



August 31, 2016

Ambassador Presented Credentials to the Dutch King

Ms. Iffat Imran Gardezi, Pakistan's New Ambassador to The Netherlands, presented her credentials to the Dutch King His Majesty Willem Alexander on 31 August 2016 in The Hague. During her diplomatic career, Ms. Gardezi has served in Pakistan's diplomatic Missions in Vienna, Hong Kong, Berlin and Washington. Before her appointment as Pakistan's Ambassador to The Netherlands, Ambassador Gardezi was serving as Additional Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad. Ms. Iffat Imran Gardezi, is married and has two sons, her spouse Mr. Imran Gardezi, recently retired as Federal Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the government of Pakistan.



September 1, 2016

Ambassador Presented Credentials to Director General OPCW

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi, presented her credentials as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to Director General OPCW at The Hague on 1st September 2016. During the meeting that followed the ceremony, the Director General OPCW appreciated the role that Pakistan has played over the years in helping the world getting rid of Chemical Weapons.

Pakistan has been very active in the organization since its Inception. The effective role played by successive representatives of Pakistan in the OPCW has been recognized by the member countries; Pakistan has been continually elected as a member of the Executive Council of the OPCW since 1998 and coordinator of Asian Group of countries since 2004. In addition, Pakistan has also acted as the facilitator for implementation of Article X of the CWC in the past and is presently facilitator for implementation of Article XI.



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September 2, 2016

Pakistan's Ambassador DOSTY Cricket Cup

26th Pakistan's Ambassador DOSTY Cricket Cup was held between Pakistani Community-XI and KNCB-XI teams in The Hague on 2nd September 2016. President KNCB Madam Betty Timmer was the Chief Guest on the occasion. After an exiting competition, the Dutch side won the match. Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi awarded trophies and medals to the payers prizes after the match.



September 9, 2016

Embassy-Community meeting

A meeting of Pakistani Community based in Netherlands, was held at Pakistan House on 09 September 2016. During the meeting, Ambassador Iffat Gardezi briefed the participants about various steps taken by Government of Pakistan for the welfare of overseas Pakistanis. She said that Dutch Citizens of Pakistani origin are acting as a bridge to further strengthen Pakistan - Netherlands friendly relations.



September 15, 2016

Literary Conference arranged by Pak-Dutch Forum

Ambassador Iffat Gardezi addressed a Literary Conference arranged by Pak-Dutch National Forum with support of Embassy of Pakistan, The Hague. She appreciated the contribution of Dutch citizens of Pakistani origin, in promoting relations between the two countries. Dr Taqi Abdi, an expert of Iqbal and Faiz highlighted their contribution to the Urdu language and literature. Speakers and poets, notably Mr. Basir Kazmi, Ms. Rabia Rehman and others from Europe and Pakistan enthralled the audience with their poetry and literary insights at the event. Syed Ejaz Saifi moderated the conference in an eloquent manner.





September 19, 2016

Pakistani Dairy Sector Delegation visited the Netherlands

A delegation of leading Pakistani Dairy sector enterprises led by Miss Saira Iftikhar, Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Livestock & Dairy Development Board, Government of Punjab visited The Netherlands. During the visit, the delegation visited various dairy farms, and technical institutions. Various business to business meetings, were also held to explore areas of further mutual collaboration between Pakistani and Dutch companies.

September 21, 2016

Meeting of Pakistani Ladies in the Netherlands

A meeting of Pakistani ladies was held at Pakistan House on 21 September 2016. Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi presided over the meeting. She appreciated the role Pakistani origin ladies have played, over the years, in promoting Pakistan's soft image in the Netherlands.

The Ambassador encouraged the ladies to unite on a single platform to effectively work to work for welfare and representation of Pakistani Ladies in the Netherlands.



September 23, 2016

Welcome Reception by Dastak International Organization

On 23 September 2016 Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi attended a welcome reception in her honour hosted by Dastak International Organization, which is a non-political, cultural organization formed with the aim to provide a platform for growth of cultural relations between Pakistan and The Netherlands. The organization is working very effectively for the integration of the Pakistani community in the Netherlands. The Dastak International Organization was founded in March 2013. The organization grew out of the online *Daily Dastak* newspaper, which is a widely read Urdu online newspaper by the Pakistanis in the Netherlands.



September 26, 2016

Reception to Meet and Greet New Ambassador of Pakistan

Diplomat Magazine and Embassy of Pakistan jointly organized a Meet and Greet event on 26 September 2016 in The Hague. Participants of the event got introduced to Ambassador Ms. Iffat Imran Gardezi, who had recently joined the Mission as Ambassador. Various Ambassadors, senior officials of the Dutch Government and leading Dutch businessmen attended the event.



September 28, 2016

Pakistani Agriculture Companies Delegation visited Netherlands

A visiting delegation of Pakistani Agriculture companies called on the Ambassador on 28 Sep 2016. Besides B2B meetings the delegation attended a training session for certification requirements to support the export of Pakistani Agriculture products to the European Union.





October 5, 2016

Ambassador hosted a Luncheon for Asian Ambassadors to the OPCW

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi hosted a luncheon meeting for Ambassadors of Asian Group in the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at Pakistan House, The Hague on 5 October 2016. Pakistan has the unique status of having performed responsibility as the coordinator of the Group of Asian countries since 2004; the longest tenure in the OPCW's history for any country to be elected to chair the regional group.

October 6, 2016

Ambassador met with Secretary General of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gaderzi met Ms. J.M.G. Brandt, Secretary General of Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. During the meeting, it was agreed that the bilateral relations between the two countries especially in the economic field are on the upward trajectory. Various steps to further enhance bilateral relations also came under discussion. The Ambassador highlighted Pakistan's credentials for NSG membership and the ongoing Human Rights violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

October 11, 2016

Ambassador's statement at 83rd Executive Council Session of the OPCW

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi delivered a Statement at 83rd Executive Council Session of the OPCW on 11 October 2016. The Ambassador reiterated Pakistan's unshakable commitment to the total prohibition on chemical weapons and reaffirmed to continue constructive participation in endeavours that seek to strengthen the norms of the CWC. She briefed the Council on Pakistan's hosting of cooperative programmes, including, basic and advanced regional and international assistance and protection courses. She commended the efforts of the Director General OPCW in instituting measures for greater efficiencies in the OPCW Secretariat. Referring to the Fourth Review Conference in 2018, she said that the coming months offered a valuable opportunity to review the work of the Organization, its achievements as well as its challenges in ensuring the permanent prohibition on chemical weapons.



October 18, 2016

Dinner - Meeting with Ulemas and Religious Scholars of Pakistani Community

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi met Ulemas and Religious Scholars of Pakistani Community in the Netherlands on 18 October 2016. During the meeting, she appreciated the role played by Ulemas and Religious Scholars in promoting the true image of Islam and working for inter-faith harmony in The Netherlands.



October 21, 2016

Meeting with CEO of Friesland Campina

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi met the CEO of Friesland Campina Mr. Roelof A Jooten. During the meeting, Mr. Jooten briefed the Ambassador about their acquisition of Engro Foods in Pakistan, which later completed in December 2016. Friesland Campina has made an investment of Euro 420 million to acquire Engro Food. Mr. Jooten said that Friesland Campina attaches great importance to Pakistan and its entry in Pakistan will result in transfer of technology and give a boost to the dairy sector of Pakistan. He further said that Pakistan with 200 million population and conducive investment climate, is a very attractive market for multinational corporations.



November 2, 2016

Meeting with CEO of VimpleCom

Ambassador held a meeting with Mr. Jean-Yves Charlier, CEO VimpleCom (controlling company of Mobilink Pakistan) in the backdrop of the acquisition of M/s Warid Telecom through an investment of US\$ 500 million, by VimpleCom. The CEO evinced his satisfaction on policies of the present government. Ambassador advised the CEO to increase the number of Pakistanis at senior positions with special focus on providing opportunities to women and to extend scholarships to bright Pakistani students.



November 2, 2016

Meeting with Dutch Parliamentarian

Ambassador met Mr. Ahmed Marcouch, Member of Dutch Federal Parliament on 2nd November 2016. Mr. Marcouch, belongs to PVdA and is the party's spokesperson on Security Matters.

Ambassador briefed the Parliamentarian regarding the credentials of Pakistan for NSG membership and ongoing Human Rights violations by the Indian Security Forces in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



November 2, 2016

Welcome Function for the Ambassador by PMV



Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi attended a function organized in her honour by the Pakistani Multicultural Association (PMV) on 2nd November 2016. PMV is a non-political, non-sectarian, cultural organization. In her address, the Ambassador urged Pakistanis living in the Netherlands to play an active role in the development of their country of residence. She further stated that relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands are on the upward trajectory and Pakistani community living in the Netherlands can play a more active role in bringing the two countries together. As desired by the Ambassador, PMV also launched their Youth Wing on this occasion.



November 6, 2016

Prayer for Pakistan

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi participated in a function titled 'Pray For Pakistan' organized by Urdu Church Rotterdam in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan on 6th November 2016. She appreciated the role played by the Christian community in the development of Pakistan and said that the government of Pakistan is making all out efforts to ensure the rights of minorities in the country.



November 10, 2016

Expression of solidarity with oppressed people of IOK

On 10 November 2016, The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan participated in an Event organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, The Hague in collaboration with Kashmir Peace Council Netherlands to reaffirm solidarity with oppressed people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) and condemn the massive Human rights violations by the Indian Security forces. More than two hundred Dutch citizens, media, government officials, Ambassadors and Embassy Officials, Human Rights organizations and Pakistani community members of Kashmir and Christian origin participated in the event.

The speakers on the occasion urged the western countries to support the oppressed people of IOK to gain their right of self-determination and expressed their anguish at the wanton use of force by the Indian security forces especially pellet guns which are blinding the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

A video depicting the atrocities inflicted on the innocent civilian Kashmiris by the Indian security forces including the indiscriminate use of pellet guns was screened during the event.

In her remarks the Ambassador of Pakistan to the Netherlands, Ms. Iffat Imran Gardezi said that the dispute of Jammu & Kashmir is a

question of the lives and destiny of more than 10 million people. She said that it was the United Nations which passed Resolutions in 1948 and 1949 and promised plebiscite to the People of Jammu & Kashmir giving them a choice, to decide their fate. The Ambassador quoted statements made by the by the First Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir clearly indicating that the onus to fulfil the pledges made by him to accord the right of self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir rested squarely on the shoulders of the Indian leadership.

Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan said that Pakistan is making all out efforts for highlighting the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir at all international forums especially the United Nations. He urged the international community and the Kashmiri diaspora to support the oppressed people of IOK to gain their right of self-determination.



November 22, 2016

Article XI Review Workshop at the OPCW

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi addressed the opening session of the Review Workshop on the implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The Ambassador reiterated Pakistan's full and continued support to Article XI which represents one of the four pillars of the Convention and is of great importance for Member States and is equally critical in terms of advancing the objectives of the CWC, particularly to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons through the promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry in the areas not prohibited by the CWC. Pakistan is presently the facilitator for implementation Article XI.



November 29, 2016

OPCW's 21st Conference of States Parties (CSP)

OPCW's 21st CSP commenced on 29 November 2016 in The Hague. In her statement, Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi reiterated Pakistan's principled position of remaining opposed to use of Chemical Weapons by anyone under any circumstances. She highlighted the undeniable security benefits of the Convention, both global and regional, which stem from verification of destruction of the declared stockpiles as well as the relevant sectors of the chemical industry. She also reiterated Pakistan's support for to the promotion of universality of the Convention. She briefed the Conference regarding organization of regular programmes by Pakistan for domestic outreach and information sharing as well as practice exercises in the context of inspections, including Advanced international assistance and protection courses. The Sixth International Advanced Course on Assistance and Protection was held in Islamabad from 14 to 18 November 2016 and was attended by 24 participants from 16 different countries. Pakistan has also established Regional Chemical Weapons Convention Assistance and Protection Centre in 2015 and has also pledged equipment to OPCW under National Protection programme thus, showing its complete support to OPCW initiatives.



December 8, 2016

Meeting with President of Dutch Senate

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi met President of Dutch Senate, Anneke Broekers-Knol in her office on 8th December 2016. Ambassador briefed the Senator regarding Pakistan's credentials for NSG membership and highlighted the ongoing Human Rights Violations by the Indian Security Forces in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



December 13, 2016

Meeting with CEO of VOPAK

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi met CEO of VOPAK Group, Mr. Eelco Hoekstra. During the meeting, Mr. Hoekstra said that their company had its presence in Pakistan since 1994 and its Pakistan segment of business is doing very well.

Meeting with Country Chairman Pakistan Shell

The Ambassador met the Country Chairman Shell Pakistan, Mr. Jawad Cheema and discussed expansion of Shell's business in Pakistan to generate more employment opportunities for Pakistani youth. Ambassador appreciated Shell's decision to enter the renewable energy market in Pakistan.





December 18, 2016

Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWS)

Embassy of Pakistan organized an Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWS) function in The Hague on 18 December 2016. Ambassadors of Muslim countries based in The Netherlands including UAE, Libya and Iran attended the Milad. In addition, Dutch member of Parliament Mr. Ahmed Marcouch and a large number of the members of Pakistani community based in the Netherlands participated in the Milad.



December 22, 2016

Pakistan joins The Hague Children's Convention

Ambassador Iffat Imran Gardezi submitted the instrument of Accession on behalf of the Government of Pakistan to The Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Since the Dutch Government acts as the repository of the Hague Conventions, the instrument was received by Ms. Coos't Hoen, Head of the Treaties Division, Legal Affairs Department, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Convention is a multilateral treaty, which seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of abduction and retention across international boundaries by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return. Mr. Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General, Hague Conference on Private International Law was also present on the occasion.

