



902-280 Morningside Ave, Toronto, Canada, Phone 647 677 8061, email: [naeemasiatrade@hotmail.com](mailto:naeemasiatrade@hotmail.com)

Formerly known as Bridge Communications & Research

## Bridge-Europa – March 2017

### CONTEXT

*Countries and Donor agencies are listed in Alphabetical order*





We salute the services of the two saintly women, German physician Dr Chris Schmotzer and Wenny, the Swedish nurse. Dr Chris Schmotzer has been working with leprosy patients in Pakistan for 29 years. She started treating the patients when leprosy was considered an untouchable disease and the patients were even abandoned by their own families. To know more about her services to Pakistan, read her interview with Dawn. <http://www.dawn.com/news/1313617> Wenny gave 38 years of her life in Pakistan serving sick and dying people. They saved, served and comforted hundreds of thousands of human beings in Pakistan. More details on Page 86 & 185



Dr Chris Schmotzer



Wenny

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**The objectives and Why Bridge-Europa**

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**Denmark: February 24, 2017**

**H.E. Ole Thonke, Ambassador of Denmark hosted a colorful evening at his residence to promote inter-cultural dialogue and art education.**

**Local partners such as The Little Arts, Ajoka Theatre, Shirkat Gah and Community Worldwide Services showcased short documentaries and a held a fashion show concluding it with a Q&A session with the audience.**

**Winners from the 8th International Children's Film Festival received awards from the Ambassador while the Fashion Show organised by Community Worldwide Services endorsed contemporary designs of Taanka brand. Both initiatives are supported by the Embassy.**

**Denmark's support to culture has been used to counter extremism, promote democracy, peace & stabilization and increase livelihood opportunities in Pakistan.**





**February 23, 2017**

**Deputy Head of Mission Jakob R. Jakobsen's sister Tina and brother-in-law Shams are currently visiting Pakistan along with their two children. Today they visited the SOS Children village in Islamabad.**

**This was however no ordinary visit, as Shams actually grew up in the SOS Children Village in Lahore, where he lived for about 10 years. Today he is a successful man living in Sweden with his wife and children.**

**Having very fond memories of his time spent in the SOS Village, he wanted to come back and share his life experience and encourage the children for believing in having a better future, as he himself is a living example of such.**

**They met all the children and gave them gifts while also discussed issues for children in Pakistan. They were welcomed by Ms. Shama, Director of SOS Village, Islamabad, which was a great surprise to Shams, as both Shams and Shama had lived at the SOS Village in Lahore at the same time for about 8 years!**



**February 16, 2017**

**The Embassy is very saddened by the series of terrorist attacks which have taken place across Pakistan over the past few days.**

**Innocent lives have been taken through meaningless acts of violence. Today more than 70 people, including children, were killed and many more injured, when a terrorist attack took place at the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sindh.**

**Our thoughts go out to the bereaved families and the many hundred who remain injured.**



**February 15, 2017**

**The Embassy Defence Attache Col Kim Schmidt participated in the multinational naval exercise 'AMAN 2017' along with two Danish observers Lt. Cdr. Sigrid Hansen and Jesper Noe Isgaard. The Danish team visited the various units (ships) and held fruitful discussions with exchange of information. They also attended the three day long International Maritime Conference, where geopolitical and security issues in the Indian Ocean were discussed.**

**Col Schmidt later went on board the Pakistan navy frigate Shamsheer from where he saw the naval cooperation between the 22 ships, planes and helicopters from 11 nations. The exercise included live shooting (live firing exercise), replenishment at sea (refueling) and general cooperation in relation to solving naval duties in an international environment.**

**Speaking to the media, Col. Schmidt said that it was good to see that there was so much support for the exercise, as the exercise was important for peace and stability in the region. He added that cooperation is the first prerequisite for solving the challenges of the Indian Ocean.**

**This year, ships, aircraft, helicopters, SOF/EOD/marines teams and observers from more than 35 countries participated.**



**February 13, 2017**

**Did you know that Danish toy giant [LEGO](#) has been named the World's Most Powerful Brand 2017? Making its mark in Pakistan, Ambassador Ole Thonke visited the new outlet of Lego which has opened in Forum Mall in Karachi.**



February 11, 2017

## **The vision for a democratic and peaceful Pakistan**

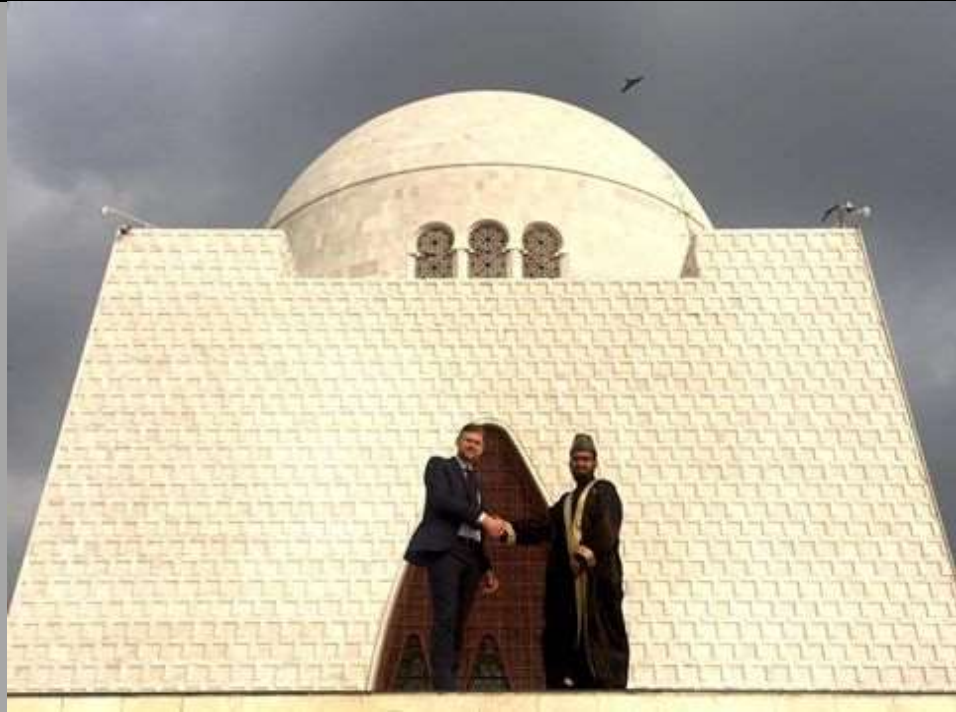
**Ambassador Ole Thonke visited the Jinnah Mausoleum during his visit to Karachi.**

**The Ambassador laid a wreath as a sign of respect to the Founder of Pakistan. He also visited the museum to see Mr. Jinnah's cherished valuables and later signed the guestbook on behalf of the Danish mission to Pakistan.**

**Ambassador noted that Denmark shares Mr. Jinnah's aspiration of a democratic and resilient Pakistan.**

**"My visit to the mausoleum has provided me a moment to reflect on his vision and accomplishments and its importance to us all. Together we work towards a stronger and peaceful Pakistan" -**

**Ambassador Ole Thonke**







**February 8 , 2017**

Together with our development partner **Oxfam in Pakistan**, Denmark has supported a **Gender Empowerment and Institutional Development Programme** targeting youth, especially young girls.

Together we worked on ensuring women get their basic right to good health, education and freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Watch this video to see why we all need to **#SayEnough** to violence and abuse against women and young girls.

Video Credit: **Oxfam Novib**

Click <https://www.facebook.com/OxfamPakistan/videos/1192570170822251/>

**February 6**

Today Ambassador Ole Thonke met with Mr **Mian Shehbaz Sharif**, Chief Minister Punjab to discuss Denmark's support to Pakistan in various areas of **#energy**, **#water #management** and **#health**.

The meeting especially focused on the progress in development of Danish wind energy company **Vestas** 250MW wind energy project in Punjab and Danish technical support in integrating **#renewable** energy into the national grid.

Ambassador Thonke also briefed the Chief Minister about Danish cooperation in **#upgrading** and **#construction** of the **#waste #water** treatment facility in Faisalabad including concrete steps in **#Diabetes #care**& prevention being implemented by Danish healthcare company **Novo Nordisk** in Pakistan.



February 6

## International Seminar on Regional Peace and Stability

The Royal Danish Defence College ([#RDDC](#)) in collaboration with Pakistan National Defence University ([#NDU](#)) organized a Two-Day Joint Seminar 'Carving out a Vision for Brighter Tomorrow' at NDU in Islamabad.

The Seminar aimed at providing a platform to the intelligentsia and practitioners from [#Afghanistan](#), [#Denmark](#), [#Iran](#) and [#Pakistan](#) for sharing experiences and perspectives on a host of issues of critical importance to this region. A Danish delegation led by Maj Gen Michael

Lollesgaard, Special Advisor to the Danish Chief of Defence, participated in the various sessions of the seminar.

In his opening remarks, Dean of RDDC, Mr. Ole Kværnø stated that in the last two years, RDDC has been engaged in trust building projects such as this seminar, which focus on strengthening interaction between people in order to widen the perspective of each participant to arrive at common grounds for peace.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Federal Interior Minister Ch Nisar Ali Khan spoke of the challenges faced by Pakistan on multiple fronts in the current geo-political and geo-economic scenario, which require **#dialogue** and positive politics. He appreciated the joint initiative taken by NDU and RDDC in bringing forth much-needed consensus in the region.

On the concluding day of the seminar, Danish Ambassador Ole Thonke highlighted the untapped **#trade** potential between all regional players, which would not only bring economic benefits but also diffuse **#conflicts**. Stating that all the regional players faced similar challenges such as **#refugees**, **#security** and **#terrorism**, the Ambassador said it was even more important now to work together to bring **#solutions** and **#peace** to the region.

Concluding the two day seminar, A MoU was signed between NDU and RDDC. The seminar is part of the Peace and Stabilisation program which is being managed by the Embassy.



**February 3**

### **Regional Cooperation for Stability**

Today Maj Gen Michael Lollesgaard, Special Advisor to the Danish Chief of Defence, met with Maj Gen Nazir, Director Security & Intelligence at Pakistan Ministry of Defence.

Maj Gen Lollesgaard is currently visiting Pakistan to participate as the Chief Guest for a international conference on regional stability, which is being organised jointly by National Defence University (NDU) and Royal Danish Defence College (RDDC).

Both discussed a variety of issues about making the region more stable and how to enhance the military and economic cooperation in the region.

Maj Gen Lollesgaard has just returned from Mali where he was Force Commander of UN operation Minusma.



February 2

### More News from Faisalabad - Danish Support to Water and Sanitation

Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Jakob Rogild Jakobsen and Embassy's Commercial Advisor, Mr. Aslam Pervaiz visited the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) in Faisalabad, where they met the Managing Director of WASA Faisalabad, Mr. Syed Zahid Aziz and his team.

The Danish team also made a visit to the waste water treatment facility of WASA Faisalabad and discussed Danish support in financing the up-gradation of the existing facility and to build a new one.





February 1

## More Business Collaboration between Denmark and Pakistan

The Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Jakob Rogild Jakobsen visited the Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) in Faisalabad.

Addressing the members of PTEA, he said that Pakistan is a huge market, which offers excellent opportunities to Danish businessmen in various sectors, particularly the textile sector. He highlighted that Pakistan has great untapped potential, which can be well utilised by cementing relationship between the business communities of the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, PTEA Chairman Ajmal Farooq termed Denmark an important trading partner in the European Union and said it is the right time to redesign the existing trade strategies to have a wider and pragmatic cooperation in trade and investment between both countries. For more, please click the below article, which was published by The News today.

### Pakistan has great untapped potential: Danish envoy

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/183221-Pakistan-has-great-untapped-potential-Danish-envoy>

## Denmark supports UNODC's capacity building program for Pakistan's border management agencies, police and prosecution services

The Government of Denmark has today signed a DKK 4 million partnership agreement with **UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** Pakistan. The agreement was signed by the Ambassador of Denmark, H.E. Mr. Ole Thonke and Mr. Cesar Guedes, Country Representative UNODC.

On the occasion, Ambassador Thonke said that Denmark fully supports Pakistan in their strive to enhance security and the rule of law in Pakistan, as both are important pre-requisites for developing a secure and fair society for the people of Pakistan.

The program focuses on improving the capacity of Pakistan's border management agencies and their cooperation with Afghanistan and thereby reducing threats in the border. The Danish funds will also support in building capable and accountable institutions within the security and justice sector so it will lead to more effective investigation and prosecution of criminal cases.

Following the signing, the Ambassador visited one of the 50 E-learning centres set up across Pakistan to train law enforcement agencies. More than 40,000 personnel of different ranks have been trained to date.



**January 20, 2017**

Danish world renowned company FLSmidth will deliver a complete cement plant in Pakistan. The complete cement production will be in line with a capacity of 7,300 tonnes per day. The plant will be located in Iskanderabad in Mianwali District, Pakistan.

Click below to read more.

<http://cement.flsmidth.com/h/i/320975289-flsmidth-to-deliver-a-complete-cement-plant-to-maple-leaf-cement-factory-limited-in-pakistan>

**January 14, 2017**

## **Business News about Pakistan on Danish national radio**

The Embassy's Commercial Counselor Mr. Assar Qureshi was on Danish national radio to talk about Denmark's efforts to promote business opportunities in Pakistan in areas with great potential for Danish companies.

He talks about the increasing business opportunities but also about how it is to work in Pakistan, which is viewed as a challenging market in terms of security issues.

For the full interview, tune in here: (Interview is in

Danish) <http://www.dr.dk/radio/ondemand/p1/p1-business-2017-01-13>



**January 13,2017**

## **Peshawar Visit**

**Ambassador Ole Thonke, accompanied by Colonel Kim Schmidt, Defence Attache called on the Chief Minister KPK, Mr. Pervaiz Khattak.**

**Mr. Khattak welcomed the transfer of technology for the promotion of agriculture, renewable energy, and investment in KP by the Danish investment and said that province of KP offered tremendous potential in natural resources for investment.**

**The Chief Minister and the Danish Ambassador had discussion on mutual interest. Both agreed to promote mutual relations in trade, culture, commercial and mutual interaction. Ambassasor Ole Thonke was keen to transfer technologies for the promotion of industrial, power, agriculture and other sectors and investment in KP. He also informed the Chief Minister of the Danish Community interest in the direct investment in KP.**

**The Ambassador and his team also visited one of Denmark's cultural partners, Khwande Khor (KK), where he reviewed the program's progress on micro-finance and skills training for women in KP. He was also briefed on KK's efforts on Art & Craft promotion.**



January 10, 2017

## **Saving the Dying Art in Pakistan - Danish conservators train Pakistani artists in restoring classic paintings**

**A team of Danish experts have helped the Lahore Arts Council restore and preserve the damaged paintings placed in the Permanent Art Gallery. The danish team conducted a workshop for around 60 artists from all over Pakistan teaching them the technique to restore and preserve old paintings. The initiative was funded by the Danish Centre for Culture and Development.**



The 33 paintings were exhibited at the Alhamra Art Gallery in Lahore. They were displayed in their restored version as well as with the images of when they were not restored, which showed a huge difference.

The masters and giant artists whose paintings have been restored during the workshop include Ustad Allah Buxh, Sadequain, Shamza, S. Safdar, Zubaida Agha, Zakia Dil and Saeed Akhtar. The restored paintings were about 50 to 60 years old.

Watch video

<https://www.facebook.com/Embassy.of.Denmark.in.Pakistan/videos/1560005317350274/>

January 5, 2017

## Pakistani dancer challenges Danish students on gender

Loud sounds of Pakistani Kathak rhythms sound from the speakers, and 35 students move from one side of the Danish classroom to the other. Most of them smile broadly and are trying hard to move like Jannat Ali, who elegantly introduces them to a dance they have never seen before.

Jannat Ali is a transwoman from Pakistan, a professional Kathak dancer and a transgender activist who advocates for human rights using dance as a tool of activism.

For three weeks, Jannat ran a workshop on 'Gender and Society' at schools all over Denmark. The purpose of the workshop is to get the students to reflect upon their own gender and gender norms in Denmark and Pakistan.

Camilla, a teacher at Amager Faelled Skolen says that such an initiative shows an important part of what democracy stands for. i.e. showing respect and understanding towards others.

By the end of each workshop the students made their own performances and expressed their perspectives on gender.

The workshop is part of [Danish Centre for Culture and Development](#) (CKU) educational youth program funded by the Government of Denmark that annually hosts between 4 and 7 different educational workshops that tour Danish schools and youth institutions.

Video Credit: CKU (Subtitles are in Danish)

<https://www.facebook.com/Embassy.of.Denmark.in.Pakistan/videos/1555427517808054/>

January 2, 2017

Denmark works for a society where everyone, especially young people are valued and treated equally and are able to influence decisions affecting their lives. Youth active citizenship is an important part of Denmark's development policy.

We are proud to present this video produced by our partner [Oxfam in Pakistan](#) and funded by Denmark, which is an attempt to raise awareness on how young people must be enabled to have and live their own dreams.

**We say LET THEM DREAM BIG.**

**Watch LET US #DreamBig**

**<https://youtu.be/KLbWROyraaM>**

**December 25, 2016**

Mr. Assar Qureshi, Chargé d'affaires and Commercial Counselor inaugurated the Miracle Gospel Church to celebrate Christmas Eve and promote interfaith harmony.

He was warmly received by the pastor and members of the congregation who engaged with the Muslim diplomat on principles of tolerance, the importance of promoting interfaith harmony and how the church was gradually established through community contributions.

Mr. Assar congratulated the efforts of the local community and appraised the pastor of how Muslims in Denmark have also come together and established mosques in a similar way.

A group of children prepared a welcoming Christmas carol wearing multi-cultural clothing, prayer postures while embracing common threads of faith and hospitality.

Mr. Assar addressed the ceremony and said "In order to be an engaged part of society, it is important not to isolate oneself but to reach out and build bridges between communities and to learn from one another and remove misconceptions. The celebration of the birth of the Prophet Jesus - a figure very highly respected in both Muslim and Christian traditions is an opportune time for this."

He donated carpets, chairs, curtains, tables and computer to the church and also handed out gifts to the children.

His participation is a tangible reminder that we are all connected through human relations and that harmony can only be achieved through dialogue, mutual respect and understanding.

**Happy Christmas!**





## The Embassy wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!

May you all feel the love, peace, and joy that come with the spirit of this special day. Here are few glimpses of how Christmas is being celebrated in Pakistan.

Enjoy the happy cheer.

Photo Credits: [www.dawn.com](http://www.dawn.com)





Over the last decade, the New Nordic Cuisine has revolutionised Danish gastronomy and created an entirely new focus on local ingredients. It has meant a renaissance of classic Danish dishes.

Watch Ambassador Ole Thonke and Danish Chef Peter Worth introduce Danish gastronomy on Masala HumTv on 25th December, 2016 at 3 PM. (repeat telecast at 7 PM).

Don't miss it! Play video

<https://www.facebook.com/Embassy.of.Denmark.in.Pakistan/videos/1542675562416583/>



Dec 17 2016

**Denmark's cultural cooperation program in Pakistan held its closing ceremony in the spirit of celebrating diversity and promoting unity across borders.**

Ambassador Ole Thonke participated as the Chief Guest.

The event was organised by [Danish Centre for Culture and Development](#) and included an exhibition of the work carried out by their local partners, including a theater play by Ajoka and music performances.

A special music performance was done by the Danish band LIVE STRINGS, who were later joined by local musicians from different parts of Pakistan.

Together they mesmerized the audience with their fusion music showing that art and culture has no language and transcends national, political and ethnic boundaries.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Thonke said "This program may be closing, but the seeds have been sown and great relationships have been formed. This must continue!"

The Embassy would like to thank Danish Centre for Culture and Development and all local partners for their amazing work in Pakistan!



**December 11, 2016**

**A testament to the growing ties between Denmark and Pakistan was reflected at the grand public festival 'DK in PK' held in Karachi, organised by the Embassy Team.**

**The event showcased Denmark's track record of development and trade activities in Pakistan including many Danish solutions in areas such as green growth, development, peace and stabilisation, and 'smart city' planning, all of which Denmark is globally recognised for.**

**Here are some glimpses from the event where more than 700 guests attended and also enjoyed**

Danish food and music performances by Danish band Live Strings.



December 10, 2016

**Human Rights is a core value of the Government of Denmark's policy, as we strongly believe that everyone deserves to have equal rights regardless of race, religion, gender and age.**

**One of the many human rights issues that Denmark is working on in Pakistan is prevention of child marriages, as we believe this takes away a child's right to education, health and social participation and drives them towards a life with higher risks of poverty and violence.**

**Together with our partner [Oxfam in Pakistan](#) we are supporting the campaign [Tabeer Hum](#). Watch this latest video made by our partner Oxfam and join us in ending child marriages and also other violations of basic human rights. [#SayEnough](#)**

## **No Child's Play (Urdu)**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?t=2s&v=iIAyk6v4Z68>

## **Denmark supports National Dialogue on Human Rights**

**Today Mr. Assar Qureshi, Head of Commercial Section was the Guest of Honor at the National Dialogue 'Stand Up for Someone's Rights Today', which was organised by [Oxfam in Pakistan](#) to commemorate International Human Rights Day.**

**Giving his key note, Mr. Qureshi stated that Denmark's key priorities on human rights are based on Dignity, Dialogue and Development.**

"A fair society can only exist when women and men enjoy the same opportunities and rights - when there is no ill treatment or discrimination - when marginalised peoples' voices are heard and all their rights are respected and when human rights and the rule of law is the foundation of that society", said Mr. Qureshi.

Mr. Qureshi was joined by Mr. Kamran Michael, Minister of Human Rights and Senator Farhatullah Babar.

Following the opening session, a panel discussion was held with senior parliamentarians and policy makers on existing gaps and potential opportunities for improving the human rights situation in Pakistan.

The Dialogue is part of the national campaign **Tabeer Hum** supported by the Government of Denmark.







## **Punjab Diabetes Forum**

**After the success of the KPK Diabetes Forum, the Danish healthcare company Novo Nordisk Pakistan held the Punjab Diabetes Forum in Lahore today.**

**The forum was inaugurated by Minister for Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education (SHC&ME) Punjab, Mr. Khawaja Salman Rafique and Ambassador of Denmark, Mr. Ole Thonke.**

**During his speech, the Ambassador highlighted that Denmark has close to 100 years of experience fighting diabetes. This is an experience which Denmark wants to share with Pakistan. The Ambassador also underlined the importance of joining forces between all stakeholders in the public and private health sector for the overall public good.**

**Concluding the event, a 'Diabetes Action Plan' was presented to Minister Rafique to create awareness in Punjab for the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. The Plan outlines the activities for future training of health practitioners in Punjab, including doctors and nurses.**



## **Ajoka performs in Denmark**

**Ajoka Theatre Pakistan** performed its landmark play “Bulha” to a packed and appreciative audience in Denmark.

Ambassador Ole Thonke and the Ambassador of Pakistan to Denmark, Mr Mansoor Junejo opened the show with key remarks.

Ambassador Thonke praised the play and said that the soulful performance carried a powerful message which was very relevant even today, as it promoted tolerance.

The Ajoka team visited Denmark as part of the Government of Denmark's support to **Center for kultur og Udvikling/ Danish Center for Culture and Development** which has been working on promoting culture and art in Pakistan since 2015.

Apart from their play, Ajoka musicians also performed qawali and devotional music at the World Culture Centre in Copenhagen on 25th of November which concluded with "Damadam mast qalandar".



## Colours of Fusion - Promoting inclusive societies

Ambassador Thonke participated in a fundraiser fashion show to raise funds for disabled people and marginalised women in Pakistan.

Wearing a traditional Pakistani sherwani, Ambassador Thonke walked the ramp with other dignitaries, models and celebrities to support the cause upfront.

The event was organized by Paper Miracles in collaboration with Al Hamra and also included performances by local musicians and Japanese children who mesmerized the audience.

[#Inclusiveness](#) [#Denmark](#) [#Pakistan](#) [#HumanRights](#)





## **Launch of research reports on youth and gender rights.**

**Educating young people on life skills and preventing child marriages improve education, health and job opportunities, and reduces the likelihood of exposure to violence or abuse.**

**This was the key message given by Ambassador Thonke at the inaugural session of the two day international conference on "Psychology of Gender in Perspective", which was organised by Oxfam Pakistan in collaboration with Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) with support from the Government of Denmark.**

**The conference provided a platform for psychologists, academicians, researchers, humanitarians, students, and organizations from all around the world to share and exchange their empirical based knowledge related to gender issues.**

During his speech, the Ambassador made a special emphasis on the challenges of child marriages, which he said posed major health risks for both the mother and the child and was also detrimental to gender equality and women empowerment. He stated that both financial and social vulnerability led many young girls towards isolation and lack of decision-making power in the household, which made them more vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence and other kinds of abuse.





## **Denmark supports Regional Connectivity**

**Today a two-day international seminar on regional peace, growth and empowerment started at NUST Islamabad.**

**Being a joint initiative of the Royal Danish Defence College (RDDC) and National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), the opening session was inaugurated by Ambassador Ole Thonke. Over the next two days, international experts from Denmark, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka will present their research on regional development and stability, peacebuilding, counterterrorism and economic and commercial cooperation.**

**In his opening remarks, the Ambassador highlighted that Europe's internal market with free flow of goods, labour and capital has been a significant contribution to the high level of GDP pr. capita in Denmark. Therefore, regional integration and connectivity is a win-win for all involved countries and crucial to achieve growth.**

**Ambassador Thonke underlined that Denmark would support the process through inputs but that solutions must be borne from within the region in order to be sustainable.**



**13 members of YouthParliamentPakistan depart for Denmark to learn about the democratic and Parliamentary systems, institutional measures of public accountability and transparency of Governments.**

**The visit is part of the Danish Government's support to PILDAT's initiative, which aims at inculcating values and spirit for democracy among the youth, including the importance of dialogue, tolerance and an understanding of the concept of Parliament and its role in democratic decision-making and oversight.**



Before their departure, Mr. Jakob Rogild Jakobsen, Deputy Head of Mission, gave the young delegation an overview of Pakistan-Denmark relations along with an introduction to Danish political and democratic set up. The briefing ended with an interactive question answer session.

Talking to the young people, Mr. Jakobsen said that Democracy was an important tool that gave citizens the power to bring changes to their societies. He encouraged the young members to draw lessons from the study visit to get a deeper insight into how important democracy and governance is to build fair, progressive, tolerant and peaceful societies.



## International Violence Against Women's Day 2016

Around the world, every third woman has experienced domestic violence. Millions more are subjected to child marriage and sexual harassment – all of which undermine the basic civil rights of women and girls, from health to security.

We are proud to share this amazing anti-violence campaign made by our partner **UN Women Pakistan** to end domestic and sexual abuse. **#BeatMe #NoToViolence**

**Try To Beat Me, I Am UNbeatable | UN Women Pakistan**

<https://youtu.be/k2VAmB6V8QM>

We are proud to be **supporting the 8th International Children's Film Festival** in Pakistan

The Festival had its opening ceremony in Lahore with nearly 8500 children of all ages attending in large groups from over 38 schools.

Films that have been made by Pakistani students and selected to screen at the festival this year were awarded certificates and prizes by the guests. The ceremony also screened a showreel of the officially

selected films of the festival season.

The Festival is one of the largest children's film festivals in Pakistan inclusive for all children irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds. The festival uses the power of film not just to entertain children, youth and parents but also to foster new ideas, cultural values and complex issues facing young people today.

The festival, which is an initiative by **The Little Art** in collaboration with **Danish Centre for Culture and Development**, was officially inaugurated by Mr. Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan, Minister of Education & Youth Affairs, Mr. Kamran Lashari, Chairman Alhamra Arts Council and Juwairia Sultan, Embassy's National Development Officer.





## **Sindhi art and craft showcased at Fashion show in Lahore**

**With support from the Embassy, local artisans from interior Sindh showcased an exquisite couture collection under the brand of 'Taanka' at an exclusive fashion presentation followed by a two-day exhibition held at the Pakistan Fashion Design Council in Lahore.**

**The event served as an opportunity for the people of Lahore to see the arts and crafts of Interior Sindh.**

**The event also offered the patrons an exclusive platform to meet the artisan women in one-on-one sessions and at the same time allowing them to be part of an exhibition where the merchandise was also available for retail.**

**The initiative was taken by Community World Service Asia in collaboration with Danish Centre for Culture and Development (CKU) [#WomenEmpowerment](#) [#Culture](#)**





## Danish Food and Agribusiness delegation visit Pakistan

This week, the Embassy of Denmark hosted a seven company strong [#Food](#) & [#Agribusiness](#) [#delegation](#) from [#Denmark](#). Ninety five separate B2B meetings were held in Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi.

The delegation consisted of Orana, Trepko, Foss, Jimco, inOmega3, Detectronic, CT Technologies, along with the Confederation of Danish Industries.

[...See More](#)





## Danish-Pak collaboration to fight against diabetes in Pakistan

The **#Government** of Punjab and Danish pharma company Novo Nordisk have signed a MoU to hold the **#Punjab #Diabetes #Forum** as part of joint efforts to create awareness and to prepare a strategy to fight diabetes in Punjab.

The signing was done by Secretary for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, Mr Najam Ahmed Shah and country head of Novo Nordisk. The Ambassador of **#Denmark**, H.E. Mr Ole Thonke also graced the event with his presence.

Ambassador Thonke appreciated the efforts of both parties and termed the MoU signing an important milestone for the prevention and control of diabetes in Pakistan, as Punjab shares half of the country's population and a large number of health managers dealing with diabetes.

The Punjab Diabetes Forum will be held on 6th of December under the patronage of **#Chief #Minister** Punjab, Mian Shehbaz Sharif. The forum will be focusing on advocacy campaigns for diabetes awareness, prevention and control, through focused group workshops and a scientific symposium.

**DID YOU KNOW?** 10 people die every hour in Pakistan from diabetes-related causes and the incidence of heart attacks and strokes is significantly increasing.



## Promoting cycling culture in Pakistan

The Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Jakob Jakobsen (third person on left in white shirt) was one of the many cyclists on the roads of Islamabad during the inauguration of cycling lanes for the city of Islamabad.

The cycling lanes are an initiative of Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation (IMC) and Capital Development Authority (CDA) to overcome environmental pollution by promoting cycling culture.

[...See More](#)



## Adventurous Diplomats

Ambassador Ole Thonke and Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Jakob Rogild Jakobsen explore the #beautiful #mountains of Gilgit Baltistan by going on a trekking tour in the beautiful province. #Adventure #Pakistan #Diplomacy







## **Fight against diabetes in Pakistan – Punjab Diabetes Forum**

The Danish pharma company **Novo Nordisk** is playing an important role in supporting **#Pakistan** in the fight against diabetes. Following the success of Pakistan's **#National #Diabetes #Forum** and the **#KPK** Diabetes Forum, both supported by Novo Nordisk, the Danish pharma company is now collaborating with the Government of Punjab to develop a provincial diabetes plan.

In a recent dinner meeting, Ambassador Ole Thonke appreciated Novo Nordisk's efforts to strengthen the diabetes **#health #care** system in Pakistan through **#awareness** and **#quality #care**. Ambassador Thonke also appreciated the Punjab Health Department and the panel of knowledge doctors, who have played an important part in formulating a MOU for the Punjab Diabetes Forum, which is expected to be signed by Mr. Shahbaz Sharif, CM Punjab in coming months.

Mr Najam Shah, Secretary, Punjab Health Department, Director Programs from the Punjab Chief Minister Office, doctors, health practitioners and Novo Nordisk team attended the meeting.





# France

**Pakistan - Attack in Sindh (Feb. 16, 2017)**

**Statements made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development Spokesperson (Paris - February 17, 2017)**

**France utterly condemns the attack perpetrated today against a Sufi shrine in Sindh Province in Pakistan, which killed dozens of people and injured more than 100 others.**

**In these tragic circumstances, France extends its condolences to the victims' families.**

**France reaffirms its unwavering determination and stands alongside Pakistan in the face of the scourge of terrorism.**

**February 13, 2017**

**"France utterly condemns the attack carried out on February 13 against a peaceful demonstration near the provincial assembly building in Lahore, the capital of Punjab Province in Pakistan.**

**In these tragic circumstances, France extends its condolences to the victims' families and wishes the injured a speedy recovery.**

**France reaffirms its unwavering determination and stands alongside Pakistan in the face of the scourge of terrorism."**

**Statement of the French Foreign Affairs Press Office, 13 Feb.**

**February 10, 2017**

**H.E. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, meeting General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi yesterday, discussing security and defence matters.**



January 22 , 2017·

We extend our condolences to the families and relatives of the victims of the bomb attack which happened yesterday in Parachinar market place, which took the lives of more than 20 people and injured more than 70.

France condemns this new sectarian attack and stands alongside the Pakistani people and its government in their fight against all acts of terrorism.

January 20, 2017

## Mountaineering friendship between Pakistan and France!

After years of guiding tourists in Pakistan, I did a climb of my own — at the Alps

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1305973/after-years-of-guiding-tourists-in-pakistan-i-did-a-climb-of-my-own-at-the-alps>

January 13, 2017

## Fond memories: French sailor recalls visits to Karachi in 1980s

French sailor recalls Karachi of over 30 years ago

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1292074/french-sailor-recalls-karachi-30-years-ago/>

January 13, 2017

## French team continues excavations at Chanhu Jo Daro

Helping to preserve the exceptional cultural heritage of Pakistan: French archaeologists working in Sindh.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1292999/bilateral-relations-french-team-continues-excavations-chanhu-jo-daro/>

December 2, 2016 , 2017·

**Congratulations to Sarah Belal** who was just awarded the 1st Franco German Human Rights and Rule of Law Prize yesterday in Berlin!

Among 16 other activists from across the world, **Sarah Belal** received a medal by the French Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault and his German counterpart, Mr. Steinmeier, recognizing her work and engagement at the head of **Justice Project Pakistan**.

From now on, Germany and France will annually award a new prize to women and men from all over the world who have shown particular courage in their engagement for the protection of human rights and the rule of law in their home countries.

To know more about this prize: <http://www.ambafrance-pk.org/A-Pakistani-awarded-by-the-Fra...>



**November 30, 2016**

Pakistani archeologist Sundus Aslam from **Quaid e Azam University Islamabad** together with Aurore Didier, French archeologist from **CNRS** responsible for the French Archaeological Mission in the Indus Basin, shared their experience at the Colloquium "Archelogsists of the Future" organized at **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs** in Paris today.

Their research has focused on the pre Indus and Indus Civilizations, in different sites of Sindh and Balochistan.

Pakistan and France have a long history of cooperation in the field of archeology : many more news in this domain will be announced next year!

To learn more about it, you can read the Express Tribune story

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/866479/a-mission-in-makran/>

November 30, 2016

Ambassador of France met with Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar yesterday, discussing bilateral and multilateral subjects. The interest shown by French investors in supporting #CleanEnergy projects in Pakistan, also supported by the French Agency for Development, **AFD - Agence Française de Développement**, was specially mentioned.

Ambassador appreciated the efforts of the government to introduce best international practices and improve governance, as Pakistan, after signing a first OECD convention in September, is considering joining the OECD convention on Combating Bribery.

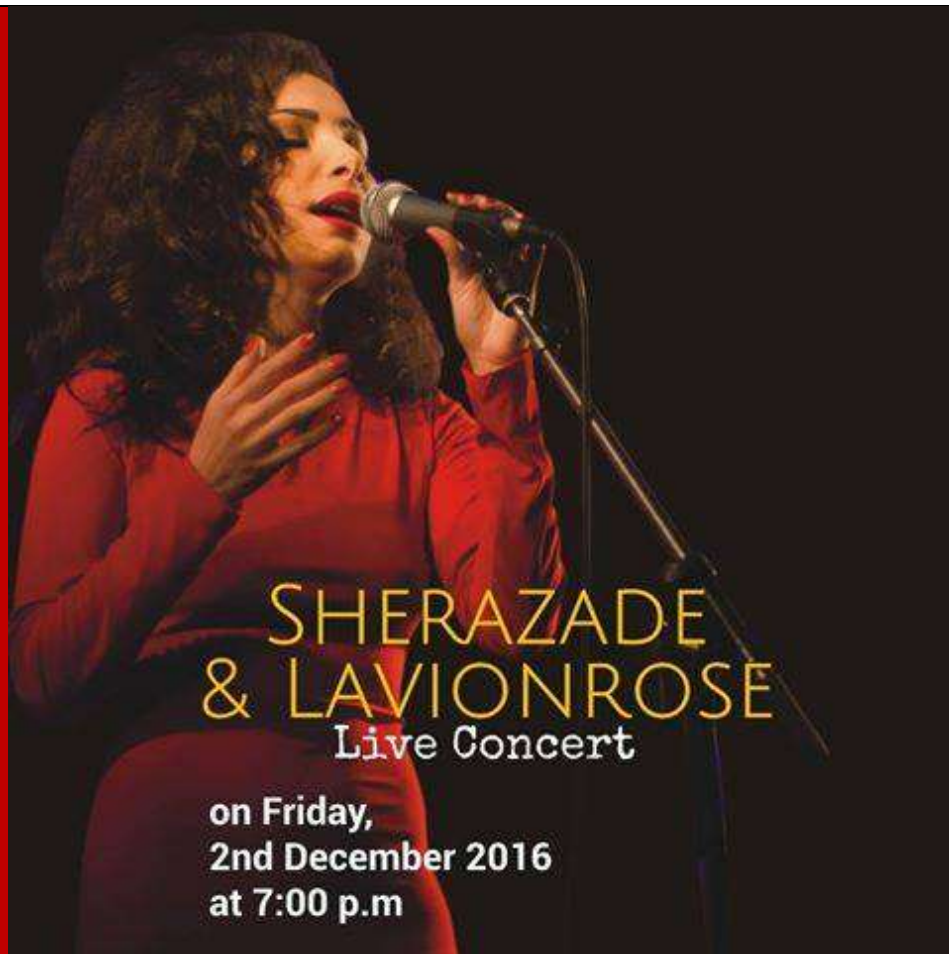


FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN MS. MARTINE DORANCE CALLED ON FINANCE MINISTER SENATOR MOHAMMAD ISHAQ DAR IN ISLAMABAD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

November 29, 2016 ·

It's in a few days, make sure to book in advance!

Listen to **Sherazade & LavionRose** at **Alliance française de Karachi** on Thursday 1st of December, at **Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop** in Lahore on Friday 2nd of December and at **Serena Hotels Islamabad** on Saturday the 3rd!



SHERAZADE  
& LAVIONROSE  
Live Concert

on Friday,  
2nd December 2016  
at 7:00 p.m

November 29, 2016 ·

Looking forward to a productive participation by Pakistan at the Open Government Partnership Summit 2016, which will be held next week in Paris.

To know more about the #OGP16 visit the website:<https://en.ogpsummit.org/osem/conference/ogp-summit>

# OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP GLOBAL SUMMIT



## KEY POINTS

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) was created in 2011 and now includes 70 countries and many non-governmental organizations that cooperate to promote:



transparency  
of government activities



citizen participation in the drafting  
of public policies



accountability  
of public actors



use of digital solutions  
to achieve these goals and  
stimulate democratic innovation



diplomatie.gouv.fr/en - @francedipla\_EN - November 2014



November 29, 2016 ·

Congratulations to the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) of Pakistan which was officially made a Category-II partner by UNESCO a few days ago.

ICCBS and the Embassy of France in Pakistan enjoy a close cooperation. We launched this year a new additional program of postdoc scholarships which will enable six Pakistani scientists to study in France. Four French researchers will participate to the 14th Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences December 15 – 18, 2016, Karachi, Pakistan on the invitation of ICCBS.

Based in #Karachi, ICCBS is the 3rd Pakistani Institution to be honored as a center of excellence by UNESCO in the last two years. Comsats Institute of Information Technology-Official (COMSATS) and Regional Water Research Centre on Hydrology, #Abbottabad have already been designated as of Category-II institutes of UNESCO.



International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences ICCBS of Pakistan, has officially become  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvUI4u5eYPO>

November 27, 2016

"Pakistan is not a land of violence". Listen to Gulalai Ismail, cofounder of **Aware Girls**, on France 24.  
**#Pakistan**: Meet Gulalai Ismail, the remarkable founder of the NGO **Aware Girls**, who teaches young girls to know their rights. The organisation won this year's Jacques Chirac Foundation award for conflict prevention. Via **The 51 Percent - France 24**

<https://www.facebook.com/FRANCE24.English/videos/1779744745596898/>

November 25, 2016

Umbaraksha! Two young Pakistani women, Gulalai Ismail and Saba Ismail, co-founder of **Aware Girls**, a non government organization based in Peshawar, were conferred with the prestigious Chirac Prize for "Conflict Prevention" in Paris yesterday, in a ceremony attended by the French President François Hollande at the Musée du Quai Branly.

They have been awarded in recognition of their contributions toward development of a culture of peace and non-violence through the action of women and youth in Pakistan.

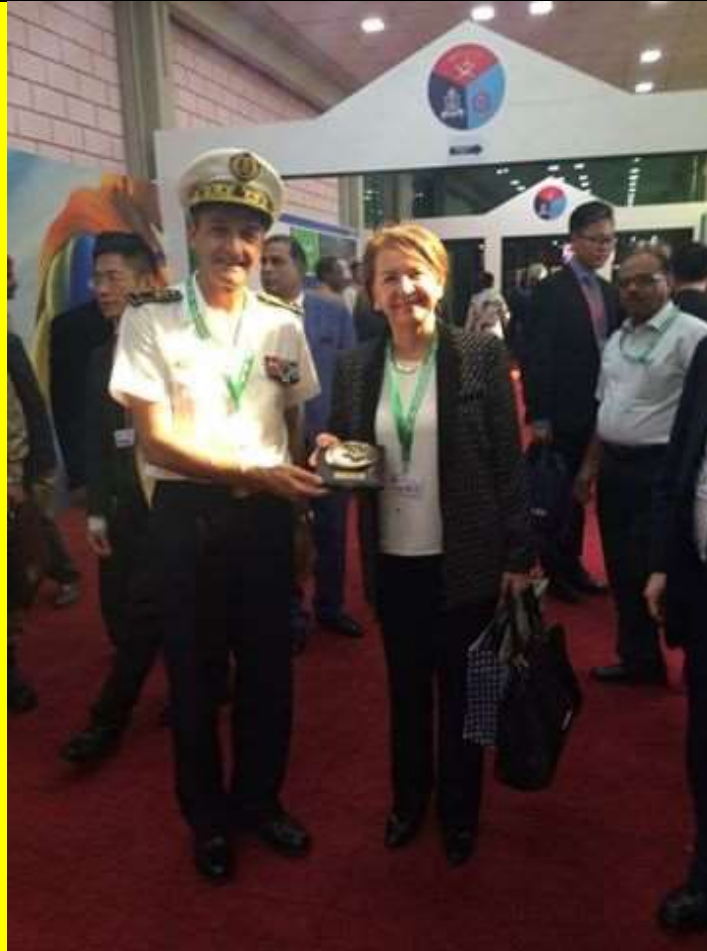
**#PrixChirac** by the **Fondation Chirac** .





**November 23, 2016**

**Ambassador Martine Dorance, together with Vice Admiral Didier Piaton, Commander in charge of the maritime zone of the Indian Ocean and of the French forces (ALINDIEN), as well as the Consul General in Karachi, Mr. Dall'Orso, attended the 9th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar, #IDEAS , at the Karachi Expo Centre. Find the first pics below.**



**November 22, 2016-**

**Inauguration of the #recycling facilities at Atlas Engineering, by H.E. Martine Dorance, in #Karachi last Friday. Atlas Engineering has decided to install batteries' lead recycling equipment and has started the construction of installations for the recycling of aluminium, using processes and equipment supplied by two French companies.**





**November 21, 2016**

**H.E. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, was received by Mr. Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh, last Friday 18th November in #Karachi. They vowed to enhance cooperation between France and the #Sindh province in various fields, especially in trade and economics as well as in education and culture, particularly in archeology.**



**November 19, 2016**

**Congratulations to the newly certified French teachers, who just passed the #DELFL and #DALFL exams at Alliance française de Karachi!**



**November 17, 2016**

**The French couple who travelled from North to South Pakistan, from Khunjerab Pass to Balochistan, just ended their trip, and they fell in love with Pakistan!**

**On their blog, they said « not a single day passed when someone did not invite us for chai, we felt at home!” “Congratulations for such a warm hospitality!” Arriving to Balochistan, a man told them “we have many problems in our country, but we will go out of our way to help you with anything”. It was the first time, in the many countries the couple visited, that they heard such thing.**

**Discover their trip on their blog: <http://robinland.uniterre.com/>**

**#BeautifulPakistan (courtesy Dawn Images)**



**November 16, 2016**


**Save the dates wherever you are in Pakistan! November 25th in Lahore, 28th in Islamabad and 29th in Karachi, for "Les mots du silence", a beautiful mime performance by Laurent Decol.**

“Laurent Decol is the worthy successor to Charles Chaplin, Marcel Marceau or Buster Keaton. An incredibly talented artist that makes us smile and moves us to laughter and tears.” (The New York Times, 12/12/2010).

Organized together with the Alliance Française d'Islamabad, Alliance française de Karachi and Alliance Française de Lahore.




**Alliance Française d'Islamabad**  
in collaboration with  
Embassy of France & Islamabad Club  
present

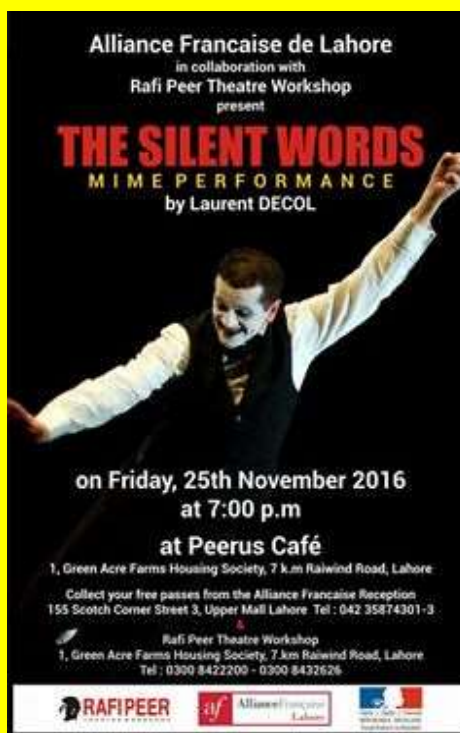
**“LES MOTS DU SILENCE”  
THE SILENT WORDS  
MIME PERFORMANCE**  
by Laurent Decol



on Monday 28th November 2016  
at 6:30pm  
at Islamabad Club  
Main Murree Road, Islamabad, Pakistan

collect your free passes from Alliance Française d'Islamabad  
house 9, Street 49, F-6/4 Islamabad Tell: 051-2825218-9  
&  
Islamabad Club  
Main Murree Road, Islamabad, Pakistan  
051-9046000 / 8447000 / 8435640 / 9223620-28



**November 16, 2016**

The Embassy of France celebrated yesterday [#WorldSciencesDay](#) together with the [Pakistan Science Foundation](#) and [UNESCO Pakistan](#) at the Pakistan Museum of Natural History in Islamabad.

To create awareness and encourage students towards scientific education and research, in a view of sharing ideas between scientists and students, this year's theme was "Museums and Science Centres as Source of Informal Education".

Mr. Fazal Abbas Maken, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, was the Chief Guest on this occasion, while leading scientist Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed was the Guest of Honour.





**November 15, 2016 ·**

**Congratulations to young Pakistani filmmaker [Ammar Aziz](#) for winning the "Looking at the World" prize for his movie [A Walnut Tree](#) at the Festival international Jean Rouch in Paris, which just ended at le [Musée de l'Homme](#)!**



**November 13, 2016**

France presents its condolences to the families and relatives of the victims of the explosion which happened yesterday in the province of Balochistan, which took the lives of more than 40 people. France firmly condemns any act of terrorism and stands by the side of the people and the authorities of Pakistan in their fight against this blind barbarity.

La France présente toutes ses condoléances aux familles et aux proches des victimes de l'explosion intervenue aujourd'hui au...[See Translation](#)

## Déclarations officielles de politique étrangère



**November 12, 2016**

Since 2012, France has been offering hundreds of scholarships to promising underprivileged young people, hailing primarily from FATA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, to pursue their education

in top universities of Pakistan.

The Ambassador of France and the Chairman, Higher-Education-Commission, signed last night a grant agreement of 250 000 euros for the next phase of this Needs Based Scholarship Program.

Learn more: <http://www.ambafrance-pk.org/French-need-based-scholarships...>



**November 2, 2016**

This morning, Ambassador Dorance received Gulalai Ismail, President of **Aware Girls** a young women led organization based in Peshawar, working for Gender Equality and Peace in Pakistan.

Aware Girls was selected this year by the **Fondation Chirac** for its Conflict Prevention Award 2016. The ceremony of awards will take place next 24th of November in Paris, at the Musée du quai Branly in Paris.

Jeenako ta de umbark shee ! <http://un.monde.pacifie.fondationchirac.eu/>



**November 9, 2016**

**The French Embassy in Pakistan today pays tribute to the grand national figure of Pakistan, Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, on the occasion of his 193rd Birth Anniversary.**

**Our Ambassador, H.E. Martine Dorance, who studied Urdu in Paris in her youth, always remembers his famous and wise verses, which remain as relevant today. She specially recalls one of them as a**

special message to the young generations : “ Be aware of your own worth, use all of your power to achieve it. Create an ocean from a dewdrop. Do not beg for light from the moon, obtain it from the spark within you.”#MessageofAllamaIqbal



November 8, 2016

H.E.Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, met Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production, yesterday in Islamabad. They exchanged views on bilateral relations and showed interest in making progress in the fields of science, education, research and technology innovation in addition to defence cooperation.



November 8, 2016

**Join the Friends of the Alliance française, the largest French language community! Rejoignez les Amis de l'Alliance française [#amisalliancefr](#)**

**Connect with a francophile correspondent from anywhere in the world; each month, a challenge organized together with Air France KLM might let you win plane tickets to discover your correspondent, another Alliance française, culture and country!**

**Join in on**

**FB : <https://www.facebook.com/amisalliancefr/>**

**twitter : [@amisalliancefr](#)**

**website : <http://www.amisalliancefr.org>**

**Check out the Alliances françaises in Pakistan: [Alliance française de Karachi](#), [Alliance Française de Lahore](#) and [Alliance Française d'Islamabad](#)**



November 3, 2016 ·

**#ClimateAction** : One day to go before the official ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement!  
Congratulations to Pakistan for the swift national ratification on 2nd November!



November 3, 2016 ·

Our heartiest congratulation to Mr. Hamid Mir for winning the “Most Resilient Journalist” award from Free Press Unlimited for “extraordinary courage and perseverance to bring the news, despite threats, abductions and violence continue the journalistic work”.

(Picture courtesy Free Press Unlimited)

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/.../nominees-free-press-aw...>



November 2, 2016 ·

**#EndImpunity.** 2nd of November is the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.

Last year, 115 journalists were killed in the world, making it the deadliest year for journalists this decade. France and Pakistan's journalists were sadly among the most targeted. Let's #EndImpunity.



# #ENDImpunity

pour les crimes commis  
contre les journalistes



**2 novembre 2016**

La journée internationale de la fin de l'impunité pour les crimes commis contre des journalistes.

C'est une journée qui honore tous les journalistes attaqués et assassinés dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, et qui appelle à ce que justice soit faite pour leur cas. Neuf cas sur dix de journalistes assassinés n'ont jamais été résolus.

Arrêter ceux qui tuent en toute impunité est fondamental pour la liberté d'expression et l'accès du public à l'information.

Plus les crimes de l'UNESCO 2015 croissent  
le nombre de membres d'Impunity  
France.org/fr/news



Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

**November 1, 2016**

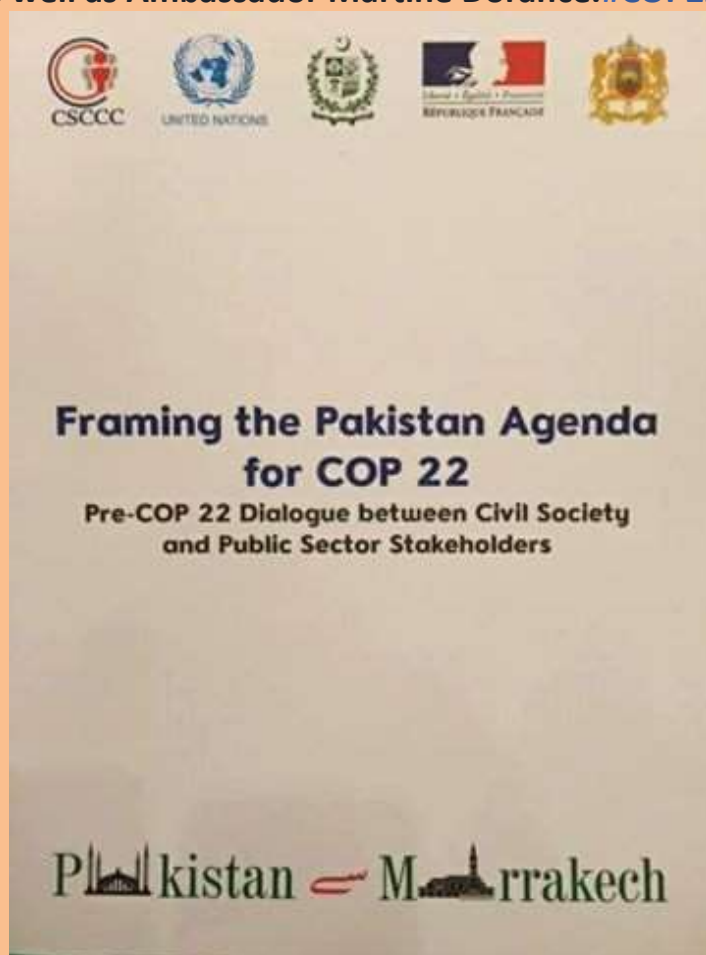
**"From #COP21 to #COP22", marking the handover of the French Presidency to the Moroccan Presidency at the Residence of France in Pakistan.**

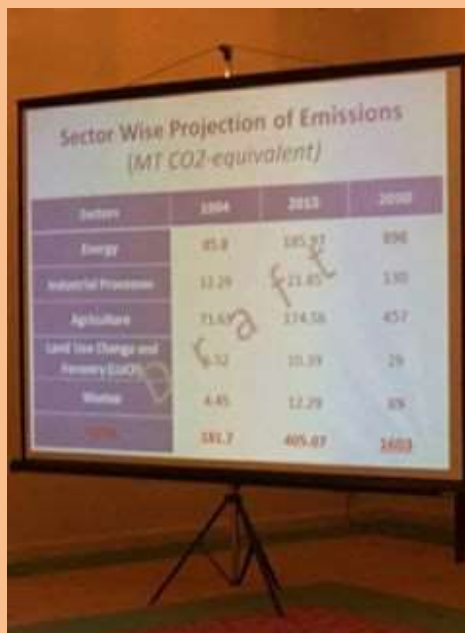
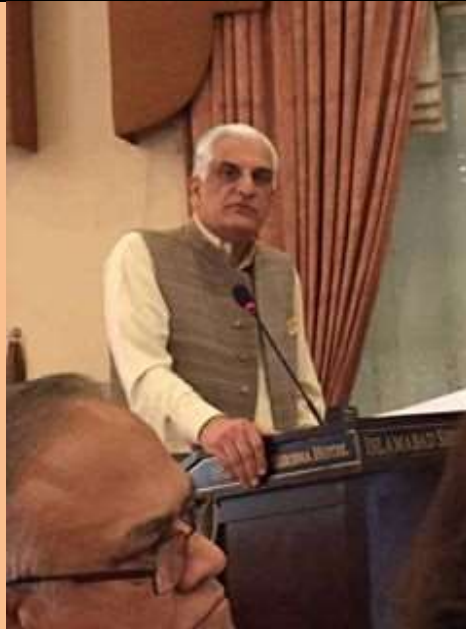
**Ambassador Dorance welcomed the multiple announcements made by Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister for Climate Change: the upcoming ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement by Pakistan before the COP22 as well as the upcoming submission of a new national contribution.**



The pre COP22 event “Pakistan se Marrakesh: Framing the Pakistan Agenda for COP22” took place today in Islamabad, organized jointly by the Pakistani authorities and the Pakistan Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), with the support of the French and Moroccan Embassies and the United Nations.

It brought legislators, policy makers, civil society and media to discuss the key elements of the Pakistan’s new national contribution (INDC) before the next COP. This seminar was attended, among many stakeholders, by Minister Zahid Hamid and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi as well as Ambassador Martine Dorance. #COP22





October 27, 2016 ·

[Song of Lahore](#) by Sharmeen Obaid has just been awarded the public prize at [Festival du Film d'Asie du Sud - FFAST](#) in Paris!

We were there, it was a enthusiastic ovation by the French public! Congratulations!  
Looking forward to the release in Pakistan soon! [#SongofLahore](#)



October 25, 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 24, 2016 ·

More than 200 people admired the photos of Agence France-Presse (AFP) today at the opening of the exhibition "Pakistan, Sustaining Development - Human Stories through photography" jointly

developed by AFP, the European Union and the United Nations, with the support of the Embassy of France in Pakistan and UK Aid.

The exhibition at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, comprises 102 photos from all over Pakistan, organized in 17 collections, according to the Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to raise awareness about SDGs and UN's efforts for development in Pakistan and will remain open for public until November 21.





October 20, 2016

“Hello Tomorrow: The Future of Connectivity”, gathered more than 300 people today at the premises of the Higher Education Commission in Islamabad, jointly organized by the French Embassy in Pakistan, the HEC and the [Hello Tomorrow - Pakistan](#) team.

[Hello Tomorrow](#) is a French initiative to support innovation and entrepreneurship in the world, and especially in Pakistan: Islamabad was chosen among 10 cities this year across the world to speak about innovation.

During the half-da...

[See More](#)





**October 20, 2016 ·**

**Our heartiest congratulations to Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai and Sumail Hassan, competitive video gamer, for making it to Times' 30 Most Influential Teens of 2016.**

**(Courtesy Times)**

**<http://time.com/4532104/most-influential-teens-2016/>**







# Germany

The German Embassy managed to collect 1.5 million PKR at their Christmas Bazar last year. Today, the German Ambassador Ina Lepel handed this amount over to 5 different charities. We hope that they will be able to keep up their good work with this financial support!

Check out the photos to find out which charities received the donations.



February 27, 2017

One of our colleagues visited the [Hawa Shelter Homes](#) in Rawalpindi. This shelter home was established by the [StarWelfare Organization](#) with the financial support of the German Embassy. It was great to see how dedicated the volunteers and staff work to improve the lives of women and children in urgent need!





**February 24, 2017**

We get numerous queries about studying in Germany everyday.

The German Academic Exchange Service provides all kind of information regarding scholarships, study programmes and much more. If you are interested just have a look at their website:

[German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\) - DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst](http://www.daad.de)

Whether a Bachelor's or Master's degree or PhD - the DAAD database offers a great variety of international degree courses to choose from.

[DAAD.DE](http://www.daad.de)

**February 23, 2017**

## **Germany continues to support minority communities in Pakistan!**

German Ambassador Ina Lepel signed an agreement with [The Asia Foundation](http://www.asiafoundation.org) (TAF) for a project that aims to further enable minority communities to participate in electoral and political processes. The project will engage Parliamentarians, youth councilors and minority communities in Punjab and Sindh.

We wish TAF a good start and a successful project!



February 21, 2017

The **Acid Survivors Foundation Pakistan** produced 800 board games with the financial support of the German Embassy.

The aim of the board game "Knowledge Treasure" is to transfer knowledge related to acid violence,

burns prevention, burns first aid, child mortality reduction and maternal health. This kind of alternative and creative education makes it easy to talk about issues that are normally taboos.

One of our colleagues visited a school in Rawalpindi together with ASF. The school received 10 games and the children had a lot of fun playing.





**20 February 2017**

**Today the German Ambassador Ina Lepel and Salam Beg, the CEO of the Aga Khan Cultural Service Pakistan (AKCSP), signed an agreement for the funding of the project "Pilot Conversation of the Picture Wall, Lahore Fort".**

**The project aims at restoring the Picture Wall of the Lahore Fort and it also aims at analyzing the best restoration methods for the future.**



**German Ambassador Ina Lepel inaugurated the exhibition called "Naqqaash se kuch bol raha hai qartaas" at Gallery 6.**

**The exhibition's intriguing and eclectic mix of calligraphy and abstract art is a tribute to the legendary artist Sadequain.**





February 17 at 6:16am ·

The football team of the German Embassy played against the Model Town Football Club in Lahore.

Even the German Ambassador and the Deputy Head of Mission traveled to Lahore to watch the game and cheer the team.

The MTFC quickly went up 1-0 on a beautiful goal but with a very strong team spirit the German Embassy managed to score an equalizer and the game ended 1-1. We would like to thank MTFC for an exiting football match.





February 16 at 6:52am ·

## **Beware of Agents and Scammers!**

Please use caution and be sensible when looking at ads on online platforms promising employment in Germany or other European Countries.

There is a high risk that they are posted by scammers, who will charge you money for their “services” and then provide you with false documents and wrong promises of Visas to Germany. In some cases they even pose as staff members of the German Embassy.

Do not fall for it! The money you pay will be lost! Please consider these simple facts, when you see something online:

1. German Companies do in general not recruit workers directly in Pakistan – especially not online or via agents.
2. Any offer not asking for proven German language skills and formal vocational training is in general a fraud.
3. German companies do not charge for Job acceptance letters or application fees.
4. All visa applications have to be made in person and the German Embassy or Consulate General do not ask you to prepay any fees.
5. Other than the Consulate General in Karachi and the Embassy in Islamabad there are no German representations or offices in Pakistan dealing with visa applications.
6. All our emails come from our official accounts, if you receive something from an email account hosted by a commercial provider, it is not official.
7. If you have any doubt about a job offer, insist on paying the agent only after all the paperwork has been done.

If you come across ads which you feel might be a fraud, please let us know under:

[visainfo@isla.auswaertiges-amt.de](mailto:visainfo@isla.auswaertiges-amt.de)

Please share this post to inform as many people as possible!

**OLX** Pakistan's Largest Marketplace

**THIS AD IS A FRAUD!**

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### Staff hiring for germany hotel and restaurant professional staff

Rs 1,80,000 - 2,10,000

Lahore, Punjab Added via phone on 8 Aug. Ad ID: 600757229

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Position type: Full-time Salary period: Monthly

by seeking honest hard working punctual expert and qualified well behave staff for hotel in Germany avail posts for expert laundres chef cook food management cutting staff butcher dishwasher kitchen assistant cleaners for cooking range waiters helpers manager cashier account office staff hotel and restaurant manager store in charge house keeping laundry and reception staff only senior candidates can apply for job.

Safety Tips for Applicants

1. Meet employer at a safe location
2. Do not share financial information
3. Avoid paying money for getting interviews

Know more >

Report

When you call, don't forget to mention that you found this ad on OLX.com.pk. I do not wish to be contacted by telemarketers or representatives of any other website.

Views: 13356

February 14 ·

Mr. Akbarali Pesnani, Chairman of the Aga Khan Cultural Service, visited Ambassador Ina Lebel in the German Embassy together with a delegation of AKCS.

AKCS is a long standing partner of the German Embassy. The next common project is the restoration of a part of the Painting Wall of the Fort Lahore, which Germany funds.



February 14

**The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad is shocked to learn of the heinous attack in Lahore yesterday that claimed 13 lives and injured dozens of people. We condemn this barbaric act of terror. Our deepest sympathy goes to the families of the victims.**

**Defence Attaché Col Wolf, together with other DA colleagues, visited the Special Service Group (SSG) - the Pakistan Special Forces in their HQ and the Special Operations School in their "Eagle Nest" in Cherat.**

**His impression in his own words: "Today we experienced the outstanding comradeship and warm hospitality from the hardest soldiers in the country. Thank you for that great day!"**





February 9, 2017

**German physician Dr Chris Schmotzer has been working with leprosy patients in Pakistan for 29 years. To know more about her service to Pakistan, read her interview with Dawn. <http://www.dawn.com/news/1313617>**



February 8, 2017

**The youth of Pakistan plays a vital role in forming a cohesive society! Germany has partnered with [Mind Map Communications](#) to support young Pakistanis in this regard. Through the project "Hum Aahang Pakistan" young men and women from all provinces will come together and raise their voices for cohesion and tolerance in their communities and on social media. We wish these Youth Ambassadors all the best for their important mission!**



**February 6, 2017**

**The FATA Research Centre presented a study on governance reforms in the tribal areas this week. The study was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and presents an important insight into the view of the local population in the tribal areas on potential reforms. We hope that it will add to the political discussions on the future of FATA. The study can be accessed**

at <http://frc.org.pk/.../governance-reforms-in-fata-a-peoples-p.../>



**Governance Reforms in FATA: A People's Perspective**



**Governance Reforms in FATA: A People's Perspective**





**Governance Reforms in FATA: A People's Perspective**



**Governance Reforms in FATA: A People's Perspective**



جرمنی پاکستان میں

See more at [FRC.ORG.PK](http://FRC.ORG.PK)

February 4, 2016

The Defence Attaché Colonel Klaus Wolf made a trip to the Line of Control in the area of Bhimber. He praised the beautiful breathtaking landscape but also acknowledged the sad aspect when he met a boy who lost a leg due to a shrapnel to whom he donated his binoculars as a present.





**February 1, 2016**

**"Living with a tribal elder in troubled Peshawar, being sucked into mystical Sufi Nights in Lahore or getting lost in the Cholistan desert; those were the times when I learned to see the country with different eyes. It did not take much to fall in love with Pakistan." - Manolo Ty**  
Today is the premiere of **Pakistan NOW - A Coffee Table Book** in Germany.

**The German artist Manolo Ty cites Pakistan as his favourite place to photograph, not only because of its diversity and culture, but because of his great fondness for the people.**

**The 276 images that were shot in more than 25 different places show the life of resilient Pakistanis, cultural diversity and its stunning heritage through his lense.**

**Furthermore he seeks to raise awareness of traditions and environments which are under threat, as well as participate to create a global dialogue for promoting and understanding different cultures.**

**Check out their Facebook page to find out**

**more: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBookPakistanNOW/?fref=ts>**



**January 31, 2017**

**German Ambassador Ina Lepel met General Qamar Javed Bajwa.**

**During the meeting between the COAS and the German Ambassador, Ina Lepel acknowledged Pakistan Army's achievements in fight against terrorism and continued efforts for peace and stability**

in the region.

For more information:

<http://www.dnd.com.pk/germany-acknowledges-pakistan-.../123078...>

[See More](#)



January 30, 2017

**We have a new Foreign Minister!**

Former Foreign Minister [Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#) handed over the reins of his office to Sigmar Gabriel. Welcome, Foreign Minister [Sigmar Gabriel](#)!

If you would like to find out more about him have a look at this article: <https://www.deutschland.de/.../.../germanys-new-foreign-minister>



**January 28, 2017**

**Would you like to study in Germany?**

**Have a look at this video to learn more about the German higher education system, the different types of universities and the degrees they offer.**

**For further information you can also visit <https://www.study-in.de/en/>**

<https://youtu.be/OWyhOfniFpk>



### The German higher education system

Learn more about the German higher education system, the different types of universities and the degrees they offer.

January 27, 2017

**The Counsellor for Press and Cultural affairs of the German Embassy, together with the representative of the [Goethe-Institut Karachi \(Pakistan\)](#) and the representative of the [Annemarie Schimmel Haus](#) visited the Edwardes Colleges and the Roots Millennium Schools in Peshawar.**

**On occasion of this visit a special agreement between the Goethe Institut and the Roots Millennium Schools in Peshawar was signed to support teaching German as foreign language.**





January 26, 2017

## Would you like to visit Germany?

This article is a good preparation to avoid embarrassing moment and misunderstandings!





[10 faux pas to avoid in Germany](#) | [Meet the Germans](#) | [DW.COM](#) | 18.01.2017

Want to fit in in Germany? Then you'd better know when to wish someone happy birthday and how to light your cigarette. Here's our guide for avoiding faux pas in...

[DW.COM](#) | BY DEUTSCHE WELLE ([WWW.DW.COM](#))

January 25, 2017

Two colleagues of the German Embassy visited the camp “Sabaoon” in Malakand to get first-hand information about a deradicalisation program for adolescents.

A Pakistani NGO is running this camp in cooperation with the army.





January 24, 2017

German Ambassador Ina Lepel attended the international workshop on **"Challenges of Researching on Conflict-induced Displacement and Migration in Europe and South Asia - negotiating Space, Gender, Language, Volatilities and Hegemonies"**.

This workshop was organised by the **DAAD Pakistan** and the Quaid-i-Azam University and it was funded by the German Foreign Office.

One of the lecturer was Andrea Fleschenberg who is a DAAD Long Term Guest Professor at Quaid-i-Azam University.





January 19, 2017

Germany supports vulnerable communities through humanitarian assistance across Pakistan. One such initiative aims to support families affected by floods and persons with disabilities in Muzaffargarh. Our partner **Help Age International** recently provided financial aid to 300 families who had lost their houses to floods in 2014 and 2015. Find more information on <http://tribune.com.pk/.../cash-grant-distribution-germany-pr.../>.

We hope these grants will help them fulfill their immediate needs and improve their living conditions.



January 17, 2017

Today the "Alexander von Humboldt Foundation" and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences organised a meeting for their alumni in Islamabad.

Ambassador Lepel gave a keynote speech on this occasion.

The A. v. H. Foundation has initiated this assignments to keep active the mission of the foundation.





**January 8, 2017**

**Germany remains committed to empowering communities at the grass roots level. Our partner Foundation for Integrated Development Action (FIDA) is working for rehabilitating basic infrastructure facilities and strengthening rural communities in DI Khan. Last week, Chief Secretary KP Mr. Abid Saeed visited one of the basic health units rehabilitated under this initiative. Find more information here: <https://www.facebook.com/foundationforintegrateddevelopmentaction/posts/1302533413103236> .**

**We hope these small steps will make a difference to the lives of rural communities in DI Khan.**





Chief Secretary of the Government of KP Mr. Abid Saeed and Commissioner DI Khan Division visited one of FIDA's intervened Basic Health Unit (BHU) at Shorekot, DI Khan, rehabilitated through financial assistance of the **German Embassy Islamabad**. All district management including **Deputy Commissioner DI Khan**, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, District Health Officer, DIG Police were also present. The chief secretary and other guests were briefed about the rehabilitation work and similar development initiatives funded by the German Embassy Islamabad. CS and other guests showed their pleasure and satisfaction over the initiative and quality of work and acknowledged the efforts of German Embassy Islamabad and its development partner **FIDA**.

January 6, 2017

The Nomad's Art Gallery in collaboration with German Embassy has organized an exhibition displaying the exotic culture of Kalaash through photography, paintings, costumes, jewellery and crafts from that region. The exhibition is open for all until Saturday, 7 January from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at Hotel Regency (Islamabad club road). Pay a visit and let us know what do you think about Kalaash culture?







**December 29, 2016**

**German Ambassador Ina Lepel attended the launch of the Strategic Plan of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR). Germany has been one of the early-on supporters of the Commission. Through our partner Democracy Reporting International we have also assisted the NCHR in determining its strategic priorities. Congratulations to the NCHR Chairman Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan and his team on this ambitious and substantial strategic plan! It will now be important to effectively implement this plan for greater human rights promotion and protection in Pakistan for the benefit of all Pakistanis.**



**December 27, 2016**

**German Ambassador Lepel attended the kick-off conference of the "Support to Local Governance Programme".**

**We are convinced that the three focus areas of this upcoming programme – structures, revenue and state-society dialogue – are crucial for making local governance a lasting success story in KP and**

**Punjab.**

**The programme is put together by the German Development Implementation Agency GIZ and co-funded by Switzerland.**





December 25, 2016 ·

## Santa Clause came to Islamabad!

Here are a few photos of the Christmas celebrations at the Embassy.

All children of the Embassy's staff received gifts that were handpicked by the Ambassador.





**December 22, 2016**

**Two of our colleagues attended the inauguration of the "Xmas Peace Train" in Islamabad! Pakistan's Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Human Rights joined hands to run a special train at Christmas to express solidarity with the minority Christian community.**





**December 19, 2016**

**Germany has supported youth empowerment in Pakistan through a number of initiatives over the past years. A similar effort, The Youth Development Programme 2016, came to an end yesterday. The programme was designed to train 70 youth from FATA and Afghanistan to polish their leadership skills and deepen their knowledge on politics in both countries. Mr. Burghard Brinksmeyer, Head of Press and Cultural Section encouraged the participants to continue their mission of representing their communities and taking up responsible political roles in the future.**





December 18, 2016 ·

Our Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Jens Jokisch attended the concluding session of **training for journalists from KP and FATA**. This project, supported by the German Embassy and implemented by Media House Islamabad, aims to enhance technical skills of TV and radio journalists from FATA and KP. We hope that these trainings will help them achieve their professional goals as well as help in providing credible information to people in their own regions.





**December 16, 2016**

**German Ambassador Ina Lepel and First Secretary Dr. Kalle Holzfuß were invited to visit a WFP food distribution center for internally displaced Pakistani citizens in Peshawar and a center dedicated to alleviating Malnutrition of infants and mothers.**

**After having toured the facilities and speaking to the staff as well as the refugees both visitors had gained some valuable insights into how food is being distributed and the importance of the work of WFP in Pakistan.**

**The nutrition of Infants and mothers is especially important since good nutrition enables children to develop to their fullest potential. We sincerely hope, that those displaced can return to their homes soon to start to rebuild their lives and remain committed to supporting WFP in its work.**





**December 11, 2016**

**This week, German Ambassador Ina Lepel visited the Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The discussions focused on the local industry, exports of local products to Germany and Germany's support to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in Pakistan. It was impressive to see so many dynamic and committed entrepreneurs. Thanks to the Gujrat Chamber for facilitating this insightful visit!**





December 10, 2016

Good news for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa! German Ambassador Ina Lepel and Ignacio Artaza, Country Director of [UNDP Pakistan](#), signed a project agreement aimed at **reintegrating first-time youth offenders into their home communities in KP.**

Together with integration support groups established by youth councilors, teachers and village elders it will test a community-based approach for reintegration in order to give youth offenders a second chance.



**December 9, 2016**

**German Ambassador Ina Lepel spoke at Democracy Reporting International's (DRI) conference on human rights compliance in Pakistan yesterday. "Pakistan has made progress in the field of human rights but considerable concerns and many challenges remain", Ambassador Lepel said. The conference identified the EU preferential trade scheme GSP+ and the upcoming Universal Periodic**

Review as great opportunities for Pakistan to address these challenges and to further implement international treaties in the field of human rights that Pakistan has ratified. Thanks to our partner DRI for organizing the conference and to the numerous dignitaries for adding to the fruitful discussions!





December 7, 2016

On Tuesday, German Ambassador Ina Lepel visited the Substation Nokhar in Punjab. The substation transmits electricity to the **Gujranwala Electrical Power Company (GEPCO)**. It was financed by the German Development Bank KfW and played a major role in reducing GEPCO's transmission losses and load shedding in the area. Thanks to the National Transmission & Despatch Company for facilitating the visit!





December 4, 2016

## **Great news for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Pakistan!**

**On Friday, the EU and the German development agency GIZ signed an agreement for the next TVET program phase starting next year. With a contribution of 8 million Euros to the overall program of over 50 million Euros Germany will remain a key donor. The signing marks an important milestone for building on the achievements of the past TVET program. “Together with our partners, we will continue to strive for a stronger TVET system that provides jobs and higher productivity”, German Ambassador Ina Lepel said.**







December 3, 2016

**'Girl Power' is a joint project of Goethe-Institut, Pakistan and Alliance Francaise de Karachi, and funded by the French-German Cultural Fund. For the 10-day event, female dancers and boxers have been invited over from France and Germany. They will share their passion for dance and sport with the Karachi girls.**



**Dancers, boxers from France and Germany will train girls in Karachi**

**Girl Power, a joint project of Goethe-Institut, Pakistan and Alliance Francaise de Karachi will kick off on December 1, 2016 [images.dawn.com](http://images.dawn.com)**

December 2, 2016 ·

**Congratulations to Pakistani human rights activist Sarah Belal for winning the "Franco-German prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law"!**

**The prize was handed to her in Berlin by Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Foreign Affairs Minister from Germany and Jean-Marc Ayrault, Foreign Affairs Minister from France.**

**Sarah Belal (born in 1978) studied history and law in the US and England. She is a co-founder and**

director of the leading Pakistani anti-death penalty NGO Justice Project Pakis...  
[See More](#)





December 1, 2016 ·

German Ambassador Lepel launched the English version of [PakistanSaga.com](http://PakistanSaga.com) yesterday – Pakistan's first video magazine aimed at promoting tolerance and harmony established by the Pak Institute for Peace Studies.

The Ambassador also presented two awards for the best video contributions to [Pakistan Saga](http://PakistanSaga.com). Congratulations to the winners and to PIPS for this important initiative to highlight Pakistan's diversity and to address the pressing challenges around tolerance and interfaith harmony!



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Barrister Zafarullah Khan, Advisor to PM on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Germany's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ina Lepel with award winners during "Pakistan Saga and Narratives" award ceremony, organized by Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS). INP PHOTO



ISLAMABAD: Germany's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ina Lippert, awarding Narratives Award 2016, to Mairasra Syed from Multan, one of the first female field journalists in southern Punjab during "Pakistan Saga and Narratives" award ceremony, organized by Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS). INP-PHOTO



November 30, 2016

**A German duo travelled to Pakistan to perform in Karachi and Islamabad. All our guests enjoyed the fascinating voice of Philomena Poetis and the great performance of pianist Mai-Anh Nguyen during this "German Musical Evening"!**



November 29, 2016

Each year, up to 100 professionals and volunteers from more than 35 countries take part in the CrossCulture Programme. The majority come from Muslim countries, such as Pakistan. Participants work in a wide range of fields, including civic education, media and environmental protection.

Apply for the CrossCulture Programme now! For more information just visit our website:

[http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/.../11Cul.../lfa\\_\\_crossculture.html](http://www.pakistan.diplo.de/.../11Cul.../lfa__crossculture.html)

© ifa/Kuhnle



November 25, 2016•

200 teachers from different countries went to the PASCH teachers' conference in New Delhi.

Here you can see a part of the delegation from Pakistan. And one of the Pakistani teachers, Ms. Uzma Khan even won the competition that was arranged during this years conference. Congratulations!!

**Pasch - Pakistan** "Schools: Partners for the Future" is an International project of German Government. In Pakistan this programme is coordinated by the [Goethe-Institut Karachi \(Pakistan\)](#) on behalf of the German Foreign Ministry.





November 24, 2016-

## **Consul General Schmiedchen travelled to Thar.**

He had a look at different economic locations and also visited a village in Thar.

For more information about the travels of the Consul General just follow our [German Consulate General Karachi](#)







**November 23, 2016**

**The Counsellor for Press and Cultural Affairs, Burghard Brinksmeier, visited Lahore to take part in a meeting with representatives of the German Cultural institutes in Pakistan and to meet some press- and cultural partners of the German embassy.**

**During his meeting with the human rights defender Sarah Belal he invited her to Germany. Furthermore he met the catholic archbishop of Lahore, His Excellency Sebastian Bernard Shaw and the Vice director of Walled City of Lahore Authority, Ms. Aisha Khan.**





**November 22, 2016-**

**One of our followers told us about a Pakistan-Evening that was organised by a group of Pakistani students in Germany.**

**This kind of cultural exchange is great and therefore we thought that this link is worth sharing:**



**Dance, Music & Food: Länderabend Pakistan at Saarland University – Lhe.io**

**It was all fun, wow!**

**Lhe.io | By Atta Ur Rehman Shah**

**November 21, 2016 ·**

**Would you like to study in Germany?**

**Have a look at this link to see which German universities are most likely to get you into your dream job after graduation.**

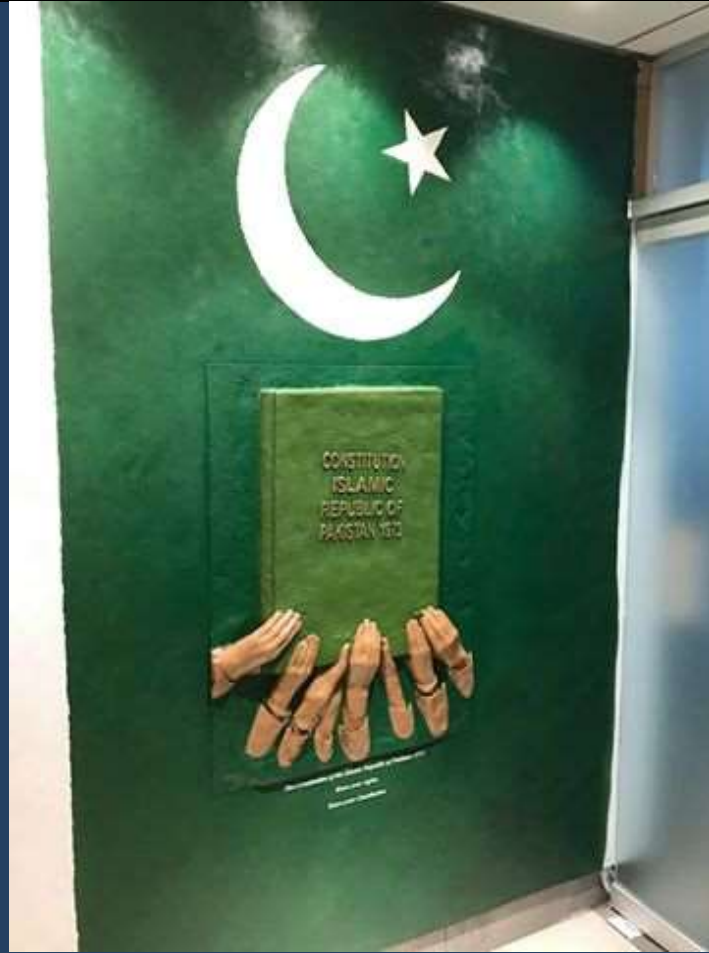
**[These German universities are best at landing you a job](#)**

**A new Times Higher Education ranking shows which German universities are most likely to get you into your dream job after graduation.**

**[thelocal.de](#)**

**November 16, 2016**

**The German Embassy participated in a tour of the “Gali-e-Dastoor” exhibition at the Senate of Pakistan yesterday. The gallery documents the constitutional history of Pakistan and highlights the great achievement Pakistan’s constitution presents. Congratulations to the artists of the National College of Arts in Rawalpindi for their remarkable work and to the Senate of Pakistan for displaying this import exhibition!**





November 15, 2016 ·

## **Good news for Pakistani-German business relations!**

German Ambassador Ina Lepel launched the Islamabad office of the German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI). The GPCCI was launched in May in Karachi to strengthen the business relations between Pakistan and Germany.

Ambassador Lepel said: "The GPCCI is a prime example of the energy of Pakistan's business community. With an existing presence in Lahore, today's inauguration of the Chamber's Islamabad office marks an important milestone in the GPCCI's development. I am convinced that the GPCCI, including its Islamabad Office, can make an important contribution to promoting bilateral trade and investment and to increasing Pakistan's connectivity."





**November 11, 2016**

**German Ambassador Lepel visited the new office of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) today. During the meeting with Honourable FPCCI President Mr Abdul Rauf Alam and other distinguished representatives the Ambassador discussed bilateral trade and investment issues. The FPCCI has a great new office building and presented itself as a prime example of the energy of Pakistan's business community.**







**November 8, 2016 ·**

**Today is the 139th birthday of Pakistan's national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Muhammad Iqbal is an important link between Germany and Pakistan.**

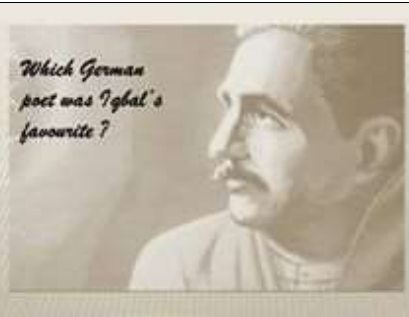
**This Iqbal day we have some questions about "Iqbal and Germany" for you.**

**Five lucky persons who answer all the questions correctly will get a gift from the German embassy Islamabad.**

*Where did  
Allama Muhammad  
Iqbal studied in  
Germany?*

*There is one street named  
after Iqbal in Germany,  
"Iqbal Ufer".  
Do you know in  
which city is that  
street located?*

*Iqbal got his PhD  
from Germany.  
Do you know what  
was his thesis  
about?*



November 4, 2016 ·

The project „Schools: Partners for the Future“ or „Pasch“ as it is more popularly known is an initiative of the German Foreign Minister Mr. Franz Walter Steinmeier who said “Schools bring our language and our culture closer to the youth and help build a long lasting and resilient network of friends and partners of Germany.”

Here are a few pictures of the PASCH Filmfestival for students of PASCH Schools in Pakistan.





Three childrens movies are being shown during the first week of November as part of the PASCH Filmfestival for students of PASCH Schools and schools were German is being taught as a foreign language.

November 3, 2016 ·

With German-British support the Pakistan **Microfinance Investment Company** could ultimately be launched by Finance Minister Dar last week. Ambassador Lepel and British High Commissioner Drew attended the ceremony and applauded this important step.

**Pakistan Micro-Finance Investment Company launched**

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Friday launched the Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC) in Islamabad. The finance minister  
[nation.com.pk](http://nation.com.pk)

October 31, 2016 ·

**The Oktoberfest in Islamabad was a magnificent event!**

German food, traditional games and an awesome Bavarian band ([Rothsee Musikanten -offizielle Seite-](#)) made this evening unforgettable.



October 31, 2016 ·

"The German Embassy hosted the first Oktoberfest in Islamabad, which was organised along the lines of the Oktoberfest held annually in Munich, complete with traditional live music, food and games that created a very festive atmosphere."

We are very glad that all guests enjoyed our traditional folk festival last weekend! Check out the article published in the Dawn today.



# Italy

December 6, 2016

Third visit of an Italian dignitary in Pakistan in 2016. After the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence, Italian Deputy Minister for Economic Development, H.E. Ivan Scalfarotto, arrived yesterday in Islamabad with the largest business delegation ever to this country. Yesterday H.E. Scalfarotto co-chaired Italy-Pak Joint Economic Commission. Today he has addressed the Business Forum and has met students at NUST business school. Next stop: Lahore!





November 9, 2016

All Pakistan Business Forum participated in IBCE. Mr. **Ibrahim Qureshi** President APBF invited Italian Ambassador in Pakistan H.E. **Stefano Pontecorvo** to address the closing session of IBCE. Great job done by Mr. Hassan Sohaib Murad Rector UMT and Mr. **Abid Shirwani** DG UMT. Also present Mr. **Tahir Malik** President APBF Lahore Board and Mr. **Syed Maaz Mahmood** APBF Secretary General. Excellent exhibition and image of Pakistan given by this exhibition.







**Once again, this Italian artist pays an ode to Pakistan's wildlife**

<http://mjworldnews.blogspot.ca/2017/01/once-again-this-italian-artist-pays-ode.html>





# The Netherlands

February 23, 2017

Treating our Policy Officer Economic Affairs Zohaib Amin with traditional Dutch baked apple pie to bid him farewell. During his more than three years at the Embassy, he contributed immensely to expand economic relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands. Wishing him all the best for his future!



February 22, 2017•

More power to women! Ambassador Jeannette Seppen cuts a ribbon to launch the Dutch-style vehicle maintenance services in Pakistan. [Shell](#) now offers a comfortable, safe place where anybody can wait while having their car serviced, so [#women](#) in [#Pakistan](#) do not have to send others anymore to get their cars serviced.



February 17, 2017

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen visited a textile exhibition at the Mohatta Palace. The Netherlands continues to encourage textile and other companies to comply with international labour standards

and to improve working conditions for the well-being of all workers in Pakistan.



**Human Rights Fund 2017-2020**

<http://pakistan.nlembassy.org/news/2017/1/human-rights-fund-2017-20.html>

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen joined a panel discussion at the International Women Leaders Summit. About 150 women leaders from Pakistan listened to inspirational talks by local and foreign speakers having diverse professions including the CEO of Shell, the UN Resident Coordinator, high officials from the Pakistani police and Air Force and the participants of the Special Olympics. Which woman is your source of inspiration?



**To Pakistan from the Netherlands with love!**



**February 13, 2017**

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen celebrates World Radio Day at [Radio Pakistan](#) with the [United Nations - Pakistan](#). Addressing the youth in particular, she encouraged them to use radio to share a diversity of views and insights on Pakistan's opportunities and challenges such as women's rights and freedom of expression.



**February 11, 2017**

Dutch-Pakistani friendship celebrated on the slopes of Pakistan. Such a nice surprise to see our flags hoisted side by side at the Malam Jabba International Ski Championship in Swat. Did you ever go skiing in the Netherlands or did you visit Swat this winter?"



February 10, 2017

Hello to everyone from Ambassador Jeannette Seppen and Director General Political Affairs André Haspels who was in Islamabad for the annual bilateral political consultations. The talks were held in conducive environment and yet another step forward in strengthening bilateral partnership for promoting human rights and sustainable trade and investment. Any messages to The Hague?



Ambassador Jeannette Seppen joined the celebrations at [The Second Floor \(T2F\)](#) to mark the winning of [Prince Claus Fund Award 2016](#). T2F was awarded for providing an interdisciplinary space to promote democratic discourse and conflict resolution through intellectual and cultural engagement in Pakistan.



February 7, 2017

Deputy Head of Mission Renate Pors attended an exhibition of child artists arranged by **Discovering New Artists**. Jointly supported by **AkzoNobel in Pakistan, ICI Dulux Pakistan, Alhamra Arts Council, Mall and PNCA (Pakistan National Council of Arts)**, the exhibition was aimed to raise money to provide free education to the underprivileged children of Pakistan. Have you ever organized a fundraiser to help the underprivileged children?

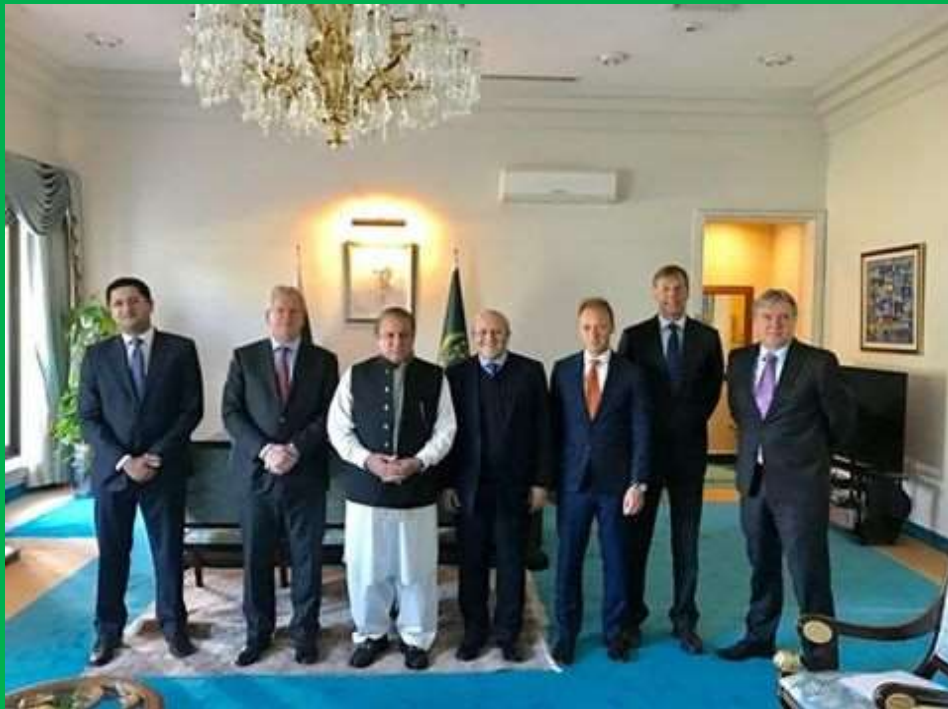






February 3, 2017

**FrieslandCampina** Global CEO **Roelof Joosten** and **Engro** Foods Chairman **Hussain Dawood** met Prime Minister **Nawaz Sharif**. FrieslandCampina - the largest Dutch dairy company - has invested \$450 million in Pakistan by acquiring 51% shareholding of Engro Foods. The Netherlands continues to promote sustainable trade and investment in Pakistan.



January 27, 2017

Dutch colleague **Emma** was in Antarctica on an adventurous trip. She hoisted Pakistani and Dutch

flags at the South Pole to strengthen bilateral relations between both nations. What would you like to do if you happen to visit Antarctica?





January 20, 2017

**Queen Maxima of The Netherlands** meets with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the **World Economic Forum** in Davos, Switzerland. The Queen, who is also UN Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, was briefed on the progress made by Pakistan to use digital technology for empowering women.



January 19, 2017

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen meets Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs and Human Rights Khalil Tahir Sandhu to discuss matters relating to human rights in the province. The Netherlands continues to play its role in improving the situation of human rights for everyone in Pakistan.



**January 18, 2017**

**Ambassador Jeannette Seppen plants a sapling at Pakistan Broadcasting Academy after addressing the opening of Multimedia Journalism: Changing Perspectives on Women's Rights. The course is being offered by [RNTC](#) to equip journalists from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Jordan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam with skills and techniques to improve reporting of issues that affect women.**



**January 17, 2017**

**Deputy Head of Mission Renate Pors and Dutch experts visit test fields of National Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad. Dutch companies - FarmTexel and MetaMeta - are exploring the potential of introducing salt resistant potatoes in Pakistan. The Netherlands is keen to help Pakistan**

**in increasing its agricultural output to ensure food security.**



**January 16, 2017**

**Ambassador Jeannette Seppen and curator Sundas Azfer tell stories behind artworks showcased at Open House Art Show at the new Dutch Residence. The topics ranged from women's rights, freedom of expression, freedom of religion and belief and sustainable trade and investment. Which one is your favourite topic?**



**January 15, 2017**

**Ambassador Jeannette Seppen and her husband Charles Petrie applaud after reading out a story by**

**Sakina Akbar inspired by Sufi teachings at the Open House Art Show. The story concludes with these beautiful lines, "All religions, all this singing, one song. The difference are just illusion and vanity. The sun's light looks a little different on this wall than it does on that wall, and a lot different on this other one, but it's still one light."**



**January 3, 2017**

**Ambassador Jeannette Seppen inquires after a child at Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal's Thalassaemia Centre in Islamabad. It provides free of cost medical care to 500 patients from all over Pakistan. The Ambassador appreciated the efforts of Bait-ul-Mal in providing care to children and support to their families.**



**December 31, 2016**

**Here is the best post of 2016 when 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 special children and adults and it was founded in 1969 by the late Sister Gertrude Lemmens, a nun from the Netherlands. Any thoughts on your best times in 2016?



Please click to watch video

<https://www.facebook.com/DutchEmbassyPakistan/videos/1208650005881816/>

December 24, 2016

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen attends a ceremony held to celebrate the Netherlands Business Day at the **Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry**. Calling for expanding trade and investment between both countries, she said the Dutch companies are eager to invest in agriculture, dairy, livestock, horticulture, ports & shipping, maritime infrastructure, water management and energy sectors in Pakistan.



December 22, 2016

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen attends the inception workshop of Promoting Opportunities for Women's Empowerment and Rights (POWER) project being implemented by [Action Aid - Pakistan](#). POWER seeks to contribute to increased women's economic empowerment and leadership in Mansehra and Shangla districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Netherlands continues to support initiatives for achieving gender equality in Pakistan.



December 21, 2016

Saying goodbye to the tallest Dutchman in Pakistan. Rick Slettenhaar worked as



the First Secretary Economic Affairs for two and a half years and greatly contributed to bringing more Dutch business to Pakistan. We will miss Rick as a colleague and as a friend. Wishing him all the best! Click here for video

<https://www.facebook.com/DutchEmbassyPakistan/videos/1201506196596197/>

December 19, 2016 ·

The Dutch Business Circle organised a dinner in Karachi to introduce the new Chairman of **Shell** Pakistan, Mr. Jawwad Cheema, to the Dutch business community. During his address he highlighted the importance of 'enlarging the pie, rather than dividing it' in regards to Pakistan's expanding economy. He thanked the guests for the warm reception and hoped to be an integral part of the Dutch business community.





**December 16, 2016·**

**Saying goodbye to Yanthe Cornelissen, who is a Dutch gender specialist and worked with [UN Women Pakistan](#) for two years. She visited the Embassy on her last day. Pictured with her UN Women colleague and former Dutch Embassy staff member Yasmin Jaswal and Senior Policy Officer Saadat Ali, Yanthe said she loved working in Pakistan and considers it a second home to her.**



**December 16, 2016**

**Remembering the innocent victims of Peshawar school attack!**

EVERY CHILD GOING TO  
**SCHOOL**  
MAKE US REMEMBER THE  
**CHILDREN**  
THAT WENT TO SCHOOL  
**AND NEVER CAME BACK**



#peshawarattack  
16.12.14

**December 14, 2016·**

**Operational Manager Beatrice Karthaus presents a book 'The Art of Islamic Tile' to Acting Ambassador Paul Menkveld who is heading back to the Netherlands after serving two weeks in Pakistan. Paul was very impressed with the warm welcome and hospitality of Pakistani people during his brief stay.**



**December 13, 2016 · [Dubai, United Arab Emirates](#) ·**

**During a business evening in Dubai, the Embassy informed more than 80 Dutch companies about emerging business opportunities in Pakistan. The participants showed a great interest in Pakistan as a**

business destination and some are already planning a first visit to Pakistan. The event was organised by the **Netherlands Business Council Dubai & Northern Emirates** with the support of the **Consulate-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the United Arab Emirates**.





**December 11, 2016**

Another proud moment for Pakistan! **Nighat Dad** receives Human Rights Tulip Award 2016 presented by Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Lillianne Ploumen. Nighat won the award for her outstanding services to protect internet freedom and to stop online harassment of women in Pakistan. The Netherlands recognizes the efforts of human rights defenders all over the world. [#standup4humanrights](#) [#HumanRightsDay](#)



**December 9, 2016**

Honour-based violence is mental or physical violence committed to restore the honour of the family such as threatening or assaulting a girl for resisting forced marriage. Its most extreme form is honour killing. The Netherlands is committed to prevent all forms of honour-based violence.

Do you support the recently passed anti-honour killing law in Pakistan?

[#KingdomNL](#) [#16days](#) [#NLWomensRights](#) [#orangetheworld](#)



Preventing honour-based violence

<https://www.government.nl/topics/honour-based-violence/contents/preventing-honour-based-violence>

December 8, 2016

**Gender Based Violence (#GBV)** against women harms their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (#SRHR) - a priority theme of the Dutch development cooperation policy. The Netherlands is striving to improve the SRHR of people especially in low- and middle-income countries to achieve the Global Development Goals.

Share your thoughts about the situation of SRHR in Pakistan.

#KingdomNL #16days #NLWomensRights #orangetheworld

**Sexual and reproductive health and rights**

<https://www.government.nl/topics/development-cooperation/contents/the-development-policy-of-the-netherlands/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights>

December 7, 2016 ·

**Workplace harassment** encompasses behaviour that is sexualised, unwanted and makes others uncomfortable. Spotting inappropriate behaviour and taking action to stop it help improve workplace environment and make other feel safe. The Netherlands opposes all forms of harassment against women and girls.

#KingdomNL #16days #NLWomensRights #orangetheworld



December 6, 2016

UN-Women and its partners mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence to galvanize global attention and action to end violence against women.

From marches in Uganda, Serbia and Timor-Leste, to a public rally on motorbikes in Pakistan, people take to the streets to say NO to violence. Here are some photos from around the world.

[#KingdomNL](#) [#16days](#) [#NLWomensRights](#) [#orangetheworld](#)



December 2, 2016

Acting Ambassador Paul Menkveld attends the launch of a Rickshaw Campaign against gender-based violence. It was organized by [Oxfam in Pakistan](#) and [Aurat Foundation](#) with the slogan, 'ENOUGH, together we can end violence against women and girls.'

Do you think collective efforts can eliminate gender-based violence?

[#KingdomNL](#) [#16days](#) [#NLWomensRights](#) [#orangetheworld](#)







November 30, 2016

Acting Ambassador Paul Menkveld attends the Women Human Rights Defenders' Congress in Islamabad. Thirty women leaders from across Pakistan identified threats they face and formulated protection mechanisms that can ensure their safety. 'Working together, sharing knowledge and teaming up will tremendously increase the impact,' the ambassador stressed in his address.

#KingdomNL #16days #NLWomensRights #orangetheworld



November 29, 2016 ·

Today marks International Women Human Rights Defenders Day. Acting Ambassador Paul Menkveld commends Nighat Dad, the winner of [Human Rights Tulip Award 2016](#), for her efforts to remove obstacles to internet access -- especially those that affect women in Pakistan. Hear the voice of human rights defenders standing up for women's rights!

#KingdomNL #16days #NLWomensRights #orangetheworld

## Supporting human rights defenders

<https://www.government.nl/topics/human-rights/contents/helping-human-rights-defenders>

November 27, 2016

**Acting Dutch Ambassador Paul Menkveld and Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan Jean-François Cautain at the opening of 'Human Rights through Cinematography'. The Netherlands supports all efforts meant to protect rights especially of women, religious minorities and other marginalized groups.**

**#KingdomNL #16days #NLWomensRights #orangetheworld**



**November 25, 2016**

**Orange the World: Today marks the beginning of 16 days of activism against gender based violence (#GBV). Turn yourself orange and/or wear a white ribbon to support the campaign and help end violence against women.**

**#KingdomNL #16days #NLWomensRights #orangetheworld**



**November 24, 2016-**

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen visited the [Aga Khan University Hospital](#) in Karachi last week to discuss making life-saving treatments available in Pakistan to children born with genetic metabolic diseases. Ambassador Seppen was impressed with the high quality and professionalism of the hospital, as well as its attention to impoverished patients.



**November 23, 2016**

24 international fashion brands came together in Karachi last week to help improve labour, safety and environmental standards in Pakistan's textile industry. This meeting of the Pakistan Buyers Forum was co-convened and financed by the Netherlands Embassy. Responsible and sustainable

**business is an important topic for the Netherlands worldwide.**



**November 22, 2016**

**During a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ambassador Jeannette Seppen urged Pakistan to make the most of its GSP+ status. "GSP+ offers opportunities to increase trade and to improve labour, safety and environmental standards," said the Ambassador. "To help Pakistani companies, the Dutch Embassy has appointed a dedicated trade officer for Karachi and will organise more trade missions in 2017."**



**November 21, 2016**

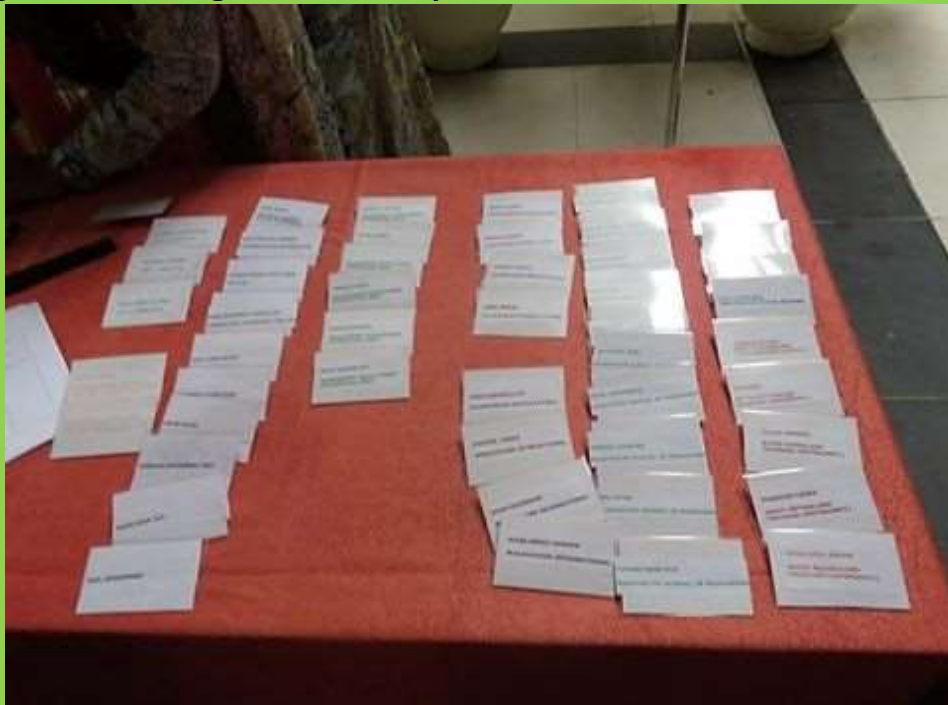
**Last Saturday, Ambassador Jeannette Seppen was received by the Chief Minister of Sindh, Mr Murad Ali Shah. She congratulated him on his recent appointment and they discussed law and order, renewable energy and healthcare. The Netherlands is keen to work with the Sindh government on**

**socially responsible business initiatives.**



**November 13, 2016**

**Ambassador Jeanette Seppen hosted the Annual Reunion for the members of Pakistan Holland Alumni Network from Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Netherlands is proud to support talented students and professionals who actively contribute to sustainable development in Pakistan by applying their learning and skills acquired at the Dutch institutions.**





**November 10, 2016**

We are excited to welcome the 180 cows from the Netherlands which were flown in to Sialkot a few days ago. Dutch cows are renowned worldwide for their unmatched milk production: with the proper management, they can supply 40 litres of milk daily.

Watch Video

<https://www.facebook.com/DutchEmbassyPakistan/videos/1156977274382423/>

**November 9, 2016**

Ambassador Jeannette Seppen and [Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability-FAFEN](#) Chief Executive Officer Shahid Fiaz signed a project 'Women's Actions for Better Workplaces'. The Netherlands supports the empowerment of working women in Pakistan through achieving improved labor relations and creating safe workplaces in the public and private sectors.



November 8, 2016 ·

A Dutch dairy management expert gave a high-level dairy workshop at LUMS last week. Dr Gert-Jan Duives shared best practices and practical advice with the students of LUMS' Executive Certificate in Agribusiness Management. The embassy supports this initiative to help improve management practices in Pakistan's agricultural sector.







**November 2, 2016**

**Today marks International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. The Netherlands stands by Pakistan in condemning the intimidation and harassment of journalists to ensure their protection and safety. Bringing perpetrators of crimes against journalists to justice is critical to safeguard freedom of expression. #ENDImpunity**

Kingdom of the Netherlands

**2 November: International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists**  
*Priorities #KingdomNL to promote Safety of Journalists*

827 journalists have been killed in the last decade

less than 1 in 10 cases are solved

| Prevention   | Protection  | Prosecution  |
|--|---|--|
| Stand up for journalists (condemn intimidations & harassments) | Urge authorities to protect journalists in danger | Increased reporting to UNESCO about legal follow up of cases where journalists were killed (31 -> 65%) |
| Enabling legal framework                                       | Provide digital security training                 | Improve accountability   |

**October 31, 2016**

**A big thank you from Ambassador Jeannette Seppen for the warm wishes and kind messages on her birthday. She feels honored and blessed to serve here and is glad to bring Pakistan and the Netherlands closer together.**



## Sweden

On 23 February, 2017, the Swedish Ambassador delivered a talk reflecting on the relations between Pakistan and Sweden at the Prestigious [Rotary Club of Islamabad Cosmopolitan - District 3272](#) . In her remarks, she reflected on the linkages between a country's social and economic performance and the respect for human rights, notably gender equality, free speech and sustainability, using Sweden as an example. With 10 Million inhabitants and a knowledge-based economy, Sweden needs to consider every individual an asset, provide equal opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity and social standing. Thanks to active policies for openness, there is also a high level of trust within the society as well as towards the outside world. The Ambassador expressed a hope that Pakistan will succeed in its ambitions to further strengthen its economy, including pursuing policies for equal opportunities to all and freedom of expression and access of information in order to advance the socio-economic development in the country.



February 20, 2017

Today, the Ambassador of Sweden met women entrepreneurs representing the **Women Chamber of Commerce** in Islamabad, Peshawar and Rawalpindi.

She discussed how the Swedish government through a feminist foreign policy wish to be a promoter of peace, stability and socio-economic development. - In Pakistan, as most economists would agree, enhanced women participation in the economy and public life in general is, by far, the most important growth potential for the country's economy, she concluded.

She encouraged the entrepreneurs to pursue international markets on the basis of a solid business analysis to fully understand consumer demands. Swedish retailers including IKEA and H&M are sourcing through Pakistan in high volumes. Swedish consumers are very conscious of how products are manufactured which results in strict corporate polices related to environmental protection, workers safety and compensation. Once production is compliant with these standards, there are considerable gains for the society as a whole as well as for the manufacturers which can compete on a much wider international market and higher on the value chain.





January 23, 2017

The Swedish Ambassador pleurably hosted Mrs. **Mukhtar Mai** for lunch at the Swedish Residence. The Swedish Ambassador expressed her deep respect for Mrs. Mai's extraordinary work to empower women and girls in her hometown Meerwala. Mrs. Mai explained that her work is based on her own experience as a survivor of a gang rape incident in 2002. After the incident, she soon experienced that lack of education prevented her in seeking her legal rights. In 2003, Mai opened her first school in her family house. Today, the Mukhtar Mai Girl's Model School provides free education, with books, supplies and uniforms to over 700 girls from nursery school to grade 10. In 2008, a secondary level girl's school was opened in Gabar Arani. Initially, there was strong resistance from the community but it has changed. Now, the same people that used to criticise us has begun to send their own children to our school, says Mrs. Mai. -There has been a gradual change in the mindset of people of Meerwala during the last 14 years. Women are much more confident and vocal about their rights and men are also more aware than before.



December 29, 2016

The Swedish Institute will soon open up for the “YCF Call for Applications” aiming to find yet

another 30 amazing young change makers from South Asia for the 2017 Young Connectors of the Future Programme. This will be the fifth time SI is arranging the YCF programme. The call for applications will open 12 January 2017 with deadline for applications on 9 February. #YCF



Young Connectors of the Future (YCF)

<https://eng.si.se/areas-of-operation/leadership-programmes-and-cultural-exchange/young-connectors-of-the-future-programme/>

December 20, 2016 ·

On 16 December, the Swedish business community in Pakistan formed 'The Swedish Business Council in Pakistan'. The aim is to better promote trade, business and investment between Pakistan and Sweden. Some of the prominent Swedish companies in Pakistan include [Ericsson](#), [Tetra Pak Pakistan](#), [Saab AB](#), [Packages Limited](#), [Panasian Group](#), [IKEA](#), [H&M](#), [SKF](#), [Opus Inspection Pakistan](#), [GAC](#), [Oriflame Pakistan](#), [Al-Hamd International Container Company](#), [Atlas Copco Pakistan Wah Nobel](#), [Alfa Laval](#), [Lindex](#), [Vpl Limited - VOLVO Pakistan](#) among many others.

Video <https://www.facebook.com/swedeninpk/videos/765744856911388/>

December 14, 2016

H.E. Ambassador Ingrid Johansson and Honorable Speaker National Assembly [Sardar Ayaz Sadiq](#) discussed trade and political relations between Sweden & Pakistan in a meeting held at Parliament House. Both re-affirmed their committed to strengthen trade partnership to foster bilateral ties.



### **Pak-Sweden partnership essential for advancing gains of democracy: Ayaz**

**ISLAMABAD, Dec 13 (APP):** Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said sustained parliamentary engagement between Pakistan and...

**APP.COM.PK**

**December 13, 2016•**

Embassy of Sweden in collaboration with **Nomad Gallery** co-hosted an exhibition to generate awareness on violence against women. The exhibition showcased work of various artists representing Shanaakht including Iram Wani, Syed Raza Ali Shah and Madeeha Fasaht. In her brief remarks, H.E. Ambassador Ingrid Johansson stated that combatting violence against women is a corner stone of Swedish feminist foreign policy.







December 8, 2016

## **MEET WENNY, the Swedish nurse who spent 38 years of her life in Pakistan**

**Told by Wenny Lekardal at a visit to the Embassy of Sweden in Islamabad, November 2016:  
So, this was back in 1969. I was 29 years old and had never been on a plane before. I had been designated to go Pakistan to serve as a nurse by the charity branch of my church in Gotemburg, a city on the west coast of Sweden. Was supposed to stay in Pakistan for a year, only, but I came to stay for 38.**

**How I travelled to Pakistan? Well, resources were scarce and I had to get to Pakistan in the most inexpensive way possible. So, I took the train from Gothenburg to Stockholm, the overnight ferry from Stockholm to Helsinki in Finland and then the train from Helsinki to Moscow in Russia. I stayed two nights in Moscow, and then I flew to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, where I stayed one night. It was the first time ever that I had flown. And then the trip went on: I took a plane to Kabul. From Kabul I flew to Peshawar, and from Peshawar I flew to Rawalpindi. And then I was finally there**

– at the Christian Hospital where my work was dedicated to child and maternity health care and tuberculosis treatment.

Before arriving, I had consciously decided to meet Pakistan with an open mind and an open heart – I didn't want my first impressions to be influenced by preconceptions. It's not like I avoided reading about other peoples' experiences, but there were simply not much to read back then, anyway. And there weren't any internet to search for information on.

It felt very natural to be there, when I finally arrived. I wasn't chocked by anything. The only thing that caught me off balance was the beggars. We didn't have any beggars in Sweden back then, I had never seen people ask strangers for money. It wasn't an unpleasant experience – just new. I felt that I didn't know how to act and react.

Then I worked at the Christian Hospital in Sahiwal, central Punjab. I was mainly out in the surrounding villages. There was also a nursing school attached to the hospital. The last 27 years of my time in Pakistan was spent at the Christian Hospital in Taxila, specialized in eye diseases – probably the oldest one in Southeast Asia. Anyway, it was at least the first eye disease hospital in northern Pakistan. We had a female doctor who had carried out 200,000 cataract surgeries!

There has been many changes in Pakistan, since I got here almost 40 years ago. The infrastructure is certainly considerably better. High-quality healthcare and medical services are available, even if you often have to pay to get access to it. There are many more girls in school today, than back then, and many schools – even the non-governmental ones – hold a high quality. And then, there have been some less positive developments, of course. The population has grown tremendously, and with it the traffic. The air is much more polluted, not least in Lahore. Though the middle class has grown, the ten percent of the population lowest down on the socio-economic ladder haven't had their living conditions improved much.

All in all, it feels very good to be back. Every time that I come, I try and meet up with the kids who came to our Sunday school as well as the children of the caretakers and chowdikars that we offered daycare and schooling. They are all adult now, of course, and many of them our doctors and nurses.





### Heartfelt condolences to the families of deceased #PK661

“The Embassy of Sweden is deeply saddened on the tragic #PK661 crash, heartfelt condolences to the families of deceased @SwedeninPK”

TWITTER.COM

December 5, 2016

H.E. Ambassador Ingrid Johansson discussed the Swedish perspective on free speech, social & economic inclusion of all citizens to group of academia at the opening session of PACE Collaboration Workshop organized by The Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) in Islamabad. This year Sweden celebrates 250 years of Freedom of expression as a Constitutional right- the oldest Press Freedom Act in the world. [#DefendingFreeSpeech](#)





December 1, 2016

## Sweden is celebrating 250 years of freedom of expression

During December Sweden celebrates the 250th anniversary of the world's first legislation on freedom of expression and freedom of information, adopted in Sweden in 1766. However, the fundamental rights and freedoms that were set out in this landmark legislation are increasingly under threat around the world. As part of the campaign to [#DefendingFreeSpeech](#) the MFA has launched a blog relay [#250words](#) aiming to inspire engagement. Read the interesting contributions here:

<http://www.swemfa.se/campaigns/defending-free-speech/>

### DEFENDING FREE SPEECH

<http://www.swemfa.se/campaigns/defending-free-speech/>

The world would be an awfully quiet place without the freedom of

speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjiHGOwGl6U&feature=youtu.be>

November 30, 2016

## Embassy of Sweden co-hosts an Women Human Rights Defenders' Congress in Islamabad

Yesterday, 29th November, marked the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day. The Embassy of Sweden arranged a two-day long Women Human Rights Defenders' Congress in Islamabad together with the EU Delegation, the Embassy of the Netherlands, the Canadian High Commissioner and PODA, the implementing partner. Thirty female human rights defenders from across Pakistan participated in the congress, identified threats they face and formulated protection mechanisms that can ensure their safety. The outcome was gathered in a concrete action plan that will be followed up. The conference ended with a dinner hosted by the Swedish ambassador, Ms Ingrid Johansson, at her residence.

In her welcoming remarks ambassador Johansson stated that:

“This is a day to commemorate activism, advocacy and courageous acts of resistance carried out by

millions of silent heroes, working steadfastly to improve the conditions of their societies. The matter is close to the heart of the Swedish government, and a corner-stones in the Swedish feminist foreign policy.

[...]

Being a human rights defender is a dangerous endeavour – in Pakistan, as well as around the globe. This is valid both in the case of male and female human rights defenders. But – as numerous reports have shown and as have gained increases media attention – female human rights defenders are often the subject of an extra layer of persecution merely due to the fact that they are women. They face stigmatisation, threats and violence – especially sexual abuse – to a considerably larger extent than male activists.”





**November 2, 2016**

**Today is the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists!**

**Together with Ms Vibeke Jensen, the Unesco Representative in Pakistan, the Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, Ms Ingrid Johansson, published an op-ed in today's Dawn to highlight the urgent need to address this issue in Pakistan, as well as world-wide.**

## **Safety of journalists**

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1293692/safety-of-journalists>

# **UK**

**Celebrating 70 years of UK-Pakistan relationship in pictures #UKPak70**

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/uk-in-pakistan/celebrating-70-years-of-uk-pakistan-relationship-in-pictures-ukpak70/10154176113702116>





February 28, 2017

The British High Commission is marking the 70 years of UK-Pakistan relationships with the message of 'Shared History, Shared Future'.

Our High Commissioner Thomas Drew will be answering your questions on 70 years of UK Pakistan relations.

You can comment under this post or inbox us your queries as well. Please make sure to use [#UKPak70](#).



February 22, 2016

'The shared understanding of UK brands is one of many reasons we want more UK firms to come out to Pakistan' - @TomDrewUK [#TescoatAlpha](#)



February 20, 2017

British Deputy High Commission, Karachi partnered with Old Associates of Kinnaird Society, Karachi Chapter to host their annual fundraiser with the title theme 'Ode to a English Rose". Rewound Semi Classical Singer – Ali Sethi performed for the audience during the evening.





**February 17, 2017**

**Attention All: 3 more weeks to enter your photos in our competition. Hurry up and get snapping! #UKPak70 <http://ow.ly/xYjt3095HnO>**



# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

**Theme:**

**Celebrating 70 years of  
UK-Pakistan relationship in pictures.**

**Enter our photography competition for an opportunity to:**

- Win high-end photography equipment
- Have your work exhibited at the Queen's Birthday Party

Runner-up will win goody bags!

**Send your photographs to:**

**UKPak70@gmail.com**



**DEADLINE:  
7TH MARCH, 2017**

**#UKPak70**

**\*Terms & Conditions apply**

**February 16, 2017**

**#ThrowbackThursday:** Pakistan saw the visit of @RoyalNavy's #HMSDaring on 9-13 February. The arrival of #HMSDaring marked the celebrations of 70 years of UK-Pakistan relations. Here are some interesting activities that the crew of #HMSDaring participated in whilst in Pakistan. **#UKPak70**



February 7, 2017

'Regionally connected transport infrastructure is the key to unlocking Pak's economic growth potential': says DFID Pakistan's head Joanna Reid.

DFID - UK Department for International Development & Asian Development Bank - ADB supporting Pakistan's #NationalTransportPolicy aimed to shape infrastructure planning & investment for years to come.





## Prince Charles makes Rahat Fateh Ali charity's ambassador

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/184012-Prince-Charles-makes-Rahat-Fateh-Ali-charity-ambassador>

January 17, 2017

An exciting event comes to an end. #FutureLeaders conference was challenging, dynamic and inspiring. #UKPak70



## British firm to invest \$400M on a state of the art cement plant for KPK

From: [British High Commission Islamabad](#)

First published: 8 February 2017

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

British firm Asian Precious Minerals (APML) has announced an investment of \$400m to build a new cement plant in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) at a joint meeting held between APML and the Chief Minister of KPK, Mr. Pervez Khattak.



The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister of KPK and Mr. Nadim Khan, CEO of APML; Mr. Peter Frost, Executive Director of APML; Mr. Irshad Ali Khokhar, Country Manager of APML; and Mr. Jason Mumtaz from the British High Commission. Both parties discussed the potential of bilateral trade between the UK and the province of KPK.

The Chief Minister explained his new industrial policy pursuant to which the KPK government has announced several incentives for local and foreign investors who can benefit from a transparent one window operation to set up an industrial concern within the province without the need for an NOC. The Chief Minister offered his support and commitment to ensuring that APML's cement project will be a success.

Mr. Nadim Khan, Chief Executive Officer of APML, said:

We are delighted to be investing in a new cement plant in KPK. We are able to do this because of the improved law and order situation, the pro-business stance and good governance policy displayed by the provincial Government of KPK under the stewardship of the Chief Minister. We look forward to constructing a model, state of the art and environmentally friendly cement plant.

Mr. Pervez Khattak, the Chief Minister of KPK, said:

This project by APML is an important symbol of the greatly improved business environment in KPK. This British investment will help create local jobs and stimulate the local economy. I am glad to see that the UK recognises the dramatic improvements in KPK and I look forward to welcoming more British companies to the Province.

Belinda Lewis, British Trade Director for Pakistan said:

We are delighted to have been able to support this significant interest in KP by a British company. APML has recognised the improved security and investment climate in KP and Pakistan more generally, and recognised the clear potential for future growth in Pakistan. I hope other UK companies will follow the example of APML and also regard Pakistan as a significant investment opportunity.

Contact  
Press Attaché



**British High Commission  
Islamabad  
Tel. 051 201 2000**

## **Lord Mayor of London visits Pakistan to boost professional sector profile**

**From: British High Commission Islamabad**

**First published: 8 February 2017**

**Part of: Pakistan**

**The Lord Mayor of London visited Pakistan in January 2017 to strengthen trade links between London, the world's leading financial centre, and Pakistan's blossoming banking, legal, and service industries.**



**Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley, the Lord Mayor, met business and government leaders in Karachi and Islamabad, discussing how the City of London can work more closely with Pakistan as it develops its international presence in financial and professional services. The visit also supported the 70th anniversary of British-Pakistani relations, a new initiative launched in Islamabad in January 2017. Dr Parmley is the 689th incumbent of a role that dates back centuries. He is an educator by profession and one of London's leading organists. The Lord Mayor is a spokesman for the UK's financial and professional services industries, and is the leader of London's 'Square Mile' financial district.**

**He met with a number of senior industry figures in Karachi, including representatives from Meezan Bank and the State Bank of Pakistan. While in Karachi, the Lord Mayor also hosted a number of round table discussions on debt markets, education, and Fintech.**

**After travelling to Islamabad, the Lord Mayor met with several government ministers, holding substantive conversations on how the City of London's financial and professional services industries can help the development of world-class infrastructure in Pakistan. The Lord Mayor also spoke about education and training at a roundtable attended by government ministers and representatives from**

Pakistani universities. The Lord Mayor wrapped up his visit in Pakistan with a meeting with the Chair of the Federal Board of Investment, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Dr Miftah Ismail. The Lord Mayor was accompanied on his trip by a British business delegation looking to establish, or expand, their operations in Pakistan – including Senior Manager Ali Abdul Aziz of Deloitte, Managing director of MomoEssa Capital Management Farhan Rizvi, and Garbhan Shanks, Partner at global law firm Michelmores. The Lord Mayor was also accompanied by David Clark, Head of the Economic Crime Directorate at the City of London Police, the UK's leading agency on cyber-crime and its investigation.

Speaking on his visit, the Lord Mayor said:

My trip to Pakistan has been a great success, full of productive meetings and roundtables. I enjoyed seeing first hand the famous Pakistani hospitality, and I'm sure a new golden era of Pakistani-British relations is beginning.

There are many opportunities for British companies in Pakistan, and I look forward to speaking to businesses in London to promote all that Pakistan has to offer. Following our vote to leave the European Union, reconnecting with growing countries around the world is now more important than ever.

As the world's leading financial centre, I believe that London has much to offer to Pakistani businesses looking to expand domestically, and overseas.

Commenting on the Lord Mayor's visit, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Thomas Drew said: The visit of the Lord Mayor of the City of London shows how much of a priority Pakistan and its vibrant economy is for the UK. The Lord Mayor is one of the most senior figures in British business and represents the world's biggest financial hub. British companies are recognizing the growth in the economy in Pakistan – and its potential – and this will help launch a stronger trade relationship in 2017.

Last week, we launched our year of celebrations of 70 years of British-Pakistani relations, and we are delighted that the Lord Mayor has visited to support our relationship. While there is much to celebrate from the last seventy years, our focus is on building our shared work on education, trade, culture and people-to-people links.

Contact us

For more information on the Lord Mayor or his visit, please contact: Ian Schofield, Media Officer, City of London Corporation 077 2563 4564 / [ian.schofield@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ian.schofield@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

About the City of London Corporation

The City of London Corporation provides local government and policing services for the financial and

commercial heart of Britain, the 'Square Mile'. In addition, the City Corporation has three roles: We support London's communities by working in partnership with neighbouring boroughs on economic regeneration, education and skills projects. In addition, the City of London Corporation's charity City Bridge Trust makes grants of around £20 million annually to charitable projects across London and we also support education with three independent schools, three City Academies, a primary school and the world-renowned Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

We also help look after key London's heritage and green spaces including Tower Bridge, Museum of London, Barbican Arts Centre, City gardens, Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches, and important 'commons' in south London.

We also support and promote the 'City' as a world-leading financial and business hub, with outward and inward business delegations, high-profile civic events and research-driven policies all reflecting a long-term approach.

See [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk) for more details.

## British High Commission Islamabad launches its 70th anniversary campaign at the Future leaders conference

From: [British High Commission Islamabad](#)

First published: 18 January 2017

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

With the message of 'Shared History, Shared Future' and the hashtag of #UKPak70, the campaign will consist of a year-long series of activities and events that will celebrate the strength of the UK-Pakistan relationship over the last 70 years.



The British High Commission launched its campaign to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of UK-Pakistan relations at the first ever Future Leaders Conference at the British High Commissioner's residence in Islamabad.

The campaign will also seek to increase the bilateral trade and cultural links between the two countries.

The Future Leaders Conference aims to engage inspirational young people on their ideas on Pakistan's foreign policy and use of soft power. Over the course of five hours, the audience witnessed keynote addresses from the British High Commissioner Thomas Drew CMG and Chairman of Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari.

The conference also had sessions chaired by prominent media personality, Ms. Fereeha Idrees and Director, Jinnah Institute, Mr. Syed Hassan Akbar. Other panellists included journalist Mr. Omar R. Quraishi, Member of National Assembly Mr. Malik Uzair Khan, Correspondent NDTV, Ms. Yusra Askari and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Atlas Honda, Mr. Saquib H. Shirazi.

The audience included participants from British Council's Active Citizens project, young Chevening Scholars, members of the High Commission's Youth Advisory Group and students from some of Pakistan's leading universities.

Speaking at the event, the British High Commissioner Mr. Thomas Drew CMG said:  
It will be up to the people who are here today – the Future Leaders – who will decide which direction Pakistan heads in the following decades.

While we look back at 70 years and the incredible connections between our two countries, most of all we want to look forward to the next 70 years – to the future of our relationship. Over the coming year through our 70th Anniversary celebrations we want to showcase the strength of the British-Pakistani partnership and how it will continue to develop in the coming years.

#### More information

Future Leaders Conference is the British High Commission's first ever Conference in Pakistan that focuses on engaging young people in a dialogue on Pakistan's foreign policy and its use of soft power.

#### Notes to editors

For updates on Future Leaders Conference and the 70th Anniversary Campaign, please follow our social media channels:

Twitter: [@UKinPakistan](#), [@ChevPakistan](#), [@tomdrewUK](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/bhcpakistan](https://facebook.com/bhcpakistan)

Instagram: [@UKinPakistan](#)

## British High Commission's Great debate 2016-17 final held in Islamabad.

From: [British High Commission Islamabad](#)

First published: 16 January 2017

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

**The Great Debate competition has provided a unique opportunity to celebrate the UK and Pakistan's shared culture of vibrant discussion.**



**The British High Commission's GREAT Debate 2016 competition final was held in Islamabad today. The judging panel included British Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Patrick Moody, Head of British Council Pakistan Ms. Rosemary Hilhorst, BBC producer and Chevening scholar Ms. Nazish Zafar and senior BBC producer Mr. Philip Palmer. The event was attended by Chevening Scholarship alumni, members of the media and senior officials from the British High Commission and British Council. The audience witnessed a high intensity and quality competition between ten of the top debaters from across universities in Pakistan who spoke for and against topics that concern the future of Pakistan.**

**After an exciting three rounds the winner was judged to be Taha Ahmed from the Aga Khan University and the runner-up was Noor Tauqeer from the Karachi University.**

**Speaking at the event, the British High Commissioner Mr. Thomas Drew CMG said: This is the second consecutive year that we have conducted the GREAT Debate. We are delighted this time to have been able to increase our nationwide footprint to include debaters from Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan.**

**Today I have witnessed bright young people from across Pakistan debate topics of great importance to Pakistan's future. I congratulate all the finalists and in particular the winner and runner-up. I urge all of the participants to use the GREAT Debate as a springboard to go and achieve great things for Pakistan.**

**The Head of British Council Pakistan Ms. Rosemary Hilhorst said: The art of debating is of the greatest importance in today's world and it is heartening to see the quality of debates in Pakistan improving significantly through initiatives like the GREAT Debate. The winner of the GREAT Debate Taha Ahmed from the Aga Khan University said:**

**I am thrilled to win the GREAT Debate competition and I would like to thank the British High Commission for organising this event and giving aspiring debaters like me this fantastic opportunity.**

The scholarship money for this year's event has also been increased with the winner and runner-up winning £3,000 and £2,000 respectively.

#### More information

The Great Debate 2016 is a debating competition for university students. There were semi-finals – in different cities (Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar & Gilgit) involving students from universities from across Pakistan – and the winner and runner-up of each semi-final competed in the final in Islamabad.

#### Notes to editors

For updates on the GREAT Debate, please follow our social media channels:

Twitter: [@UKinPakistan](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/bhcpakistan](#)

Instagram: [@UKinPakistan](#)

#### Contact

Press Attaché

British High Commission

Islamabad

Tel. 051 201 2000

## Alok Sharma visit underlines UK commitment to trade with Pakistan

From: [Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#) and [Alok Sharma MP](#)

First published: 6 January 2017

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

Alok Sharma, Minister for Asia and the Pacific, spent two days in Pakistan for meetings with the Government and businesses to discuss increasing trade



Mr Sharma spent two days visiting Islamabad and Karachi to meet government officials and businesses to reiterate the UK's commitment to building further trade between the UK and Pakistan. The trip builds on the Foreign Secretary's visit to the country in November 2016 where he urged greater trade cooperation.

In Islamabad, Mr Sharma held talks with Foreign Policy Chief Sartaj Aziz; Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan; and Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal. He also held talks with the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor Mushahid Hussain Syed and on human rights with Barrister Zafarullah Khan and the Human Rights Minister Kamran Michael. In Karachi, Mr Sharma met the Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah, as well as Pakistani business leaders and British businesses, including GlaxoSmithKline, Standard Chartered Bank, retailer Team A Ventures, TCS Courier Service and members of the Pakistan Business Council to discuss how the UK Government can help improve trade possibilities between the two countries. He also met the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan and visited the Pakistan Stock Exchange where he rang the bell to close the day's trading.

Following the visit, Mr Sharma said:

As we approach the 70th Anniversary of Pakistan's independence, I am delighted to have experienced first-hand the old friendship the UK shares with Pakistan.

With our historic ties and strong economies the potential for our two countries to do business together is immense. I held productive talks with senior members of the Government and business leaders and discussed how we can collectively do more to unlock these exciting opportunities and increase bilateral trade and investment.

Further information

Follow Foreign Office Minister Alok Sharma on Twitter [@AlokSharma\\_RDG](#)

Follow the Foreign Office on Twitter [@foreignoffice](#) and [Facebook](#)

Follow the Foreign Office on [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Media enquiries

Email [newsdesk@fco.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@fco.gov.uk)

News Desk 020 7008 3100

## Acting British High Commissioner's message to mark the Christmas and the birth anniversary of Muhammad Ali Jinnah

From: [British High Commission Islamabad](#)

First published: 24 December 2016

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

I wish all our friends and colleagues in Pakistan a peaceful festive season and a prosperous 2017.



In his message on to mark the Christmas and the birth anniversary of Muhamad Ali Jinnah, acting British High Commissioner, Mr Patrick Moody, said:

I would like to extend warmest greetings to all those celebrating Christmas in Pakistan and around the world today.

While celebrating the 'Bara Din' and during this festive season, I and my staff at the British High Commission will also keep in our thoughts friends and families of all those who died in the recent tragic plane crash in Havelian.

Pakistanis will also be celebrating the anniversary of the birth of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. Jinnah's vision for a Pakistan of tolerance and freedom of belief remains as important today as when he first addressed Parliament in 1947.

As we look forward to celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Pakistan, I wish all our friends and colleagues in Pakistan a peaceful festive season and a prosperous 2017.

Contact

Press Attaché

British High Commission

Islamabad

Tel. 051 201 2000

## British High Commission's Great Debate competition comes to Islamabad

From: [British High Commission Islamabad](#)

First published: 13 December 2016

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

The Islamabad semi-final of the British High Commission's GREAT Debate competition was held at Quaid-i-Azam University on 7th Dec 2016.





The event was attended by Chevening Scholarship alumni, members of the media and senior officials from the British High Commission. The event was a competition between eight debaters from across universities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi who spoke for and against topics that concern the future of Pakistan including the role of education, business, gender, media and technology in society. At the end of a competitive round of debates the winner was judged to be Mr. Sardar Jahanzeb from Quaid-i-Azam University and the runner-up was Ms. Maryam Zahid from Fatima Jinnah Women University.

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

- I am pleased to see the GREAT Debate competition taking place at Quaid-i-Azam University, which is the largest university in Islamabad. Young people should know how to debate. Even more, they should be discussing Pakistan's future, which is their future. I was inspired by their vision and skill.
- I would like to wish the winner and runner-up the best of luck for the final.

The Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr Javed Ashraf said:

- The GREAT Debate is a fantastic opportunity for young minds to learn about the skill of public speaking. It is an art shared by many key personalities of human history. I am thankful to the British High Commission, Islamabad for arranging this competition and for choosing Quaid-i-Azam University to host this event.

The winner and the runner-up will proceed into the final of the GREAT Debate competition which will bring together winners from six cities and will be held in Islamabad. The scholarship money for this year's GREAT Debate final winner and runner-up has also been increased to give an even greater incentive to debaters.

#### More information

The Great Debate is a debating competition for university students. There will be six semi-finals – in six different cities (Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Gilgit, Muzaffarabad) involving students from over fifty universities across Pakistan – and the winner and runner-up of each semi-final will

compete in the final in Islamabad.

Notes to editors

For updates on GREAT Debates, please follow our social media channels:

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Contact

Press Attaché

British High Commission

Islamabad

Tel. 051 201 2000

## British High Commissioner hosts a reception event for returning Chevening scholars

From: [British High Commission Islamabad](#)

First published: 30 November 2016

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

The British High Commissioner to Pakistan Thomas Drew CMG held a reception at the British High Commission in Islamabad for returning Pakistani Chevening scholars from 2015/2016.



The reception was attended by Chevening scholars, senior officials from the High Commission, media and the representatives of the Chevening Alumni Association of Pakistan.

This year the Chevening Scholarship Programme sent a record number of 81 scholars to the UK from Pakistan.

The British High Commissioner Mr. Thomas Drew said:

- The Chevening Programme is an important part of the UK investment in Pakistan. Our aim is to give Pakistani high achievers the support to realise their potential to the full – to help build a

more prosperous and stable Pakistan. With their British education and the experience of the Chevening Programme these scholars will achieve great things for Pakistan.

The Vice-President of the Chevening Alumni Association of Pakistan, Mr. Mahesh Ahuja said:

- The friendships and professional contacts that I made through the Chevening Scholarship Programme were extremely beneficial for me as they will prove to be for you. You will now become a part of the prestigious Chevening Alumni Association of Pakistan which works on issues that are relevant to Pakistan and will get the opportunity to connect with over 1,400 influential Chevening alumni from across Pakistan.

Chevening Scholarships are the UK Government's global scholarship programme. The scholarships support study at UK universities – mostly one year master's degrees – for individuals with demonstrable potential to become future leaders, decision-makers, and opinion formers.

#### More information

Visit [Chevening website](#) for detailed information on the Chevening Scholarship Programme. The application window for Chevening is currently closed.

Follow us on [@TomDrewUK](#) and [@UKinPakistan](#), or on [Facebook](#)

#### Notes to editors

For updates on Chevening Pakistan, please follow our social media channels:

Twitter: [@ChevPakistan](#) and [@UKinPakistan](#)

[Facebook](#)

Instagram: [@UKinPakistan](#)

Chevening began in 1983 and has developed into a prestigious international awards scheme. Chevening Scholars come from over 160 countries and territories worldwide (excluding the USA and the EU), and more than 1,500 scholarships were awarded in 2016/2017. There are over 46,000 Chevening Alumni around the world who comprise an influential and highly regarded global network. Last year applications from Pakistan ranked third in the world behind Egypt and Nigeria.

The name 'Chevening' comes from Chevening House in Sevenoaks, Kent – currently the joint official residence of the UK's Foreign Secretary.

More information is available at [Chevening website](#)

#### Contact

Press Attaché

British High Commission

Islamabad

Tel. 051 201 2000

# Foreign Secretary urges even greater cooperation during visit to Pakistan

From: [Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#) and [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP](#)

First published: 25 November 2016

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has hailed Britain's "old friendship" with Pakistan as he completes his first official visit to the country.



Spending two days in Islamabad and Lahore, the Foreign Secretary held talks with Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, foreign policy chief Sartaj Aziz, Chief Minister of the Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, opposition leaders including Imran Khan, business CEOs and senior clerics.

Mr Johnson underlined the UK's determination to boost trade and investment with Pakistan, as well as continuing to support the country's efforts in tackling extremism and instability.

The Foreign Secretary said:

- Britain and Pakistan share an old friendship and profound ties of history. No fewer than 1.2 million Britons, around 2 per cent of the entire UK population, are of Pakistani heritage.
- It was clear from my visit that our countries can work even closer together to help Pakistan unleash its full potential.
- I held very productive talks with senior Government figures and opposition leaders about our support for Pakistan's democratic reforms, working together to defeat extremism and creating new trade opportunities.

In addition to meeting political leaders, Mr Johnson heard from schoolgirls attending UK aid-supported Kinnaird Girls School, founded in Lahore by a Scottish family in 1913; watched street cricket with members of Pakistan's women's cricket team; and marked the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death with students in the new library of the British Council in Lahore.

The Foreign Secretary also addressed students at the Government College in Lahore, met senior business leaders about investment opportunities, and visited Lahore's Badshahi Mosque and Lahore Fort.

Further information

Follow the Foreign Secretary on Twitter [@BorisJohnson](#) and Facebook

Follow the Foreign Office on Twitter [@foreignoffice](#) and Facebook

Follow the Foreign Office on [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Media enquiries

[Emailnewsdesk@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Emailnewsdesk@fco.gov.uk)

News Desk 020 7008 3100

## The GREAT Debate competition 2016-17 in Pakistan

From: [British High Commission Islamabad](#)

First published: 16 November 2016

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

The British High Commission in Islamabad launched its GREAT Debate 2016-17 competition with a semi-final event at the Institute of Management Sciences in Peshawar.



The event was fiercely debated by students from across universities in Peshawar and was attended by senior members of academia, media and alumni of the UK Government's Chevening scholarship. At the end of an intense competition, Ms. Hareem Zaffar from Islamia College University was the winner of the Peshawar semi-final while Ms. Mahrukh from Institute of Management Sciences was the runner-up.

The GREAT Debate competition will take place throughout the month of November and December in six universities across Pakistan. Building from the success of the competition last year, this year's debating events have expanded to include universities in Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Administered Jammu and Kashmir region.

**The British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Patrick Moody, said:**

- I am delighted to launch the 2016 edition of the GREAT Debate competition in the historic city of Peshawar. The GREAT Debate 2016 is truly a nationwide event with debates happening across Pakistan.
- I have seen first-hand the increasing culture of debating in universities across Pakistan and I am pleased that the GREAT Debate gives debaters and future leaders of this country a platform to showcase their skills

**The winner of the GREAT Debate 2015, Mr. Gadhaun Aslam, said:**

- Winning the GREAT Debate was an exciting experience for me and gave me the confidence to continue my studies with even more vigour. I wish this year's participants the best of luck.

This year's GREAT Debate focuses on themes that will play a role in shaping Pakistan's future including the role of education, business and gender in society. The scholarship reward has also been increased to give an even greater incentive to debaters. The grand finale of the Great Debate competition will bring together twelve winners from the semi-final competitions and will be held in Islamabad.

#### **More information**

The Great Debate is a debating competition for university students. There will be six semi-finals – in six different cities (Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Gilgit, Muzaffarabad) involving students from over fifty leading universities across Pakistan – and the winner and runner-up of each semi-final will compete in the final in Islamabad. The scholarship reward has also been increased to give an even greater incentive to the debaters.

#### **Notes to editors:**

For updates on GREAT Debates, please follow British High Commission's social media channels:

Twitter: [@UKinPakistan](https://twitter.com/UKinPakistan)

Facebook: [facebook.com/bhcpakistan](https://facebook.com/bhcpakistan)

Instagram: [@UKinPakistan](https://www.instagram.com/UKinPakistan)

#### **Contact**

Press Attaché

British High Commission

Islamabad

Tel. 051 201 2000

## **Foreign Secretary condemns Pakistan terrorist attack**

**From:** [Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#) and [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP](#)

First published: 13 November 2016

Part of: [Pakistan](#)

The Foreign Secretary condemns the brutal terrorist attack on the Shah Noorani shrine in Pakistan.



The Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

- I am appalled by the brutal terrorist attack on the Shah Noorani shrine in Pakistan. My thoughts are with the family and friends of those who have been killed and those who have been injured in such a horrific act. The UK strongly condemns this shocking attack and continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with the government and people of Pakistan in the fight against extremism and terrorism.

Further information

Follow the Foreign Secretary on twitter [@BorisJohnson](#)

Follow the Foreign Office on twitter [@foreignoffice](#)

Follow the Foreign Office on [facebook](#)

Media enquiries

Email [newsdesk@fco.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@fco.gov.uk)

News Desk 020 7008 3100

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