



The Brilliance of Bahawalpur

For over 150 years, Bahawalpur remained a princely state with the Nawabs (the Abbasi family) allowed to rule it completely, with their absolute powers only coming to an end with the formation of Pakistan in 1947.

In fact, after independence, the Nawab of Bahawalpur was very generous to the new government of Pakistan by dipping into the state treasury to pay government salaries as well as donating a lot of his personal property to such institutions as University of the Punjab, King Edward Medical College and the Mosque of Aitchison College.

The Nawabs also did a lot for the state in terms of infrastructure and development as well as making it one of the richest states in the sub-continent. Indeed today there are some beautiful palaces and forts that are testament to the grandeur of the Nawabs. Let's consider the three most well-known.

The Noor Mahal was built in 1872 and modelled on a neo-classical Italian chateau but also encompasses Islamic styles of architecture resulting in a truly magnificent building. It is open to the public but also used for holding state darbars.

The Darbar Mahal was also a former palace and fort of the Nawabs. Completed in 1905, it is an elegant building of red brick adorned with white. The interior is equally impressive with beautiful furniture, rich carpets and chandeliers that instantly transport one back to a bygone age.

The enormous and impressive Derawar Fort stands proud in the Cholistan Desert about a two-hour drive from the city. The walls have a circumference of 1500m and bastions that are 30m high. The original fort was built about 800 years ago but was captured by the Nawabs in 1733. It is still easy enough to visit and if you have time then call ahead as permission can be sought from the Abbasi family to be allowed into the grounds of the fort itself.

If you have some more time then there are numerous other palaces in the city built by the Nawabs that are all worth a visit. October onwards is the perfect time to visit Bahawalpur so make sure you stop and look about rather than just pass through!



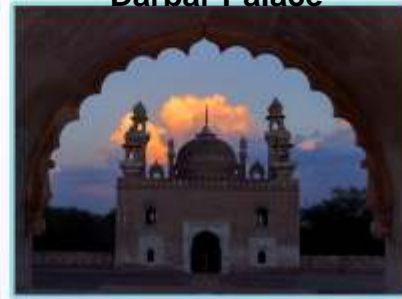
Darbar Mahal



Darbar Palace



Gulzar Mahal



Drawar Fort Mosque



Farrukh Mahal



Nishat Mahal



Ceiling-of-Nawab's-room in Drawar



Noor Mahal



Drawar Fort main

New building of Birmingham Consulate inaugurated

H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK inaugurated new building of the Consulate of Pakistan in Birmingham on the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan on 14th August 2015. The plaque of the new building was unveiled in the presence of Lords, MPs, Mayors, Councillors, business leaders, professionals, community members and media representatives. More than 300 people were in attendance including Shabana Mehmood MP, Khalid Mehmood MP, Naz Shah MP and Baroness Nosheena Mobarik.

Mr Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Aizaz Ahmad Chaudry, Foreign Secretary sent special messages of felicitation to the Pakistani community in Birmingham on inauguration of new building.

In his address, the High

Commissioner said: "It is, indeed, a moment of great satisfaction for all of us that a long standing demand of the community has been fulfilled on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day. I am hopeful this new building, with state of the art facilities, will address the logistical problems faced by the community. It is my conviction that our community deserves better consular services and we have taken several measures in this regard in line with the directions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan."

Giving an overview of the positive developments in Pakistan, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan has move forward on economic, social and political fields as evident in the independent foreign media reports and international financial institutions.

The new building is located in the most modern commercial locality befitting for a Consulate office.



With three storeys, it has a total area of around 7000 sq.ft and all the facilities that a modern office is expected to offer to the public have been provided. The new office will have ample car parking, reliable elevator service for the disabled and other proper facilities for ladies, children and

disabled. A modern community hall with a seating capacity of around 240 persons is equipped with modern audio-visual facilities. The new Consulate will cater to the needs of an expatriate population of over 400,000 in the Midlands and Wales.

Independence Day marked by Flag Hoisting at the High Commission

To mark the auspicious occasion of 69th Independence Day of Pakistan, a Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held at the Pakistan High Commission, London on 14 August 2015. H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, High Commissioner hoisted the national flag in the presence of Lords, MPs, Mayors, Councillors, representatives of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and other UK government officials. A large number of Pakistani community members and media persons were in attendance.

The messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan for this occasion were read out. In their messages, both the leaders felicitated the nation and paid rich tribute to the heroic struggle of the Muslims of the Sub-continent for an independent homeland under

the inspiring leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The President and the Prime Minister reiterated government's resolve to purge Pakistan from terrorism and extremism and to stay on course to economic development, progress and prosperity.

In his remarks, the High Commissioner paid glowing tributes to the untiring struggle of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Iqbal and other heroes of the Pakistan Movement.

Giving an overview of the positive economic, social and political developments in Pakistan, the High Commissioner said:

"I am happy to state that Pakistan has moved forward on all fronts: there is economic growth, there is political stability and the security situation has



significantly improved as a result of Operation Zarb-e-Azb under National Action Plan. Independent foreign media reports corroborate my views. The international financial institutions and global credit rating agencies are all confirming Pakistan's economic turnaround."

The High Commissioner also admired the sacrifices rendered by the armed forces and the

people of Pakistan in their fight against terrorism and extremism. He termed the relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom exemplary and productive. The High Commissioner reiterated Pakistani people's solidarity with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters. The children presented popular national songs on this occasion. Guests were served with traditional Pakistani cuisine.



British Secretary of State for Defence calls on the Prime Minister

British Secretary of State for Defence Rt. Hon Michael Fallon called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House on 5 August 2015. Matters pertaining to regional situation and bilateral matters were discussed during the meeting. The Prime Minister congratulated the British Secretary on winning new

elections and asked him to communicate the same to the British Prime Minister, too. He underlined that there is great scope for cooperation in areas of trade, investment and education between the two countries.

The Defence Secretary underlined the importance of bilateral relations with Pakistan and said that this relationship continues to deepen in the interest of both the nations. The British secretary also appreciated the role of Pakistani Diaspora in Britain. Both sides agreed on cooperation between the two countries under the Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD).



British Secretary of State for Defence Rt. Hon Michael Fallon called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at PM House, Islamabad on August 5, 2015.

Interior Minister meets British Home Secretary

Interior Minister Ch Nisar Ali Khan, during his official visit to the UK, met British Home Secretary Theresa May in London on 26 August 2015. Pakistan-UK bilateral relations, especially cooperation in security and ongoing fight against terrorism and extremism were discussed. Regional situation also came under discussion.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the progress being made under the umbrella of Enhanced Strategic Dialogue. They agreed to further strengthen the existing cooperation, keeping in view shared concerns of the two countries in the area of security, especially in the ongoing fight against militancy, capacity building of security officials and

mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise in counter-terrorism.

Discussing ongoing global fight against terrorism, the Interior Minister emphasized that the international community must take immediate steps to discourage those elements who propagate Islamophobia. The Minister emphasized that the international community must undertake concerted efforts to check financial resources and take action against financiers of terrorists.

Secretary Theresa May in her remarks said that UK values its ties with Pakistan and desires to further cement them. She recognized Pakistan's sacrifices in fight against terrorism and efforts for regional peace. Ms May also assured the Interior



Interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan Shaking Hands With His British Counter Part Ms. Theresa May in London On August 26th, 2015

Minister of UK's continued support to Pakistan in its efforts towards socio-economic development of the people.

Senator Sirajul Haq visits the High Commission

Senator Sirajul Haq, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan called on H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK on 25 August 2015. Issues relating to the Pakistani community in the UK came under discussion. Welcoming the Senator, the High Commissioner apprised him of Mission's efforts to address the issues of the community and to provide them better consular services. Similarly he updated the Senator on the community

outreach programme of the High Commission in order to connect with the community. The High Commissioner also informed about Mission's efforts to resolve property related matters of the community back in Pakistan.

Based on his feedback from Pakistani community in UK, Senator Sirajul Haq appreciated the High Commission's efforts to reach out to the community and to resolve their issues through provision of better consular services.



Minister for Defence Production visits British engineering and manufacturing companies

Minister for Defence Production of Pakistan Rana Tanveer Hussain visited British engineering company The Ricardo UK Limited situated at Shoreham on 27th August 2015. Managing Director Mr Lee Sykes along with his team received him and briefed on the activities of the company.

The Ricardo has 100 years of experience in manufacturing engines. The company expressed interest in technical assistance and joint venture with Pakistan. The two sides discussed the possibility of joint venture in manufacturing at Heavy Industries Taxila. Later, the Minister visited the

facilities of Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group Cambridge and was received by CEO Marshall Group Mr. Steve Fitz Gerald. The CEO briefed the Minister about the Group, informing that Marshall has extensive experience in maintenance, modification and support of the C-130 aircraft. Up-

gradation of the Aircrafts was also discussed. The Minister said that there were great opportunities on offer in Marshall Aerospace for Pakistan which could be utilized through joint ventures. Both sides exchanged views on a range of issues of common interest.

Independence Day in Pictures



Special children of Pakistan win 63 Medals Special Olympics World Summer Games

Special children of Pakistan win 63 Medals Special Olympics World Summer Games. Special children of Pakistan did the nation proud by winning 63 Medals in Special Olympics World Summer Games, Los Angeles 2015. President Mamnoon Hussain said that the whole nation is proud of special children over their performance and achievements in Summer Olympics. The President said this while addressing the Prize Distribution Ceremony for winning players at Governor House, Karachi on 19 August 2015.

The special children won 63 medals in nine different competitions at the Special Olympics World Summer Games and demonstrated excellent performance and physical fitness. The President assured that the government would continue to patronize Special Olympics of Pakistan and its players so that, in future, special children could perform even better and win accolades for their country in international competitions. The President lauded the noble efforts of the officials of Pakistan Special Olympics for making special



President Mamnoon Hussain in a Group Photo with the Winners of Special Olympics 2015 at Governor House Karachi on 19-08-2015

children useful citizens of Pakistan Special Olympics society adding that the whole nation is grateful to them for this.

Pakistan Special Olympics would also be provided with a separate sports ground and affiliation of a teaching hospital.

Visit of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to Glasgow

A delegation of leading businessmen from the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry met with representatives of the Scottish business community at the Consulate of Pakistan, Glasgow. The FCCI delegation was led by Mr. Suhail Bin Rashid and comprised 09 leading businessmen from the Chamber. Welcoming the delegation, Consul General Syed Ahsan Raza Shah mentioned the recent initiatives taken by the Government of Pakistan in the economic sector which would greatly benefit the manufacturing and export sector of the business

community in Pakistan. He said the Scotland's share has been increasing steadily and is now almost 30% of the entire Pak-UK bilateral trade. He expressed the hope that the visit by the delegation and their networking with Scottish businessmen would lead to further enhancement of bilateral trade; and promised continued support to the business communities by Pakistan diplomatic posts in the U.K under the guidelines given by High Commissioner Syed Ibne Abbas. MP Tasmina Sheikh also spoke on the occasion and promised her own and her Party's fullest support in promoting business



ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Leader of the visiting delegation Mr. Suhail Bin Rashid expressed his desire to further enhance Pakistani exports to

the United Kingdom in general and Scotland in particular and warmly welcomed the Consul General's proposal to hold a "Made in Faisalabad" exhibition in Glasgow next spring.