



The Pakistan Society

Bringing Pakistan & Britain Together

Newsletter – April 2008

Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani sworn in as 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan



On 24 March Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani was elected as the Leader of the House by the National Assembly of Pakistan and the next day he was sworn in as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Born on 9 June 1952 in Karachi, Gillani hails from Multan in southern Punjab and belongs to a

prominent political family. His grandfather and grand-uncles joined the All India Muslim League and were signatories of the historical Pakistan Resolution passed on 23 March 1940. Mr Gillani's father, Alamdar Hussain Gillani served as a Provincial Minister in the 1950s.

Mr Yousaf Raza Gillani joined politics at the national level in 1978 when he became a member of the Muslim League's central leadership. This was soon after he completed his Masters in Journalism at the University of the Punjab in 1976.

He was a Cabinet Member in the government of Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo. He served as Minister of Housing and Works from April 1985 to January 1986 and Railways Minister from January 1986 to December 1986.

After a short stint with the Muslim League, Mr Gillani became part of the Pakistan Peoples Party in 1988 and was made the senior Vice-Chairman of the Party. In the Benazir Bhutto government of 1988-1990, Mr Gillani was again a Cabinet Minister: He was Minister of Tourism from March 1989 to January 1990 and again served as Minister of Housing and Works from January 1990 to August 1990. In the Benazir government of 1993-1996, Mr Gillani was elected as Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan and worked in this capacity till February 1997. He has to his credit an Urdu language autobiography, Chah-e-Yousaf Say Sada.

Hon. Dr Fahmida Mirza takes her seat as Pakistan's first woman Speaker



A former doctor made history in Pakistan on 19 March by becoming the first woman to be elected Speaker in the National Assembly of Pakistan. Fahmida Mirza won 249 votes in the 342-seat Lower House of parliament.

"I am honoured and humbled; this chair carries a big responsibility. I am feeling that responsibility today and will, God willing, come up to expectations."

As Speaker, she is second in the line of succession to the President and occupies fourth position in the Warrant of Precedence, after the President, the Prime Minister and the Chairman of Senate.

Elected three times to parliament, she is one of the few women to have been voted in on a general seat rather than one reserved for women.

Fahmida Mirza 51, hails from Badin in Sindh and has won the National Assembly seat in open electoral contest in 1997, 2002 and 2008.



Mr Faisal Karim Kundi was elected as Deputy Speaker.

Special Event Reflections on Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto

Sir Nicholas Barrington and Victoria Schofield at 6pm on 9 April 2008 at the High Commission for Pakistan, London, SW1

Annual Membership

The annual Membership fee for 2008 is now due. Ordinary Members £30, Students and Overseas Members £10. Please note that annual subscriptions runs for one year from 1st January to 31st December.

In this issue:

Pakistan Elections	P2
Chief of General Staff	P3
Number plate F1	P3
Commonwealth Day	P4
Pakistan Gap Year	P5
St Andrews PhD	P6
Bradford Media Links	P6
Lancaster Partnership	P7
Stirling University	P7
Sports/RUSI	P8
RUSI	P8
Events	P9/10
Annual Dinner Form	P11

Next Event: Annual General Meeting and Reception at 6pm on Wednesday, 2 April 2008 at High Commission for Pakistan, London SW1



Statement by European Union Election Observation Mission to Pakistan 2008 (20/2/08)

The preliminary assessment of European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) said that the National and Provincial Assembly elections were competitive and the polling process achieved increased public confidence.

"We are relieved that election day has passed off better than had been anticipated and commend the commitment shown by voters, candidates, election staff, and representatives of media and civil society," said Michael Gahler, Chief Observer of the EU EOM.

The EU assessment concluded that polling was assessed positively on the whole. The compilation process was positively assessed in the majority of constituencies observed. "The election period has shown the strong desire of the Pakistani people for democracy and the rule of law", said Robert Evans, Chair of the European Parliament Delegation. "In response, we urge political parties to work responsibly to address the challenges ahead and demonstrate commitment to strengthening the electoral and wider democratic process".

While the campaign was low key and subdued, it saw a broad range of views expressed. According to EU mission, private media provided candidates and parties with pluralistic coverage during the campaign.

UN Secretary-General hails Pakistan's polls (19/2/08)

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the conduct the parliamentary elections in Pakistan, noting that the voting was "largely peaceful."

A statement issued by the Office of the UN Secretary-General said: "The Secretary-General has been closely following developments in Pakistan and he commends the people of Pakistan for the largely peaceful conduct of parliamentary elections and is encouraged by the commitment of all concerned to respect the democratic process".

Full support for Pakistan's new PM (25/3/08)

Gordon Brown has offered his full support to Pakistan's new Prime Minister, Yusuf Raza Gillani, who has taken office today.

In a Downing Street statement, the Prime Minister said:

"I welcome today's election of Yusuf Raza Gilani as Pakistan's next Prime Minister. I congratulate him and look forward to working closely with him on our shared agenda.

"The new government will face many challenges and the UK stands ready to assist Mr Gilani and his government in meeting them. February's parliamentary elections were a crucial step towards a lasting democratic transition in Pakistan and I offer Mr Gilani and his government my full support."

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf administered the oath of office to Mr Gillani in a ceremony in Islamabad today. Mr Gillani is a senior member of the Pakistan People's Party that emerged as the main winner of polls in February.

During talks in January, Mr Brown called upon President Musharraf to hold "credible elections" following the assassination of former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Foreign Secretary comments on Pakistan elections (19/02/08)

Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has commented today on yesterday's elections in Pakistan:

'As the final votes of Monday's parliamentary and provincial elections in Pakistan are counted, it is clear that Pakistan's people have refused to allow violent extremism to derail the democratic process. They have shown courage by facing down the extremists and in so doing have given Pakistan the chance to build a stable, secure and prosperous future.

'I welcome too the constructive approach taken so far by Pakistan's political leaders as the results emerge. I call on the moderate political parties to work together to meet the challenges Pakistan faces and look forward to working with the new Government once it forms.'

British Army Chief Visits Pakistan



On 24 February, General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff of the British Army, arrived in Islamabad for a week-long visit, as part of the UK's ongoing defence co-operation with Pakistan.

During his visit, General Dannatt called on Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Tariq Majid, and other senior military figures. He received briefings on Pakistan's fight against militancy, the regional situation and on training in the Pakistan Army. General Dannatt also gave a lecture to cadets at the Pakistan Military Academy in Abbottabad on the subject of 'Leadership'. General Dannatt also paid a courtesy call on President Pervez Musharraf.

The long-planned visit of General Dannatt is the latest of several senior military visits to Pakistan from the UK over the last year and is expected further to deepen the long military partnership between the UK and Pakistan.

General Sir Richard Dannatt KCB CBE MC was appointed Chief of the General Staff - the professional head of the British Army - in August 2006. He has served in Germany, Bosnia, Northern Ireland (where he won the Military Cross), and as Commander of British Forces in Kosovo. He was born in 1950 and commissioned into the Green Howards regiment of the British Army in 1971.

General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani HI(M) was appointed Chief of the Army Staff - in November 2007. He is former Director of Inter Services Intelligence, former Director of Military Operations and a recipient of Hilal-i-Imtiaz (crescent of excellence). He holds a Masters Degree in War Studies and has commanded the Rawalpindi Corps. He was born in 1952 and commissioned into the Baloch Regiment of the Pakistan Army in 1971.

A British-Pakistani from Bradford pays £400k for number plate "F1"

Afzal Kahn's delight was in overdrive after he bought F1 - Britain's most expensive registration. The 37-year-old custom car tycoon got the plate for £440,625 - £375,000 plus VAT - and other charges took the total to around half a million pounds. It beat the previous record of £331,000 for the M1 plate, sold by auctioneers Bonhams in July 2006.

Mr Kahn has put F1 on his new Mercedes-Benz McLaren SLR. The entrepreneur from Bradford, a keen Formula One fan, beat off two other potential buyers to snap up the plate from Essex County Council. The 104-year-old registration was previously on a £30,000 Volvo S80 used by the council chairman. The council sold it to raise money for a charity which aims to raise the standards of young drivers.

"I knew I just had to have it," said Mr Kahn. "I have spent years chasing it. I cannot believe I've finally got it. I am privileged to have acquired such a prestigious plate. It's every man's dream to have his perfect car with a number plate like this."

The sought-after registration attracted the attention of Formula One's Eddie Irvine and Bernie Ecclestone when it went up for auction at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in April 2005. But it remained unsold because the reserve price was not met.

Mr Kahn started his business career as a 14-year-old helping out his father on an ice cream van. His first enterprise was selling eggs door-to-door at 16 before indulging in his hobby of making car accessory parts. His family owned a small leisure and arcade facility, where he advertised his bespoke parts - which turned into the business venture he owns today.

His company, Kahn Design, now buys new top-of-the-range cars and strips them out before redesigning them ready to be sold. Afzal Kahn is also one of the major shareholders and masterminds behind the £450 million Bradford Channel project. The regeneration scheme, designed to breathe life back into part of Bradford City Centre, will consist of public open spaces, a hotel, offices and plush apartments overlooking a canal basin.



"The Environment, Our Future" is the theme for this year's Commonwealth Day on 10 March. Her Majesty The Queen refers to the Climate Change Action Plan launched last year and calls for a joint effort to deliver effective results.



"Last year, Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Uganda on the edge of Lake Victoria and agreed to an Action Plan for tackling climate change. It was an appropriate place to do so: from there, the waters of the River Nile begin a three-month journey to the Mediterranean.

The Nile, throughout history, has served humankind in many ways. But for all its impressive size and importance, this river is a fragile eco-system; and its vulnerability grows with the number of people dependant upon it, so that a single incident of pollution upstream may affect the lives of countless numbers downstream.

The example of the Nile illustrates many of the challenges facing the global environment as a whole which cannot alone sustain our lives as once it did. The competition for fresh water by a growing population is itself becoming a source of potential conflict. Our own attitudes to the environment, and the use we put it to, may have consequences for people on every continent and for every ocean and sea.

The impact of pollution falls unequally: it is often those who pollute the least - notably in the world's least-developed nations - who are closest to the razor's edge: most affected by the impact of climate change and least equipped to cope with it.

And it is important to remember that the environmental choices available in some countries may not be an option for others. In some parts of the world, for example, fossil fuels can be used more sparingly and buildings can be made of more efficient, sustainable materials; but it is far harder to expect someone to adapt if he or she relies on the trees of a local forest for fuel, shelter and livelihood. If we recognise the interests and needs of the people who are most affected, we can work with them to bring about lasting change. Happily, this approach has always been a strength of the Commonwealth, and awareness of environmental issues is now widespread, with a determination that future generations should enjoy clean air, sufficient fresh water and energy without risking damage to the planet. Few are more aware or energetic in confronting climate change than young people, and we should support them.

In the Commonwealth, governments, businesses, communities and individuals should each strive to match words and good intentions with deeds. Every contribution has its part to play. Whatever we do, wherever we live, our actions in defence of the environment can have a real and positive effect upon the lives of others, today and into the future."

Elizabeth R.

10 March 2008

The Commonwealth

Today's Commonwealth is an association of 53 countries. Its nearly 2 billion citizens, about 30 per cent of the world's population, are drawn from the broadest range of faiths, races, cultures and traditions.

Commonwealth Secretariat

The Commonwealth Secretariat, established in 1965, is the main intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth, facilitating consultation and cooperation among member governments and countries.

The Council of Commonwealth Societies

The Council of Commonwealth Societies (CCS) is an association of civil society organisations **including The Pakistan Society** and partner organisations - under the auspices of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Commonwealth Peoples Friendship Association of Pakistan

President: Mr. Qutubuddin Aziz

General Secretary: Mr. Shahid Mohiuddin, 40-T/4 Blessing Street, Block 6 PECHS, Karachi, Pakistan.

Dragons' Den investor sets up Pakistan gap year trips



James Caan is best known as one of Britain's richest and most successful businessmen, and one of the fearsome panel of investors from TV's Dragons' Den.

But now entrepreneur James Caan has found a new project to work on - helping British people of Pakistani descent rediscover their roots. The businessman has set up a gap year teaching project that will give young British people the chance to work in Pakistan.

And although the project was launched in March 2008, it has already had hundreds of applications - including nearly 100 from Birmingham alone.

The Projects Abroad gap year organisation has been running since 1991, but has never had any trips to Pakistan, because authorities always believed it was too dangerous. But Mr Caan persuaded them that it was important for people to recognise their roots, and that setting the trips up would be useful in the fight against extremism.

He said he believed the July 7 terror attacks in 2005 might not have happened if Pakistani Muslims in the UK had a better sense of identity about their roots. He added: "I believe that there is great potential benefit, both in the UK and in Pakistan, from young people from families of Pakistani origin to do some voluntary work back in Pakistan. It will help to bridge the psychological and knowledge gap between these young people and their heritage.

"I have appointed the long-established volunteering organisation, Projects Abroad, to run this programme. They intend to work initially with volunteers interested in helping out at schools with teaching and care projects in the Lahore area. Volunteering with a professional organisation with global experience, like Projects Abroad, guarantees structured work and good support and monitoring, expert briefing and inductions, and proper arrangements for accommodation, food and insurance. This should all be reassuring to the families of potential young volunteers back home in the UK."

Mr Caan's idea for the Projects Abroad gap year trips involves sending young British volunteers to work in schools in Pakistan. Successful applicants will be working with the CARE foundation - a Pakistani charity founded in 1988 to provide education to needy children. The CARE foundation manages 182 schools in Pakistan, and is educating more than 117,000 students and employs more than 1,700 teachers.

There will also be opportunities to work in local newspaper, radio and TV placements, in hospitals, with after-school sports clubs and on IT projects. Volunteers would be placed with host families in one of five locations around Lahore, the second-largest city in Pakistan.

Dr Peter Slowe, of the Projects Abroad programme said: "I welcome this initiative. It is an opportunity for young people from families originating in Pakistan to learn about an important part of their heritage, and it is also an opportunity for them to help with teaching and care in schools in Pakistan where they will be appreciated."

Source: The Birmingham Post.Net

About CARE

CARE Foundation ("CARE") is a charitable trust which was founded in 1988 with the mission to provide quality marketable education to Pakistan's underprivileged children. On 17 January 1991, CARE opened the doors of its first school and in 1998, CARE was requested by the City District Government of Lahore (CDGL), to adopt and manage 10 of their schools as a pilot project. CARE provided all missing facilities in such schools, including building science laboratories and libraries. In addition, it also supplemented the adopted schools with trained teachers, thereby improving the standard of teaching in all the schools. In addition, CARE trained the Government teachers working in these schools through CARE's Teacher Training Program. CARE managed to turn these schools around within one year, with the result that over the years CARE has been requested to adopt more Government schools. Presently, CARE is running a total of 182 schools - 10 of its own, as well as 172 former government schools. CARE is now educating over 117,000 underprivileged children, and employing over 1,700 teachers. All expenses are met through donations that CARE has managed to raise from private individuals and companies in Pakistan.

St Andrews Develops Pakistan Partnership



Leading figures from Pakistan's top universities were in Scotland during the week (13 - 19 January) to seal a major new academic collaboration between the two countries.

The delegation had detailed discussions for six days at the University of St Andrews to finalise a new postgraduate PhD partnership designed to build academic capacity in Pakistan and strengthen Scottish links with that country.

The initiative is a joint venture between St Andrews and its partner universities in Pakistan - the University of the Punjab, Government College University and Quaid-I-Azam University. If successful, St Andrews hopes the model will allow other Scottish universities to forge similar partnerships with Higher Education institutions across Pakistan.

The development will put in place strategic links and new jointly supervised PhD programmes awarded by St Andrews and its partners in Pakistan. Students will normally spend two years in Pakistan and one in St Andrews. Programmes will be based on joint research projects arising from the universities' shared expertise in subjects such as Anthropology, Economics, English, History, International Relations, Mathematics and Middle Eastern, Caucasian and South Asian Studies.

The collaboration was developed by the University's Advisor to the Principal, Dr David Corner, who suggested the possibility of partnership to the Executive Director of the Pakistan's Higher Education Commission during a visit in early 2007. Dr Corner had already successfully developed partnerships in the

Sciences between St Andrews and universities in South Africa and believed that a similar programme could work in Pakistan.

He said, "Pakistan has, in recent years, significantly increased public investment in Higher Education, with a high priority given to developing its social sciences, arts and humanities, with the belief that this will provide significant social, economic and cultural benefits. Before 2003 however, provision and support in these fields was sporadic and there was a mountain to climb when the Higher Education Commission was established in that year. Since then, it has successfully introduced a range of relevant initiatives relating to the enhancement of research activity, as well as a 24m rupee funded Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council."

In the months following his initial visit, Dr Corner worked with the HEC to develop a set of partnerships with particular academic units in Pakistan, strategically linking St Andrews' areas of expertise with theirs.

It is envisaged that the partnership will not only create the first joint St Andrews-Pakistan PhDs, but fruitful academic exchanges, joint research projects and post-doctoral appointments.

The visit to St Andrews included a series of workshops, talks and visits aimed at introducing the partner universities to the research environment at St Andrews. The delegation also attended a dinner hosted by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy of Science & Letters.

University of Bedfordshire Develops Media Links with Pakistan



University of Bedfordshire

Media students in Pakistan will have the chance to gain a degree from the University of Bedfordshire. The University has set up a partnership with the Riphah International University (RIU) in Islamabad, to allow students to study the first two years of a BA (Hons) in Media Production or a BA (Hons) in TV Production, in Pakistan, and to finish the final two years at the University of Bedfordshire.

Lecturers will travel to Islamabad at the beginning of each academic year to train the Pakistani academics and they may also have an involvement in the moderation of assessments at Riphah. The University has developed strong links with the media industry in Pakistan and is currently working with the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulator Authority (PEMRA) and the media advisor to the President of Pakistan, to develop short professional courses for people working in the media, who have hands on experience, but want to work towards an academic qualification. Steve Stephens, Regional Director of the International Office, said: "We have developed strong partnerships with a number of institutions in Pakistan and the University of Bedfordshire is one of the top universities for student choice.

"One of the reasons for this is we have the third highest percentage of international students out of UK universities and has some of the best media facilities in the country inside the £5.5m Media Arts Centre." Media facilities include a broadcast television studio, two digital radio stations, ten digital video-editing suites and a performance theatre and studio. The University is also developing courses in other areas with RIU, including in IT and computing. To find out more about media studies courses at the University call 01582 489286

University of Lancaster seals Pakistan Partnership



Lancaster University and COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) in Pakistan have cemented their relationship with the signing of a memorandum of understanding attended by one of Pakistan's most senior politicians, the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Ch. Nouraz Shako Khan.



The partnership, the first that CIIT has established with a UK University, will initially focus on Lancaster playing a role in the academic staff development in CIIT, which is set to become the largest university in Pakistan.

Lancaster will provide postgraduate courses in computing, communications systems, physics, engineering and management. The partners will then engage in developing research and teaching links at CIIT's Lahore campus.

During the two day visit to Lancaster University in July, the Minister and the delegation toured campus, attended a dinner hosted by the Vice Chancellor and received presentations from academics in Lancaster's science and technology departments.

The delegation from Pakistan included the Minister, Ch. Nouraz Shako Khan; the Rector of CIIT, Dr Zaidi Junaid; Member of the Higher Education Commission and Director of CIIT Wah campus, Professor Mukhtar Ahmed; the Director of CIIT Lahore campus, Dr Shaukat Ali; head of Electrical Engineering CIIT, Dr Shahid Khan; Associate Professor and head of department of Electrical Engineering CIIT, Dr Hassan Ahmed; Associate Professor HRD, CIIT Islamabad, Dr Qaisar Abbas.

The COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) was established in Islamabad in 2000. It has been granted its Charter and will be renamed COMSATS University.

It now has six campuses in Islamabad, Lahore, Wah, Abbottabad, Attock, and Sahiwal, with another being established at Gujrat. Future plans envisage opening of more campuses in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan, as well as overseas.

New all Female Research link with Pakistan



Funding worth £30,000 has been awarded to an all female research project between the University of Stirling's Institute of Aquaculture and the University of Karachi's Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology. The award was made as part of the British Council and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan's Joint Higher Education links programme. This was one of 35 new links announced as Phase II of the programme.

The three year project has the aim of strengthening teaching and research in shellfish aquaculture. As part of the programme, Dr Zarrien Ayub and Dr Ghazala Siddiqui will spend a month at Stirling developing their teaching and research capabilities in aspects of shrimp and bivalve culture. Stirling researcher Dr Janet Brown will also visit their facilities in Pakistan. Dr Brown said, "It makes sense for female academics to be involved in developing shellfish aquaculture since employment prospects in the shellfish industry in Pakistan are often uniquely attractive to women, particularly in culturing bivalves such as oysters. Shrimp farming can also provide good job opportunities in the processing of shrimp."

Torch Relay Beijing 2008



The Olympic flame for the Beijing Games will be lit in Olympia, Greece in March 2008. With the theme of "Journey of Harmony" and the slogan of "Light the Passion, Share the Dream", the Olympic flame will travel along

the historic Silk Road, and visit 22 cities, including **London** (6 April) and **Islamabad** (16 April), on the five inhabited continents from April 2008 onwards. After travelling throughout the mainland of China, a country with 1.3 billion people, and reaching the summit of the world – Mt. Qomolangma (Everest) – the Olympic flame will finally arrive at the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and light the main cauldron on 8 August 2008.

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay, with the participation of more than 20,000 Torchbearers, the duration of 130 days, and the distance of 137,000 km, will be remembered as the one that covers the longest distance and the widest geographical expanse, and that involves the largest number of participants in the history of the modern Olympic Movement.

London will welcome the Olympic Flame on Sunday 6 April 2008, as part of the global Olympic Torch Relay in the run up to the Beijing Olympic Games. The torch will travel through ten London boroughs from Wembley to Greenwich, with each borough marking its arrival with entertainment and local events, bringing London's colour and vibrancy to life.

The Torch Relay in London ends at a grand finale at the Arena at North Greenwich climaxing with the spectacle of the arrival of the final torchbearer and the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron. The Olympic flame will be carried through London by 80 torchbearers including Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom **HE Fu Ying**, double Olympic gold medal winner **Dame Kelly Holmes** and England cricketer **Kevin Pietersen**.

London Route: Sunday, 6 April 2008

Wembley (10:30)	Southbank Centre (14:00)
Ladbroke Grove (11:15)	Somerset House (14:30)
Notting Hill Gate (11:30)	St Paul's Cathedral (14:45)
Oxford Street (12:00)	Tate Modern (15:00)
British Museum (12:30)	Potters Field (15:30)
China Town (12:50)	Tower Bridge (15:45)
Piccadilly Circus (13:00)	Whitechapel High St. (16:00)
Trafalgar Square (13:15)	Stratford (16:45)
The Mall (13:30)	Canary Warf (17:15)
	North Greenwich (18:00)

Visiting Fellow from Pakistan



Professor Naushad Khan is the new visiting fellow from Pakistan at the Department of International Security Studies, The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). He is a Professor of Pakistan Studies and Chairman Department of Pakistan Studies, Islamia College, University of Peshawar, Pakistan (BPS- 21). His fellowship will last from January 2008 to 2009. Professor Khan is an expert in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. He is fluent in Urdu, English and Pashtun.

His other capacities include:

- Member Academic Council, University of Peshawar, Pakistan
- Member Senate University of Peshawar, Pakistan
- Served as Member Text Book (Pakistan Studies) Review Committee (HSSC level), a joint venture of GTZ & NWFP Text Book Board, NWFP, Peshawar, Pakistan
- Editor, Arts & Letters, Biannual Research Journal of Social Sciences, Islamic Studies and Languages, Islamia College University of Peshawar, since 1998.
- University Advisor to NWFP Public Service Commission for selection of lecturers and subject specialists in Pakistan Studies
- Resource Person in Human Rights, certified by the UGC, Islamabad, Pakistan
- Guest Speaker, Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARAD) Peshawar, Pakistan

Recent publications include:

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the North-West Frontier Province

History and Achievements of Islamia College Peshawar

A Dictionary of the Freedom Struggle of the Indian Muslims

Recent Events

Thursday, 24 January 2008

Professor Francis Robinson CBE, Professor of the History of South Asia, Royal Holloway, University of London gave a power point presentation on **The Mughals and the Islamic dynasties of India, Iran and Central Asia, 1206-1925**. He presented lively biographical portraits of the Mughals illuminated by vivid descriptions from contemporary chroniclers. They were shown as able administrators and military leaders as well as enlightened patrons of the arts and sciences. Professor Robinson's presentation explored the characters of the men who ruled over some of the finest expression of Islamic civilization.

Thursday, 21 February 2008

Members of the Society were given an exclusive tour of **The Wallace Collection**. The collection is displayed in a domestic setting at Hertford House, the main London home of its former owners, Sir Richard and Lady Wallace. It was bequeathed to the nation and opened as a museum in 1900. It has the largest collection of Marie Antoinette's furniture, paintings by Titian, Rembrandt, Hals, Velazquez and others, an armoury including Indian, Persian, Arabic and Japanese arms from 15th to 19th Century including A sword belonging to Tipu Sultan.

Thursday, 13 March 2008

Peter Willey's talk on **The Eagle's Nest: Ismaili Castles in Iran and Syria** was cancelled because of his ill health.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday, 2 April 2008

Annual General Meeting followed by Reception

Chairman's Report and Financial Statements for year ending 31 December 2007

Time: 6pm **Venue:** High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 9JN

Admission: Free. **RSVP** Tel: 020 7235 9914 or email info@thepakistansociety.org.uk

Wednesday, 9 April 2008

Reflections on a former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto

Sir Nicholas Barrington and Victoria Schofield

Time: 6pm **Venue:** High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 9JN

Admission: Free. **RSVP** Tel: 020 7235 9914 or email info@thepakistansociety.org.uk

Thursday, 15 May 2008

Tourism in Pakistan – A Secret worth Sharing

Amy Adams, Deputy Editor of TNT Magazine & Sarah Baxter, Deputy Editor Wanderlust Magazine

Time: 6pm **Venue:** High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 9JN

Admission: Free. **RSVP** Tel: 020 7235 9914 or email info@thepakistansociety.org.uk

Tuesday, 20 May 2008

A Tour has been arranged of the Gardens at Highgrove House, Gloucestershire home of HRH The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall

For fully paid-up members who are garden enthusiasts & fit to walk approx. 2 miles

Time: 8.45am **Meeting place:** High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 9JN

Places: 25 **Admission:** £45 (includes coach fare and £8 donation to Prince's Charities Foundation)

RSVP Tel: 020 7235 9914 or email info@thepakistansociety.org.uk

Tuesday, 24 June 2008

55th Annual Dinner

Time: 6.45pm for 8pm **Venue:** The Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3TL.

Admission: **£60 each** for Members and their Spouse, and **£75 each** for Non-Members.

Booking required. See attached application form.

Other Events

Sharing the Narrative of Progress

Lecture Series 2008 at the Ismaili Centre, 1 Cromwell Gardens, London, SW7 2SL.

23 April Diasporas & Development

Lord Meghnad Desai, LSE

7 October Poverty & Growth: The Development Dilemma

Prof Paul Collier, University of Oxford

22nd Pakistan Workshop: "Spaces of Dialogue". 9-11 May 2008 at The Rook Howe, Lake District. This workshop was founded to bring together anthropologists and sociologists whose research involved Pakistan, Pakistani Diaspora and South Asian Islam. This year's theme is Spaces of Dialogue and it is hoped that papers will deal with various forms of dialogue among Pakistanis, between Pakistanis and other groups, and dialogue about Pakistanis, both in the past and in the present, at home and abroad, and the global and local contexts in which these dialogues take place. **Contact: M.T.Blell@durham.ac.uk** for more information about this event.



Festival of Asian Literature 12-23 May 2008

13 May 2008 - Expressing Identity in Interesting Times – Pakistani Writers in Conversation
Mohsin Hamid and Mohammed Hanif

Political turmoil in Pakistan and social unrest within the Pakistani communities in Britain have led young Pakistanis to be unsure of their cultural identity. The Man Booker short-listed author of 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist' and the author of the new novel 'A Case of Exploding Mangoes' discuss how they view their British-Pakistani cultural identity and its expression in their work and that that of other Pakistani writers.

Launched in 2007, The Festival of Asian Literature is Britain's first festival wholly dedicated to books written about Asia, its people and its cultures. The 2008 Festival will feature fiction, non-fiction, talks, discussions and opportunities to meet authors, both Asian and non-Asian, writing about Asia. All events will begin at 6:45pm, with the exception of Saturday, 17 May, which will start at 2:30pm. There will be an opportunity to purchase books and have them signed by the authors after each event. Booking is essential for all events – Tickets: Asia House members & concs £5, Non-members £8. For further information on the Festival of Asian Literature or to purchase tickets call 020 7303 5454 or enquiries@asiahouse.co.uk



Iqbal Academy (U.K.)

Iqbal in Europe Centenary Conference

Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal was in Europe from 1905 to 1908 to carry out his research studies at the University of Cambridge, which culminated in a degree of BA from Cambridge (with Distinction) and a PhD from the University of Munich in November 1907 with a thesis entitled *The Development of Metaphysics in Persia*. He was also called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, London, in July 1908. To mark the centenary of Iqbal's stay in Europe – which had a profound effect on the thinking and future outlook of the young poet-philosopher - Iqbal Academy (UK), in conjunction with Iqbal Academy Pakistan, is holding a major international conference in London and Cambridge during the summer of 2008. **The London part of the conference will take place in the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London, on Tuesday 17th June 2008.** It will primarily be the responsibility of the UK Academy. **The Cambridge meeting will be held on Thursday-Friday, 19 – 20 June** (at Trinity College – the Allamah's old *alma mater*), and will be organized chiefly by the Pakistan Academy. Admission to both meetings will be free – but by invitation only.

The theme of the London meeting will be ***Iqbal as a Bridge between the East and the West***. Here, following 'Vision Statements' on the background and purpose of the conference by the two Academy Chairmen (**Prof. Saeed Durrani** and **Mr Suheyl Umar**, respectively), the keynote speaker will be **Dr Javid Iqbal**, the illustrious son of the Poet-Philosopher. Other speakers will include: **Professor Vito Salierno** (Italy) - the incoming President of Iqbal Foundation Europe; **Professor Anwar Dil** (USA); **Dr Basit Koshul** (Pakistan); and **Dr Reza-Shah Kazemi** (UK). Guests of Honour will be **HRH Prince El-Hassan of Jordan** and **HE Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani** (Saudi Arabia) - who will give away the newly-struck Yamani medallions to the speakers and other distinguished guests. **Durdana Ansari** will recite Iqbal's Urdu poetry, and **Salman Arif**, English translations of some selected pieces. Highlights of a new documentary on Iqbal, made in the USA, will be screened at the meeting. A full programme of the conference may be seen on website: www.iqbalacademy-uk.org. Those interested in receiving invitations to the London and the Cambridge legs of the conference should get in touch with the Academy's Hon. Secretary, Mr Dawer Tawfik (Newland House, 137-139 Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8UA; Tel. : 0121-456 3777; Fax : - 456 3777; e-mail: dawer@tawfik.freeserve.co.uk).

The Pakistan Society, 8 Harriet Walk, London SW1X 9JH, Tel: 020 7235 9914
info@thepakistansociety.org.uk www.thepakistansociety.org.uk



The Pakistan Society
Bringing Pakistan & Britain Together

55th Annual Dinner

Tuesday, 24 June 2008

**The Great Hall
Lincoln's Inn
London WC2A 3TL**

You are invited to apply for places for the 55th Annual Dinner at Lincoln's Inn, London on the 24th June 2008. Since 1985, the Society Dinners have been held at the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, where Quaid-i-Azam was called to the Bar. Tickets are **£60 each** for Members and their Spouse, and **£75 each** for Non-Members. Corporate members taking tables of 10 persons at £900 or half table for £500 will be appropriately recognised in the programme.

Provisional bookings **cannot** be accepted and **NO** tickets will be available at the door. Members may apply for themselves, their spouse and their Guests.

Generally tables will seat 10 persons depending on final numbers. Please indicate below your seating preference and any dietary restrictions. Any meat served will be halal.

The Pakistan Society

Member

Mr/Mrs _____ Surname: _____

First Name: _____

Decorations: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Tel No: _____

**Reservation Form for 55th Annual
Dinner on Tuesday, 24th June 2008
Guests**

Please state each guest's full name and any decorations.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

E-Mail: _____

I wish to be seated near: _____

I hereby apply for:	Qty	Total
Members and Spouse ticket(s) @ £60 each		£
Non Members ticket(s) @ £75 each		£
Corporate table for 10 persons @ £900		£
Half Corporate table for 5 persons @ £500		£
I enclose a cheque made payable to The Pakistan Society	TOTAL	£

**Return to: Mrs Shama Husain, Secretary, The Pakistan Society, 8 Harriet Walk,
London SW1X 9JH by Thursday, 19th June 2008 Email: info@thepakistansociety.org.uk**