



The Pakistan Society

Bringing Pakistan & Britain Together

Newsletter – April 2012

Pakistan's first Oscar Win



This year's Best Short Documentary category Academy Award was given to a film from Pakistan about acid violence. **Saving Face** by directors Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy and Daniel Junge, follows the work

of a British-Pakistani surgeon with the Acid Survivor Foundation (ASF), to provide free surgical services and support to victims of acid attacks. It also explores the holistic ways in which ASF-Pakistan has been working to empower Pakistani women and eradicate acid violence with the support of UN Women, among other partners and donors.

In her acceptance speech, Sharmeen dedicated the award to "all the heroes working on the ground in Pakistan" including British Pakistani plastic surgeon Dr Mohammad Jawad, main subjects of the documentary and the women of Pakistan.

In addition to its rehabilitation services, ASF-Pakistan lobbies for acid and burn legislation. The organisation was actively involved in consultations, facilitated by a number of international partners, in the drafting of three laws on the issue. The first of these was unanimously passed and enacted in December 2011, and acid-throwing is now a crime against the state, punishable with a fine of one million rupees and a sentence from 14-years to life imprisonment.

Pakistan Day Service at the Abbey



As a Royal Peculiar, Westminster Abbey has strong links to the Commonwealth and prays for the countries of the Commonwealth throughout its regular pattern of daily services.

Each year, the High Commissioners of the Commonwealth countries are invited by the Dean to evensong on or close to their National Day. On 31st March, the Deputy High Commissioner for Pakistan read the New Testament lesson, and the Abbey community prayed for the people of Pakistan, the leaders, the Pakistanis living in the United Kingdom, diplomats dispersed throughout the world, and for the work of the High Commission in London.

HELLO! Pakistan



At the press conference on 30th March 2012, Zahra Saifullah, CEO and Publisher of the Pakistani edition of HELLO! said the purpose of launching the magazine is to present a positive image of Pakistan.

The magazine will be published monthly and will cost 500 Pakistani rupees (\$5.50, £3.50). The first issue will be launched mid-April and will cover all areas of Pakistani lifestyle, and entertainment from cuisine, culture and the arts to fashion.

The English-language version of HELLO! is expected to do well in the local market and the large Pakistani expatriate markets in the United Kingdom and the Middle East.

Please Renew Your Annual Membership

The annual Membership fee for 2012 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. The Membership Renewal Form and the Bankers Order Form are attached.

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Next Event: Babsi Sidhwa speaking about herself at 6pm on Wed, 18 April 2012 at the High Commission for Pakistan, London SW1

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

In June 2012, HM Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee, and with it Sixty years as Head of the Commonwealth.



Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani talking to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during a dinner hosted by the Queen in honor of the Heads of States and Governments (CHOGM) at Perth on October 29, 2011

The only other British monarch to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee was her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria who celebrated the 60th year of her reign in 1897.

To mark this historic occasion special events are planned during 2012 throughout the UK and the Commonwealth Realms (countries in which she is Head of State), and in many Commonwealth Nations.

The Commonwealth was established over 60 years ago. A British Sovereign, King George VI, was first appointed Head of the Commonwealth in 1949.

Queen Elizabeth II was appointed Head of the Commonwealth on the death of her father in 1952. Today there are 54 countries in the Commonwealth, many of which were at one time under British rule.

In 1947, Pakistan became a Dominion within the Commonwealth of Nations, with the British Monarch serving as Monarch of Pakistan. King George VI was king from 1947 until his death in 1952. Elizabeth II then became queen until 1956, when Pakistan became a republic.

On 12th March, Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh marked Commonwealth Day in Westminster Abbey. In her traditional Commonwealth Day message, The Queen celebrated the 2012 Commonwealth theme, 'Connecting Cultures':

"Through the creative genius of artists... we can see both the range of our cultures and the elements of our shared humanity. 'Connecting Cultures', our Commonwealth theme this year, encourages us to consider the special opportunities we have, as members of this unique gathering of nations, to celebrate an extraordinary cultural tapestry that reflects our many individual and collective identities. The Commonwealth treasures and respects this wealth of diversity."

To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Royal Commonwealth Society has organised a special Jubilee Time Capsule, a digital archive of The Queen's reign. You can contribute to this by picking a day and adding your memories and stories of that day. Contributors are invited to use photos, words or videos and talk about anything they want.

There will be special Royal Collection exhibitions at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyrood House. The National Portrait Gallery is staging a touring exhibition bringing together sixty of the most remarkable and resonant images of Elizabeth II. An official medal will be awarded to those in the Armed Forces, emergency services and prison service.

Over three nights **10th-13th May**, Windsor Castle will host the spectacular **Diamond Jubilee Pageant**. Set in the Castle's grounds, the unique show will represent the different countries visited by The Queen during her reign, and the variety of cultures across the Commonwealth. Inspired by The Queen's love of horses, acts from different corners of the globe will each present a flamboyant theatrical and equestrian-themed display. Great Britain opens the show, featuring the Cavalry Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery and The Household Cavalry. Other highlights include Kremlin Mounted Cossacks, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, American Cowboys, Cook Island Dancers, Indian and **Pakistani Presidential Bodyguards**, Bedouin on Grey Arab and South African Zulu Warriors.

2nd June: The Queen will attend the Epsom Derby. **3rd June:** The Big Jubilee Lunch. People will be encouraged to share lunch with neighbours and friends. **3rd June:** the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant in which up to 1,000 boats, assembled from across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world, will sail down the River Thames. The Queen will lead the flotilla in the Royal Barge reviving a tradition that dates back to King Henry VIII. **4th June:** A televised Diamond Jubilee Concert will be held at Buckingham Palace and 2,012 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. **5th June:** A Service of Thanksgiving will take place at St Paul's Cathedral, with a formal carriage procession by The Queen.



Pakistan has one of the worst 'gender gaps' in the world, ranked 133 out of 135 countries by the World Economic Forum due to the prevalence of issues such as honour killings, forced marriages, physical and sexual violence, lack of economic opportunities, and denied access to basic rights. On current progress, Pakistan is unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals to promote gender equality, and to improve maternal health.

That's why the UK government has put women and girls at the centre of everything it does in Pakistan.

Violence against women occurs more in unequal relationships. A lack of power is a predictor of violence and inequality. So the UK will do all it can to support Pakistan to empower women by strengthening legislation on land rights, marriage rights, and domestic violence; and get more girls and women involved in decision making at community and federal level so that they can demand their basic rights.

The top priority for the UK over the next few years is to help Pakistan get two million more girls in to school; as well as reducing the number of women who die in childbirth; allow women to choose when and how many children they have; and empower women to access financial services such as micro-loans so they can earn more money and lift their families out of poverty.

This will help release a huge economic dividend, as Pakistan harnesses the talent, skills, and productivity of half of its population.

Gender Justice and Protection is a five year project run by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) to help Pakistan reduce violence against women. The project has worked in local communities across Pakistan to provide women with support on and protection from honour killing, acid burning, domestic violence, and other abuses.

Over recent years, UKaid has helped Pakistan support women and girls by:

- Providing 35,096 women victims of violence with counselling, refuge, rehabilitation support and legal aid;
- Supporting implementation of legislation tackling domestic violence, honour killings, sexual harassment, acid burning, and unequal rights in marriage, property, and inheritance;
- Preventing 340,000 children and 19,000 mothers dying since 2003;
- Nearly halving the number of women dying in childbirth from 533 to 260 women per 100,000 births since 1999;

- More than double the number of Lady Health Workers up to 100,000 since 2002;
- Facilitate 1.2 million microfinance loans to poor women, helping them to lift their families out of poverty;
- Provide monthly stipends to some 680,000 poor girls to help keep them in school, and provided millions of free school textbooks;
- Provide nutrition for half a million malnourished young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women following the devastating floods in 2010.

Some of the things the UK will help Pakistan do for girls and women by 2015 include:

Violence against women

- Support legislation to make domestic violence illegal;
- Drive implementation of all legislation to protect women.

Democracy

- Get two million more people (almost half women) to vote in the next General Election.

Women's rights

- Provide legal aid to 5,000 women in the least stable parts of Pakistan;
- Increase women's involvement in decision making at all levels, so that women's voices are heard and their needs addressed.

Maternal health

- Prevent 3,600 mothers dying in childbirth by 2015 by increasing skilled midwives, doctors, nurses, and Lady Health Visitors;
- Save the lives of 110,000 children, including 44,000 newborns, by expanding basic health services at community level with a focus on family planning, nutrition, and healthcare for women and children;
- Fund the training and deployment of 10,000 more Lady Health Workers and an additional 12,000 community mid-wives by 2015, as well as strengthening emergency delivery services throughout the country;
- Help 400,000 couples to choose the number of children they have by providing family planning and contraceptives in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Education

- Get more than two million additional girls in to school;
- Supply more than six million text books sets, around half of them will go to girls;
- Construct or rehabilitate more than 43,000 classrooms, half benefitting girls;
- Construct new schools which 6,500 girls will go to in conflict affected Border areas; and another 3,874 girls in earthquake affected areas.

Finance

- Help an additional 1.5 million poor people (60 per cent women) access microfinance loans by 2013; Fund job and skills training for 125,000 people in the Punjab by 2015 and help 75,000 rural dairy farmers, predominantly women, increase their income by improving the quality and quantity of meat and milk they produce by 2015.

Change of Foreign Secretary



Foreign Minister Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar along with outgoing Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Bashir and incoming Foreign Secretary Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani on the occasion of dinner hosted by her in their Honour in Islamabad on March 06, 2012



Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani has assumed charge as the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. He replaced Mr. Salman Bashir who retired on 3 March 2012. Mr Bashir served as Foreign Secretary from May 2008 to March 2012.

He is a career diplomat and prior to his current appointment, he served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union. He also interacted with the NATO HQ based in Brussels on regular basis.

Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law and MSc in Defence and Strategic Studies. In his professional life, he has specialised in South Asian affairs and remained Director India (1992-1995), Deputy High Commissioner/Acting High Commissioner to New Delhi (1999-2003) and Director General South Asia and SAARC (2003-2007). In 2005 he also served as the Government's Spokesman on Foreign Affairs.

From 1989 to 1992, he served as Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

His other overseas assignments included; Jeddah (1983-1985), London (1985-1988), Washington (1995-1999) and High Commissioner to Canberra, Australia (2007-2009).

In his spare time, he plays golf and is an ardent reader. He is married to Shaista Jilani and has three sons.

Change of Deputy High Commissioner



Mr Syed Zulfiqar Gardezi assumed duties as the Deputy High Commissioner for Pakistan to the United Kingdom in March 2012.

Mr Gardezi has been in the Pakistan diplomatic service for over 22 years. Before taking up his current assignment, he was the Deputy High Commissioner in New Delhi. He previously served in the Pakistan Embassy, Washington and High Commission for Pakistan, London.

In the Foreign Ministry Mr Gardezi has dealt with Pakistan's relations with western countries including the US and the UK as well as multilateral institutions like the European Union and the Commonwealth.

Mr Gardezi obtained a Masters degree in English Literature from Government College Lahore. He has also attended post-graduate diplomatic studies course at the University of Oxford. He is married to Laila Gardezi.

Foreign Minister's First Official Visit to Britain

Foreign Secretary William Hague and Pakistan Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar discussed trade, economic growth and development, cultural co-operation, security and education when they met in London on February 21, 2012.



Text of Joint UK-Pakistan statement:

Foreign Minister of Pakistan Hina Rabbani Khar and British Foreign Secretary William Hague today took forward the enhanced strategic dialogue between Pakistan and the UK that underpins the unbreakable partnership between both countries. They discussed the progress being made against the commitment of Prime Minister Gilani and Prime Minister Cameron in April 2011 to grow a deeper and broader dialogue between our two countries, which strengthens our friendship and promotes mutual prosperity and security.

Pakistan and the UK are bound together by a longstanding ties based on our shared history, values and enormously rich people-to-people links. This enhanced dialogue is intensifying co-operation on shared interests including trade, economic growth and development, cultural co-operation, security and education.

Foreign Minister Khar and Foreign Secretary Hague discussed progress under the five priority areas of the enhanced strategy dialogue.

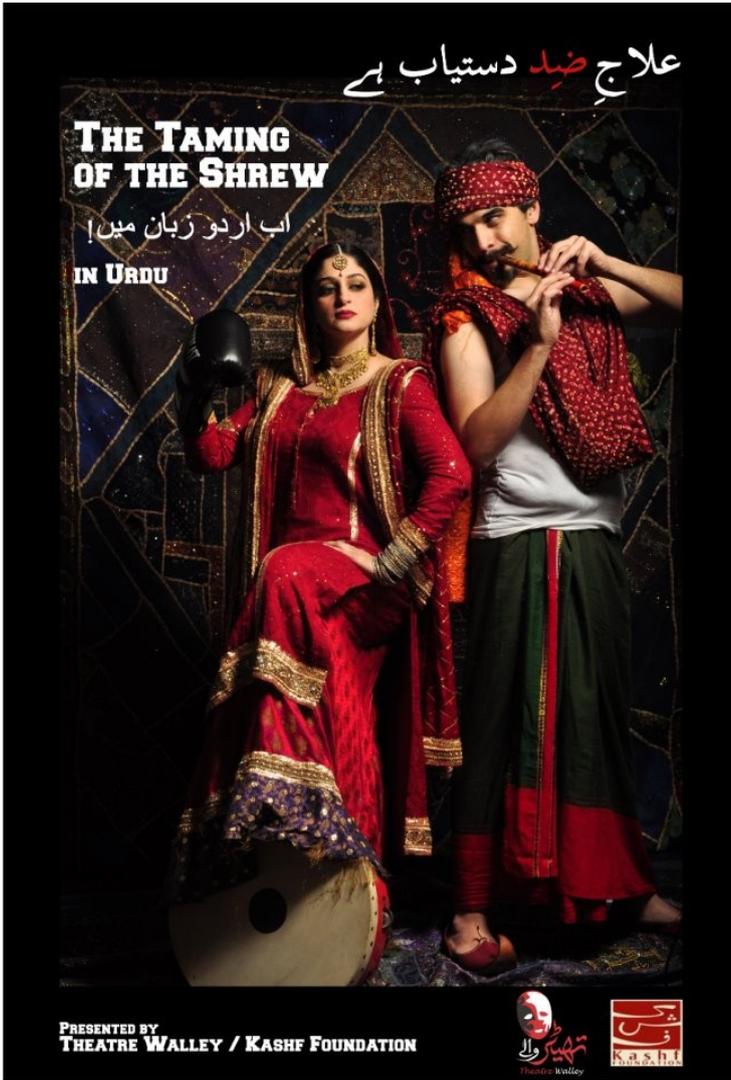
- On trade, they welcomed the progress made towards achieving the target of increasing bilateral trade to £2.5 billion by 2015. Trade now stood at £1.9 billion. UK Trade Minister Lord Green's recent visit had highlighted the opportunities in retail, energy and mining sectors. Foreign Secretary Hague pledged to continue to advocate for Pakistan to gain enhanced trade access to the EU through GSP+. Foreign Minister Khar acknowledged the UK's support in achieving the WTO tariff waiver for Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Khar and Foreign Secretary Hague agreed that economic growth and

poverty reduction in Pakistan were key priorities to ensure prosperity for future generations. The global economic crisis requires both countries to make tough decisions in order to deliver future growth and prosperity. They agreed to a regular dialogue between their governments on economic reform.

- Ensuring that all children in Pakistan have the opportunity to receive free, quality education is a shared priority. Foreign Minister Khar and Foreign Secretary Hague welcomed the adoption of the National Declaration on Education committing all stakeholders to undertake necessary steps to develop education roadmaps and tackling under-nutrition. Foreign Secretary Hague reported that in the last 12 months UKAid had doubled the number of children the UK is supporting in schools to over 330,000.
- On security, Foreign Minister Khar and Foreign Secretary Hague noted the work being undertaken on their shared national security challenges, including on counter-terrorism through the Joint Working Group which met in October and the National Security Discussions which brings together civilian and military experts to address the common challenges both countries face. Foreign Secretary Hague reaffirmed that the UK stands alongside Pakistan, as a partner against the menace of militancy, terrorism and extremism, and acknowledged the huge sacrifices ordinary people in Pakistan were making.
- The UK and Pakistan enjoy uniquely rich people-to-people links. Over one million British citizens have close family ties to Pakistan. Foreign Minister Khar and Foreign Secretary Hague welcomed the contribution made by the British Pakistani community to the UK and to enhancing the relationship between the UK and Pakistan. They particularly welcomed the growing culture exchange between our museums and in academia. Seventeen new partnership agreements were signed in 2011 between universities in the UK and Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Khar and Foreign Secretary Hague agreed to meet every six months to drive forward progress. The enhanced strategic dialogue represents a long-term, deep commitment by both countries to work together as equals and to create the conditions for greater security and prosperity in Pakistan and in the UK. Our enduring partnership is one that has been forged by history and will only become more important and vital in the future.



On 25 & 26 May 2012, for two performances only, Theatre Wallay - KASHF will perform **The Taming of the Shrew** in Urdu at Shakespeare's Globe.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to see a Shakespearean performance in Urdu and to support the company coming from Lahore to perform in London.

Theatre Wallay - KASHF presents a new production of **The Taming of the Shrew**, starring the Lahore screen and stage star Nadia Jamil as Katherine. Rich in colour and energy, the production explores the difficulties encountered by modern Pakistani women. With live singers and musicians, a thrilling bhanga jig rounds off this uplifting version of the first romcom.

This performance is part of the Globe to Globe festival, 37 plays in 37 languages, as part of the cultural Olympiad.

The Globe Theatre are offering the best available seats at only £10, just use the special online code: **PCD10BEST** or quote "**£10 best available**" when calling box office. Standing tickets are just £5

If you have any questions please email Emily.S@shakespearesglobe.com or to book call the Globe box office on 020 7401 9919.

The Taming of the Shrew is a comedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written between 1590 and 1591.

The play begins with a framing device, often referred to as the Induction, in which a mischievous nobleman tricks a drunken tinker named Sly into believing he is actually a nobleman himself. The nobleman then has the play performed for Sly's diversion.

The main plot depicts the courtship of Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona, and Katherine, the headstrong, obdurate shrew. Initially, Katherine is an unwilling participant in the relationship, but Petruchio tempers her with various psychological torments—the "taming"—until she becomes a compliant and obedient bride. The subplot features a competition between the suitors of Katherine's more desirable sister, Bianca.

The 1967 film adaptation directed by Franco Zeffirelli and starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton is the most widely seen version of the play.



News in Pictures



Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani sharing podium with Prime Minister of UK David Cameron, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Canadian PM Stephen Harper and Australian Prime Minister Ms. Gillard during a press conference to announce Polio Eradication funding at Perth on October 29, 2011



Foreign Minister Ms Hina Rabbani Khar meeting with Lord Howell, Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London February 21, 2012



HE Mr Adam Thomson, British High Commissioner called on General Khalid Shameem Wynne, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee on January 26, 2012



Federal Minister for Commerce Makhdoom Amin Fahim meeting with MS. Joanna Roper, Acting Deputy High Commissioner of British High Commission in Islamabad on October 7, 2011



Foreign Minister of Pakistan Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar shaking hand with Sir Nigel Kim Darroch KCMG, British National Security Adviser INSA) at White Hall London on 22-2-2012



Foreign Minister Ms Hina Rabbani Khar talking to members of the Parliament, representing All Parties Parliamentary group (APPG) on Pakistan at Parliament House London on 22-2-2012



Adam Thomson, High Commissioner, UK shaking hand with Federal Minister for Interior, Senator A. Rehman Malik prior to a meeting in Ministry of Interior, Islamabad on March 13, 2012

WTO approves tariff waiver for Pakistan



The World Trade Organization (WTO) has approved a request from the European Union (EU) to temporarily lift duties on 75 products from Pakistan including textiles and leather goods to help the country recover from devastating floods in 2010.

- On 18 November 2010, the EU tabled its initial request for a waiver from the provisions of GATT Articles I and XIII in order to allow granting additional autonomous trade preferences to Pakistan.
- It took 15 months of negotiations to develop a consensus among WTO members. Competing textile exporting countries had opposed the plan but dropped their objections after the EU amended the scheme last October to use tariff rate quotas 20 products rather than full liberalisation.
- On 1 February 2012 the WTO Council for Trade in Goods passed the waiver request, a decision approved by the WTO General Council on 14 February. To enact the tariff cuts the EU must now agree implementing legislation, requiring an agreement between Member States and the European Parliament.
- The waiver allows EU to provide preferences to Pakistan in the form of temporary suspension of import duties on 75 items - is part of an EU package of measures to help underpin Pakistan's recovery from the floods that hit the country. EU emphasised during the discussions that this exceptional measure is in response to an exceptional situation and is not meant to establish any kind of precedent.
- The package includes 33 non value-added textile, 23 garment, 8 home textile, 4 value-added leather, 3 footwear, 2 raw leather and 1 vegetable product, and ethanol (annual tariff rate quota of 100 000 tonnes based on past imports).
- The duration of the waiver is from 1 January 2012 until 31 December 2013. Should the EU eventually request an extension of the validity of the waiver, this would of course have to follow the rules of the Marrakesh Agreement and thus be subject to a specific decision by the WTO Members in the General Council.
- EU may decide to introduce additional tariff rate quotas and safeguard measures – should imports from Pakistan for a specific product increase above a certain threshold.

UK welcomes EU trade package for Pakistan



14 February 2012
Minister for South Asia Alistair Burt welcomed the announcement that the World Trade Organisation will grant Pakistan a waiver for an EU trade package. He said:

"We welcome today's decision by the WTO to grant a waiver for an EU trade package for Pakistan. Once implemented, the package will provide substantial benefits to Pakistan's economy, generating jobs and

growth in those areas affected by the terrible floods that hit Pakistan in 2010. The UK has been a tireless advocate for improved Pakistan trade access to the EU, and has worked closely with the Commission and international partners to press for today's decision. It is now important that the EU moves swiftly to bring these measures into force so that the European Council's 2010 commitment to Pakistan can be delivered. The UK will also continue to work with our European partners to achieve a deeper and more effective EU-Pakistan relationship."

The EU is Pakistan's major trade partner (worth € 7.6 billion) followed by the United Arab Emirates (€ 5.3 billion), China (€ 5.1 billion), Saudi Arabia (€ 4.3 billion), while the US ranks 5th (\$ 3.8 billion). Its main export items are textiles and clothing products (more than 60% of its exports).

Pakistan Day 23rd March 2012 London



Pakistan Day was commemorated with the Flag Hoisting ceremony and a Reception.

Rt. Hon. Alan Duncan, Minister of State for International Development, Lord Howell of Guildford, Minister of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Dr Asim Hussain, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources were the Guests of Honour at the National Day reception held in the evening at the Park Lane InterContinental. Three British Pakistanis received Pakistan Civil Awards. Dr Muhammad Farqad Alamgir received Sitara-i-Pakistan from the President of Pakistan in Islamabad. Dr Naqvi Syed received Sitara-i-Imtiaz for services to Pakistan and Councillor Rabia Bhatti received Tamgha-i-Pakistan for services to the British Pakistani community.



Mansoor steals limelight at London Fashion Week

News Desk

LONDON: Pakistani fashion designer Omar Mansoor sent his red carpet haute couture collection down the London Fashion Week runway on the day 3 and it was filled with glamour.

The show was appropriately themed 'Lost Paradise' showing the Garden of Eden. The collection floated on the runway in shades of lilacs, mauve, aniseed green and olive in dreamy tulle, organza and chiffon, which whisked one into a dream-like state, as the softest specks of sparkle that effortlessly bounced off the dresses.

It was attended by a large number of fashion buyers and the room was packed to the capacity. The audience clapped and cheered as designer after designer showed how Mansoor had come up with unique styling on his models.

The design details almost like flowers that had shed their petals as they were so delicately placed. His use of two colours primarily fused the theme in the collection. The colour palette



LONDON: Designer Omar Mansoor walks on the catwalk along with a model following the presentation of his 2011 collection at the London Fashion Week here on Sunday.

included romantic pale purple, lilac, lavender, aniseed green and olive.

Delicate woven lace flowers, layers of sheer fabrics, asymmetrical hemlines, dramatic necklines and innocent looks symbolises the story of sin, angels, curiosity and beauty.

The sheer level of detail and embellishment — whether its embroidered chiffon pierced with lace or clouds of tulle decorated with petals — remind why couture is a world away from ready-to-wear.

Speaking to The News, Mansoor said he was thrilled to be presenting his fashion at the London Fashion Week for the fourth year in succession. "Pakistan's unique fashion sense continues to inspire me and I can see how the influences that guide me continue to make the difference."

He thought that more Pakistani fashion designers shall venture out and show their unique brands to the wider western buyers. "The appreciation of Pakistani fashion is growing in the West, and buyers are very keen to know more about Pakistani fashion."

Omar Mansoor, in a short space of time has already created a distinctive and confident signature for his label. By combining innovative cutting with masterful drapery he crafts desirable timeless garments in the most luxurious fabrics. Omar designs through instinct, his pieces reflect a deep-rooted design sensibility. Pakistani born Omar Mansoor, was making clothes from a young age. His Father, who ran a textile making business in Pakistan, is where Omar cemented his love for cloth and its workmanship. Omar went on to study Fashion Design at London College of Fashion before launching his own label in April 2008.

The conflict between tradition and modernity creates an interesting paradox

within Omar's design solutions. The clothes are exceptionally precise, well tailored and finished but are softened with sensuous draping that is inspired by his interest in ethnicity and costume of ancient cultures. Omar's essence in his work is to capture a moment in the draping, wrapping or tying of a fabric and give it a voice in tailoring, bring the lines into tailored lines. This contradiction creates simple yet highly intelligent and directional pieces. Omar succeeds in making beautiful, resonant clothes that are at once both unusual and distinctive, drawing the eye to the universally attractive elements of a woman's body.

Omar has showcased in various Fashion Weeks Internationally (including London Fashion Week, Wimbledon Fashion Week, Bahrain Fashion Week, Royal Ascot and Karachi Fashion Week) and dressed Judged contestants at many pageants (including Top Model UK, and Top model of Color). He has been featured in International Publications such as Elle, La'Officiel, Sabaya and the Saturday post.

Being the first Pakistani ever to participate and represent at London Fashion Week, Omar got all the international media attention, which were busy in covering the not so glamorous side of Pakistan.

Omar has dressed celebrities, such as Sophie Anderton, Leah Charles, Amy Guy and made costumes for Royalties. Done shows for many charities in UK and Pakistan, namely British Heart Foundation, Breast Cancer Campaign, BBC's Children in Need, IDPs of Swat and Edhi Foundation, Omar grab attention of print and electronic media not just in UK, but also in Asia.

Pakistani Breaks World Record in Indoor Rowing



Mohammad Zubair broke the world record of individual longest continual rowing in Pakistan when he rowed 10 hours straight (9am to 7pm) at a private fitness club on 14th January 2012.

Under the supervision of both international and national rowing umpires from the Pakistan Rowing Federation, the 31-year-old Mohammad Zubair broke the previous record of 7 hours 11 minutes and 22 seconds held by an Australian on the Concept II indoor rowing machine.



Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of The Pakistan Society will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, 1 May 2012 at the High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 9JN, for the following purposes:

1. To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. To receive the Chairman's Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2011.
3. To re-elect officers and Hon. Auditor.
4. To elect Executive Committee Members.
5. Vote of thanks.

Note: Copies of the previous minutes, Chairman's Report and Financial Statements will be available at the meeting.

Recent Events

Tuesday, 27 September 2011

The Pakistan Society Annual Dinner

Our 58th Annual Dinner was held at the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn on Tuesday 27 September 2011. The Guest of Honour was the Rt. Hon. William Hague MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani [now Chairman Parliamentary Committee on National Security] came from Pakistan to attend. Both gentlemen addressed the assembled guests. The Pakistan Society Award was given to Prof Ian Talbot of Southampton University.

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

The Grand Trunk Road

Irna Qureshi, an anthropologist and oral historian talked about the Grand Trunk Road which has been the main artery of conquest and rule in the northern part of the Indian Sub-Continent. She travelled from Delhi all the way to the Khyber Pass, through the homelands of those who have now relocated themselves and reside in the UK. Irna entertained us with many anecdotes and personal stories of people she met along the route.

Monday, 19 December 2011

Remembering Faiz and Reception

Throughout 2011 Faiz Ahmad Faiz has been remembered by lovers of his poetry and prose. This was the centenary of his birth. The evening began with a reception where members and friends gathered over tea. Then Mishal Husain spoke about Faiz. Shahid Jamil read some of his ghazals to the audience. The surprise of the evening was Shama Husain's rendering of two of Faiz's ghazals which was enjoyed by those present.

Wednesday, 11 January 2012

Where is Pakistan Going?

2012 got off to a flying start on 11th January when Tariq Ali, the vocal political commentator, novelist, publisher and film-maker addressed a packed hall at the Royal Commonwealth Society in Northumberland Avenue to talk about the current political situation in Pakistan. His talk was entitled Tariq began by setting the scene with a lively, entertaining and informative analysis of the achievements of Pakistan's governments from 1947 onwards. He was critical of the follies and errors of civilian and military rulers alike in his brisk and highly personal summary of the country's history. Many in the audience were surprised, therefore, that he was guardedly optimistic about Pakistan's future. Tariq felt that there was now an opportunity for real change for the better in Pakistan. A number of RCS members also attended the event. The Pakistan Society hopes to hold other events at this location in collaboration with the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

The Parsi Community of Pakistan

Rosheen Kabraji, from Chatham House spoke to the Society about The Parsis of Pakistan. The room was packed with members and their Parsi friends and relations. Rosheen explained the tenets of Zorastrianism and gave us a brief history of the faith and of the Zoroastrian Parsis of South Asia. She recounted the achievements of Parsis and their contribution to Pakistani life, especially in the fields of commerce, literature and public service. She then discussed the difficulties faced by the community as its numbers dwindle through emigration and inter-marriage. The question and answer session was unusually vigorous. Several members were keen to record their gratitude to Parsi educators and philanthropists while others shared their own ideas about Parsi religion and history. One Parsi commented that the community need not be disturbed the fact that there was now only one Tower of Silence left. After all, he said, the Achaemenid Emperors Cyrus and Darius had tombs. So it was clear that early Zoroastrians buried their dead. There was also a lively discussion about the relationship between the community and the British in India.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday, 18 April 2012

Bapsi Sidhwa speaking about herself

Bapsi Sidhwa is the author of many novels, including Ice Candy Man [Cracking India in US edition], which was named a New York Times Notable Book in 1991. In the same year, she received the Sitara-i-Imtiaz. City of Sin and Splendour: Writings on Lahore, was published in 2006. She was born in Karachi and raised in Lahore, she now lives in Houston, Texas. Bapsi describes herself as a "Punjabi-Parsi-Pakistani". She will be speaking about her life and experiences

Time: 6pm

Venue: High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 8JN.

Admission: This event is open to Members of The Pakistan Society and their guests.

RSVP email: info@thepakistanisociety.org.uk

Wednesday, 25 April 2012

Alleviating Poverty in Pakistan

Qazi Azmat Isa has a passionate commitment to improve the lives of poor and marginalized people. This commitment is tempered by a healthy pragmatism which emanates from his diverse and cross-sectorial work experience and close contacts with government, NGO's and communities. This has provided Azmat with a deep insight of the issues in development and has enabled him to forge genuine partnerships between all the key players in the development process and delivering results for the poor. In his own words 'I made a commitment to myself that I would always keep close to the reality of those I serve.....' He is currently the CEO of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund.

Time: 6pm

Venue: High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 8JN.

Admission: This event is open to Members of The Pakistan Society and their guests.

RSVP email: info@thepakistansociety.org.uk

Tuesday, 1 May 2012

Annual General Meeting

Time: 6pm

Venue: High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 8JN.

Admission: This event is open to Members of The Pakistan Society and their guests.

RSVP email: info@thepakistansociety.org.uk

Wednesday, 16 May 2012

George Ka Pakistan

George Fulton is a British television journalist and producer who lived in Pakistan for nine years and became a Pakistani citizen. He was working for the BBC when he first traveled to Karachi to launch a political talk show called Question Time Pakistan. He was subsequently asked by Geo TV to present a reality show - based on his own experiences in the country - called **George Ka Pakistan**. The show was a great success and viewers voted overwhelmingly that George Fulton should be given citizenship. George soon left Geo TV for another Pakistani TV channel, Aaj TV, where he launched Pakistan's version of "Have I Got News for You", called **News, Views & Confused**. He produced and scripted the show's first season, before moving on to produce Aaj TV's morning show, **Kiran Aur George** with his wife. George was scheduled to speak in February but it was cancelled because the premises of the High Commission were not made available. He will talk about his time in Pakistan.

Time: 6pm

Venue: High Commission for Pakistan, 36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 8JN.

Admission: This event is open to Members of The Pakistan Society and their guests.

RSVP email: info@thepakistansociety.org.uk

Thursday, 12 July 2012

59th Annual Dinner

Venue: The Graet Hall, Lincoln's Inn, London

Admission: **£70 each** for Members and their Spouse, and **£85 each** for Non-Members.

Booking required.

Other Events



Lecture Series 2011-2012

Thursday 12th April 6pm

Reel Histories: The Film and Oral History Collections of the Centre of South Asian

Studies, Cambridge.

Dr Kevin Greenbank (University of Cambridge)

Free Event

Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2HD

Nearest Tube: Euston, Euston Sq, Warren Street. info@royalasiaticsociety.org

Tel: 020 7388 4539





Alchemy Festival 2012

Thursday 12 – Sunday 22 April

Alchemy is Southbank Centre's annual festival of music, performance, literature, debate, fashion and design. The Festival explores the rich cultural connections between Bangladesh, India, Pakistan Sri Lanka and the UK. For the third year running, Sonia Sabri Company returns to the Southbank with a unique programme of performance and workshops:

Lok Virsa: Without Borders - Tuesday 17th April, 6-7pm (Free Event)

The Clore Ballroom, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX

Lok Virsa simply means the 'heritage of the people'. This is a rare chance to see traditional folk song, music and dance from different regions of Pakistan, with a guest speaker to give an overview of the current arts scene. Hosted by the UK's leading Kathak artist, Sonia Sabri. Further info: www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Workshops - Saturday 21 April 2012 (Free Events)

Arabic/Urdu Calligraphy Workshop 12pm & 2pm (limited spaces) Level 2 Blue side, Royal Festival Hall

Musharia: Poetry Recital - 2.30pm The Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall

Pakistani Folk Dance Workshop - 11am & 4pm The Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall

Folk Song and Rhythms of Pakistan - 1pm & 4.30pm The Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall

Details on forthcoming events are available on Sonia Sabri Company's website: www.scco.org.uk or email for more info to info@scco.org.uk



Festival of Asian Literature

Wednesday, 18 April, 18.30 Ticket: £8

Watermarked – Women and Water in Pakistan At the Alchemy Festival - Southbank Centre

Kamila Shamsie, Ziauddin Sardar and Shazia Mirza with Homa Khaleeli

Water has always been precious in Pakistan, but in the past two years it has left an indelible mark, with catastrophic floods causing untold losses - and it's deepest marks have been left on women and children.

Watermarked: Voices of Pakistan is a compilation of stories about water from writers touched by the country, and illustrated with striking artwork and photographs. Three dramatically different writers, share their experiences of a country beset by terrorism, natural disasters and corruption.

All proceeds from the sales of **Watermarked -Voices of Pakistan** will be donated to the **All Pakistan Women's Association** to support flood relief efforts and rebuild a damaged school. Booking can be made through Southbank Centre: www.southbankcentre.co.uk or phone: +44 (0)844 875 0073



Film Screening

Wednesday 25th April 2012, 18.00-20.30(Free Event)

The Scottish Pakistani Association (SPA) will be hosting a film screening to commemorate the National Day of Pakistan.

The film is called '**Jinnah**' and is about the life of the founder of Pakistan 'Quaid-i-Azam' Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It was directed by Jamil Dehlavi and was written by Professor Akbar Ahmed and it is in English with Christopher Lee playing the lead role of Jinnah. This film received the Silver Remi Award at the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival.

Venue: Interfaith Room. Interfaith Chaplaincy, Chapel Corridor (South), West Quadrangle, Main Building Gilmorehill Campus, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

There are **no tickets** but kindly **RSVP to Azra Meadows (Chair SPA) by Wednesday 18th April** at the latest as the number of seats are limited (40): Email: azra.meadows@glasgow.ac.uk Tel: 0141 330 6622/6624 (office)



Theatre Wallay - KASHF will perform The Taming of the Shrew in Urdu at Shakespeare's Globe.

Two performances only

Friday 25 May, 14.40

Saturday 26 May, 19.30

Tickets: £5 - £35

Venue: Shakespeare's Globe, Bankside, London SE1

For further information please Email: Emily.S@shakespearesglobe.com or to book call the Globe box office on 020 7401 9919. www.shakespearesglobe.com

PAKISTAN FASHION WEEK

LONDON 25-27 May 2012

Featuring up to 30 of Pakistan and Asian top fashion designers, this year's event will again be full of gasps of amazement and awe. For news of featured designers check Facebook and Twitter feeds.

Time: 15.00-17.00 and 20.00-22.00

Venue: Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX

Admission/Booking Info: Tickets are available now from website
www.pakistanfashionweek.co.uk



British Pakistani Psychiatrist Association

Mahfil-e-Sher-o-Naghma 2012

Saturday 9 June, 15.00

Programme includes Mushaira, Dinner and Mehfil-e-Naghma

Venue: Leicester Marriott Hotel, Smith Way, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester, LE19 1SW

For further information please contact: Dr Farida Yousaf, Treasurer, PO Box 1157, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 9PD
Email: bppa@btinternet.com or farida@doctors.org.uk

Doing Business with Pakistan Conference

Tuesday, 19 June 2012

Birmingham

UK Trade & Investment, Pakistan-UK Trade & Investment Forum, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Commercial Wing of the High Commission for Pakistan will hold a conference to help companies take advantage of the enormous opportunities for trade between UK and Pakistan.

For further information please Email: saira.ahmed@phclondon.org



UK-Pakistan Coal Conference (UKPKCC) 2012

Tuesday 3 – Thursday 5 July 2012

The conference is focused on key aspects of Pakistani coal utilisation including- **combustion, power generation, coal mining and gasification.**

Pakistan has a major shortage in power availability and that has an effect on economic and social development. Currently less than 1% of electricity is generated from coal in Pakistan and the Government has an aim to develop the 175 billion tonnes of coal that remains unexploited in Thar (Sindh) Pakistan. The Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and British Council in Pakistan are encouraging collaborative activity to improve knowledge within the relevant parties in Pakistan. This conference will connect relevant people in Pakistan with experience in the UK (and beyond) in developing a modern coal and power generation industry in Pakistan. Conference Objectives: (1) Increase academic collaboration between UK and Pakistan (2) Encourage industrial contact with the UK to develop coal and power industries in Pakistan

Venue: University of Leeds (ETII), School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering, Clarendon Road, Leeds, LS2 9JT

For further information please contact: Rachael Lawson, UKPKCC 2012 Secretariat, CPD, Conference & Events Coordinator, CPD, Conference & Events Unit, Engineering Research & Innovation Service, Faculty of Engineering c/o Civil Engineering, Room 209, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

T: +44 (0)113 343 8104 E: UKPKCC-reg@leeds.ac.uk

W: <http://www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk/short-courses/UKPKCC2012.shtml>

Charity Support Trust - an International Polo Match at London Polo Club

Saturday, 14 July 2012 12.00 – 17.00

The Charity Support Trust continues its programme of alleviating poverty in the rural communities and redressing environmental problems in the backlog of natural disasters. The match should be exciting as Pakistan's brilliant Polo Captain; Saqib Khakwani will lead his team against an Indian side. An auction of Equine Art by Annie Khakwani a talented young architect artist will also be held.

For further information please contact: Mrs Aneesa Hameed Email: aneesahameed@yahoo.co.uk



Olympic Games: 27 July – 12 August

Paralympic Games: 29 August – 9 September

The Pakistan Society, 8 Harriet Walk, London SW1X 9JH, Tel: 07427 500 377
info@thepakistansociety.org.uk www.thepakistansociety.org.uk

The Pakistan Society Membership

Please note that the **annual Ordinary/Associate Membership fee for 2012** is now due. Please complete the form below and return it with your cheque to the Treasurer as indicated. Alternatively you can pay by Bankers Order. This notice does not apply to Life Members, or those who renew their membership by Bankers Order or new members who joined after 15th November 2011.

The Pakistan Society, 8 Harriet Walk, London SW1X 9JH
Tel: 07427 500 377
info@thepakistansociety.org.uk
www.thepakistansociety.org.uk

The Pakistan Society Annual Membership Renewal 2012

I enclose a cheque for £30 Ordinary Membership £10 Associate Membership
 (Students and Overseas members)

Name: Tel:

Address: E-mail:

.....

Postcode

Cheques should be made payable to **“The Pakistan Society”** and sent to:
 Treasurer, The Pakistan Society, 8 Harriet Walk, London, SW1X 9JH

BANKERS ORDER (Please use BLOCK CAPITALS)

To the Manager,

NAME and ADDRESS of BANK _____



Please make the undernoted Annual payment, until further notice, to the credit of The Pakistan Society at the Bank named below. This order cancels any existing order for Annual payment being made to the Society.

DATE	1 st day of January each year commencing:	
BANK & BRANCH	National Westminster Bank Limited Knightsbridge (A) Branch 186 Brompton Road London SW3 1XJ	Sort Code: 60-19-27 Account Name: The Pakistan Society Account Number: 32638159
AMOUNT	The sum of Thirty Pounds (£30.00)	
BY ORDER OF (Name)		
ADDRESS		
YOUR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER		

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR BANK – NOT TO THE SOCIETY



The Pakistan Society
Bringing Pakistan & Britain Together

59th Annual Dinner

Thursday, 12 July 2012

**The Great Hall,
The Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn,
London, WC2A 3TL.**

Our Dinner will be held at the prestigious Lincoln's Inn, where Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was called to the Bar. Tickets are **£70 each** for Members and their Spouse, and **£85 each** for Non-Members. Corporate members taking tables of 10 persons at £1000 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. Please apply for places as early as possible.

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 the 59th Annual Dinner
on Thursday, 12th July 2012
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) @ £70 each		£
Non Members ticket(s) @ £85 each		£
Corporate table for 10 persons @ £1000		£
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 Friday, 6th July 2012 Email: info@thepakistansociety.org.uk**