



Prime Minister of Pakistan's official visit to UK

Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani visited UK from 8-13 May 2012 to attend the 1st Annual Review Meeting of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue between UK and Pakistan. Highlight of the visit was his meeting with the British Prime Minister David Cameron. He also met the cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, leader of the opposition and the UK business community.

The United Kingdom vowed to build a deeper and stronger relationship with Pakistan saying its future matters greatly to Britain. Prime Minister David Cameron after a meeting with Prime Minister Gilani stated that the United Kingdom would be an enduring friend to the government and people of Pakistan. "Both countries are committed to working together as equals to create the conditions for greater prosperity and security in Pakistan and the UK," a joint statement issued at the end of the talks said. Prime Minister Gilani and his British counterpart discussed trade, economic growth and development, cultural co-operation, security and education at the 10 Downing and reviewed the progress being made since the two leaders made the commitment in April 2011 in



Islamabad for a deeper and broader dialogue between the two countries.

During Prime Minister Gilani's UK visit, Pakistan and the United Kingdom agreed upon "a jointly-owned" Pakistan-UK Trade and Investment Roadmap to actively pursue joint activities on trade and investment promotion and improving government-to-government and business-to-

business interaction.

The two countries also agreed upon a joint Cultural Roadmap that aims at enriching people to people links and enhancing cultural exchanges. This Roadmap will establish links between school children, students, young professionals, cultural institutions and higher education sectors.

Gilani's UK visit sees launch of Conservative Friends of Pakistan

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and his British counterpart David Cameron joined large number of cabinet ministers, Lords, Members of Parliament and others at the launch of the Conservative Friends of Pakistan. Prime Minister Gilani said the presence of David Cameron and senior leaders of the Conservative party reflected the importance UK attached to Pakistan and its community in UK. He said the UK was home to around 1.3 million Pakistani community that was making a significant contribution towards the British politics, economy and the society as a whole. Prime Minister Cameron stated that the enemy of



Pakistan was their enemy. He appreciated the efforts of Prime

Minister Gilani in strengthening Pakistan.

Prime Minister's meetings with UK businesses

The Prime Minister of Pakistan visited the United Kingdom during May, 2012. His visit programme included the following meetings with UK businesses:

Sir John Peace, Chairman, Standard Chartered Bank hosted a lunch in honour of Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani followed by a meeting with seven large British companies in retail, energy, steel, pharmaceuticals and oil & gas. These companies gave an overview of their business with Pakistan and expressed their interest in further increasing their investment and brand presence in Pakistan. Mr. Xavier Rolet, Chief



Executive, London Stock Exchange hosted a roundtable in the afternoon of 11 May, 2012. Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and his senior cabinet colleagues with prominent British investors attended the same.

The roundtable provided an opportunity for an open interactive discussion. The Prime Minister appreciated the LSE's sterling commitment in providing a world class platform to raise investment for Pakistan.

Pakistan is the biggest victim of terror, says Cameron

British Prime Minister Mr David Cameron has said Pakistan is the biggest victim of terror in the world. He said this in response to a question by Sir Gerald Kaufman, Labour MP in the House of Commons on 23 May 2012 who asked if Mr Cameron deplored US President's lack of courtesy towards the President of Pakistan, the

sovereignty of whose country the United States has violated with deadly effect and whether Mr Cameron could confirm that Britain would stand shoulder to shoulder with its Commonwealth partner, Pakistan. While responding Mr Cameron urged all international friends and partners on war against terror to show patience and

understanding with Pakistan because Pakistan was the biggest victim of terror in the world. The British Prime Minister assured Pakistan that its friends, such as Britain, would not leave it after the Afghan conflict was over, and that Britain was there for long term partnership, friendship and support.

High Commissioner's reception for Prime Minister of Pakistan

Pakistan High Commissioner Mr Wajid Shamsul Hasan hosted a reception in honour of Prime Minister Gilani at the House of Commons which was attended by as many as sixty Lords and MPs, several Cabinet Ministers and a large number of British Pakistanis living in the UK. In his address the Prime Minister said that Pakistan and UK were partners in fight against terrorism and extremism and would further strengthen this partnership.

Addressing the reception Pakistan High Commissioner for UK Mr. Wajid

Shamsul Hasan said that the relations between Pakistan and UK were strong and based on mutual trust. He appreciated the role of 1.3 million Pakistani Diaspora in building bridges between the two countries.

Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani also held a meeting with Duke of York in Buckingham

Palace and discussed matters of mutual interest.



President and Prime Minister of Pakistan represented at Khalil Dale's Memorial Service

President of Pakistan Mr Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani were represented at the Memorial Service of Khalil Dale, an accredited volunteer of the International Committee of the Red

Cross (ICRC) who was abducted and later on assassinated in Pakistan in April 2012. Pakistan High Commissioner for UK Mr. Wajid Shamsul Hasan laid wreaths of flowers on behalf of the President and the

Prime Minister of Pakistan on the occasion of the service held in London. The murder of Khalil Dale was strongly condemned by the Government, civil society and media of Pakistan.

Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan honoured

Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhary was given the International Jurists Award, 2012 at a ceremony in London on 28 May 2012. The occasion was a conference organized by the International Council of Jurists where the Honorable Chief Justice addressed the legal community on the subject of rule of law. During his visit he held meetings with the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales and was hosted to lunch by the President and other justices of the Queen's Bench Division. Earlier he attended a reception hosted by the

British Pakistani legal fraternity at which he highlighted the efforts of Pakistan's judiciary in providing justice to the people of Pakistan. He also appreciated the role of Pakistan High Commission for the welfare of the Pakistani Diaspora in the UK.



Pakistan elected to two committees of Commonwealth Foundation

Pakistan has been elected to the Executive Committee and the Grants Committee of the Commonwealth Foundation during the Board of Governors' annual meeting in London.

The Executive Committee is an important body of the Foundation mandated to oversee all matters related to finance, personnel and

administration; make policy recommendations; and review and finalize plans and budgets for presentation to the Board.

The Grants Committee supervises issuance of grants by the Commonwealth Foundation to the civil society organizations for their various projects

and programmes.

The Commonwealth Foundation is one of the three intergovernmental organizations of the Commonwealth and helps civil society organizations to promote democracy, development and cultural understanding across the Commonwealth.

Pakistani Parliamentarians attend Commonwealth Programme

A 5-member women parliamentary delegation from Pakistan led by Dr. Nafisa Shah MNA participated in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Trilateral Programme in Westminster London from 14-18 May

2012. The program hosted by the UK branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), was also attended by Afghan and British women Parliamentarians. The Pakistani delegation included Dr.

Donya Aziz MNA, Ms Aasiya Nasir MNA, Ms Sabeen Rizvi MNA and Senator Rubina Khalid. The delegation held purposeful meetings with British women ministers, parliamentarians and senior

officials. The discussions focused on women empowerment and their equal representation in all spheres of life. There was complete agreement amongst the parliamentarians that they had greater responsibility and role to play in forwarding the cause of women emancipation particularly in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The positive role played by women caucus in the Parliament of Pakistan for the empowerment of women was appreciated.

The parliamentarians vowed to strive for the equal participation of women in local, national and international governance structures. Pakistan High Commission, London hosted a reception for the visiting delegation where the UK based Pakistani media was briefed about the objectives and achievements of the visit.



Urdu "Taming of the Shrew" reaches London

Artists from Pakistan performed Shakespeare's play "Taming of the Shrew" in Urdu across the UK including Shakespeare's Globe theatre as a part of London's 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Pakistan High Commissioner held a reception in honour of the artists taking part in the play.

While speaking on the occasion the artists termed the initiative an endeavour to highlight Pakistani culture and the richness of Urdu language - the facet which is much needed to be portrayed in the wake of constant negative projection of Pakistan in the media. They said that the play effectively showed the strength and resilience of Pakistani women who were making their mark in all walks of life. The artists were of the opinion that such cultural events could further strengthen cultural ties between the UK and Pakistan.

In his welcome address, High Commissioner Mr Wajid Shamsul Hasan congratulated Wallay and KASHF theatres of Pakistan as well as all those who were involved in this project including the

sponsors for turning this wonderful idea into a reality. Mr Hasan stated that Pakistan and UK enjoyed very good relations which were rooted in shared history, shared culture, shared positions on many issues and shared aspirations for progress and



development. He said he was happy to inform the audience that cultural cooperation was amongst the five strands of cooperation under the framework of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue between the two countries.

LCCI Paper Delegation to UK

A delegation of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) led by Mr. Mohammad Ali Mian, Chief Executive M/s Plasticon Industries (Pvt) Ltd visited United Kingdom from

5-12 May, 2012. The delegation comprised nine Pakistani companies from Paper and Paperboard sector. During meeting with Pakistan High Commissioner for UK Mr Wajid

Shamsul Hasan they briefed him about the opportunities for bilateral trade in this sector and termed their visit an opportunity to open doors for increasing business with the UK.

Pakistan Fashion Week London



Pakistan Fashion Week London was held from 25-27 May 2012. This

season's event featured the autumn-winter collections of 30 leading and

emerging Pakistani fashion designers at Kensington & Chelsea Town Hall. Four catwalks were hosted with each showcasing up to 8 designers in a feast of creative flair. Pakistan is brimming with talent and this event offered our community a significant opportunity to present the richness of Pakistani culture and entrepreneurship before the audiences here in London. The positive presentation of fashion show was welcomed and applauded by the audiences.

Feedback
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