in a bicycle tour through Islamabad. The tour was followed by an event at the Pakistan National Council of Arts to highlight the need for a joint effort to tackle climate change on the road to the next Climate Conference in Morocco in November 2016. Germany and the EU will continue to assist Pakistan as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and look forward to a continued partnership ahead of the Morocco conference!



September 24

Relations between Pakistan and Germany increasingly close!

This week, Mr. Stephan Steinlein, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office visited Pakistan accompanied by a high-ranking German business delegation.

During their meeting with Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Commerce and Dr. Miftah Ismail, Chairman Board of Investment, they aimed at strengthening the economic ties between Pakistan and Germany.



ISLAMABAD: High Ranking German business delegation led by Stephen Steinlien, State Secretary of the German Federal Foreign office called on Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce. INP PHOTO



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Miftah Ismail, MOS / Chairman, Board of Investment meeting with German Business delegation at Board of Investment. INP PHOTO

September 23

Renewable energies and the improvement in energy efficiency bring great benefits to our society!

Yesterday Mr. Stephan Steinlein, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, Ms. Ina Lepel, German Ambassador and Mr. Abid Sher Ali, Minister of State for Water and Power, opened the exhibition "Energiewende" in Islamabad. The "Energiewende" - Germany's shift to green energy - is a unique project with the aim to radically transform the German energy system.



September 21

Germany supports cities in Pakistan with inclusive urban development!

Yesterday, our colleague Sebastian Ernst opened a two-day training course on “Building Inclusive Cities” directed at urban government and private sector representatives. The workshop, organized by Germany’s development agency GIZ, was a concrete joint step towards a more inclusive development in urban centers in Pakistan. We will continue to help our Pakistani partners tackling this massive challenge!





September 19-

Germany is one major supporter of UNHCR's programs in Pakistan and worldwide. One of our colleagues, Dr. Kalle Holzfuß, went to visit the UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation Center (VRC) in Peshawar and toured the facility. He had the opportunity to speak with UNHCR Staff about the process of repatriation as well as directly to many Refugees. He was quite impressed by the facilities and the efforts of UNHCR and also by the stories of the Afghan men, women and children leaving Pakistan for Afghanistan.





September 16•

A collaboration between Berlin based producers such as the Gebrüder Teichmann and rRoxymore, with the Karachi-based Forever South collective, the Karachi Files LP (released earlier this year) is one of most interesting collaborative records of 2016. Perfect for anyone who's a fan of glitchy, atmospheric electronica, too.

<http://musicmap.global/new-finds-karachi-files/>



New Finds: Karachi Files (Germany x Pakistan)

One of 2016's best collaborative records is perfect for anyone who's a fan of glitchy, atmospheric electronica.

MUSICMAP.GLOBAL

September 15 •

One of our colleagues visited Chitral last week where Germany has funded a number of projects

recently, including a project on small-infrastructure schemes and skills training by the Foundation for Integrated Development Action (FIDA). Together with Mr Faiysal Ali Khan, FIDA's CEO, he met with community organizations, beneficiaries and political representatives. Thanks to FIDA for their hard work and congratulations to the participating communities for their impressive commitment!





September 8

In December 2015 German Ambassador Ina Lepel and Chief Minister KP Pervez Khattak launched the German funded Social Health Protection Initiative. This initiative entitled BISP recipients (ie the poorest segment of the society) in four districts of KP to free healthcare services in hospitals. Last week the KP Government took over this project completely and will now provide 50% of their population with free medical treatments!

What a great success!

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1281267>



September 6

Pakistani and German companies are working together to protect the environment.

A Dairy Farm in Punjab was solarized by the German company GreenIndusTree. Now they have clean energy for powerful milk!

Investing in sustainable energy means investing in our future!



September 4 ·

General Raheel Sharif, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, visited Berlin a few weeks ago. Part of the military honour guard was the Pakistani national anthem played by the "Stabsmusikkorps" ("musical

corps of the German army").

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD0ERq5jm94>

September 2

Last week the German Defence Attachè, Colonel Klaus Wolf visited the Museum of the Pakistan Army. He was welcomed by Brigadier Adnan Saleem, the director of the museum and got a guided tour. Col Wolf later said: "It is impressive how in this museum the proud history of the Pakistan Army has been kept and maintained."





August 31

People in Shahdi Wala have finally access to sweet water!

Shahdi Wala is a small village in the extreme north corner of District D.G Khan. In the past, the 2000 inhabitants had to walk 4-6 kilometres to get sweet water.

This has finally changed! The Pakistani NGO "ABURO" installed a PVC pipeline to link the village with a sweet water source. This project was funded by the German Government.





August 29

Last week Ms. Almut Knop, the Head of Development Cooperation German Embassy Islamabad, welcomed participants of the Youth Development Programme 2016 which is designed for young students from FATA and Afghanistan who aspire to take up political roles in the future. Other distinguished guests included H.E. Omer Zakhilwal, the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan, Shah Jee Gul

Afridi, MNA FATA, and ambassador Akram Zaki. The Programme included various activities such as training on leadership skills and critical thinking, seminars on human rights and peace building, and meetings with journalists and political decision-makers.





August 26 ·

Our ambassador, Ina Lepel congratulated the DW Urdu service on the start of their new web page "Wajood-e-Zan" dedicated to the women, from all fields of life, who make us proud everyday.

<http://www.dw.com/.../%D9%88%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%AF-%D.../av-19462809>

August 26 Great news for mothers in and around Bara Koh!

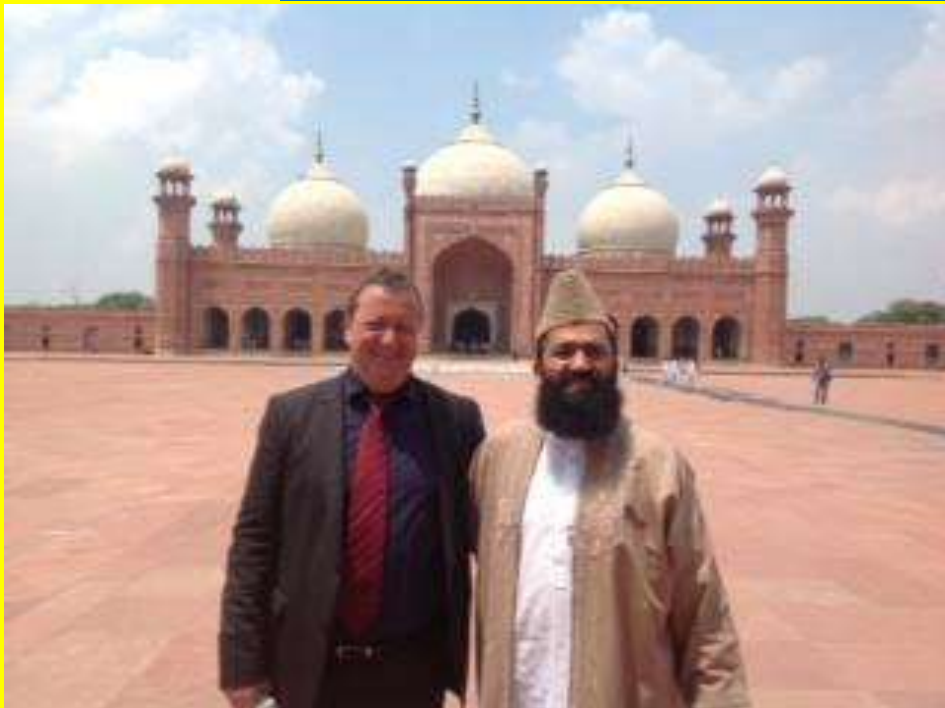
Head of Development section from the German Embassy Islamabad, inaugurated the Gul Hospital and Kashmala Maternity Home in Bara Koh this week. This Greenstar Signature Clinic was renovated and upgraded with German Government support through KFW. It runs around the clock and will provide a full range of maternal, child health and family planning services.





August 20

Welcome to Pakistan: The new Head of Press and Cultural section, Mr. Burghard Brinksmeier has arrived in Pakistan recently . He made his first tour to Lahore to visit the Annemarie Schimmel Haus and meet other important partners of the German embassy. The grand Imam of Badshahi mosque, Mualana Sayed Muhammad received him warmly. He also met Mr. Humayun Mazhar, Director, Lahore Museum, who provided for him a guided tour through the glorious collection of Lahore Museum. Furthermore he visited the Lahore Fort, Shalimar Garden and Wazir Khan mosque. For more pictures of Lahore museum: <https://www.facebook.com/lahoremuseumofficial/photos/...>



August 18

German Ambassador Lepel is again making the headlines!

Today's Express Tribune is quoting Ms. Lepel on Human Development: "Germany considers Pakistan a

partner in South Asia for furthering genuine human development"



August 13

On the occasion of Independence day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of Federal Republic of Germany, extend the felicitation of German public to the president and people of Pakistan.

زده به ادی پاک جرمن دوست

Translation

His Excellency Mamnoon Hussain
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Islamabad

Mr President,

On the occasion of Independence Day, allow me to offer you and the citizens of your country my sincere congratulations and those of my fellow Germans.

In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to express my recognition to you and your compatriots for your efforts to combat terrorism and extremism and my hope that you will successfully continue this endeavour. We are deeply shocked by terrorist attacks such as the cruel attack in Quetta on 8 August this year. We owe our respect in particular to those who stand up to hate and violence, be it as soldiers, police officers or citizens. Only a comprehensive approach which includes respect for human rights can be successful in the long term.

Be assured that Germany will continue to do all it can to stand at Pakistan's side in its pursuit of a peaceful and economically successful future. I am therefore all the more pleased that the intensive exchange between representatives of our two countries continues this year.

Joachim Gauck
President of the Federal Republic of Germany



August 12

Germany confirms contribution of Euro 1 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for resilience and food security in Pakistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/.../141607-Germany-contributes-1m-...>

Germany contributes 1m euro to WFP for food security in Pakistan

Islamabad The government of Germany has confirmed a contribution of Euro 1 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for resilience and food security in Pakistan. WFP is...

THENEWS.COM.PK

August 10

The German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier sent a letter of condolences to the Advisor on Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Sartaj Aziz after the Quetta attack.

Translation

Federal Foreign Office

Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Member of the German Bundestag

8 August 2016

Dear colleague, dear Sartaj Aziz,

I condemn in the strongest possible terms today's heinous terrorist attack in Quetta, in which so many people were killed or injured. I share the grief of the families and friends of the victims and offer you and the people of Pakistan my heartfelt sympathy, as well as that of my fellow Germans. I fervently wish the many injured a speedy recovery.

You may rest assured that Germany remains firmly at Pakistan's side in the fight against terrorism.

With deep regret,

(sgd) Frank-Walter Steinmeier

His Excellency Sartaj Aziz
Advisor on Foreign Affairs to the
Prime Minister of the
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Islamabad

August 9 ·

A Spokesperson of the German Federal Foreign Office gave the following statement on 8th August 2016:

Terrorism has struck in the most brutal manner in the midst of a large group of mourning people in Quetta, Pakistan. We condemn this heinous and inhuman attack, in which more than 50 people have been killed, in the strongest possible terms.

We express our deepest condolences to their relatives and the people of Pakistan as a whole. To the many injured we wish a speedy recovery.

We remain on Pakistan's side in the fight against terrorism. Above all, everything has to be done to deny terrorism its breeding ground and to prevent its ideological seed from reaching the hearts and minds of young people.

August 1

On 27 July the Ambassador met a delegation from the South Punjab Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan Division, to discuss business opportunities for Pakistani companies headed by women in bilateral trade with Germany.

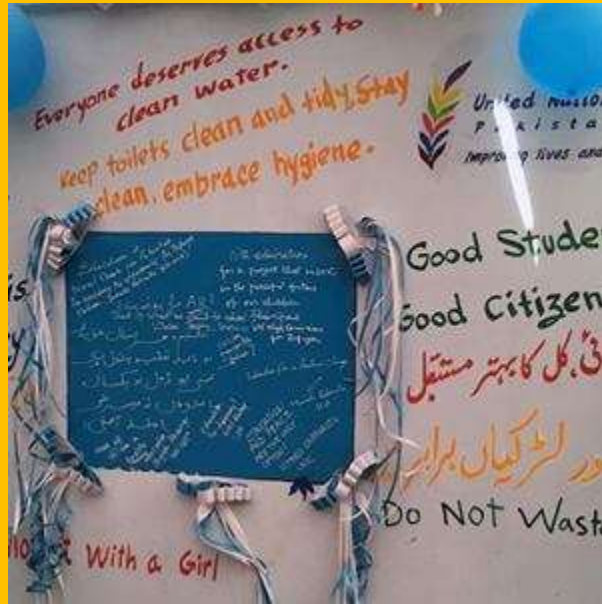


July 23

German Government active to Promote Education in Pakistan:



ے سرگرم | معاشرہ | MOC.WD | ایم کے فروغ کے لیے تعلی سے تان مجرمن حکومت پاکستان
21.07.2016





جرمنی پاکستان میں

July 22

The German Embassy Islamabad would like to congratulate Ms. Ines Chabbi on her appointment as the Secretary General of the German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI)!



July 10

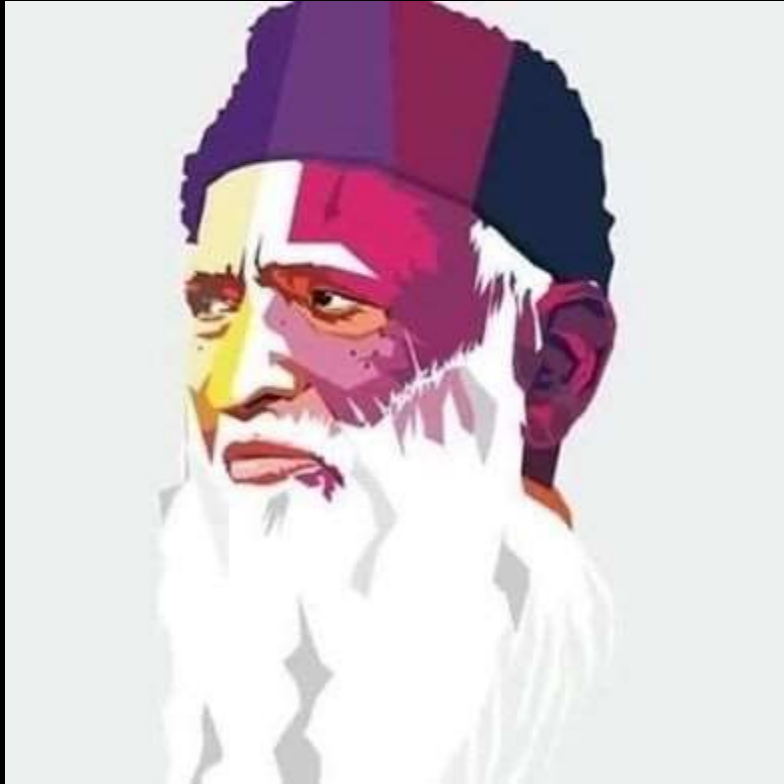
Pakistan's Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is visiting Germany - he met his counterpart, President of the Bundestag Dr. Lammert, as well as the German chancellor. Our parliaments are the heart of our democracies - it is good to see our democratic institutions have a good and regular exchange.





July 9

Pakistan lost a great man last night. „With sadness, I learnt that Abdul Sattar Edhi passed away,“ German Ambassador Ina Lepel stated. „I hope the women and men who worked with him will continue Mr Edhi’s work. Let us all keep his last word in in mind: Mere mulk ke gharibo’n ka khaial rakhna.“



The Consulate General of Germany in Karachi extends its deepest condolences on the sad demise of Abdul Sattar Edhi.

Edhi Sahab was an icon of humanity for Pakistan: known for his untiring and selfless humanitarian and philanthropic work.

The Netherlands

October 24

Today is United Nations Day! The Netherlands celebrates the 71st anniversary of the United Nations and supports its efforts to achieve the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The Netherlands commends the UN's initiatives in Pakistan aimed at reducing poverty and inequalities through the protection of human rights, tackling the effects of climate change and addressing food insecurity.



UNITED NATIONS DAY 2016

October 24 ·

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen enjoyed spending an afternoon with Pakistan's young diplomatic talent, exchanging views on issues as varied as Dutch policy in Pakistan, human rights, sustainable trade and investment, regional developments and life as a career diplomat in Pakistan and other countries around the globe.



October 19

Join us in saying goodbye to Simon Feijen who heads to the Netherlands after completing a short-term assignment at the Islamabad Embassy. Apart from all of his great work, he liked Pakistan and adapted himself to the new culture quickly. On his last day at the Embassy, Simon dressed up in Shalwar Kameez to the surprise of his Pakistani and Dutch colleagues.



October 17

Deputy Head of Mission Renate Pors met with representatives of Dutch-based organizations working in Pakistan. The attendees shared experiences, discussed how to share lessons learned, and how best to support each other. Connecting partners active in Pakistan, was deemed very useful to foster collaborations to collectively address development challenges in Pakistan.



October 13

Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands congratulates the State Bank of Pakistan Governor on receiving the Best Central Bank Governor Award 2016. The Queen renews her commitment to foster financial inclusion and vows to help resolve impediments in expanding financial access for the low-

income people in Pakistan.



SBP governor felicitated on receiving award

WASHINGTON - The Queen Maxima of the Netherlands has felicitated Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Ashraf Mahmood Wathra on receiving the Best Central NATION.COM.PK

October 7

The Netherlands congratulates the Parliament for passing anti-honor killing and anti-rape legislation, and considers it a milestone for protecting women rights in Pakistan. The Netherlands supports efforts for social and economic empowerment of women in the country.

How do you see this latest development?



Pakistan passes anti-honour killings and anti-rape bills

Legislation on honour killings will introduce strict punishment for convicts making it tougher than ordinary murders.

DAWN.COM | BY DAWN.COM | MUHAMMAD BILAL

September 29

Deputy Head of the Mission Renate Pors met Dutch and Pakistani private sector as well as

development partners in Karachi to discuss opportunities to expand trade and economic development. The Netherlands strives to support increased economic relations and improve quality of life in Pakistan.





September 27

Are you in the profession of higher education and outreach, agricultural research or agribusiness? Do you feel the need to improve your skills? Check out these short-term courses for your professional development.



Professional Development Courses | Netherlands Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan

The International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA), the Netherlands,...
PAKISTAN.NLEMBASSY.ORG

September 25

The Watersnoodmuseum Museum in Ouwerkerk preserves this unique slide from Pakistan appealing for helping the Dutch flood victims during the 1953 severe storms. The same slide was used in the Netherlands in 2009 to raise funds for the flood victims in Pakistan. Both countries continue to stand by each in hard times ever since.



Pakistan appeal for Dutch flood victims in 1953

Urgent appeals to help the victims of the flooding in Pakistan are being made throughout the world and so too in the Netherlands. In 1953, when large parts of the southwestern province of Zeeland became flooded during severe storms, the...

RNW.ORG

September 23

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen meets Federal Minister for Human Rights Kamran Michael to discuss the situation of human rights in Pakistan. The Netherlands will continue to support Pakistan in addressing challenges to the protection of human rights in the country.



September 19

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen met Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to discuss the follow-up to Her Majesty Queen Maxim's visit to Pakistan in February 2016 in her role as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development. The Netherlands continues to engage with relevant stakeholders in Pakistan to achieve universal financial inclusion for sustainable growth.



September 16

Pakistan's Nighat Daad is among three public favorites after voting for the Human Rights Tulip 2016. The final winner will be elected by the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs and awarded on December 10 - International Human Rights Day.

<https://www.humanrightstulip.nl/.../the-final-3-candidates-fo...>



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Final candidates Human Rights Tulip 2016

Nighat Dad
14,768 votes

Nguyen Quang A
14,289 votes

El Nadim Centre
9,844 votes

2

1

3

The Minister of Foreign Affairs will choose the winner. Award ceremony 10th of December in The Hague

September 15

A two-member mission from the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Netherlands, comprising Mr Lennaert Post and Mr Mark A. van Elzakker, is visiting Pakistan to meet with stakeholders to discuss issues related to streamlining visa application process in Pakistan. @IND_NL



September 9 ·

On 8th September, the Netherlands Ambassador hosted a debrief for the visiting Dutch Alliances of

NGOs working on Life Skill Base #Education in#Pakistan.



September 8

Martijn Beerthuizen is our new 1st Secretary Political Affairs. He and his spouse Camila arrived in Pakistan on 1st September and are eager to start their 2-year adventure here.



September 7

For the past 20 years, the @Prince Claus Fund has honored visionary artists and organizations for their excellent, pioneering work in culture and development.

One of the laureates for the Prince Claus Award 2016 is PeaceNiche (<http://www.peaceniche.org>) | The Second Floor (T2F) (2007, Karachi), a not-for-profit organization founded by Sabeen Mahmud (1974-2015), an interdisciplinary space that promotes democratic discourse and conflict resolution through intellectual and cultural engagement. Its flagship project T2F is one of the few community spaces for open dialogue; it features a café and bookshop and hosts a packed agenda ranging from writer meet-ups to performing arts to open mic nights. Congratulations on this prestigious award.

Prince Claus Fund

An exhibition of works by 2009 Prince Claus Laureate El Anatsui (Ghana, 1944), one of the most influential contemporary artists working today, will be presented at the Prince Claus Fund Gallery in Amsterdam 24 November 2016 till 28 April 2017. The opening on Thursday, 24 November is part of Amsterda...

PRINCECLAUSFUND.ORG

August 31

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands received 500 bed nets and 500 blankets from @NRS International.

Renate Pors, Deputy Head of Mission traveled to Talheeri and Muradabad Union Council of Muzaffargarh district earlier this month to assist with the distribution of these items by @HelpAge International.

The beneficiaries were older people, disabled and widows.



August 29

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen hosted a dinner with top female entrepreneurs from Pakistan on the occasion of the visit of Prof. Dr. Josette Dijkhuizen, Honorary Professor Entrepreneurship Development at the Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands. From bankers to ladies who run guesthouses, beauty parlors and schools, from art gallery curators to directors of important NGOs, these ladies show that entrepreneurship amongst Pakistani women is rising to its potential – a development that the embassy supports wholeheartedly.



August 26

Congratulations to the Pakistani junior hockey team, who beat M.M.H.C. Voordaan from the Netherlands by an impressive 6-3! This is only the first match of the European tour of Pakistan's U21

hockey team. We wish them the best of luck as they take on more top clubs from the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe!



Tour of Europe: Pakistan juniors beat Dutch club 6-3 - The Express Tribune
Six different players score against MMHC Voordaan
TRIBUNE.COM.PK

August 25 ·

Last week the embassy participated in the International Food & Technology fair in Lahore to promote business between Pakistan and the Netherlands, especially when it comes to processing milk, cheese and poultry products. The Netherlands is known globally for its high quality food processing machinery. If your company has an interest in Dutch food processing systems, please reach out embassy's economic team at isl-ea@minbuza.nl; we'll be happy to assist you.





August 24

Yesterday Ambassador Jeannette Seppen visited the Pakistan Secure Printing Corporation in Karachi. This facility has state-of-the-art machinery to manufacture not only Pakistani bank notes but also passports, national ID cards and university diplomas. Ambassador Jeannette praised the management for their excellence and is hopeful of increased business cooperation between Pakistan and the Netherlands in the field of secure printing as well.



August 23

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen joined students from all over Pakistan in Lahore for the final session of 3 weeks of training by the Dairy Training Centre from the Netherlands. The training was funded by the Netherlands to enhance the capacity of the Pakistan Dairy Development Centre staff and to

reinforce and develop Pakistan's agricultural sector. If your organisation wants to apply for such a tailor made training, please submit a proposal before October 22nd: <http://pakistan.nlembassy.org/.../nfp-ii-tailor-made-training...>





August 18

Congratulations to Akif Ramzan, who was awarded an Erasmus Mundus scholarship to study in the European Union. Next week, Akif will begin a PhD at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands. To learn more about the procedures and requirements for the Erasmus Mundus scholarship programme, visit: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/.../scholarships_students_academics...



August 16

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen and Honorary Consul Tarek Khan visited Stahl Pakistan Ltd. in Karachi. Stahl is a Dutch company specialising in leather- and performance coatings and dyes, and has been doing business successfully in Pakistan for many years. Stahl recently invested in a new central leather application lab in Karachi, which was inaugurated in July.



August 15

The Embassy staff is happy to welcome a new team member, Beatrice Karthaus. She'll be in charge of ensuring the Embassy's consular processes and internal workings run smoothly. This is Beatrice's

second posting in Pakistan – she's excited to be back!



August 14 ·

The embassy team wishes all our Pakistani friends a happy Independence Day!



From The Embassy of the Netherlands

August 10

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen and Economic Secretary Rick Slettenhaar joined in on a cheerful Independence Day dance rehearsal by the children and volunteers at Dar ul Sukun in Karachi. Dar ul Sukun is a home for physically and mentally challenged children and adults that was founded in 1969 by the late Sister Gertrude Lemmens, a nun from the Netherlands. During her visit, Ambassador Jeannette was moved by the love and care the volunteers provide to these special children and adults in memory of Sister Gertrude.

<https://www.facebook.com/DutchEmbassyPakistan/#>

August 9

During her recent visit to Karachi, Ambassador Jeannette Seppen was received by the Governor of Sindh, Dr. Ishrat ul Ebad Khan. Among the topics discussed were the historical ties and the strong commercial relationship between the Netherlands and Sindh, political developments in the province and the law and order situation. The Ambassador praised the hospitality of the people of Sindh and was impressed by the beautiful building that houses the Governor's office.



August 1

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen called on university lecturers at the 5th PACE workshop to encourage their students to think critically and to always ask questions. Sharing the historical experience of the Netherlands, the Ambassador underlined the importance of consensus and the richness of diversity: “Many colours make a beautiful painting. With just one colour, it is bland!”

PACE is a major countering violent extremism (CVE) initiative launched by the Centre for Research and Security Studies – with the support of the Netherlands – to promote democratic values, respect for diversity, fundamental human rights and virtues of tolerance as a measure of ensuring social peace and harmony for peaceful co-existence. To date, around one hundred university lecturers have been trained in critical thinking; many more are yet to follow.



July 31

A new study found that Dutch men are now on average 6ft (183cm) tall, which makes them the tallest in the world. Rick Slettenhaar is one of the Dutch diplomats based in Pakistan, stands at 6'9". TALL yes, but he would still not measure up to the likes of Pakistanis Mohammad Irfan 7'1", Naseer Soomro 7'10", and Ajaz Ahmed 8'4".

Scientists believe that good standards of healthcare, sanitation and nutrition are the cause for the great height of the Dutch. Also important is the mother's health and nutrition during pregnancy.



Dutch men revealed as world's tallest - BBC News

When it comes to height, Dutch men and Latvian women tower over all other nationalities, a study reveals.

BBC.CO.UK

July 29

Want to know what makes the Netherlands a great business destination? Its central location at the crossroads of Europe, a hub for business and logistics, a global talent pool, a competitive fiscal and regulatory climate... If you are interested on expanding your operations to the Netherlands, reach out to the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency by visiting this link:<http://investinholland.com/>



WHY INVEST IN HOLLAND

A view from the world's top companies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkXof2opNLw>

July 27

Yesterday Ambassador Jeannette Seppen visited the National College of Arts in Rawalpindi NCA Rawalpindi Official, where she met with director Nadeem Omar Tarar to discuss possibilities of cooperation. The Embassy has offered one of its boundary walls to the students to paint a mural that will reflect different common areas between Pakistan and the Netherlands. With AkzoNobel paint and the talent of the #NCA students, this promises to become a beautiful piece of art!



July 26 ·
Ambassador Jeannette Seppen recently visited a primary school in Sukkur in Sindh province. This school in a disadvantaged area receives a lot of support from Engro Foods, a company that is being acquired by the Dutch dairy company FrieslandCampina. The Netherlands government and businesses are working together to improve corporate social responsibility both in the Netherlands and abroad.



July 22
Yesterday the Embassy's economic team hosted a working lunch on how to attract more foreign investors to Pakistan. A delegation from the Overseas Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry

presented suggestions to improve Pakistan's investment climate, which led to a lively and engaged discussion. The Embassy works together with businesses and government to promote sustainable trade and investment in Pakistan.



July 20 ·
Ambassador Jeannette Seppen visited Human Friends Organisation (HFO) during her visit to Lahore last week. Working with several Dutch partners, HFO is dedicated to the promotion of religious freedom, social justice, equality, mutual understanding, tolerance and acceptance in order to promote human dignity. The Ambassador also met with women benefitting from their empowerment trainings.





July 19

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen visited Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal yesterday, where she was received by Managing Director Abid Waheed. Bait-ul-Mal is the government's institution to provide social protection to the poor marginalised segments of Pakistan's society. The Ambassador was impressed to hear about the good work of Bait-ul-Mal in helping Pakistan's needy.



July 13

In Pakistan's mountainous northern areas, the Dutch CBI programme is working with UNDP Pakistan to certify sustainable resource use for companies producing nuts, seeds and other natural products. The vision is to help develop companies and markets, while also strengthening conservation of these precious protected nature areas. This is part of the Dutch philosophy to combine aid and trade for sustainable development.

For more information, visit: <http://www.pk.undp.org/.../environ.../mountains-and-markets.html>



July 11

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen recently met with the new Federal Minister for Ports & Shipping, Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo. She expressed her strong desire to continue the excellent relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands in this sector. "Indeed, the Netherlands is a country of ports & shipping, so we're keen to work with Pakistan - be it in shipbuilding, dredging, port management or maritime infrastructure." Minister Bizenjo was also eager to work with the Netherlands, famous for the world-class Port of Rotterdam.



July 4

The Embassy team is very excited to welcome Royal FrieslandCampina to Pakistan! This Dutch dairy multinational has just announced it is investing around 49 billion Rs in Pakistan to obtain a 51% stake in Engro Foods Ltd., known for its brands Tarang, Olpers, Omung and Omoré. This great investment

confirms the excellent and rapidly growing commercial ties between Pakistan and the Netherlands.



FrieslandCampina enters fast growing Pakistani dairy market through Engro Foods - FrieslandCampina Royal FrieslandCampina N.V. signed a share purchase agreement with Engro...
FRIESLANDCAMPINA.COM | BY FRIESLANDCAMPINA

Norway

Minister of Foreign Affairs condemns terrorist attack in Quetta

Historical archive

Published under: Solberg's Government

Publisher Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Press release | Published: 2016-10-25

'I condemn last night's terrorist attack on a police training centre in Quetta in Pakistan in the strongest possible terms. My thoughts and sympathies are with the families of those who have been killed and injured,' said Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende.

On Monday evening, suicide bombers attacked the police training centre in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan. So far, 59 people are reported to have been killed in the attack, and more than 100 injured. Most of them are police cadets.

'It is particularly despicable that the attack targeted young police cadets while they were asleep. Attacks on institutions that are vital for the rule of law, such as the police, the legal system and the media, are a serious cause for concern,' said Mr Brende.

This attack comes just a few months after the brutal attack in Quetta at the beginning of August, in which many lawyers and journalists were killed.

Sweden

September 7

An Ambassador on Wheels!

Yesterday, Tuesday 6th September, the ambassador of Sweden in Pakistan, Ingrid Johansson, went for a motorbike ride in a “Women on Wheels” (WoW) event in Sargodha, Punjab. Ambassador Johansson had been invited as the chief guest.

WoW is a motorbike rally organized and led by women to reclaim safe public spaces for women and girls and combat sexual harassment, arranged by UN Women in Pakistan in cooperation with the Government of Punjab.





August 11 ·

State Bank of Pakistan and Embassy of Sweden co-hosting event on Financial and Social Inclusion
Wednesday, 10th August, the State of Bank of Pakistan and the Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan co-
hosted an expert workshop with the title Financial and Social Inclusion through Mobile Money & M-
Commerce". The event was organized with the assistance of Business Sweden. The State Bank of
Pakistan and Ericsson gave several much appreciated presentations.

H.E Ashraf Mehmood Wathra, Go...

See More



August 10

We are shocked and deeply saddened by the horrendous attack in Quetta, yesterday. Our hearts go out to the victims' families.

Sweden fully aligns itself with the following EU statement published yesterday:

“Today’s deadly attack inside the Civil Hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, has left at least 50 people killed and over 50 wounded, including a number of lawyers and journalists who had gathered at the hospital following the killing of the President of the Balochistan Bar Association in a separate shooting incident earlier this morning.

There is no justification for such acts of terrorism. The EU extends its sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

The EU continues to stand by Pakistan in its fight against terrorism and violent extremism and to support the Pakistani authorities in their efforts to maintain the rule of law.”

Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan.

August 2, 2016

New Swedish Ambassador hands over credentials



**AMBASSADOR INGRID JOHANSSON WELCOMED TO PAKISTAN BY PRESIDENT MAMNOON HUSSAIN
PHOTO: PRES. OFFICE**



The new Ambassador of Sweden to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Ms Ingrid Johansson, presented her Letter of Credence to the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr Mamnoon Hussain on 14 July 2016.

01 Aug 2016 Sweden and Punjab cooperates to improve road safety



OPENING CEREMONY IN THE PRESENCE OF CHIEF MINISTER SHAHBAZ SHARIF AS CHIEF GUEST 2
- It makes me extremely proud that Swedish experiences and expertise on road safety can contribute to improving road safety in Punjab. This initiative is a pioneering showcase of public-private partnership in Pakistan, said Ambassador Ingrid Johansson in her speech at the inauguration of the VICS station in Kala Shah Kaku on 14 July in the presence of Honorable Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and other dignitaries.

Through the VICS vehicle inspection programme in Punjab, Swedish private partner Opus AB works in partnership with the Government of Punjab to improve the safety on our roads.

In February 2015, Opus Inspection (Pvt) Ltd was awarded a 20 – year concession agreement to design,

build and operate the Punjab Vehicle Inspection and Certification System (VICS). The company and the Government have entered into a Public Private Partnership (PPP) to operate the program. Opus AB is one of the largest vehicle inspection and certification companies in the world. The company has constructed, owns and operates over 25 more vehicle inspection programs in the United States, Europe, and South America.

Sweden has a long track record in road safety policies, which has drastically reduced the number of fatalities and serious incidents in Swedish traffic. The Swedish Parliament in 1997 introduced “the Vision Zero”, a policy bringing public and private partners together in working towards a reduction of fatalities and serious accident to zero. This is broken down into medium-term targets. The current target is no more than 220 fatalities per year by 2020. The current rate lies at approximately 300 fatalities per year.

Footnote: The rate of fatalities on Pakistani roads are 14,2 per 100 000 inhabitants. The same rate in Sweden is 2,8 per 100 000 inhabitants (Source: WHO 2013).

UK

October 28

The launch ceremony of the Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC) was held in Islamabad at the Prime Minister’s Office in Islamabad. PMIC has been created by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Karandaz Pakistan with funding from UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) and Germany through KFW Development Bank. PMIC aims to help create a new supply chain for microfinance services – where currently 4.2 million people in Pakistan are accessing these services out of an estimated potential market of 20.5 million.





From:
Foreign & Commonwealth Office and The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
First published:
25 October 2016
Part of:
Pakistan

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson condemns an attack at a police training centre in Quetta, Pakistan.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

I condemn yesterday's appalling attack on the police training centre in Quetta, Pakistan. My thoughts are with those who lost loved ones and friends, or were injured, in this callous attack.

The minority seeking to undermine Pakistan's security will not prevail. In Quetta and across Pakistan

people are working determinedly to build a brighter future. The UK will continue to stand with them.
Further information

October 27, 2016



وزیر اعلیٰ خیبر پختونخوا کے اعزاز میں اسکاٹ لینڈ پولیس کے سربراہ کی جانب سے عشائیہ
اسکاٹ لینڈ پولیس نے خیبر پختونخوا پولیس آرڈیننس اور پولیس کو سیاسی مداخلت سے پاک کرنے کے حوالے سے وزیر اعلیٰ
خیبر پختونخوا کو زبردست خراج تحسین پیش کیا

October 19



General Sir Nicholas Patrick Carter, Chief of General Staff (CGS) UK Army along with General Raheel Sharif, Chief of Army Staff paying tribute to Shuhada after laying floral wreath at Yadgar- e - Shuhada GHQ on Wednesday.

October 18

Belinda Lewis British Deputy High Commissioner Karachi and Christopher Hunt Director British Council Karachi Conduct a Workshop at Hampton School Foundation on 14th October 2016.

<https://flic.kr/s/aHskFwD9zr>



October 17

Thanks to WECREATE Center Pakistan for hosting an excellent information session on Chevening

scholarships. Please note that the application window for Chevening Scholarships closes on 8th November, 2016. Hurry up!





WECREATE in partnership with British High Commission held an information session on Chevening Scholarship last week. Thank you for the overwhelming response, we hope all your questions were answered.

Good luck to all those applying this year!

October 25, 2016

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson condemns an attack at a police training centre in Quetta, Pakistan.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

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The minority seeking to undermine Pakistan's security will not prevail. In Quetta and across Pakistan people are working determinedly to build a brighter future. The UK will continue to stand with them.

UK holds the 2nd annual 'UKinPak' public exhibition in Islamabad

Published 4 October 2016

British High Commission Islamabad

First published:

Part of:

Pakistan

UKinPak is a platform that showcases all the exceptional work being done by the UK in education in Pakistan, from exams and English language, to schools, arts and scholarships.



British Deputy High Commissioner, Patrick Moody with Director of British Council in Pakistan, Rosemary Hillhorst and partners

British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Patrick Moody said:

The UK spends more on education in Pakistan than it does in any other country overseas.

People from various segments of society including academia, media, government and the diplomatic community met with officials from the British Council, the British High Commission and the British Business Centre at the exhibition.

The new Director of British Council in Pakistan, Rosemary Hillhorst, said:

Education opens the door for our children and grandchildren to discover all the opportunities the world has to offer. The British Council is delighted to be working in Pakistan to provide an environment and activities to help all of our young people to succeed and grow.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Patrick Moody said:

It gives me great pleasure to see that the UKinPak exhibition presents the full extent of our education work in Pakistan. Pakistan remains one of the top priority countries for the UK. The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Pakistan with its largest bilateral education programme anywhere in the world. The British Council similarly has just recently reopened its libraries in Lahore and Karachi and continues to administer in Pakistan amongst the greatest number of English language exams anywhere in the world.

Under the UK Government funded Chevening Scholarship Programme, we have sent a record number of Pakistani scholars to the UK this year for post-graduate degrees and we expect these numbers to further rise in the future. This year also marks the first time we have sent a Pakistani scholar for the Chevening-Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OCIS) Fellowship and the Chevening Library Fellowship. Under Chevening we also offer the South Asia Journalism Programme Fellowship for Pakistani journalists. And we are once again bringing our GREAT Debate competition which will be happening across Pakistan this year.

The presence of British businesses in Pakistan remains stronger than ever through UK Trade and Investment and our newly opened British Business Centre which facilitates over a hundred British companies operating in Pakistan and supporting its economy.

September 24

British Deputy High Commissioner, Patrick Moody inaugurated the#UKinPAK exhibition taking place in Islamabad today. Visit us at Pak-China centre right now to know more about the opportunities that the UK can offer. It's open to all!

<https://www.facebook.com/bhcpakistan/videos/10154521235879675/>

September 9 ·

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme that took place in 1916, British Deputy High Commission in Karachi screened a special war film documentary, The Battle of the Somme to

pay tribute to those soldiers who laid down their lives in the Great Wars. The event also honoured the three soldiers from areas now comprising Pakistan who were awarded Britain's highest award for gallantry, the Victoria Cross, during the First World War.

To find out more about the Battle of Somme documentary film, please visit www.1914.org/somme/





New Food Fortification Programme to help tackle malnutrition in Pakistan

From:

British High Commission Islamabad and DFID Pakistan

First published:

9 September 2016

Part of:

Pakistan

The UK's Department for International Development has launched the Food Fortification Programme to improve the nutritional status of people in Pakistan.



A new Food Fortification Programme in Pakistan aims to reduce by a third iron deficiency anaemia, and by a quarter vitamin A deficiency in women and children by increasing the micronutrient content of flour and edible oil or ghee through fortification. The programme was launched yesterday in Islamabad by Joanna Reid, the head of DFID Pakistan. The event was also attended by State Minister Health Saira Afzal Tarar.

Pakistan has the third highest number of children under five in the world suffering from malnutrition. The most recent national survey[1] found that in Pakistan, 44% of under-fives are stunted - a measure of long-term malnutrition, 62% have anaemia and 54% have vitamin A deficiency. One in five children in Pakistan has a low birth weight. Also 51% of pregnant women have anaemia, 37% have iron deficiency and 46% have vitamin A deficiency.

The UK's Department for International Development, working with Mott MacDonald and Micronutrient Initiative, is launching the Food Fortification Programme to improve the nutritional status of people in Pakistan, particularly women of childbearing age and children, through food fortification. Global evidence shows that food fortification is one of the most cost effective solutions to address chronic micronutrient deficiencies. Given that wheat flour, edible oils and ghee are consumed daily by most people in Pakistan, fortification of these staple foods can enhance micronutrients in food without requiring changes in eating habits.

The Programme will provide technical assistance to government at federal, provincial and district levels on technical standards, legislative and regulatory frameworks, as well as laboratory testing infrastructure. It will help millers with the financial costs of micro-feeder equipment and provide subsidies to mills towards the cost of premix as an incentive to produce high quality fortified flour. It will also provide training and technical support to millers. The Programme will help the public understand the benefits of fortified foods, so families can increase their demand for fortified wheat with iron, folic acid and edible oils with Vitamins A. It will generate evidence on policy and practice to strengthen decision making for food fortification.

The programme aims that within five years over half of the population of Pakistan is consuming fortified wheat flour and over two-thirds are using fortified edible oil and ghee, and will be working with over 1,000 wheat flour mills and 100 edible oil mills.

Joanna Reid, Head of DFID Pakistan, said:

The level of malnutrition in Pakistan is a tragedy. Nearly half of all children under five in Pakistan are chronically malnourished. Malnutrition leaves children more vulnerable to disease, stunts their mental and physical development, and leads to lifelong learning and memory deficiencies, and poorer achievement at school. It damages families and communities, locks in poverty and costs Pakistan around 2-3% of its GDP.

Food Fortification is a safe, cost-effective way of decreasing micronutrient deficiencies. That is why the British people, through UKaid, are investing in the Food Fortification Programme. We believe that this programme will benefit millions of lives in Pakistan.

I would also like to recognise the commitment shown by the Government of Pakistan, which has signed up to the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and prioritised ending malnutrition in its Vision 2025, as well as national, provincial and local government bodies across Pakistan for their support. Joel Spicer, President and CEO of Micronutrient Initiative, the lead technical partner for FFP, noted: This is a team approach -- that includes partners, all levels of government across multiple ministries, as well as the private sector. This project, and this group of champions recognizes that improving nutrition is the key to developing human potential and to securing the future of Pakistan.

Joel further highlighted the crucial leadership role of Pakistan and the UK as nutrition champions. He added:

Working together, FFP will make a critical contribution to freeing the people of Pakistan – particularly women and children - from the burden of malnutrition.

The lack of iron, vitamins A and D and other minerals limit the body's ability to fight disease. Of the approximately 500,000 children who die each year in Pakistan before reaching their fifth birthday, half of these deaths are linked to malnutrition. Malnutrition also affects cognitive and physical development, malnourished children enrol in school later, have a reduced learning ability and have lower productivity when they reach adulthood. The damage of chronic malnutrition in the first two years of life is irreversible.

The Food Fortification Programme will be implemented on behalf of the UK by Mott MacDonald and Micronutrient Initiative. It will work closely with the Government of Pakistan, as well as communities and government at all levels. These include: the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination; the National Fortification Alliance; the Provincial Fortification Alliances; the Pakistan Flour Mills Association; Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association; and the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority.

UK further increases the number of Chevening Scholars from Pakistan

From:

British High Commission Islamabad

First published:

1 September 2016

Part of:

Pakistan

The Chevening Scholarship is fully-funded by the UK government and allows scholars to pursue Master's degrees in the UK in a course of study of their choice.



The UK Government has further increased the number of scholars being sent on the Chevening Scholarship, it was announced at a series of events held in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

The three events were attended by departing scholars from across all of Pakistan members of the alumni and officials from the British High Commission.

Speaking at one of the pre-departure events in Islamabad, British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Patrick Moody, said:

I am pleased to announce that the number of Chevening scholars being sent from Pakistan to the UK has again increased. The number has risen from 73 candidates in 2015 to 81 scholars this year. This is also the first time that we are sending a scholar from Balochistan on the Chevening/British Library Fellowship and a scholar from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for The Chevening-Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OCIS) Fellowship.

The Chevening programme not only brings immediate benefits for individual scholars, in terms of future career prospects and development, but it also delivers long-term benefits for both Pakistan and the UK.

Applications for Chevening Scholarships 2017/2018 and some Chevening Fellowship awards are open till 8 November 2016. Prospective applicants from Pakistan are encouraged to visit the website for more information.

Contact

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August 19 ·

From 2008 to 2014, Pakistan was the fifth most dangerous place for aid workers, with 44 workers kidnapped during that time. In the last 18 months the situation is dramatically improving: whereas in 2014 there were around 900 incidents reported against humanitarians in KP and FATA, in 2015 this number had dropped to 500, reflecting a positive change in the security situation and attitudes towards humanitarian assistance.

August 19 ·

Since 2010, the UK has invested in the design and building of 52,000 flood-resilient houses in the worst hit districts of southern Punjab and Sindh using sustainable building methods. #WorldHumanitarianDay



August 19 ·

In Chitral, the UK is working to develop earthquake-resilient shelters from local materials for 10,000 families following the devastating October 2015 earthquake #WorldHumanitarianDay

Getting ready for flood season

From:
British High Commission Islamabad and DFID Pakistan

First published:
19 August 2016

Part of:
Pakistan

Op-Ed By Joanna Reid, Head of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Pakistan.



Like many thousands of people in Sindh and Punjab, the life of Fatima from Ghokti in southern Sindh was never the same after the 2013 monsoon floods. The floods destroyed her home, her community

and the harvest on which her family relied. She had to spend two years living in a basic tent with her 10 children and her disabled husband, with large debts owed to their landlord to repay for the seeds lost in the floods.

This year, fewer people than normal have been affected by the monsoon floods so far –116 people have been reported killed and 582 houses damaged or destroyed. While this is a quiet year, the monsoon will have already left hundreds of stories as tragic as Fatima's. We all of course remember the tragedy of the 2010 floods, where 18 million people were affected, with houses washed away, and land under water for weeks at a time and years taken for people to recover.

The 2016 monsoon season is not over and around 8 million people remain at risk of flooding across Pakistan each year. Their vulnerability is increased by cycles of indebtedness, malnutrition, poor access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the monsoon flooding occurring at the same time as wheat and rice harvests. The annual monsoon rains are vital for the country, bringing much-needed water, and enriching the soil for planting. However, these floods can also be catastrophic for families and communities like Fatima's who have little choice but to live along the river catchment areas. This is why UK aid distributed by DFID – the UK's Department for International Development – is at the forefront of humanitarian assistance in Pakistan, developing innovative and long-term solutions to mitigate the risks of floods and to break the cycles of vulnerability, as well as providing emergency response for those affected by natural disasters and displacement.

In just three years, we have designed and rolled out the building of 52,000 flood-resilient shelters in areas most at risk of floods in northern Punjab and Southern Sindh through partnerships with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the non-governmental organizations ACTED and HANDS. The houses are made out of lime-stabilized soil bricks and, because they have withstood the test of flood waters, they have now become a standard in flood-affected areas. Initially families wanted 'modern' fired-brick houses ('pukka'), which were seen as stronger than the traditional mud ('katcha') shelters. Once the flood-resilient capacity of these lime-treated houses became apparent, there was an increasing acceptance of these shelters, especially as they also provide better insulation and cooling properties, cost a fraction of brick houses, and withstand floods.

DFID's humanitarian policy is based around not just restoring people to the position they were in before a disaster, but actually on 'building back better'. In the case of flood-affected families in Pakistan, this meant we began talking with communities about how to improve their lives overall, and how to help them better manage new disasters. We have introduced smokeless stoves to the same communities, which has greatly improved living conditions for families, particularly for women and girls. These simple structures have resulted in fewer eye infections from smoke as women no longer have to bend over the fire to fan it, and they use significantly less fuel. This also means that less time is spent gathering firewood, a task that generally falls to girls. And, of course, the stoves are

built with lime-stabilized soil, which mean that they can stand up to the heavy rains and flooding. In many communities, families have taken the basic design for the stoves and personalised them, with bright colours and elaborate designs.

Meanwhile, the lack of electricity in most of the villages has left families relying on dangerous, polluting kerosene lamps. Not only is kerosene expensive, but a major fire risk, so lighting is limited. DFID has introduced simple and effective solar lamps in our emergency kits that are given out after disasters. These lights can be used for at least two years, and cost only the equivalent of two-months' supply of kerosene. Children can now study in the evenings, and women and girls are safer when using the latrines, which have been designed by UNICEF to improve sanitation.

DFID's approach is also based around the idea of community and family participation. This approach has resulted in our capacity to reach out and benefit disadvantaged people at a much bigger and wider scale. Individuals from communities are trained on how to rebuild their own homes, developing not just new skill sets but also pride in what they have achieved. Our partner organisations provide the training and cash to each household so that they can buy the materials and manage the construction themselves.

We also work so that we can help people affected by floods as quickly as possible. Working with other organisations in Pakistan, DFID has a comprehensive contingency plan, which means between us we have mapped the most vulnerable areas for flooding, prepositioning relevant emergency stock, and have a presence in all the districts across the country identified as high and very high risk. Together we have emergency stock for 9,000 families, and have the capacity to scale up rapidly. As for Fatima and her family, she was relatively lucky. Her village was targeted for a humanitarian response by DFID. And the community itself selected Fatima as someone most in need for assistance. Along with 12 other families from the village of 52 households, she was trained in handling lime and in basic building techniques, and has almost completed her new home. One of her older daughters joined a livelihood scheme teaching local handicrafts for which markets had already been found, bringing some much needed cash into the family. Fatima was also involved in the design of the new kitchen garden under a programme with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which allowed the women to grow vegetables for their own consumption and which relied on run-off water from the village pump also funded by DFID. With most of the cows, chickens and goats washed away during the floods, DFID also supported an innovative design in Fatima's village to build a raised earth platform just off the centre of the village. This area, half the size of a football field is three feet above the highest flood level, and once the rains start, families and animals can seek safety there until the waters recede. Where the earth had been dug to create the platform, a large trough was left, and this has now become a fish pond. The community who before rarely had the luxury of meat or fish, now have access to a great source of protein, with weddings and special events held on the platform too. DFID is only able to reach a fraction of those affected by disasters in Pakistan, but is hopeful that

communities pass on these innovations to other communities nearby.

Floods along the plains of Pakistan have been a fact of life for thousands of years for people living alongside the Indus and its tributaries. Using flood-resistant building techniques and working with communities, like Fatima's, shows something can be done to minimise the impact on families.

UK marks World Humanitarian Day by preparing to help flood affected families

From:

British High Commission Islamabad and DFID Pakistan

First published:

18 August 2016

Part of:

Pakistan

UK Aid has helped over five million people in Pakistan affected by natural disasters.



The UK has stepped up its humanitarian response following the heavy monsoon rains, as it pays tribute to those giving humanitarian assistance around Pakistan on World Humanitarian Day. UK Aid has given humanitarian assistance to over five million people in Pakistan following natural disasters and conflict, but with eight million people across Pakistan at risk of flooding each year, it continues to invest in innovative solutions to help victims of floods, other natural disasters and conflict.

In the last three years, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) has designed and built - alongside the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the non-governmental organizations ACTED and HANDS - 52,000 flood-resilient shelters, as well as energy efficient smokeless stoves and distributed low-cost solar lights, which have all gone to the victims of floods. Since 2010, three major floods have hit Pakistan during the monsoon seasons. Recent flooding has killed 116 people in different areas of Pakistan and damaged 582 houses. In the coming days, if the situation further escalates then DFID and its partners have the capacity to scale up rapidly with further emergency stock.

On the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, Joanna Reid, Head of DFID Pakistan, said:

I am incredibly proud of the UK humanitarian assistance to Pakistan. Having helped five million victims of natural disasters and floods, we stand ready – working with other donors as well as NGOs, local authorities and local people – to respond quickly to the monsoon floods. We are watching the flood situation in Pakistan closely. We have emergency relief ready for 9000 families, and are ready to step up our efforts even more if it is needed.

On World Humanitarian Day it is important to remember those working on the ground to help families and communities recovering from natural disasters and conflict. Too many people in Pakistan have been killed for trying to give people a future. As we get ready to help more people in Pakistan, I remember their bravery and important work on this day.

British High Commission marks Pakistan's Independence Day

From:

British High Commission Islamabad

First published:

15 August 2016

Part of:

Pakistan

Acting British High Commissioner, Patrick Moody extends his warm wishes on Pakistan's 70th Independence Day



On the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day, the Acting British High Commissioner, Mr Patrick Moody, said:

I extend my warm wishes to all Pakistanis here, back in the UK and in the world as we mark Pakistan's 70th Independence Day. It is a day to celebrate a proud history and a future full of promise. I am honoured to be able to share this day with such wonderful people in such a beautiful country.

Jashan-e-Azaadi Mubarak.

August 11 ·

The UK supports Pakistan's commitment to ensuring the rights of minority communities in Pakistan

and to promote the culture of tolerance.#NationalMinoritiesDay



Prime Minister's Office

August 11 ·

MESSAGE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN ON THE OCCASION OF MINORITIES DAY, 11TH AUGUST 2016.

The observance of “Minorities Day” is an occasion to recognize the role of minorities in nation building and renew our commitment to protect their rights and promote national harmony amongst the followers of diverse faiths. It is also time to remember the great sacrifices rendered by minorities living in Pakistan and to be sensitized to the problems and issues they face. Minorities Day reminds all of us to reaffirm our solidarity for the betterment of humanity and a prosperous Pakistan.

August 11 has a special significance in our national calendar. It was on this day in 1947 when the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his historic speech to the members of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, had laid down the foundations of a modern, tolerant and progressive Pakistan. The Quaid had said, ‘You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed — that has nothing to do with the business of the State’. The present democratic Government is driven by the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam for protecting the rights of minorities. The recognition and respect for the rights of minorities is part of our Manifesto. Our democratic government stands committed to ensure equal rights for all minority communities as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan and UN Declaration of Human Rights. It is our moral, religious and social obligation to strengthen the bond of brotherhood and promote the culture of tolerance in our country. Minorities are partners in the development of Pakistan. The objective of celebrating this day is to acknowledge the valuable contributions, highlight their rights and promote inter-faith harmony.

The core principle for celebrating this day is to enable people of every faith live in peace as they choose. It must be understood that the state belongs to every Pakistani; irrespective of religious affiliations and faiths. Pakistan is our motherland and it is the duty for all of us to help it advance and flourish.

UK condemns hospital attack in Pakistan

From:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Alok Sharma MP

First published:

8 August 2016

Part of:

Pakistan

Foreign Office Minister for Asia & the Pacific, Alok Sharma, strongly condemns the attack on a hospital in Pakistan

Minister Sharma said:

I am shocked and saddened by today's attack in Quetta, Pakistan. The loss of life is abhorrent and I condemn utterly this senseless act of violence at a hospital emergency department.

My thoughts are with the families and friends of all those who have died or been injured as a result of this appalling act. The UK stands with the government and the people of Pakistan as we confront the shared threat of terrorism.

August 1 ·

Cricket fans will know the buzz created around the Pakistan-born spinner from Yorkshire, Adil Rashid, since his impressive under-19 days in county cricket. Find more about a great hope for England's future at <http://www.cricbuzz.com/profiles/1742/adil-rashid#profile>

Happy #YorkshireDay!



Did you know?



Yorkshire's Pakistan-born spinner, Adil Rashid, has so far taken 340 first-class wickets and scored 4,836 runs.

August 1

Adam Khan is the racing driver from Bridlington, Yorkshire who represents Pakistan in the A1 Grand Prix series, often referred as the 'World Cup of Motorsport.'

http://www.londonpakistani.com/adam_khan.asp

Happy #YorkshireDay!



Did you know?



The 'fastest Pakistani on four wheels', Adam Khan hails from Bridlington, Yorkshire.

August 1

Happy #YorkshireDay folks! Stay tuned to our Facebook page today as we bring you some of the prominent Pakistanis from Yorkshire who are the pride of both the countries.

<http://www.yorkshire.com/inspiration/features/yorkshire-day>



Did you know?



People of Pakistani descent make up five percent of the population in Yorkshire and the Humber, contributing greatly to Britain's politics, economy and culture.

July 27

British Deputy High Commissioner to Karachi Belinda Lewis visited Lahore this weekend. Hear her first impressions of this historical city.

<https://www.facebook.com/bhcpakistan/videos/10154343957364675/>

July 26

Another example of UK-Pakistan partnership. Congratulations ABE Qualifications and City University (official) for this capacity building collaboration.



Launching Ceremony of Partnership between City University of Science & Information Technology

and Association of Business Executive (ABE)-UK was held at City University on July 21, 2016. The Honorable Chief Guest, Minister of Education (KPK) Mr. Muhammad Atif appreciated the partnership and inform the audience about the initiatives of KP Government about the improvement of teaching and facilities at the primary & secondary education institutes. Senior Vice President of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Peshawar Mr. Ammad Rasheed assured all kinds of support to City University and its management for developing industry academia linkage. The CEO of ABE-UK Mr. Gareth Robinson introduced various programs under ABE and the benefits to the students for their bright future. Haji Md. Jawaid The Chairman Skilled Development Council KP, also appreciated the partnership and prayed for its success. Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah of City University shared his visions of taking the City University as one the top 10 Universities of Pakistan by 2020, he informed the participants that we have high focused on quality, connecting of graduates with job market international collaboration and cutting edge research. At the end the President (Mr. Saboor Sethi) presented The Shields to the chief Guest and Guest of Honor.

July 25 ·

British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi and Director for UK Trade & Investment - Belinda Lewis visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry during her first visit to Lahore. Watch her speak on UK & Pakistan bi-lateral relationship.

<https://www.facebook.com/C42.lahore/videos/1153601011347699/>

July 15

Two third of the graduates of UK's sponsored training through the Punjab Skills Development Fund #PSDF are employed within 16 months of graduation. Only four percent were unemployed prior to training.

#SkillsRuleTheWorld! #WorldYouthSkillsDay



July 15

The UK has supported over 100,000 poor and vulnerable Pakistanis, through the Punjab Skills Development Fund #PSDF, getting a variety of skills such as school entrepreneurs, welders, airline stewards, beauticians, milk collectors and farm managers.

#SkillsRuleTheWorld! #WorldYouthSkillsDay



July 15

The UK's support to Pakistan through the Punjab Skills Development Fund #PSDF helped train 145,000 people to date, 40% of whom were women.

#SkillsRuleTheWorld! #WorldYouthSkillsDay



July 15

UK's Punjab Skills Development Fund #PSDF, in partnership with the Government of Punjab, equips the poor and vulnerable people with vocational skills. The programme is aiming at improved earnings and a better sense of well-being with the State. #SkillsRuleTheWorld!#WorldYouthSkillsDay



July 11

#InvestinginTeenageGirls #WorldPopulationDay2016

UK's education programme in Pakistan has increased financial capability and incentives for about 800,000 poor girls through stipends and scholarships

#GirlsEducation can't wait!



July 11 ·

The founder of an engineering design firm, a partner in a law firm aged 30 and a masters graduate pioneering renewable energy projects. Meet the 2016 Alumni Award winners from Pakistan! If you too studied in the UK and have gone on to achieve amazing things, find out how you could join them next year.

<http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/fiza-farhan/>



July 11

#InvestinginTeenageGirls #WorldPopulationDay2016

UK's education assistance to Pakistan has benefited over seven million girls in primary and secondary schools, enabling them to stay longer and learn better.

#GirlsEducation can't wait!



British Council in Pakistan signs MOU with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

From:

British High Commission Islamabad

First published:

29 July 2016

Part of:

Pakistan

The Parliamentarian Capacity Building Programme, will support the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly to increase the effectiveness of parliamentary processes in KP Assembly.



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), y has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with British Council Pakistan, at a high-profile event, organised in the Assembly Secretariat. The Honourable Speaker, KP Assembly, Mr Asad Qaiser and British Council Acting Director, Mr Jim Booth were the signatories. The event was attended by ministers, MPAs and senior government officials, British Council staff and media.

The “Parliamentarians’ Capacity Building Programme”, is an 18-month partnership that aims to support the Provincial Government to increase the effectiveness of parliamentary processes in KP Assembly. Furthermore, this project will significantly improve the capacities of Members Provincial Assembly (MPAs) KP and parliamentary and legislative processes to reinforce informed decision/policy-making in a more transparent and participatory way.

The British Council will help to strengthen the legislative body with skills, knowledge and trainings, utilising high-level and technical expertise from Scotland, Isle of Man and United Kingdom. Subsequently, 124 MPAs from KP Assembly will be made a part of extensive trainings and exposure visits to replicate best practices.

With support from KP, the British Council will also provide technical and part of financial assistance to develop a concrete programme framework, covering the thematic areas of good governance; legislative needs; e-governance; parliamentary practices and business rules; accountability procedures; understanding of working departments and legal drafting etc.

Jim Booth, British Council Acting Country Director, said:

British Council is thrilled to sign this MoU. This formalises our commitment to working in partnership

with the KP Assembly/government. This programme is a major step forward with our work to support the people of KP and will create stronger links between the UK and Pakistan.

Honourable, Asad Qaiser, Speaker KP Assembly, said:

Today, I am very pleased that the capacity building program of the Parliamentarians is culminating into a dream come true development mutually sponsored and greed both by the British Council Pakistan and the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

After going through the pre-requisites and prelude of the program, it is expected that our legislature will have better input from the parliamentarians that will benefit in resulting solid legislation and formulation of laws keeping in mind best practices coupled with local demands and history of this province-the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

I do hope that this practice will be carried forward to the coming assemblies and will go along way with the able support of British Council Pakistan for which I whole heartedly appreciate the entire Council's staff and their counter parts abroad.

I also take this opportunity to thank the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Steering Committee on Capacity Building and the Assembly Secretariat enabling this cause to become a reality.

The overarching objective of the British Council programmes is to strengthen bilateral relations and build strong future collaborations to support KP Government in governance, education, tourism and security.

Through the "Parliamentarians' Capacity Building Programme", the British Council and Assembly members will ensure that the role of Parliament in legislation and good governance, is improved and accountability processes in KP Assembly is enhanced.

The British Council inaugurates its library in Karachi

From:

British High Commission Islamabad and Department for International Trade Pakistan

First published: 22 July 2016

Part of: Pakistan

The launch ceremony was attended by the high officials of Government of Pakistan, British Deputy High Commission and British Council, Pakistan.



The British Council in Pakistan has launched its library in Karachi after a period of 14 years. The launch ceremony was held at the British Council Library which was attended by His Excellency Governor of Sindh Dr Ishrat Ul Ebad Khan, Minister Cultural Department Ms Sharmila Farooqui, British Deputy High Commissioner Ms Belinda Lewis, and Acting Country Director British Council Mr Jim Booth. Other notable dignitaries from the government, arts and media were also present at the launch ceremony.

Welcoming the Guests at the launch, Mr. Jim Booth said:

The British Council libraries in Karachi and Lahore will serve as a hub for cultural development, integration and strengthen cultural relationship between the UK and Pakistan. The libraries complement our existing efforts to create educational opportunities, share knowledge and ideas, and cultivate an environment for creativity and learning.

The British Council in Pakistan aims to rebuild and revolutionise its library offer to provide a 21st-century experience to Pakistanis. In addition to physical walk-in spaces in Lahore and Karachi a vast digital library resource is also available that will bring the very best of UK and Pakistan content to consumers across the country.

The Governor Sindh, HE Dr. Ishrat Ul Ebad Khan inaugurated the Library and in his closing remarks said:

I welcome the British Council's huge investment in continuing to support the cultural development of Pakistan – and in particular that of the people of Karachi and Sindh. I welcome the British Council's commitment towards creating stronger cultural ties with Pakistan through the new libraries in Karachi and Lahore. I have no doubt that, the British Council library will continue to grow in the hearts of the Karachi people and in the soul of the city.

Minister Cultural Department, Ms. Sharmila Farooqui said:

It is just fabulous that the British Council is now giving the people of Karachi a library. The inspiring thing is that this is part of a wider British Council Library programme across South Asia – India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The British Deputy High Commissioner, Belinda Lewis said:

The new British Council library in Karachi is a really exciting resource and I've already signed up to be a member. I'm a huge fan of libraries but I'm old fashioned: the digital offerings here look fantastic but you'll find me surrounded by books!

The reopening of the British Council library will provide a cultural space for the youth of Pakistan to connect, create and innovate" said Maarya Rehman, Director Libraries at the British Council. She further added:

The British Council libraries also aim to provide technical support to provincial governments in Pakistan regarding their digital library ambitions.

The British Council in Pakistan has a diverse education, arts and society portfolio, creating linkages between Pakistan and the UK to build the capacity of teachers, students, institutions and young people across Pakistan.

Notes for the editors

About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide. We value diversity and difference. We work in over 100 countries in the areas of arts, education and English. In Pakistan, we have been working since 1948. For more information, please visit British Council website

Pakistan - Human Rights Priority Country

From:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office, The Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE and The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP

First published:

21 April 2016

Last updated:

21 July 2016, see all updates

Part of:

Human Rights and Democracy Report 2015: priority country reports, Human rights internationally and Pakistan

This is a Human Rights Priority Country report taken from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office 2015 Human Rights and Democracy Report.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pakistan-human-rights-priority-country/pakistan-human-rights-priority-country>

This publication is part of the 2015 Human Rights and Democracy Report.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2015>

The launch of Corporate Learning Academy in Pakistan

From:

British High Commission Islamabad and Department for International Trade Pakistan

First published:

21 July 2016

Part of:

Pakistan

British Business Centre joins hands with Association of Business Executives to introduce House of Habib Corporate Learning Academy



The British Business Centre joined hands with UK Association of Business Executives (ABE) and the House of Habib to launch the Corporate Learning Academy (CLA) in Pakistan. CLA is an online learning platform developed by ABE and iQualify UK for their employees. It can be used to train employees and offer them opportunities to develop their business skills. It is a customisable, cost-effective and powerful management tool.

The British Deputy High Commissioner, Belinda Lewis attended the launch reception as the chief guest at the British Deputy High Commission while the CEO of ABE UK, Gareth Robinson, and the Chancellor of Habib University, Rafiq Habib were also present on the occasion. The reception was attended by business professionals, members of academia, industry and press.

Association of Business Executives (ABE) is a globally recognised institution, providing qualifications in the areas of entrepreneurship, business start-up, business management, marketing, human resources, travel, tourism and hospitality management.

Gareth Robinson, CEO, ABE, UK said:

Entrepreneurs are not born they are educated. Investing in your people through quality education means investing in the future of your business and community. We believe in changing people's lives.

ABE is very proud to be in Pakistan and work with the House of Habib to enhance its employee's capabilities through these business qualifications.

British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi and Director for UK Trade & Investment in Pakistan Belinda Lewis said:

The UK's professional qualifications are recognised internationally and are highly valuable to all those seeking to improve their career prospects. I would like to congratulate the team at Association of Business Executives and the House of Habib on launching the Corporate Learning Academy in Pakistan and wish them – and all their students - the greatest success.

British High Commissioner meets Pakistan's National Women Cricket Team

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Thomas Drew CMG, British High Commissioner to Pakistan highlighted the sports links between the two countries.



The British High Commissioner, Thomas Drew CMG, met the Pakistan's National Women Cricket Team whilst in the UK. His wife, Mrs Joanna Roper, accompanied him to watch the 'Girls in Green' take on the England's National Women Cricket Team in Bristol on Sunday.

Although Mr Drew recently hosted the Pakistan's Men's Cricket Team in Lahore, the Women's Cricket Team had already left for their tour of England.

Highlighting sport as one of the strongest links between the UK and Pakistan, he wished the team the best of luck for the remainder of their tour.

Contact

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Bridge - Europa is nonpartisan and an effort to share and publish the news of diversity, harmony and mutual understanding to bridge nations and inform people directly about how humanitarian aid is positively changing lives in Pakistan

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