

Newsletter - April 2009

UK Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan



Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has appointed Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, former HM Ambassador to Afghanistan, as his Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

David Miliband said: "Sherard Cowper-Coles has made a major contribution to the UK effort in Afghanistan during his time as Ambassador in Kabul. I want to continue to make use of his expertise as we take forward our work with both countries which is so critical to the tan. He will work closely with the British Ambassador in Kabul and the High Commissioner in Islamabad, but focus on the cross-cutting issues facing both governments. UK's own strategic interests."

On 24th April, Sir Sherard called on the Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi for discussions on matters of mutual interest including counterterrorism and the overall regional situation. The Foreign Minister briefed Sir Sherard about the efforts being made by the Government towards building a national consensus on fighting extremism and terrorism in the country through a comprehensive national strategy. He apprised him of the progress being made in this regard in the Parliament, which is currently debating the report and recommendations prepared by the All Party Parliamentary Committee on National Security.

The Foreign Minister also briefed the Special Representatives in detail about the expansion of relations and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He underlined the need for the international community to understand the complexities of the issues involved saying that the challenges confronting our region could only be addressed through a holistic approach. The Foreign Minister thanked Britain for supporting Pakistan at the recently-held meeting of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan in Tokyo.

Sir Sherard said that Pakistan was a proud Muslim democracy. Britain attaches immense importance to its relations with Pakistan and that it will continue supporting the process of building a strong long-term partnership between our two countries.

The issue of ten Pakistani students who were arrested in the UK on 8th April and are presently in the custody of the United Kingdom Border Agency also came up in the meeting. The Foreign Minister requested that the students be allowed to stay in UK to complete their studies.

Pakistan Chief of Army Staff Visit to UK 25–26 March 2009



The Irish Guards provided the guard of honour for the first official visit of General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani to UK as Chief of Army Staff (COAS). During the visit COAS called on David Milliband, Secretary of state for foreign & Commonwealth Affairs and Mr John Hutton, Secretary of State for Defence to discuss the overall security situation in the region. He also held meetings with Air Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, Chief of Defence Staff and General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of General Staff to discussed issues of professional interest.

At the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), COAS met Lieutenant General Andrew Graham, Director Defence Academy and Rear Admiral Charles Style, Commandant RCDS. He addressed the students on "Strategic Stability issues in the region: Challenges and Way Forward". General Kayani also attended a dinner hosted by General Sir Richard Dannatt at Cavalry and Guards Club.



Clocks in Pakistan were advanced by an hour (GMT+6) at midnight on 15 April as Daylight Saving Time (DST) was implemented. The clocks will be reverted on 31 October.

The practice would be followed every year to save energy. From next year, clocks will be advanced by an hour on 1 April, with DST ending on 31 October.

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Next Event: Talk on Islam and Democracy by Hon. Amedee Turner QC at 6pm on Thursday, 14 May 2009 at the High Commission for Pakistan, London SW1X 9JN.

World Water Day 22 March 2009

The world's 263 transboundary lake and river basins include the territory of 145 countries and cover nearly half of the Earth's land surface. Great reservoirs of freshwater also move silently below our borders in underground aquifers.

With every country seeking to satisfy its water needs from limited water resources, some foresee a future filled with conflict. But history shows that cooperation, not conflict, is the most common response to transboundary water management issues.

Over the last 60 years there have been more than 200 international water agreements and only 37 cases of reported violence between states over water. We share the responsibility for managing the world's transboundary waters for current and future generations.

Pakistan: Indus Basin Treaty (1960)

With partition and emergence of the two independent political entities India and Pakistan, the sharing of Indus waters resulted in a dispute and became an International Issue. About 8 years of discussion and negotiations between Governments of India and Pakistan, carried out under the auspices of the World Bank, resulted in 'Indus Basin Treaty'. Under this treaty, the waters of the three eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Satluj) would be for the exclusive use of India and waters of the four western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) for the exclusive use of Pakistan.

Under the agreement, India has to allow these rivers to flow to Pakistan without any hindrance or interference, except as specifically allowed by the Treaty. This includes the use of water for domestic and other non-consumptive purposes, as well as the generation of hydroelectric power. However, the agreement precludes the building of any storage by India on the rivers allocated to Pakistan.

Recent developments threaten to undermine this agreement. On October 10, 2008, India inaugurated the controversial Baglihar hydro-electric dam project located on the Chenab River.

At the 101st Meeting of the Pak-India Permanent Indus Basin Commission held on 25 April 09, Pakistan raised objections over the Baglihar Dam project and again questioned the construction of the Kishan Ganga Dam across the Indus River.

Although sharing of river waters is not as politically sensitive as the Kashmir dispute, analysts say it has the potential of becoming increasingly contentious as the power and irrigation needs of both countries are growing rapidly.

Hundreds of millions of South Asians face growing water stress due to over exploitation, climate change and inadequate cooperation among countries, which are threatening river basins that sustain about half of the region's 1.5 billion people, the United Nations warns in a new report.

South Asia is home to one-fourth of the global population, including some of the world's poorest people, who have access to less than 5 per cent of the planet's freshwater resources, according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

"Freshwater Under Threat: South Asia," a new report produced by **UNEP** and the **Asian Institute of Technology**, examines the state of freshwater resources in selected major river basins in the region, identifies key threats to water resources development and management, and assesses the challenges in coping with these threats.

The three transboundary river basins assessed in the report include the largest in South Asia: the **Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna** river basin (which spans Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India and Nepal), the **Indus** river basin (in Afghanistan, China, India, Nepal and **Pakistan**) and the **Helmand** river basin (which covers Afghanistan, Iran and **Pakistan**).

"Water is a vital resource for people's health and livelihoods, especially in South Asia where these three transboundary river basins sustain some of the poorest people in the world," said Young-Woo Park, UNEP Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, as he launched the report at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

The report calls for urgent policy attention and more research into the impact of climate change on water resources, infrastructure and management practices, as well as improved cooperation among the affected countries and integrated basin management. UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner stressed the need to invest in the sustainable management of these vital river basins.

The report is the first of a series produced by UNEP that covers North-East Asia, South Asia and South-East Asia. They are intended to complement the efforts of Governments, non-governmental organizations and development agencies engaged in improving the status of water systems in Asia.

The 159th Sovereign's Parade

Pakistan Army Officer is awarded the Overseas Sword



The Rt Hon John Hutton MP, Secretary of State for Defence represented Her Majesty The Queen at the 159th Sovereign's Parade at Royal Military College Sandhurst on 9 April 2009.

Commissioning Course 082 Prize winners:

THE SWORD OF HONOUR, awarded to the officer cadet considered by the Commandant to be the best of the course, was presented to **Junior Under Officer Christopher Judge**, who has been commissioned into The Corps of Royal Engineers.

THE OVERSEAS SWORD, awarded to the overseas cadet considered by the Commandant to be the best of the intake, was presented to **Junior Under Officer Umair Imran Qazi of Pakistan**. JUO Qazi is 21 and spent his early years moving around Pakistan with his parents. He is a graduate of the Pakistan Military Academy, where he obtained a BSc in Maths and Physics. In addition to the Overseas Sword, JUO Qazi won three other prizes for the best overseas cadet's academic performance.

THE QUEEN'S MEDAL, awarded to the officer cadet who gains the highest score in military, practical and academic subjects, was presented to **Officer Cadet Gemma Read** who has been commissioned into the The Corps of Royal Engineers.

Extracts from the Speech by the Rt Hon John Hutton MP, Secretary of State for Defence

Commandant, Officer Cadets and staff of the Royal Military Academy, your Highnesses, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Parents and Friends. It is a great honour to represent Her Majesty The Queen on her parade today at Sandhurst.

Integrity. Valour. Selflessness. Loyalty. Willpower. Responsibility. Leadership.

These are values held by previous generations of newly commissioned officers, who once stood where you stand today. And today, they pass the baton on to you, the 199 cadets who will receive their commissions this morning. They are values that will equip you with a moral compass for the rest of your lives.

You were all selected for Sandhurst because each of you possess these qualities. And during the course of the last year, you have all understood what "serve to lead" really means. Very soon, many of you will be putting these values into action on operational duties, where the lives of the soldiers you lead will depend on the judgements you make and the example you set.

Twenty-six countries are represented here this morning. And cadets from fifteen of those countries will pass out today. Our overseas cadets are an integral part of what makes Sandhurst so special. As cadets, you have forged lifelong friendships. And whether you are Captains or Colonels, the chances are your paths will cross again with our allies as we stand together against common threats in our interdependent and global world.

You have not chosen an easy profession or a quiet life. But you have chosen the noblest of careers. You have been tested. Active service will test you further, perhaps more than you thought possible only a year ago. You will find command both a privilege and a responsibility.

As you pass up those famous steps in a few moments, as you get ready to reveal your pips at midnight, have confidence. Have faith. Reflect on what you have achieved and what you will go on to do. Know that you have the profound respect of your country behind you – at all times and wherever you serve. And, with your family and friends, take time to have some fun and to celebrate this key milestone in your lives. Good luck to you all.

Sadiq Khan MP visit to Pakistan, 6 – 8 April 09



First Visit by British Muslim Minister of Pakistani Origin, Sadiq Khan MP the UK's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Tuesday 7 April- Islamabad

- **Visit to Muslim School of Excellence (1020 hrs)**

The UK's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sadiq Khan MP visited Muslim School of Excellence run by UK-based Charity organization "Muslim Hands". He was briefed on school activities.

- **Interfaith Dialogue at Islamic International University (1100 hrs)**

Minister debated the important role that muslims play in the UK. He elaborated on the fact that there are 2 million British muslims, half of them are of Pakistani origin. Among them, 2/3rd are under 35 and 50% under 25. He held a question and answer session with the students about living as a muslim in the UK. This was a real opportunity for building relationships between the government, the people and the students.

- **Meeting with Justice (rtd.) Abdul Raza Taheem, Minister for Local Government. (1230 hrs)**

Sadiq Khan met Justice (rtd.) Abdul Raza Taheem, Minister for Local Government. They exchanged views on structure and function of the local Government and how central government can engage with local government to improve community cohesion.

- **Meeting with Imam Professor Abdul Jabbar Sarqib- Faisal Mosque (1400 hrs)**

Sadiq Khan met Imam of Faisal Mosque, Professor Abdul Jabbar Sarqib and had a dialogue on Interfaith issues.

- **Called on Prime Minister Gillani (1500 hrs)**

The British Minister called on Prime Minister of Pakistan Yousuf Raza Gillani and exchanged views on restoration of Chief Justice and shared threat of terrorism. He emphasized on the need to work together.

- **Sadiq Khan met Bishop of Peshawar, Rumal Shah. (1730 hrs)**

Sadiq Khan met Rumal Shah, Bishop of Peshawar at the Residence of H.E Robert Brinkley- High Commissioner to Pakistan. They discussed and compared the experiences of minorities in both countries.



Wednesday 8 April-Mirpur

- **Visit to Mohiuddin Medical College (1000 hrs)**

Sadiq Khan visited Mohiuddin Medical college in Mirpur. He met with faculty to discuss the courses available to students of this new college, which was built using contributions from british pakistani benefactors to enable provision of medical care in pakistan. Before he left, the minister planted a tree in the college's garden to symbolise the blossoming and foundation of one of many joint initiatives linking the UK and Pakistan.

- **Visit to AJK University (1045 hrs)**

Minister met with students and teachers of UK government funded project to explore and develop artistic abilities of local young people. "I was struck by the raw talent of the young people of AJK and their ability to convey complicated social themes of promoting peace and stability in Pakistan and the region" he said.

- **Interview with Rose FM (1145 hrs)**

Minister was interviewed at length by Rose FM at their studios in Mirpur. He took probing questions from both Ammar Bilal and listeners on a wide range of topics from how well he can converse in urdu, the effects of violent extremism, forced marriage to the reopening of the visa application centre in Mirpur.

- **I'm Muslim, I'm British Event at Jabeer Hotel (1430)**

Minister part of the panel on the Mirpuri leg of I'm Muslim, I'm British campaign. He took part in the original advertisements so happily agreed to participate. The discussions focused on ways in which dissatisfied people could express their frustration with life, politics, family or future in a non violent way. Several panel members talked about their experiences of being a Muslim growing up in the UK and the opportunities that were available to them. All agreed that the use of violence and terror didn't achieve anything and that a disproportionate majority of victims were Muslims themselves. They stressed the important role British and Pakistani nationals had in bringing the two communities closer together to address these issues.

Commonwealth Day 2009



Commonwealth Day was celebrated on Monday 9 March 2009 throughout the 53 countries of the Commonwealth. 2009 is the 60th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth and the theme for the anniversary is 'The Commonwealth @ 60: serving a new generation'.

A Multi-Faith Observance was held at Westminster Abbey with Her Majesty the Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, and The Duke of Edinburgh attending. Also present were the Commonwealth High Commissioners, senior Ministers and politicians from around the Commonwealth, in addition to 1000 young people from schools and youth organisations from across the United Kingdom.

The service involved religious leaders from nine faiths giving readings and the presentation of personal

testimonies, from five people, relevant to the theme. The five people asked to speak were selected from across the Commonwealth and contribute a message of challenge and hope relevant to the theme.

Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday in March every year. The aim of commemorating Commonwealth Day is to promote understanding on global issues, international co-operation and the work of the Commonwealth to improve the lives of its 2 billion citizens. Although a day has been set aside to celebrate Commonwealth Day (or Empire Day as it was once known) since 1916, it was not until 1977 that Heads of Commonwealth Governments agreed that a date in March would be most appropriate to celebrate Commonwealth Day. Children were seen as a main focus for Commonwealth Day celebrations, so a Monday was chosen to enable schools to educate and encourage children to participate in the Day.

The Queen's Commonwealth Day Message

This year the Commonwealth commemorates its foundation sixty years ago. The London Declaration of 1949 was the start of a new era in which our member countries committed themselves to work together, in partnership and as equals, towards a shared future.

We can rightly celebrate the fact that the founding members' vision of the future has become a reality. The Commonwealth has evolved out of all recognition from its beginning. It has helped give birth to modern nations, and the eight original countries have become fifty-three. We are now home to nearly two billion people, a third of the world's population. Across continents and oceans, we have come to represent all the rich diversity of humankind.

Yet despite its size and scale, the Commonwealth to me has been sustained during all this change by the continuity of our mutual values and goals. Our beliefs in freedom, democracy and human rights; development and prosperity mean as much today as they did more than half a century ago.

These values come from a common responsibility exercised by our governments and peoples. It is this which makes the Commonwealth a family of nations and peoples, at ease with being together. As a result, I believe we are inspired to do our best to meet people's most pressing needs, and to develop a truly global perspective. That is why the modern Commonwealth has stood the test of time.

But as we reflect upon our long association, we should recognize the challenges that lie ahead. Nearly one billion people of today's Commonwealth are under 25 years of age. These are the people that this association must continue to serve in the future. It is they who can help shape the Commonwealth of today, and whose children will inherit the Commonwealth of tomorrow.

To help them make the best of their opportunities, our young men and women therefore need the opportunity to become active and responsible members of the communities in which they live. I am pleased that the Commonwealth recognizes this, and is determined to continue to put young people at its centre.

The call that brought the Commonwealth together in 1949 remains the same today. Then we joined together in a collective spirit – built on lasting principles, wisdom, energy and creativity – to meet the great tasks of our times. As the Commonwealth celebrates its sixtieth birthday, its governments, communities and we as individuals should welcome that achievement. Together, we should continue to work hard to deal with today's challenges so that the young people of today's Commonwealth can realize their aspirations. In that way, we can look to the future with confidence.

News in Pictures



Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani presenting a cheque of Rs. one million to Mr. Ali Moin Nawazish who secured 21 As in A-Level Examination, at Roots School in Islamabad on March 17, 2009.



A DELEGATION PAKISTAN-BRITAIN TRADE & INVESTMENT FORUM LED BY SIR TOM HARRIS, CHAIRMAN, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK MEETS MR. SHAUKAT TAREEN, ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 30, 2009



FEDERAL MINISTER FOR DEFENCE CH. AHMAD MUKHTAR, PRESENTING A SHIELD TO DR. LIAM FOX, SHADOW BRITISH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE, IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, ON 26-2-2009, IN RAWALPINDI.



Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani talking to British High Commissioner Mr. Robert Brinkley who called on him at PM's House Islamabad on March 11, 2009



FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR'S CHIEF OF STAFF, MR. JONATHAN POWELL CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI IN ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 19, 2009



Pakistan's High Commissioner to UK Mr. Wajid Shamsul Hasan hoisting Pakistan's Flag on the occasion of Pakistan Day ceremony held at the Pakistan High Commission in London on 23.03.2009.



Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani talking to the British Foreign Affairs Committee delegation headed by Mr. Mike Capes Chairman/MP at Prime Minister's House Islamabad on April 30, 2009



General Sir Richard Dannatt shaking hand with General Ashfaq Kayani in London on March 25, 2009

Pakistan secures more than US\$5 billion (£3bn) for Human Development and Poverty Reduction



Tokyo, April 17, 2009 — The international community rallied to support Pakistan's economic programme with more than US\$5 billion in funding designed to meet its immediate needs and protect expenditures on safety net and human development initiatives critical for poor people. The amount exceeded initial expectations.

The Tokyo talks included the Friends of Democratic Pakistan Ministerial Meeting in the morning, where Pakistan expressed its political commitment to economic reform and counterterrorism, and the Pakistan Donors Conference in the afternoon co-hosted by the Government of Japan and the World Bank attended by representatives of 31 countries (UK was represented by Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan) and 18 international organizations and agencies.

Pakistan's economy started showing strong signs of overheating more than two years ago and with additional food and fuel price shocks hit last year, policy responses were inadequate. The new Government took robust stabilizing measures and entered into an International Monetary Fund Stand-By Arrangement in November last year which remains on track.

"Through this difficult adjustment – made all the harder by a global downturn – Pakistan has done well to protect the poorest 25 percent of its citizens," said **Isabel Guerrero, World Bank Vice President for South Asia**. "Social spending in areas like education and health has been shielded and what we have achieved in Tokyo is to raise that shield for the poor even higher with an additional US\$5 billion. In essence, under all the macroeconomic numbers, this meeting has been about protecting the poor."

Participants at the conference recognised the multiple challenges confronting Pakistan on both economic and political fronts. While delegations noted the need for Pakistan to ensure economic stabilisation, they also emphasised their commitment at this time was both an expression of support to the people of Pakistan and a recognition of the critical importance of stability and development in this region.

The Government of Pakistan shared development plans at the conference and committed to tough measures that would sustain macroeconomic stability while rolling out expanded social safety nets and laying the foundation for accelerated growth. Development partners supported new social safety net programs being introduced by the Government. The World Bank is working with Pakistan to refine the targeting of these programs to make sure support reaches the poorest citizens in a transparent manner. The successful monitoring and evaluation of this program was of particular concern to donors.

"The scale of the donor pledges made today is a signal of regard for the tough measures the economic team, led by Finance Advisor Shaukat Tarin, has taken in the past few months" said **Guerrero**. "We now need to focus on a range of critical development issues including health, education, skills building and social mobilization as well as important infrastructure to underpin future growth. In a world crowded with problems, Pakistan has won an important commitment to this big agenda."

The largest donations were:

- US \$1bn as down-payment on the previously announced \$1.5bn for each of the next 5 years.
- Japan \$1bn over 2 years.
- Saudi Arabia \$700m over 2 years.
- European Union \$640m over 4 years.

Separately a \$7.6bn bailout has been granted by the IMF to avert the country's most recent balance-of-payment crisis.

March 2009, The World Bank approved a US\$500 million interest free International Development Association (IDA) credit to support the Government of Pakistan's program to regain and maintain economic stability and to bring the economy back to a higher growth path. The credit from the IDA, the World Bank's concessionary lending arm, carries a 0.75% service fee, a 10-year grace period, and a maturity of 35 years.

"Protecting the country's poor and vulnerable people is essential during the stabilization process," said Satu Kahkonen, World Bank Lead Country Economist for Pakistan. "One of the key goals of this operation is to improve access to social safety nets for the poorest 25 percent of the population."

Kamila Shamsie of Pakistan is shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction 2009



The awards ceremony takes place in London on June 3.

Fiction Shortlist

■ **Scottsboro**
Ellen Feldman

■ **The Wilderness**
Samantha Harvey

■ **The Invention of Everything Else**
Samantha Hunt

■ **Molly Fox's Birthday**
Deirdre Madden

■ **Home**
Marilynne Robinson

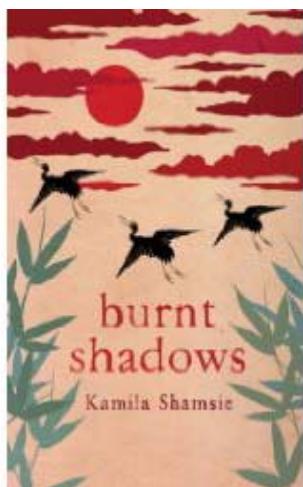
■ **Burnt Shadows**
Kamila Shamsie

The Prize



The winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction receives £30,000, and a limited edition bronze figurine called the 'Bessie' (both anonymously endowed).

The winner of the Orange Award for New Writers receives a £10,000 bursary (funded by Arts Council England) to help her pursue her work with greater freedom.



The book by Kamila Shamsie, a Pakistani-born author who now lives in London, concerns Hiroko Tanaka, a survivor of the nuclear bomb dropped on Nagasaki, whose attempts to build a new life outside Japan are interrupted by new conflicts.

The work is one of two by British authors shortlisted for the women-only prize.



Kamila Shamsie is the author of four previous novels, including *Kartography* and *Broken Verses*. She has written for various publications including *The Guardian*, *TLS*, *The Telegraph* (UK), *DAWN* and *Newsline* (Pakistan), *The Daily Star*

(Bangladesh) and the *New York Times*, and is on the editorial board of the *Index on Censorship*. She grew up in Karachi, went to university in the US, and now lives in London.



Fi Glover and Mishal Husain to chair Orange Prize for Fiction and Award for New Writers 2009 judging panels.

the Orange Award for New Writers will be chaired by BBC World News presenter Mishal Husain, who will be joined by Louise Jury, Chief Arts Correspondent for the Evening Standard and author Diana Evans, whose novel **26a** won the inaugural Orange Award for New Writers.

Mishal Husain said: 'I'm delighted to be chairing this year's Orange Award for New Writers – it's a chance to see the range of new talent among women writers from across the world and I look forward to a voyage of discovery in finding this year's winner.'

Recent Events

Wednesday 21 January 2009

Visit to Tate Britain

Mrs Georgia Crawford, a qualified guide for both Tate Modern and Tate Britain gave us a fascinating insight to Art in the Eighteenth Century, otherwise known as the Age of Enlightenment , covering famous artists such as Hogarth and Reynolds to name a few.

Wednesday 18 February 2009

Historic Battlefields of Pakistan

Brig. Johnny Torrens-Spence talked about Historic Battlefields of Pakistan, particularly those that have left an indelible mark on the culture and history of the people of Pakistan. His well-researched sources have been official and otherwise and gave interesting details about a less-known part of Pakistan's history. His book by the same name is in its second edition.

Thursday 26 March 2009

Pakistan at the Crossroads

Mr Mirza Qamar Beg, a retired diplomat with years of experience of the Civil Service in Pakistan gave a sober assessment of past events. He reminded us of the growing awareness throughout the country of what happens on a day to day basis a result of the electronic media. Despite many obstacles faced by Pakistanis he talked positively about the future.

Wednesday 15 April 2009

Annual General Meeting

Gen Palmer presented the annual report and Emran Husain and Bill Hutchinson (Hon. Auditor) presented the accounts for the reporting year 2008. The AGM re-elected the officers: Gen Anthony Palmer (Chairman), Mrs Shama Husain (Secretary) and Mr Emran T. Husain (Treasurer) and elected the two co-opted Executive Committee members Ms Cary Schofield and Ms Syra Munir. After the AGM, the new Deputy High Commissioner for Pakistan Mr Asif Durrani (elected as Deputy Chairman of the society) gave a candid assessment of the situation in Pakistan and UK-Pakistan relations.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday, 14 May 2009

Islam and Democracy

Hon. Amedee Turner QC, formerly chief whip of the Conservative MEPs and Chairman of the Civil Liberties Committee of the European Parliament. In 2005-06 he wrote a report on Anglican, Episcopalian and Muslim discussions on the attitudes of lay Muslims to democracy and human rights in the USA and Britain entitled "Muslim Grassroots in the West discuss Democracy".

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, 17 June 2009

56th Annual Dinner

There has been a change of date and location for our Annual Dinner. The Guest of Honour will be **Admiral the Lord West of Spithead GCB DSC, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Security and Counter-terrorism**

Venue: The Royal Over-Seas League, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Admission: £60 each for members and spouses, and £75 each for Non-Members.

Booking required. Please apply as early as possible as places are limited.

Wednesday, 22 July 2009

Pakistan's Army and National Security

Brian Cloughley has written a great deal on this subject His latest book is entitled 'War, Coups and Terror: Pakistan's Army in years of Turmoil.'

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

Other Events



Halima Cassell at Craft Study Centre, Farnham Surrey (3 Mar to 23 May 09) and The Margaret Harvey Gallery, St Albans Hertfordshire (3 Jun to 18 Jul 09).

Pakistan-born Halima Cassell is regarded as one of the country's leading young ceramic artists. Her beautiful carved bowls, tiles and sculptures combine strong geometric elements with recurrent patterns and architectural principles. These are drawn from a rich South Asian cultural heritage and her interest in African pattern work. Supported by a major award from Arts Council England *Dreams Made Manifest* is her largest solo exhibition to date and includes examples of her acclaimed carved ceramic bowls, alongside a series of new bronzes.

The 18th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2009



Glasgow is to host the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in 2009. They will be held at Scotstoun Stadium where table tennis will also take centre stage at the main event, the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Some 200 competitors from up to 20 countries including **Pakistan** are expected on 19-25 May 2009. This is the second time Glasgow has hosted the Championships and the third time the contest has been held in Scotland.



The 2009 event sees both the men's and women's tournament integrated for the first time.

The **men's tournament (5-21 June)** format consists of 12 teams, played across three venues – Lord's, Trent Bridge and the Oval. A key feature of the 2009 event is that the majority of match-days will include two games showcasing four different teams. This double-header format allows spectators to view two games for the price of one match-day ticket.

The **women's tournament (11-21 June)** consists of eight teams (including Pakistan) with the group stage games hosted at Taunton. The semi-final days hosted at Trent Bridge and the Oval and the finals day hosted at Lord's will bring the two tournaments together with the men's matches following the women's match on each match-day.



Public lecture **Pakistan: A New Taliban Homeland?** Zahid Hussain, journalist and author. Chair: Professors Mick Cox (LSE IDEAS) and Athar Hussain (Asia Research Centre) 6:00- 7:30pm Tuesday, 2 June 2009. Venue: B212 Columbia House, LSE, Aldwych, London.

The Pakistan Workshop 2009

Dreams, Visions and Nightmares: Between the Imagined and the Real

8-10 May 2009. Rook Howe, The Lake District, Cumbria

Reality is a tangible concept. It is pervasive and powerful, and shapes the actions and thoughts of individuals and groups. For 2009, the Pakistan Workshop invites scholars of Pakistan, the Pakistani diaspora and Muslims of South Asia to submit abstracts for papers broadly interrogating the space between the 'imagined' and the 'real'. It is hoped that papers will address dreams, visions and nightmares among Pakistanis, particularly contestations of belonging and political aspirations. Registrations are limited. Contact: Kaveri Harriss, Department of Anthropology Arts D412, University of Sussex Falmer, Brighton BN1 9SJ.
PakistanWorkshop@googlemail.com

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

56th Annual Dinner

Wednesday, 17 June 2009

Royal Over-Seas League
Over-Seas House
Park Place
St James's Street
London SW1A 1LR

This year we are holding our Annual Dinner at the prestigious Royal Over-Seas League (next to Green Park). They have kindly agreed to allow us to hold the pre-dinner reception in their garden. We do hope you will be able to come. Please apply for places as early as possible. The Guest of Honour will be **Admiral The Lord West of Spithead GCB DSC, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Security and Counter-terrorism, Home Office**. 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: _____

I wish to be seated near: _____

Reservation Form for 56th Annual Dinner on Wednesday, 17th June 2009

Guests

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

E-Mail: _____

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, Honorary Secretary, The Pakistan Society, 8 Harriet Walk,
London SW1X 9JH by Wednesday, 10th June 2009 Email: info@thepakistsociety.org.uk