



Newsletter Pakistan Embassy The Hague July - Dec 2014



Visit of the Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Senator Pervaiz Rashid to the Netherlands



Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Senator Pervaiz Rashid visited the Netherlands to represent Pakistan in the 6th Asia-Europe Culture Ministers' Conference (ASEM) which opened on 20th October 2014 in Rotterdam. About 40 culture ministers and delegates from different countries of Asia and Europe participated in the conference inaugurated by the King of Netherlands, H.M. Willem Alexander. Theme of this year's moot was "Creative Industries for Society: Talent, Technology and Trade".

On sidelines of the Conference, the Federal Minister met with the Dutch Minister for Education, Culture & Science, Jet Bussemaker on 21 Oct 2014. He briefed the Dutch Minister about the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Pakistan and said that Pakistan was a land of leading Gandhara and Indus Valley Civilizations that

flourished some 5000 years ago, adding that, Pakistani artists, especially musicians and singers experimented the blend of western and classical music and made their name all over the world in this genre of music that is called "Fusion". The Minister sought Dutch technical help and cooperation in for the preservation of rich cultural heritage and museum management and their marketing in Pakistan. The Dutch Minister said that her country had been extending its cooperation and support to

Pakistan in the education sector and possibilities to expand its scope for preservation of cultural heritage, artifacts and capacity building in museum management could be looked into. Pakistan's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Moazzam Ahmad Khan was also present on this occasion.

During his visit the Federal Minister also met with the Pakistani Community in the Netherlands on 19 October 2014 at the Embassy of Pakistan in The Hague.



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Embassy of Pakistan The Hague

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Embassy Community Quarterly Meeting

The 20th Embassy Community Quarterly Meeting (ECQM) was held at the Embassy on 7 September 2014. The meeting, chaired by Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan, was attended by representatives of various Pakistani-Dutch community organizations.

Summarizing the activities of the embassy in the first half of 2014, the Ambassador expressed satisfaction that the Pak- Dutch relations in political, economic and cultural realms have witnessed an upward momentum. The Ambassador briefed the participants about the high level bilateral visits exchanged between Pakistan and the Netherlands. He appreciated the efforts made by the community in organizing cultural pro-



grammes during the year, including Pakistan Food and Cultural Festival 2014. ECQM is a regular feature for maintaining close contact with Pakistani-Dutch community to facilitate consular & commercial issues.

Bishop Marshall calls on Ambassador

Bishop Azad Marshall who is the sixth Bishop of the Anglican Church in the Islamic Republic of Iran called on Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan in his Office on 21 Nov 2014. During the meeting, Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan appreciated Bishop Marshall's services to the humanity and in particular his work to promote inter-faith harmony in the world.



Dutch Risk Reduction Team Leader calls on Ambassador

Mr. Joseph Leonardus Johannes de Sonnevile, called on Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan in his office. Mr. Joseph is leading a Dutch Risk Reduction Team to Pakistan. Dutch Risk Reduction Team is going to advise Government of Pakistan and Provincial Governments on the ways to reduce the risk of water-related disasters in Pakistan.



Agreement between LUMS and HAS

Suleman Dawood School of Business (SDSB) of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), has teamed up with HAS (Hogeschool) School of Applied Sciences, Netherlands to launch an exchange programme. The programme will be offered to undergraduate students.

Embassy Festival in The Hague



The Embassy participated in Embassy Festival organized by the City Council of The Hague at Lange Voorhout on 6th September 2014. Thousands of visitors including Dutch nationals and diplomats joined the festival. The pavilion established by the Embassy featured handicrafts, leather garments, textiles, sports goods, Basmati rice and mangoes from Pakistan. Visitors were also presented free tasting of mangoes at the pavilion. The visitors enjoyed Pakistani cuisine, snacks (samosas) and BBQ at the food stall. A performance by local Pakistani Bhangra and Dhol (Drum) artists was also arranged by the Embassy as a part of cultural program in the festival.



Ambassador leads Pakistan Delegation at Common Fund for Commodities

Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan lead the Pakistan Delegation in the Twenty Sixth Governing Council Meeting of Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), held in The Hague on 10th and 11th December 2014.





Ambassador briefed Dutch Parliamentarian Mr. Joël Voordewind, Christian Union Party

Ambassador Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan met the Dutch Member of Parliament Mr. Joël Voordewind, of Christian Union Party on 29 October 2014 at the Dutch Parliament. During the meeting, Ambassador briefed the Parliamentarian on the human rights situation in Pakistan, Zarb-e-Azb and on overall bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands including high level visits, trade and investment and flood situation in Pakistan. Mr. Voordevind was also briefed on the issue of Kashmir with particular refer-



-ence to human rights violations being committed by the occupying Indian forces. Mr. Voordewind congratulated on the award of Nobel Peace Prize to Malala Yosufzai and praised her unwavering perseverance.

HEMA Group to expand its business with Pakistan and drew their attention towards business opportunities under GSP+ status. HEMA Group agreed to send a high level delegation to Pakistan to take advantage of business opportunities. HEMA is one of the largest retail outlets in the Netherlands and employs over 10,000 people.

Directors of HEMA group call on the Ambassador

A delegation of HEMA, an international retail organization, led by its Directors Rob Haseesen and Henrike Langbroek, met Ambassador Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan on 19 November 2014. Ambassador urged the



Visit of Parliamentary Delegation to attend the Annual NATO Parliamentary Assembly Session

A Parliamentary Delegation of Pakistan visited Netherlands from 21-25 November 2014 to attend the Annual Session of NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in The Hague. The delegation was headed by Chaudhry Nazir Ahmed, Member of National Assembly of Pakistan and included Senator Mr. Kamil Ali Agha, Member of



Pakistan Senate. During their stay the delegation also visited the Chancery; where they were briefed about the working of the Embassy.

The delegation also visited the Consular Section of the Embassy and appreciated the services provided by the Embassy to Pakistanis living in the Netherlands.

OPCW Conference of State Parties

Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan addressed the CSP of OPCW on 1 December 2014. He reiterated Pakistani position on chemical weapons convention and noted with concern the Fact Finding Mission's report which has stated that chemical weapons have been used in Syria. Pakistan has played a very active role in OPCW since its inception in 1997.

OPCW Asian Group Meetings



Being the Coordinator of the Asian Group, Ambassador Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan, presided over several meetings of Asian Group in the OPCW. The agenda of the meetings included finalization of candidates for the Executive Council of OPCW from Asia, selection of the members of the credentials committee, confidentiality commission and committee of the whole.



Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan Addressing the OPCW Conference of State Parties in The Hague



Embassy of Pakistan The Hague

Christmas Celebration with Pak-Dutch Community

Embassy of Pakistan on 14 December 2014 organized a Christmas function for Pakistanis of Christian Faith residing in Netherlands. On this occasion, Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan said that Jesus was sent to this World as a symbol of peace, brotherhood and love for the entire humanity and that his teachings of tolerance, forgiveness and compassion serve as the guiding principles for the followers of different beliefs and traditions.

Ambassador Khan further stated that the Constitution of Pakistan envisages equal rights all citizens and provisions of safety and security of life and the Government of Pakistan is absolutely committed to uphold the rights of all minorities and ensure protection of their lives and property as equal citizens of the state. He said that we should resolve that we will not allow the forces of extremism, militancy and sectarianism to hurt the peace and harmony of our beloved country and nation.

National Mourning in the wake of Peshawar School Terrorist

The Embassy observed National mourning in the wake of Terrorist Attack on APS School in Peshawar on 16 December 2014. The flag remained on half mast for three days and a condolence book was opened at the Embassy. A large number of Dutch dignitaries and Diplomats from Embassies and International Organizations based in The Hague recorded their messages of condolences to the Pakistani Nation.

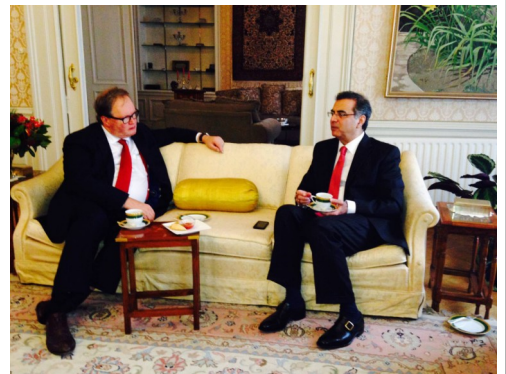
A Quran Khawani was also held in the Embassy for the victims of the terrorist attacks on Thursday, 18 December 2014. A large number of Pakistani-Dutch Community attended the occasion.

The Pakistani-Dutch community also organized a candle light vigil in Amsterdam. A large number of Dutch nationals and Pakistanis participated in the vigil.



Member of European Parliament called on the Ambassador

Mr. Hans Van Baalen, Member of European Parliament called on Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan on 5 Dec 2014. During the meeting, he assured the Ambassador of his party's continued support to Pakistan in the European Parliament on GSP plus issue. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in regional peace and stability in Afghanistan. Mr. Hans belongs to VVD party of the Netherlands.



PLAIN Organizes Auction to support IDPs



Pakistan Ladies Association in the Netherlands (PLAIN) organized an auction for generating donations to support IDPs of North Waziristan on 23 July 2014. Men's and Women's dresses designed by renowned Pakistani designers were auctioned during the event. The donations of 7300 euros were collected; thanks to the generosity of all guests at the event. The amount was transferred to the National Disaster Management Agency.