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Brexit leads UK to a new leadership

H.E. Theresa May New PM of the United Kingdom

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A C-130 aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has won the Concours D' Elegance trophy Air Tattoo Show 2016 at Royal Air Force Base Fair Ford, UK. Over 50 nations with 200 aircrafts from across the world competed for the coveted trophy, the PAF C-130 stole the show with its attractive Zarb-e-Azb theme colours.

30 A new generation of struggle

Never ever before has Indian Kashmir reacted so violently to the death of a person as it has to the killing of Burhan Muzaffar Wani by security forces on July 8. This 22-year-old Hizbul Mujahedeen commander had become an iconic figure in the Valley.



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Editor in Chief/Publisher: Mian Assadullah
 Editor: Mian Fazal Elahi
 Chairman Advisory Board: Mr. Kanwar Muhammad Tariq
 Deputy Editor: Muhammad Saeed Yousafzai
 News Editor: Saba Sarfraz
 Creative Art Director: M. Shahbaz Nawaz, RN Scanner
 Art Director: Sharyar Fazil
 Graphic Designer: Jamil Ahmed
 Chief Photographer: Ramzan Mughal
 Business Development:

Legal Advisor: M. Hussain Shahbaz Advocate High Court
 Mobile: +92-315-9994107
 Bureau Chief
 0049-1783333912
 0049-177-3064483
 0032485545916, 0032 465 732740
 001647-890-4222
 00353877710651
 0044 7932069692
 +44 7506732046
 +44 7723486325
 +44 7791443398
 Country Director 004540521485
 Email: fazal1955@hotmail.com
 Bureau Chief Australia, Newzealand
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Resident Editors:
 Eng. Moshin Ali
 1st Floor Office No 50 Gulf Plaza Madina
 Street P.O B ox 65454 Jeddah 21556
 Cell: +966-506389895

Bureau Office
 Zahid Hussain
 Faisal Qazi
 Baltimore
 Qaisar Masood
 Northern Virginia
 Bureau Chief Washington DC/Merryland
 Manzoor Hussain
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 Bureau Chief Jeddah KSA
 Cell: +966-502583608
 Mian Zafarullah
 Burewala
 Shahid Akbar Toor
 Vehari

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 Roohani Art Press, Chughtai Plaza, Fazal-e-Haq Road,
 Blue Area Islamabad.

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 Mina Assadullah, RBI Mediainds Publications Limited
 Justin Plaza 3, 341 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey-CR4 4BE
 Phone : +44-7961005954, +442087696939, Fax: +442087696939
 Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com
 Karachi Pakistan: Mobile: +92-321-5558221

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Mian Fazal Elahi



The UK Government has rejected a call for a second referendum on European Union membership in a petition that was signed by more than 4.1 million people following the Brexit vote.

It was the most-signed Government petition since the process was introduced in 2011.

However in an official reply, the Foreign Office said 33 million people had had their say and “the decision must be respected”.

“Operation Zarb-e-Azb is the most successful operation in the history of Pakistan. America has not properly helped Pakistan in this complex campaign. Rather, Pakistan army, with its own resources, has won this war against terrorists. It has destroyed arms factories and hideouts of terrorists from the soil of Pakistan. After fleeing from Pakistan, terrorists have found safe havens in Afghanistan. There are 78 border crossing points, which can be used by terrorists to enter and launch havoc in Pakistan. Pakistan has blocked most of the entry points of terrorists. In this operation 19,000 intelligence based operations have been carried out across the country and 1,200 terrorists have been eliminated in Karachi alone. Local people of terrorists hit areas have given sacrifices, which must be recognized. It is the time to resettle the IDPs to their homes.” The job is not yet finished and that there is still work to be done – including improving the border management mechanism with Afghanistan.

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Important Announcement



It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assadullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly "Diplomatic Focus" for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, Justin Plaza 3, 341 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey-CR4 4BE Phone : +44-7961005954, +442067696939, Fax: +442067696939, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com

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British High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Thomas Drew CMG presents credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain

By Saba Sarfraz

Britain appoints new High Commissioner

The new British High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Thomas Drew CMG has been appointed by British government who has presented his credentials to President Mamnoon Hussain at a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad. Mr. Drew arrived in Pakistan in February this year, succeeding Mr. Philip Barton CMG OBE.

Speaking after the ceremony, Thomas Drew CMG, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, said, "It is a huge privilege to be working here in Pakistan and to be leading one of Britain's largest diplomatic missions. Nearly ten years ago, I moved to Pakistan for the first time, to be the Political Counselor in the British High Commission. I became a great friend of the country and its people. I feel a great sense of energy at coming back here. I am energised at seeing old friends, by the prospect of discovering more of the beautiful country and, most of all, by the prospect of doing work which is so important for both our countries."

"Pakistan matters to the UK and, I like to think, the UK matters to Pakistan, for each other's security, for regional stability and for each other's prosperity. Central to that are the 1.5 million British people of Pakistani origin who have made the UK their home," he further stated.

Brexit leads UK to a new leadership: Theresa May

Theresa May, the new premier who has taken charge at one of the most turbulent times in UK's recent political history has been the Member of Parliament for Maidenhead since 1997. She has a very strong political history. Theresa Mary May worked for the Bank of England from 1977 until 1983 and from 1985 until 1997 at the Association for Payment Clearing Services. She also served as a councilor for the London Borough of Merton's Durnsford Ward. Failing to be elected to the House of Commons in 1992 and 1994, she was elected MP for Maidenhead in the 1997 general election. Having entered Parliament, May became a member of William Hague's front-bench Opposition team, as Shadow Spokesman for Schools, Disabled People and Women during the time span of 1998 to June 1999. May served in a number of roles in the Shadow Cabinets of William Hague, Iain Duncan Smith, Michael Howard, and David Cameron, including Shadow Leader of the House of Commons and Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary. She was also the Chairman of the Conservative Party from 2002 until 2003. In June 2004 she was moved to become Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sports. David Cameron appointed her Shadow Leader of the House of Commons in December 2005 after his accession to the leadership. In January 2009 May was made Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. After the formation of the Coalition Government following the 2010 general elections in UK, May was chosen Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities, giving up the later role in 2012. She was reappointed after the Conservative victory in the 2015 general election and went on to become the longest-serving Home Secretary. As Home Secretary, May was also the member of the National Security Council.



UK's political history witnesses a major turn as Theresa May, a conservative politician becomes British second female Prime Minister. The 59, year old accepted Queen's invitation of forming a government, immediately after the formal resignation of former Prime Minister David Cameroon.

The major breakthrough Brexit was confirmed after UK votes to leave EU, though later on a petition was signed by around 4.1 million people calling for another EU vote which was rejected by the Government saying that it was time for UK to leave EU and ensure the best outcome for its citizens.

A referendum, in which every individual of voting age took part - was held on Thursday 23 June, to decide whether the UK should leave or remain in the European Union. The voting turned out to be the highest in the UK's history with a turnout of 71.8% and 30 million people voting. 52% people voted in favor of UK leaving the EU, while 48% people voted against it. Soon after the results were announced, President Cameroon announced his resignation after spending six years in office saying that "The will of the British people is an instruction that must be delivered."

The former prime minister campaigned firmly in the divisive referendum on Britain's relationship with the EU, appearing at hundreds of public events and gatherings up and down the country to argue that Brexit would be an act of "economic self-harm". "But the British people made a different decision to follow a different path. UK has now to negotiate the terms of Britain's exit from EU and Cameron left it for the new prime minister to negotiate the terms of Britain's exit from and to trigger article 50 of the Lisbon treaty, which begins the formal process of withdrawal. David Cameron will continue on as a Member of Parliament.

Following the resignation of David Cameron on 24 June 2016 after EU referendum, May announced her candidacy for the leadership of the Conservative Party and quickly emerged as the front-runner. She won the first ballot of Conservative MPs on 5 July by a significant margin, and two days later won the votes



of 199 MPs, going forward to face a vote of Conservative Party members in a contest with Andrea Leadsom. Leadsom's withdrawal from the election on 11 July led to May's appointment as leader the same day. She was appointed Prime Minister two days later.

May identifies as a One-Nation Conservative and is characterized as a liberal conservative. She made her first speech as British Prime minister on July 13th, outside 10 Downing Street. The new prime minister made a centrist appeal for unity in the face of the divisions that came to the foreground after Britain's vote to leave the European Union. She pledged to stand up against the privileged few and fight the burning injustice. She mentioned that Cameroon's true legacy is not about the economy, but about social justice. From the introduction of same-sex marriage, to taking people on low wages out of income tax

altogether. She admired his leadership saying that his government stabilized the economy, reduced the budget deficit, and helped more people into work than ever before. David Cameron has led a One Nation government and it is in that spirit that I also plan to lead. She specifically mentioned that the full title of my party is the Conservative and Unionist Party and that word unionist is very important to me as she wouldn't be folding for a second referendum for Scottish Independence.

Referring to Brexit, Prime Minister May added that we are living through an important moment in our country's history. Following the referendum, we face a time of great national change. And I know because we're Great Britain we will rise to the challenge. As we leave the European Union we will forge a bold new positive role for ourselves in the world and we will make Britain a country that works not for a privileged few but for every one of us. That will be the mission of the Government I lead and together we will build a better Britain.

Though it is a time of great national challenge for Great Britain, it seems obvious that the new enthusiastic premier is willing to take the challenge up-front and lead the nation towards greater prosperity following the footsteps of David Cameroon with her leadership.





Government rejects second EU referendum petition signed by 4.1 million

'We must now prepare for the process to exit the EU,' the Government says

By Monitoring Desk

The Government has rejected a call for a second referendum on European Union membership in a petition that was signed by more than 4.1 million people following the Brexit vote.

It was the most-signed Government petition since the process was introduced in 2011.

However in an official reply, the Foreign Office said 33 million people had had their say and "the decision must be respected".

"We must now prepare for the process to exit the EU," it said.

The petition, which was set up by a Brexit



supporter before the referendum was held, had called for the Government to annul the results if the Remain or Leave vote won by less than 60 per cent on a turnout of less than 75 per cent.

Government petitions which reach over 100,000 signatures must be considered for debate in parliament.

The Foreign Office said: "The EU Referendum Act received Royal Assent in December 2015. The Act was scrutinised and debated in Parliament during its passage and agreed by both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The Act set out the terms under which the referendum would take place, including provisions for setting the date, franchise and the question that would appear on the ballot paper. The Act did not set a threshold for the result or for minimum turnout.

"As the Prime Minister made clear in his statement to the House of Commons on 27 June, the referendum was one of the biggest democratic exercises in British history with over 33 million people having their say.

"The Prime Minister and Government have been clear that this was a once-in-a-generation vote and, as the Prime Minister has said, the decision must be respected. We must now prepare for the process to exit the EU and the Government is committed to ensuring the best possible outcome for the British people in the negotiations."

In the wake of the Brexit vote, the petition was shared widely on social media by Remain supporters. As the number of signatories soared, the petition's original author, Leave activist William Oliver Healey, disowned it, saying his opinions on the need for a high turnout and high level of support for one side had been "hijacked" by EU supporters.

The Government's decision will come as a blow to those who hoped to find a parliamentary means of stopping Britain's withdrawal from the bloc.

However, calls for a second referendum on the terms of Britain's departure from the EU are gathering pace. Four out of 10 people would like to see a second referendum before Britain leaves the EU, according to an opinion poll for The Independent.

The survey of 2,000 people by ORB found that 40 per cent agree that there should be a referendum on the exit deal that the Government negotiates, and that the UK should seek to Remain in the EU if the public rejects the terms.

Such a course was supported by 12 per cent of people who voted Leave last month. A second vote was backed by 68 per cent of people who supported Remain last month.

Jeremy Hunt, the Health Secretary, is among a number of MPs backing a referendum on the exit terms. Lawyers have also said MPs must vote to repeal the 1972 European Communities Act, under which the UK joined the EU.





Who is Sadiq Khan ?

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

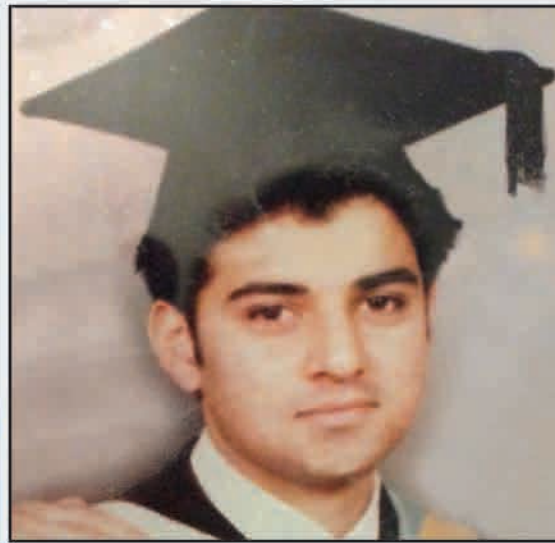
The new mayor did not have a privileged start in life. He was one of eight children born to Pakistani immigrants, a bus driver and a seamstress, on a south London housing estate.

From an early age, he showed a firm resolve to defy the odds in order to win success for himself and the causes important to him.

That resolve has won him the biggest personal mandate in the UK, a job with wide-ranging powers over London and with enormous emotional significance for him.

Some question whether he has the experience or record of good judgement necessary for the





role.

He insists he is there to represent all Londoners and to tackle inequality in the capital, and now he has the chance to prove it.

Sadiq Aman Khan born on 8 October 1970 and is a British Labour Party politician and now the Mayor-elect of London since May 2016. He is also a Member of Parliament (MP) for Tooting. Ideologically, he is situated on the moderate social democratic wing of the party.

Born in London to a working-class British Pakistani family, Khan gained a degree in law at the University of North London. He subsequently began work as a solicitor specialising in human rights. Khan was a councillor in the London Borough of Wandsworth from 1994 to 2006.

In 2008 he was appointed Minister of State for Communities by Prime Minister Gordon Brown, becoming the second British Pakistani to serve in government. Khan later served as Minister of State for Transport. He joined the Shadow Cabinet of Ed Miliband as Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Shadow Lord Chancellor in 2010. On 16 January 2013 he was also appointed Shadow Minister for London; on 11 May 2015 he resigned from the shadow cabinet to seek nomination as the Labour Party's mayoral candidate and won the candidacy on 11 September 2015.

Khan was born at St George's Hospital in Tooting, South London, and the fifth of eight children (seven sons and a daughter) in family of Pakistani immigrants.

His grandparents migrated from India to Pakistan following the partition of India in 1947, and his parents migrated to England from Pakistan shortly before Khan was born. His late father, Amanullah Khan, worked as a bus driver for over 25 years; his mother, Sehrun, was a seamstress.

From his earliest years, Khan worked, "I was surrounded by my mum and dad working all the time, and so as soon as I could get a job, I got a job. I got a paper round, a Saturday job – some summers I laboured on a building



site." The family continues to send money to relatives in Pakistan, "because we're blessed being in this country."

Khan and his siblings grew up in a three-bedroom council flat on the Henry Prince Estate in Earl's field. He attended Fircroft Primary School and Ernest Bevin College, a



local comprehensive. Khan studied science and mathematics at A-level, in the hope of eventually qualifying as a dentist. A teacher recommended that he read law, as he had an argumentative personality. The teacher's suggestion, along with the television programme LA Law, inspired Khan to do so.

He entered the University of North London to study law.

He was a visiting lecturer at the University of North London, and a Governor of South Thames FE College. Vice-Chairman of the Legal Action Group (LAG), Khan also served as Chairman of the civil liberties pressure group Liberty (NCCL) for three years.

Khan married Saadiya Ahmed, a fellow solicitor, in 1994 and has two daughters, Anisah (born 1999) and Ammarah (born 2001). A keen follower of sport, he supports Liverpool F.C. in football and Surrey County Cricket Club in cricket.

He serves as a Governor of Fircroft School and of Gatton School, both in Tooting.

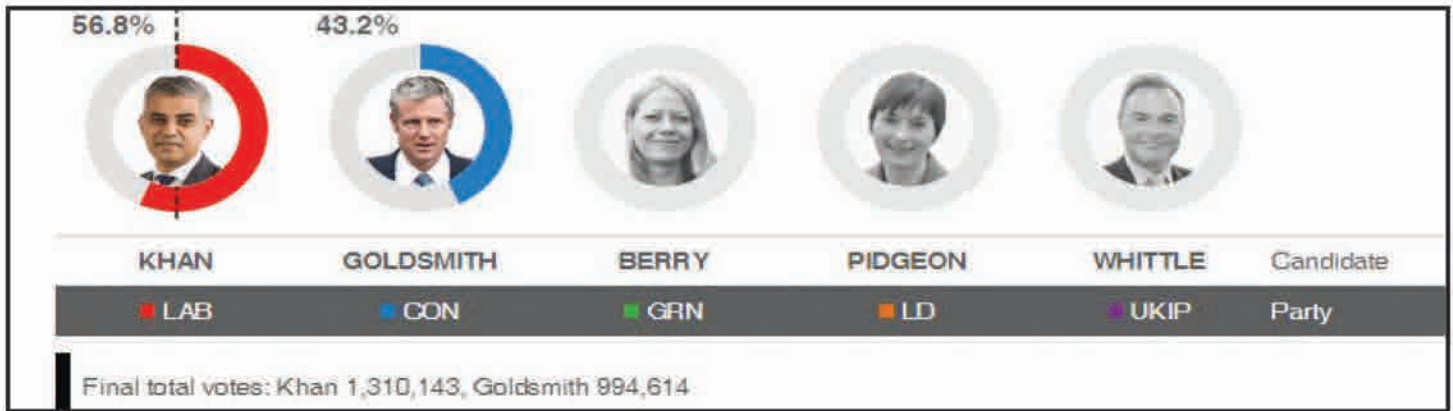
Khan also served as Chairman of the Fabian Society, remaining on its Executive Committee. In 2009 he won the Jenny Jeger Award (Best Fabian Pamphlet) for his writing "Fairness not Favours: How to re-connect with British Muslims". He also edited the Fabian Essay Collection Our London: the Capital beyond 2015. In January 2013 and 2015, Khan was nominated for the Politician of the Year award at the British Muslim Awards. He later won the award in February 2016.



Mr. Khan Won the Vote

**Mr Khan's victory ends
eight years of Conservative
control of City Hall**





By M.Saeed Yousafzai

The British Labour party's Sadiq Khan has been elected as London mayor by comfortably outrunning of his nearest rival.

The Labour party's leader Jeremy Corbyn congratulated Khan on his victory on evening. Khan picked up 44 percent of first preference votes to Conservative Zac Goldsmith's 35 percent. The Labour candidate then picked up enough second preference votes to cross the 50 percent threshold.

Mr Khan is the city's first Muslim mayor, after beating Tory Zac Goldsmith by 1, 310,143 votes to 994,614.

The result bolsters leader Jeremy Corbyn after Labour were beaten into third in Scotland by the Tories and lost some English councillors.

In Scotland, the SNP said it would form a minority government after winning its third election in a row.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is celebrating what she said was an "emphatic" victory, her first as party leader, after the SNP emerged as the largest party at Holyrood with 63 seats, ahead of the Conservatives on 31 and Labour on 24.

But she played down talk of another independence referendum after falling short by two seats of an overall majority.

In Wales, Labour remains as the largest party,

with 29 out of 60 seats, but was denied a majority as Plaid Cymru and UKIP both made notable gains. Counting is continuing in Northern Ireland.

Mr Khan's victory ends eight years of

"I am so proud that London has today chosen hope over fear". and "politics of fear is not welcome in our city": Mr. Khan

Conservative control of City Hall. The former Labour MP and minister, 45, becomes London's third mayor after Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson.

In his victory speech, Mr Khan referred to his humble origins on a council estate and said he had never imagined that "someone like me could be elected as mayor of London," promising to be a mayor "for all Londoners".

He said the campaign had not been without controversy, but added: "I am so proud that London has today chosen hope over fear".

He added that the "politics of fear is not welcome in our city".

Mr Khan took 1,310,143 votes after second preferences were taken into account, beating Conservative Zac Goldsmith into second place on 994,614, a margin of victory of 13.6%. His tally gave him the largest personal mandate of any politician in UK history.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn led congratulations on Twitter using the hashtag YesWeKhan and telling the new mayor: "Can't wait to work with you to create a London that is fair for all".

Mr Khan distanced himself from Mr Corbyn during the campaign, pledging to freeze fares on the capital's transport network and build more affordable housing, but also promising to champion business and cut taxes on enterprise. Mr Goldsmith's sister Jemima has criticised how his campaign was run, while former Conservative Cabinet minister Baroness Warsi called it an "appalling dog whistle campaign".

Ms Goldsmith tweeted: "Sad that Zac's campaign did not reflect who I know him to be - an eco-friendly, independent-minded politician with integrity."

She also congratulated Mr Khan, calling him a "great example to young Muslims".

David Cameron's former director of strategy Steve Hilton described the Goldsmith campaign as "really weird," claiming it had brought back the "nasty party label to the Conservative Party".



Anti-Corruption Summit: London 2016

World leaders pledge to tackle corruption

By Monitoring Desk

International politicians and diplomats vowed to open up corporate records, quash money laundering and end bribery in a bid to stamp out what Prime Minister David Cameron called the global “cancer” of corruption.

But concrete results of a London anti-corruption summit on Thursday were mixed, with many countries failing to commit to the toughest actions sought by Cameron.

Heads of state, ministers and diplomats from some 40 countries said they would “uncover corruption wherever it exists, and to pursue and punish those who perpetrate, facilitate or are complicit in it.”

The governments made a plethora of promises: to fight bribery in public contracting and the oil and gas sector, to return stolen assets to their owners and to clean up international sports.

Firm commitments, however, varied widely. Just six countries, including Britain, Nigeria and

Anti-corruption summit launches global plan to recover stolen assets

Afghanistan, agreed to publish registers of who really owns companies in their territories — a key goal of anti-corruption groups. Six more said they would “explore doing so.”

The United States did not make that commitment, although Secretary of State John Kerry told the conference that a “pandemic” of corruption “is as much of an enemy, because it destroys nation states, as some of





the extremists we're fighting." Mr Kerry said this month President Obama's administration had announced a set of financial regulations designed to force companies to disclose more information about their owners.

Meeting at London's elegant Lancaster House drew politicians from around the world, including the presidents of Afghanistan, Nigeria and Colombia, as well as representatives of financial institutions and civil-society organizations.

"Corruption is the cancer at the heart of so many problems we need to tackle in our world." David Cameron

Cameron, who has made battling financial wrongdoing a priority, said "corruption is the

cancer at the heart of so many problems we need to tackle in our world."

But critics say London's financial district is awash with ill-gotten gains, and many of the world's leading tax havens are British dependencies or overseas territories.

In a move to greater transparency, Britain has passed a law requiring British companies — including foreign firms that own British property or seek government contracts— to disclose who really benefits from their





ownership.

Britain said the register meant that “corrupt individuals and countries will no longer be able to move, launder and hide illicit funds through London’s property market.”

London is a magnet for international property-buyers, and the government estimates that foreign companies own around 100,000 properties across England and Wales, almost half of them in London.

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“Uncover corruption wherever it exists, and to pursue and punish those who perpetrate, facilitate or are complicit in it.” Statement of 40 Countries

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In a move to greater transparency, Britain has passed a law requiring British companies — including foreign firms that own British property or seek government contracts— to disclose who really benefits from their ownership.

Britain said the register meant that “corrupt individuals and countries will no longer be able to move, launder and hide illicit funds through London’s property market.”

France, Kenya, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Afghanistan have also pledged to launch public registers of true company ownership. Australia, New Zealand, Jordan, Indonesia, Ireland and Georgia announced initial steps towards similar arrangements.

London is a magnet for international property-buyers, and the government estimates that foreign companies own around 100,000 properties across England and Wales, almost half of them in London.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani have both promised to curb corruption in their countries, and were among the most high-profile attendees at the conference.

Buhari said he wasn’t seeking an apology from Cameron over the remarks, but wanted something “tangible” — the return of plundered Nigerian assets held in British banks. He told the meeting that “corruption is one of the greatest enemies of our time.”

Ghani said corruption was fueling his country’s political violence, and the fight against wrongdoing “should not be a fashion that is discarded with the next set of elections.”

There were some notable omissions on the

ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT LONDON 2016



conference guest list. Delegates discussed corruption in sport, but soccer governing body FIFA, wracked by a vast bribery scandal, is not at the meeting.

British-linked tax havens including Bermuda and the Cayman Islands were represented at the summit — but others, such as the British Virgin Islands, were not.

Cameron has said that Britain's Crown dependencies and overseas territories have agreed to draw up beneficial ownership registers and share the information with U.K. law-enforcement bodies. Jersey, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Anguilla and the Isle of Man agreed to join a group of several dozen nations that share such information with one another. Cameron said Britain's overseas tax havens were now "ahead of many developed states" in openness.

But charities and opposition politicians say Britain must go farther and insist that the territories' ownership registers are made public.

Allan Bell, chief minister of the Isle of Man — a British Crown dependency in the Irish Sea — said there wouldn't be real progress unless the United States made its own tax havens, such as Delaware, more open.

Robert Palmer of anti-corruption group Global Witness said the results of the meeting were mixed, but positive.

"The tide is definitely moving toward transparency, and the tax havens and the U.S. are being left behind," he said.

The Global Forum for Asset Recovery will bring together governments and law enforcement agencies to discuss returning assets to Nigeria, Ukraine, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

The meeting will be held in the US next year,

Foreign companies owned about 100,000 properties in England and Wales and that more than 44,000 of these were in London

co-hosted with the UK, and supported by the UN and the World Bank.

David Cameron made the announcement at a global anti-corruption summit in London.

It was being hailed as the first of its kind, bringing together governments, business and other organizations.

Organizations such as the World Bank, OECD and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also attended the summit.

Tax havens with UK links, including Bermuda and the Cayman Islands were represented, but the British Virgin Islands was not at the summit. Neither was FIFA, football's governing body, which is at the centre of a large bribery scandal.

The British Virgin Islands has not yet signed up to the automatic sharing of its register, but the Prime Minister defended Britain's overseas territories saying they had come a long way.

Jersey, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Anguilla and the Isle of Man have agreed to join a group of several dozen nations that share their registers with one another.

Alan Bell, the chief minister of the Isle of Man, which is a Crown dependency, said progress could not be made unless the US did more and tackled its own tax havens such as the state of Delaware.

Mr Cameron said they were looking for greater transparency and were introducing a code of conduct for professionals such as accountants, solicitors and estate agents who enabled corruption, either knowingly or unknowingly.

He wanted to see how assets could be recovered, with legislation being introduced in 21 additional countries.

But critics say the UK's overseas territories and Crown dependencies also need to be more transparent.

Security & economy,

key priorities of the government: Interior Minister Ch Nisar Ali Khan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Improving internal security and economy of the country are the two key priorities of the Government of Pakistan. This was stated by Interior Minister Ch Nisar Ali Khan in his address as the Guest of Honour at the 63rd Annual Dinner of The Pakistan Society held at The Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn London. The Minister

in economy, security and institutions of the country. Once returned, he suggested the delegation might apprise the British society of these developments through a series of talks and seminars. The Minister also offered the Society an office in the new consular building of the High Commission once its construction is completed.

The Interior Minister shared Pakistan's security

(CPEC) an ambitious project which could bring about development and prosperity not only in Pakistan but in the entire region. He also invited the diaspora and the British investors to take advantage of the profitable investment opportunities in Pakistan in the wake of CPEC. Speaking on the bilateral relations, the Minister fondly remembered that Prime Minister David Cameron was the first head of the state who visited Pakistan after the present government came into power in 2013. He also recalled Prime Minister Cameron's famous statement he made during the visit: "Pakistan's enemy is our enemy and Pakistan's friend is our friend." The Minister said the bilateral relations have never been better but a lot can be done to further strengthen the economic and people to people relations.

As the Guest of Honour from the British side, The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, in his address said that links between Pakistan and the UK are strong at all levels and are rooted in shared values, culture and history which are further supplemented by the presence of strong Pakistani diaspora in the UK. The Secretary underscored that Pakistani businesses have incredible potential for growth and investment and the operations of more than 120 British companies in Pakistan is a manifestation to that fact. He stated that Pakistan is important to British Government and UK's international development budget for Pakistan is the largest of all our bilateral aid programmes.

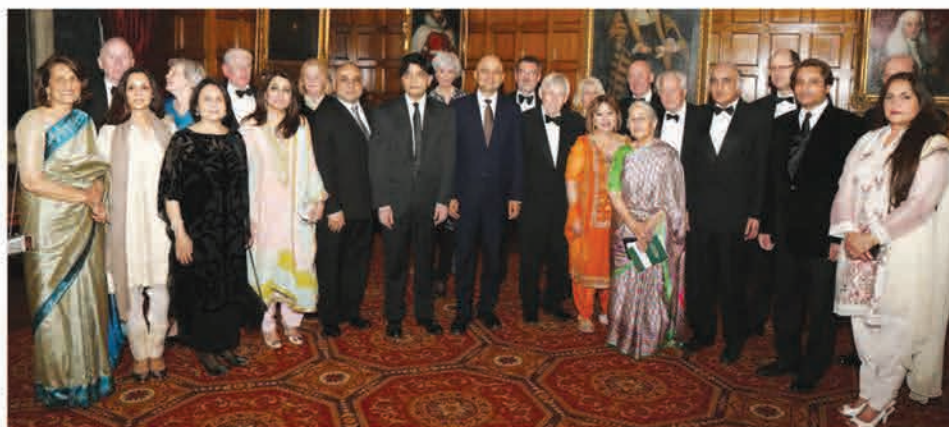
At the end, Sir William Blackburne, Chairman of the Pakistan Society thanked all the guests and those involved in organizing the dinner. The Pakistan Society was founded in 1951. The Patrons of the Society are HRH the Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh and H.E. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Based in London, the Pakistan Society endeavors to increase public knowledge in Britain of the arts, history, antiquities and geography of Pakistan, as well as its economic life and political institutions through regular lectures, meetings and social events.



was accompanied by High Commissioner Syed Ibne Abbas.

The Minister appreciated the good work of The Pakistan Society in creating linkages between the people of the two countries but said the body has enormous potential which needs to be tapped for the benefit of the two countries. He invited a delegation of the Society to Pakistan to see the positive developments taking place

perspective with the guests and said that with an effective and consensus-oriented National Action Plan of the government, the security of the country has significantly improved. He said the fight against terrorism is not over but there is a sea change in security situation. Owing to this, the economy of the country is showing sustainable growth, said the Minister. He termed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor



Interior Minister of Pakistan Mr. Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan addressing at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London





Madame Tussauds Museum

An era of virtual reality



By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Madame Tussauds is a wax museum in London with branches in a number of major cities. It was founded by wax sculptor Marie Tussaud. It used to be known as "Madame Tussaud's"; the apostrophe is no longer used. Madame Tussauds is a major tourist attraction in London, displaying famous waxworks.

Madame Tussaud's wax museum has now grown to become a major tourist attraction in London, incorporating (until 2010) the London Planetarium in its west wing. Today's wax figures at Tussauds include historical and royal figures, film stars, sports stars and famous murderers. Known as "Madame Tussauds" museums (no apostrophe), they



are owned by a leisure company called Merlin Entertainments, following the acquisition of The Tussauds Group in May 2007. In an era of virtual reality, interactive Wiis and 3D TVs,

it is difficult to imagine a more anachronistic attraction than a crowded dark room peopled with static wax models. But Madame Tussauds is more popular than ever. Almost every

month, a new celebrity is added to the waxen lineup. Last year it reported visitor numbers up by 10% across its attractions with a 16% jump in profits to £239m.

Born in Strasbourg in 1761, Marie Tussaud studied model-making under Dr Philippe Curtius, a doctor who became highly skilled at making anatomical models from wax. They moved to Paris and she created figures for a waxwork exhibition, narrowly escaped the guillotine in the French Revolution, and ended up making death masks of guillotine victims. Tussaud inherited Curtius's models and her travelling exhibition of waxworks became the touring newspaper of the day, providing vivid impressions of contemporary events, particularly the revolution, in a time before photographs. When she settled in Britain and opened a museum in Baker Street in 1835, her most popular exhibit was the "chamber of horrors"





Due to the continuous efforts, Terrorism in Pakistan has been at lowest level: Ch Nisar

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Interior Minister Ch Nisar Ali Khan meets British National Security Adviser Mark Lyall-Grant.

Pakistan and UK reaffirmed their commitment for greater cooperation and interaction at all levels to further strengthen their existing

PM Nawaz Sharif showed very positive gestures in improving our relations with India but those efforts got a set back by some recent incidents: Ch. Nisar

partnership for dealing with issues of mutual concern, achieving shared objectives and ensuring regional peace and security.

This was agreed upon during the meeting of Interior Minister Ch. Nisar Ali Khan with the British National Security Adviser Sir Mark Lyall Grant here at the 10th Downing Street.

"Pak-UK bilateral relations, various strands of ongoing security cooperation, issues of mutual concern and regional security situation" was also discussed during the meeting.

The Interior Minister appreciated the UK Government's understanding of the problems being faced by Pakistan and their consistent

commitment and support to the country in addressing these issues.

Talking to British National Security Adviser, the Interior Minister said that due to its historical linkages, UK is in a position to have better understanding of regional dynamics and peculiar socio- security environment. Despite this advantage, the existing Pak-UK cooperation is far below the actual potential and there is need to make greater efforts for

The British Security Adviser assured the Interior Minister every possible support from UK side in ongoing fight against terrorism

tapping this potential for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Discussing the security situation in Pakistan, the Interior Minister said that due to the continuous efforts of the Government since it took over in June 2013, the terrorism related violence in Pakistan has been lowest in 2015 since the last 9 years. The real challenge now lies in rooting out the facilitators and supporters of these elements who have spread hatred, strife and division in our society. The Interior Minister said that under NAP, over 14000 IBOs have been carried out across the length and breadth of the country and it resulted in curtailing to a huge extent the level

of terrorist related activities in Pakistan.

Discussing regional situation, the Interior Minister said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif showed very positive gestures in improving our relations with India but those efforts got a set back by some recent incidents. Discussing the situation in Afghanistan, the Interior Minister

There is a tendency to put the blame for everything which goes wrong in Afghanistan at Pakistan's door step which should not be allowed to continue:

Ch. Nisar

said that Pakistan has been making sincere efforts for the regional peace especially for the stability, peace and development in the neighboring Afghanistan and will continue doing so in the larger interests of the region. The Minister continued that despite our efforts, there is a tendency to put the blame for everything which goes wrong in Afghanistan at Pakistan's door step which should not be allowed to continue.

On the question of military courts, the Minister said that it was a difficult decision for the government to set up military courts but the terrorists had left the government with no other option. However it is a temporary

It was a difficult decision for the government to set up military courts but the terrorists had left the government with no other option: Ch. Nisar

measure and the SCP overviews the decisions of all the Military courts so the element of judicial review is very much there. The Interior Minister also welcomed the commitment of the two countries to furthering their cooperation in all the areas of mutual interest.

The British Security Adviser assured the Interior Minister every possible support from UK side in ongoing fight against terrorism including strengthening and capacity building of Counter Terrorism structures in the country. There is no lack of commitment or intent on the part of UK to keep the high level cooperation and interaction with Pakistan intact and it will be carried forward in future as well, remarked the National Security Adviser.



Italian Foreign Minister, Paolo Gentiloni inaugurates Exhibition of Pakistani Calligraphy at the Italian National Museum of Oriental Arts organized by the Embassy of Pakistan

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

Paolo Gentiloni, Italian Foreign Minister, inaugurated the exhibition “Calligraphy and Calligraphic Art of Pakistan – Contemporary Styles and Tendencies” in Rome at the prestigious Italian National Museum of Oriental Arts.

The Foreign Minister in his opening remarks, fondly recalled his recent visit to Pakistan which he termed as very productive. He termed Pakistan as a “great country” which has very versatile people. Pakistan and Italy enjoy a close relationship with a long-standing cooperation in the field of culture. He noted that cultural cooperation was an important facet for promoting people to people contacts and strengthening bilateral ties. Appreciating the quality of works displayed, the Foreign Minister congratulated the Pakistan Embassy and the Italian Ministry of Culture for organizing the exhibition which will contribute

to better understanding of a significant aspect of Pakistan’s culture among the Italian public. Speaking at the event, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz appreciated the important contribution which Italian archaeologists have made for the preservation of Pakistan’s archaeological treasures. He stressed the importance of cultural harmony and understanding between different cultures. He said that enhancing cultural exchanges would positively contribute towards strengthening existing relations between Pakistan and Italy. He thanked the Museum and the Italian authorities for their support and cooperation in organizing the exhibition. He also appreciated the artists who had contributed their works for the exhibition.

Renowned Pakistani calligraphy expert Mr. Athar Tahir spoke about the tradition of calligraphy in Pakistan. Ms. Sumaira Amin, Associate Professor National College of Arts elaborated on the various techniques and materials used by Islamic calligraphers.

On display are 34 works of 14 calligraphists from all over Pakistan representing various styles of contemporary calligraphy. Pakistani calligraphers have made notable contribution to calligraphy. While continuing to be inspired by Islamic traditions, Pakistani artists have imparted a great degree of modernity to this form of classical art. Their works rival some of the best artwork done in the world.

The exhibition has been organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Rome in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Culture. It will remain open to the Italian public for a period of two months.

Over 100 notable Italians from various walks of life attended the inauguration ceremony. Two separate workshops on calligraphy will be held by the two experts from Pakistan at the Museum for the Italian public

Number of UK landlords rises to 1.75 million



HMRC data shows 7% rise in 2013-14 but figure likely to be higher after recent buy-to-let lending surge

By Monitoring Desk

The rapid pace of growth in buy-to-let investments has been illustrated by new figures showing the number of landlords rising by 7% in 2013-14 to reach 1.75 million. Figures from estate agent ludlowthompson based on data from HM Revenue & Customs showed 1.75 million people declared income from property during the year, up from 1.63

million in 2012-13, as they chased returns on their cash that outstripped other investments. Landlords banked a combined £14.2bn in net income from their rental properties during the year, up from £13.1bn the year before.

The HMRC figures are the latest data on landlord numbers, which are likely to have increased significantly since. Buy-to-let lending has boomed as cheap mortgages and rising rents, combined with low savings rates,

have made property attractive to investors. Ludlowthompson said that over the past year the price of property in London had risen by 13.9% – a period when the FTSE 100 fell by 8.8%.

Changes to stamp duty introduced on 1 April increased the upfront cost of buying property, adding a 3% surcharge on second homes. From 2017, the ongoing cost will start to rise for landlords who pay the higher rate of tax as relief on mortgage repayments starts to be withdrawn.

The firm said the surge in borrowing by landlords ahead of the stamp duty change suggested property remained popular: figures from mortgage lenders showed a 226.1% year-on-year rise in the number of purchase loans taken out by landlords in March. The chairman of ludlowthompson, Stephen Ludlow, said: "Investors continue to be drawn to the buy-to-let market as the returns routinely outperform those of other investments."

"Buy-to-let investments are a highly popular alternative to the volatility investors often risk when investing in the stock market."

The National Landlords Association has suggested that investors will make some changes to mitigate the new rules. It said last week that the profits of six in 10 landlords would fall after the removal of some tax relief. In order to recover costs, one in five landlords could stop renting to higher-risk tenants, such as those on housing benefit.

It said the removal of mortgage interest relief, combined with the government's benefits freeze and the fall in social housing, would "create a perfect storm whereby some tenants will struggle to find any sort of housing at all".

Courtesy to the guardian





Zarb-e-Azb themed

PAF aircraft wins trophy

at UK air show

By Monitoring Desk

A C-130 aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has won the Concours D' Elegance trophy Air Tattoo Show 2016 at Royal Air Force Base Fairford, UK.

Over 50 nations with 200 aircrafts from across the world competed for the coveted trophy; however, the PAF C-130 stole the show with its attractive Zarb-e-Azb theme colours.

Air Marshal Asad Lodhi, Vice Chief of the

Air Staff visited the venue on Sunday and congratulated the PAF air and ground crew for winning the prestigious trophy and bringing laurels to the country.

Talking to the PAF contingent, he appreciated their untiring efforts for achieving the honour, saying the achievement would go a long way in projecting the soft image of the country across the world, said a statement.

The PAF C-130 continued to attract large crowd on the last day of the show as well. People

thronged to catch a glimpse of the display aircraft painted in Zarb-e-Azb theme.

The PAF contingent comprising air and ground crew participated in the various competitions and events organised at the Royal International Air Tattoo Show-2016.

This is the second time the air force has won the prestigious trophy as PAF C-130 participated in the event in July 2006 as well and had won three major trophies in the competition.





A new generation of struggle

By Hassam Ahmed Siddiqi

Never ever before has Indian Kashmir reacted so violently to the death of a person as it has to the killing of Burhan Muzaffar Wani by security forces on July 8. This 22-year-old Hizbul Mujahadeen commander had become an iconic figure in the Valley. Reportedly, a decision to kill him was taken two months ago at the highest level. Soon after Burhan Wani was killed, violent incidents initiated in the Indian held Kashmir and almost 39 people were killed and more than 3000 people were injured. These injuries include children less than six years of age. More than 200 people have been reported to lost their eye sight due to the firing of a very specific pellet bullet. Burhan Wani's funeral was attended by thousands of people, and despite restrictions, the funeral venue was so crowded there was no space to conduct funeral prayers.

Wani, who was a 22 year young boy, is largely attributed with reviving and legitimizing the image of militancy in Muslim-majority Indian-administered Kashmir. He was born to a highly-educated upper-class Kashmiri family. It is believed that he was driven to militancy

at the age of 15, after his brother and he were beaten up by police for no reason. The issue of Kashmir has not been resolved by India and Pakistan since their independence and after 69 years of struggle, now Kashmiri youth has stood up for its rights. They have been joining the extremist organizations to

fight against the Indian brutality and speak up for their rights. Wani's video messages, which would often go viral in Kashmir, were on the topics of Indian injustice and the need for young people to stand up to oppression. In his last video he had warned local police of the consequences if they continued to resist the





movement. India considered Wani a terrorist, but for many locals he represented the spirit and political aspirations of a new Kashmiri generation which was very satisfying for their movement. Indian officials have admitted that he was instrumental in persuading local boys to take up arms in the state. He was known for posting videos on social media which found some appeal in the younger Muslim population of Kashmir. In one of his videos he appealed youth to join Hizbul Mujahideen and is considered to have recruited at least 30 young boys from South Kashmir. In a video released in June 2016, he assured the Amaranth pilgrims that they won't be attacked by the militants. In addition, he also threatened to attack Sainik colonies because of his belief that it was an attempt to change the demography of the valley. He also opposed separate colonies for Kashmiri Pundits saying that they can come live on their own land but an "Israel-like" situation won't be allowed in Kashmir.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, has addressed letters to the UN Secretary-General, the President of the UN Security Council, the Secretary-General of the OIC, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to express Pakistan's serious concern on the alarming situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) drawing attention to the brutal killings of innocent civilians and grave violations of the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiris by the occupying Indian security forces. The Adviser noted that in these times of democracy and accountability, the international community, led by the United Nations, cannot remain passive to the callous behaviour and grave violations of human rights by India in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir over the last many decades. The letters recalled that the United Nations has a special and permanent responsibility with regard to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which remains on the agenda of the UN Security Council and is yet to be resolved in accordance with its relevant resolutions. The current situation in



Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is in fact the result of the continued denial by India of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people through a free and fair plebiscite under the UN auspices that was assured by the United Nations in its multiple resolutions.

On the other hand, Indian foreign ministry expressed its dismay over what it called the continued attempts by Pakistan to interfere in its internal matter. It is a matter of grief concern that the international community and world leaders are not initiating any serious steps towards the resolution of Kashmir issue. United Nations has not been very active regarding its role, despite the passed resolutions since many decades, no serious practical steps have been taken and neither has the world community asked Indian to put an stop to their brutal activities across the occupied area. It has been decades that Kashmiris have continued to lose their lives in the struggle of freedom and right for self determination. It is very sad on part of Pakistan as well, that Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman who has been the chairman of Kashmir issue could not make any significant progress or lobby for the Kashmir issue in the international

community. Pakistan needs to pay very serious attention towards this issue as now it cannot continue to further intensify its relations with India over the Kashmir issue after a continued struggle against terrorism inside the country and on its borders. Kashmir is an integral part of Pakistan and its movement of freedom will be continued to support by the Pakistanis.

International media and pressure groups also needs to highlight and focus on the brutality of Indian forces in the Indian occupied Kashmir and raise their voice in their group of sphere, the International community, United Nations and Organization of Islamic countries. It has been almost sixteen years that International community, Pakistan and India have been given a chance to resolve the issue of Kashmir, but no actual ground breaking progress results have been achieved and Kashmir still remains an unresolved disputed land. It is now time for Kashmiri leaders to come forward and Pakistani leadership and the international community have to actively lobby for Kashmir so that decades long dispute could be resolved as soon as possible.



British Business Centre signs MoU with SEEDS venture



Faraz Khan, CEO & Co-Founder SEED Ventures signing MoU with Malahat Awan, CEO British Business Centre, in the presence of John Tucknott, British Deputy High Commissioner, and Khushro Ansari, Director & Co-Founder SEED Ventures

by Monitoring Desk/Saba Sarfraz

British Business Centre (BBC) and SEED Ventures have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of entrepreneurial landscape between Pakistan and UK.

An announcement said that the SEED Ventures is an enterprise development organisation that works to promote and facilitate entrepreneurship which will help promote trade industry investment and economic relations between the UK and Pakistan.

Furthermore the two entities will work together to develop the enterprise and social enterprise landscape in the two countries through cross border relations and initiatives.

The MoU was signed by Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder SEED Ventures Faraz Khan and Chief Executive Officer British Business Centre Malahat Awan in presence of Dr Ishrat Husain former Governor State Bank of Pakistan and the country's prominent economist British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi John Tucknott MBE Director and Co Founder SEED Ventures Khushro Ansari as well as prominent members of the business community.

According to the MoU SEED Ventures and British Business Centre have agreed to work collaboratively as partners to enhance promote and support the entrepreneurial segment of Pakistan and the UK through cross border enterprise development local business solutions and 360 degree business consultancies.

In this regard they will be creating synergies with the development sector the private sector as well as the locally operating UK organisations.

Speaking at the ceremony as a chief guest Dr. Ishrat Husain a former Governor of State Bank of Pakistan said that the bilateral trade and investment relationship between our two countries holds great significance for the Government of Pakistan.

The British Deputy High Commissioner John Tucknott MBE said the UK already enjoys a strong relationship with Pakistan in the key area of prosperity.

The British Business Centre's goal is to contribute to an increase in bilateral trade and investment in line with the commitments made by Prime Ministers David Cameron and Nawaz Sharif when they met in London in April 2014.

We welcome the support that SEED Ventures is extending towards the Centre in order to help achieve this goal.

CEO and Co Founder SEED Ventures Faraz Khan during his speech said that the entrepreneurial climate in Pakistan is changing with a necessity to support and promote the rapidly emerging start ups, SMEs and larger enterprises further scaling up.

He further stressed upon the benefits of strong points of alignments between organisations working in this segment in the two countries and furthering the mandate of the two entities British Business Centre and SEED Ventures that will ensure an increase in cross border trade relations, capacity enhancement, financial inclusion and economic empowerment of all communities.



A group photo of Mr. John Tucknott, British Deputy High Commissioner with the representatives of SEED Ventures and British Business Centre



British investors show keen interest in Pakistan pursuing investment led growth policy: Muhammad Zubair

By Raheel Iqbal

British and international investors expressed keen interest in Pakistan during a two-day "Pakistan Investment Conference" in London. Mr Muhammad Zubair, MOS/Chairman Privatization Commission of Pakistan represented Pakistan at the Conference whereas Mr Nadeem Naqvi, MD Pakistan Stock Exchange along with CEOs and CFOs of 13 leading Pakistani companies participated in the event.

The Conference was organized by JS Global Capital Ltd, a leading investment and brokerage banking firm of Pakistan and was hosted by Renaissance Capital of the UK. Leading investors and fund managers of the City of London held over 200 business to business meetings to brainstorm with their Pakistani counterparts with significant interest to invest in Pakistan.

The focus of the Conference was:-

- i. To lobby support for Pakistan to regain the MSCI Emerging Market status (MSCI to review the same by June 2016); and
- ii. To attract both Direct Foreign Investment and Foreign Portfolios Investment towards Pakistan in the wake of turnaround in the country's macro-economic indicators.

The Conference was attended by leading fund management firms, investment banks, and other fund managers based in UK, US and Europe while Bloomberg, Reuters, and Financial Times alongside local media were also invited for coverage of the event.

Later, H.E. Syed Ibne Abbas, the High Commissioner hosted a dinner in honor of the delegates from Pakistan and the UK. The CEO's and CFO's of over 50 leading British companies and corporate bodies attended the dinner. Besides, British Pakistani Lords, MPs and business people were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion Muhammad Zubair, Chairman, Pakistan Privatization Commission, gave an overview of Pakistan economy, energy situation, and improved security environment of the country. He said that due to investment led growth policy of the present government the economy was showing an accelerated growth.

The Chairman updated the guests on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and termed it a major economic breakthrough for the country as well as for the region. He apprised the guests that out of US\$ 46 billion, a major chunk of US\$ 34 billion was allocated for energy generation. Mr Zubair invited the International investors to take advantage of the profitable investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Welcoming the guests, the High Commissioner appreciated the keen interest expressed by the British and the international companies in Pakistan during the two-day Conference. He expressed hope that international investors would take advantage of the conducive business environment in the country especially, in the wake of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which promises economic opportunities galore. The High Commissioner said that owing



to economic stability and successful fight against terrorism and extremism, the narrative about Pakistan was changing fast.

Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, MD Pakistan Stock Exchange also briefed the guests about the state of Pakistan economy and future prospects. He said the event would help Pakistan to gain the status of Emerging Market from its current status of Frontier Market and would give a positive message about expanding Pakistan economy which was going to gain 5 to 6 percent sustainable growth rate over the next five years. Mr Ali Jehangir Siddiqui from JS Global Capital Ltd also spoke on the occasion. The Conference offered a good opportunity to the Pakistani businesses to collaborate and develop linkages with the British and the international companies.



Pakistani Artists has unique approach towards Arts: Ambassador of Pakistan to France

by Saba Sarfraz

Embassy of Pakistan, Paris arranged an exhibition of renowned Canadian-Pakistani artist Fahim Hamid Ali. Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador of Pakistan to France H.E Mr. Ghalib Iqbal said that he had observed as a Diplomat working in different countries that Pakistani artists living abroad had a unique angle and approach towards arts. He paid glowing tributes to the canvas and variety of the subjects that the artist had dealt with. He said that where-ever Faheem's art goes, the name of Pakistan travels with him. Mr. Fahim himself spoke about his inspirations, his journey towards perfection, the subjects he dealt with and his future plans. The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in France H.E. MR. Tilak Ranaviraja, who himself is a painter, attended the exhibition as special guest. He also spoke on the occasion. He appreciated the work of the artist and felicitated the embassy of Pakistan in Paris for holding this exhibition. Mr. Fahim Hamid Ali emerged on the art scene about two decades ago when he started his first exhibitions. Gradually, he expanded the horizons of his work concentrating on images from his culture and roots. He does not limit his expressions to calligraphy alone. He paints landscapes, still life and Mughal miniature. Despite working in various directions, the work remains that of Ali. His signature is obvious through his corded lines. He creates stain glass painting effects on canvas with his thick lines.

Soon Ali earned a name in stain glass painting. Ali remains busy painting, decorating homes and holding exhibitions around the world. His successful exhibition at the Lionel Gallery in June 1996 was talk of the town for some time. He met another success when he exhibited his figurative works and Islamic calligraphy in mixed media at Singapore in 1998.

He has held his many solo exhibitions showcasing floral designs, landscapes and calligraphy. The Pakistan Canada Association asks him to participate in its multicultural festivals.

Ali is a profound believer in communication. For the purpose, he has chosen an international language of form, colour and line. He generally works in mixed media on paper and canvas. He also is at ease with the wash painting technique

where he works with liquid oil paints flowing like water. He seldom uses a brush; instead, he uses his finger to paint. He does not confine himself to a specific technique. He works with freedom of thought, and medium. A play with colour makes the end result a visual pleasure. In the last five years, Ali has been experimenting at various levels. Wild life is another field where he excels. With love of nature, innate in character, he has a mastery over presentation of wild life in impressionistic technique. Ali's interior designing is unique, as he likes to create harmony through new ideas. He believes in breathing life into every corner of the house he is working on. Large number of French art lovers, diplomats, intellectuals, public figures and journalists witnessed the exhibition and appreciated his work.



Pakistan Festival 2016 in Hague

Pakistan Festival 2016 was held in Hague, the Netherlands. Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan inaugurated the festival. People from all over the Netherlands and neighboring countries came along with their families and enjoyed the Festival. On this occasion, Pakistan's famous singer Jawad Ahmad entertained the crowd with his songs.



“Adventure travel in Gilgit-Baltistan”

A talk arranged by Pakistan High Commission London

By Saba Sarfraz

A large number of tourists and adventure travelers assembled at the Pakistan High Commission in London. Author and filmmaker Mick Conefrey, journalist Matthew Green and Wild Frontiers’ founder Jonny Bealby spoke with the audience at the event. The speakers shared with them the thrilling

and fascinating tales of adventure travel and best kept secrets from the land of mighty peaks of Pakistan. Their first hand experiences supplemented with photo slides of the majestic mountains of Northern areas of Pakistan mesmerized the audience.

The attendees comprised many British travelers who, in the past, had travelled to those areas

There are now regular flights to Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan which has significantly boosted tourism in the region



and the event provided them an opportunity to relive their cherished memories. The event motivated many young people to visit Pakistan. It may be noted that last year the British government relaxed the travel advisory for its citizens for Gilgit-Baltistan which is likely to increase the number of British tourists to this area.

The speakers apprised the audience that the start of the summer is the perfect time to explore these pristine peaks of Gilgit-Baltistan. There are now regular flights to Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan which has significantly boosted tourism in the region.

Mick Conefrey is an author and filmmaker. He has been making documentaries for over 20 years. His particular interest in telling stories about exploration and mountaineering is revealed by his latest book, "The Ghosts of K2". It tells of thrilling expedition attempts to climb this mighty mountain, the failures and



Gilgit-Baltistan is the meeting point of the world's four highest mountain ranges; the Himalayas, the Karakorams, the Hindukush and the Pamirs which provides a perfect setting for a memorable adventure travel destination

the triumphs, including the first ever ascent, bringing to life the hardships of making it up 'the impossible mountain'.

Matthew Green spent five years reporting for Reuters in East Africa, writing his first book *The Wizard of the Nile* which documents his search through Uganda's War Zone for Joseph Kony. Last year, he trekked over the remote Hispar Pass in the Karakoram mountains, where he crossed the quasi-mythical plateau of deeply packed ice, christened Snow Lake and over a perilously narrow ice bridge.

It was in Pakistan that Jonny Bealby was inspired to set up an adventure travel company, making Pakistan both the brainchild of Wild Frontiers and its first ever destination. He has been

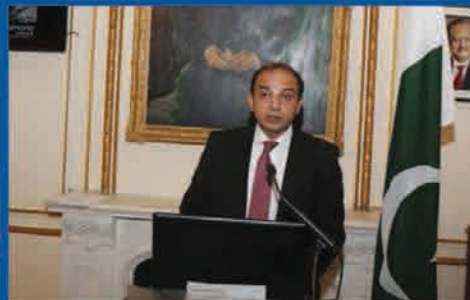




Journalist Matthew Green giving a talk on Adventure travel in Gilgit-Baltistan



Author and filmmaker Mick Conefrey giving a talk on Adventure travel in Gilgit-Baltistan



Ijlal Khattak Commercial Counsellor giving a talk on Adventure travel in Gilgit-Baltistan



Deputy High Commissioner Dr Israr Hussain giving a talk on Adventure travel in Gilgit-Baltistan

back well over 20 times since then, with close friendships established in northern Pakistan. In his opinion, there is no better adventure travel destination. From the wide open space and freedom felt on the Shandur Pass, where the mountains of the Hindu Kush transform into the steppes of Central Asia to the magical landscapes in and around the Hunza Valley, surrounded everywhere with magnificent peaks.

Gilgit-Baltistan is the meeting point of the world's four highest mountain ranges; the Himalayas, the Karakorams, the Hindukush and the Pamirs which provides a perfect setting for a memorable adventure travel destination. Through these majestic mountain ranges, which have determined for centuries the destiny of the South Asian region, snakes along the ancient Silk Route, navigated by the legendary Venetian traveler Marco Polo. Aptly described as the Third Pole, the Roof of the World and a Paradise on earth, Northern Areas of Pakistan offer a unique confluence of history, landscape and biodiversity. Deputy High Commissioner Dr. Israr Hussain welcomed the guests and highlighted tourism opportunities in Pakistan. Commercial Counselor Ijlal Ahmed Khattak moderated the event.



Wild Frontiers Founder Jonny Bealby giving a talk on Adventure travel in Gilgit-Baltistan

WBC middleweight title



Álvarez surprised everyone

Amir Khan knocked out by Canelo Álvarez

By Raheel Iqbal

Canelo Álvarez defended his World Boxing Council middleweight belt by knocking out Amir Khan with a vicious right hand late in the sixth round of their Las Vegas title fight.

The 25-year-old hard-hitting Mexican dropped Khan with a straight right over a passive left jab that sent the Briton crumpling to the canvas with just 23 seconds left in the round.

The back of Khan's head bounced off the deck, prompting his corner to rush to his aid as he lay motionless for a couple of minutes. Khan eventually got up and went to his corner.

"Many people talk about my power but I have many more qualities in the ring and people saw that," Álvarez said. "I like to surprise everyone."

The savage end to what was supposed to be the biggest fight of Khan's career will undoubtedly strengthen the notion that he has a soft chin. It was a shocking end to what had been a close fight up to that point.

The 29-year-old Khan, who moved up two weight classes to face the bigger champ, started strong and even won the first couple of rounds before Álvarez worked his way into the fight at the brand new T-Mobile Arena.

"He's very fast. So I knew it would be complicated at the beginning," Álvarez said.

"But I knew the time would come to my favor and you saw that."

Álvarez is now mandated by the WBC to fight unbeaten two-belt champ Gennady Golovkin, who was ringside.

At Friday's weigh-in, both boxers scaled 155 pounds, bang on the catch-weight limit.



Many Mexicans were in Las Vegas to celebrate the Cinco de Mayo festival weekend, meaning the majority of the crowd was on Álvarez's side. There was also a vocal contingent of Khan's fans, who made the trip from Britain for the title fight. Also in attendance at ringside were boxing legends Evander Holyfield, Roberto Duran and Roy Jones as well as fight promoter Oscar de la Hoya.



Profile

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