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Dear Readers,

Spring has brought much activity and new beginnings at the British Pakistan Foundation.

In February, BPF Women's Network introduced its Professional Development Series with a workshop on [The Art of Communication and Marketing Yourself](#). Last week, BPF launched its [Business and Professionals Club](#) with a hugely successful event at the Bluebird Chelsea in London. The event brought together over 120 professionals and entrepreneurs for an evening of networking and nibbles. BPF also convened a strategic seminar in collaboration with Rehman Chisti, MP with academics, professionals and politicians to explore ways of better understanding and engaging with the diaspora.

And there are more events to come. This week, BPF is organising a panel discussion, [The Global and the Local in the Arts](#), in collaboration with SOAS Centre for the Study of Pakistan, the Samosa and City Circle.

We are also very proud to introduce a new section in our newsletter and our website, [Spotlight on British Pakistanis](#), where we profile prominent members of the community. Our first profile features the iconic British Pakistani business leader, [Sir Anwar Pervez](#).

Finally, we ask that if you haven't already done so, please complete our [survey](#). This will enable us to better understand and serve the community, and can also put you in a draw for a chance to win an iPad mini.

Thank you again for your support and as always, we welcome your feedback and look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes,
The British Pakistan Foundation Team



Upcoming Events

[The Global and the Local in the Arts:
Translating Pakistan's Vibrant Cultures](#)

LONDON: March 26, 2015

Following on from the successful production of the play *Dara* at the National Theatre, the British Pakistan Foundation, in collaboration with the [SOAS Centre for the Study of Pakistan](#), [City Circle](#) and [The Samosa](#), is holding a panel discussion to explore how national artistic representations and global collaborations can help to challenge current debates between the secular and the religious in Britain and in Pakistan.

The panel will discuss the diversity of cultural elements that make up Pakistan with a view to a critical discussion about an intercultural dialogue amongst other groups.

Panelists include Shahid Nadeem, playwright and Executive Director of the Ajoka Theatre, Dr. Amina Yaqin, senior lecturer in Urdu and Postcolonial studies at SOAS, Aatif Nawaz, award-winning British Pakistani stand-up comedian, and Anwar Akhtar, director of [thesamosa.co.uk](#). Dr Navtej K Purewal, Director at the SOAS South Asia Institute will chair the event

Time: 7pm-9pm

Venue: Djam Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London

Cost: Free, but registration is required.

[\[Register Here\]](#)



Previous Events

[BPF Business and Professionals Club Launch Event](#)

LONDON: March 19, 2015: The British Pakistan Foundation celebrated the launch of its Business and Professional Club with a networking event at the Bluebird Chelsea in London.

Over 120 professionals from across industry sectors attended the event. Prominent guests included Hon. Cllr Mushtaq Lasharie, Farah Durrani, Producer and Director, Hitan Metha, Director of the British Asian Trust, and Apprentice star, Zeeshan Shah. The event also featured a special appearance by His Excellency, Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan's High Commissioner the UK.

In his keynote speech, His Excellency remarked upon the positive energy at the event and commended BPF for its role in bringing together professionals and supporting the development of the community.

[\[Read More\]](#)



A Brave New Voice An Engagement Seminar with the British Pakistani Diaspora

LONDON: March 17, 2015. The British Pakistan Foundation (BPF), together with Rehman Chisti MP for Gillingham and Rainham held an Engagement Seminar at the House of Commons with prominent members of the British Pakistani diaspora.

The seminar brought together thought leaders, academics, business professionals and politicians from across the political spectrum to deliberate upon the challenges currently facing the British Pakistani diaspora and to explore modalities of better engaging with the community. Participants included Hon. Cllr. Mushtaq Lasharie, Baroness Nosheena Mobarik CBE, Asif Rangoonwala, Ahmereen Reza, Hilary Patel, Anwar Akhtar, Farah Durrani, Naseem Amin, Dr. Sundas Ali and Adnan Sheikh. Rehman Chisti chaired the seminar.

A summary of the event is available [here](#). This report reflects the views expressed by the speakers and not those of BPF or its staff.



BPF's Women's Network: The Art of Communication and Marketing Yourself

LONDON: February 25, 2015 The British Pakistan Foundation Women's Network (BPF WN) launched its Professional Development series with a workshop on The Art of Communication and Marketing Yourself with Carol Rosati from [Harvey Nash](#). The widely anticipated workshop brought together professional ladies from across industry sectors and levels of seniority.

Using interactive exercises and questionnaires, Rosati guided the group to explore their achievements and skills and to market themselves more positively and confidently.

For more about the event, and about BPF WN, click [here](#)



Other Events

Conservative Friends of Pakistan Lunch

LONDON: February 18, 2015

The Conservative Friends of Pakistan's Chairman, Zameer Choudrey, held a fundraising event at the Millennium Hotel in London.

Over 300 guests attended the event, including Rt Hon Eric Pickles, Lord Feldman, Rt Hon Dominic Grieve, Lord Tariq Ahmad, and His Excellency, Syed Ibne Abbas, Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK.

The fundraiser aimed to help prospective Parliamentary Candidates ahead of the general election in May.



Graham Layton Trust Gala

LONDON: March 14, 2015

The Graham Layton Trust (GLT) held its 30th Anniversary Gala on March 14, 2015 at the Sheraton Park Lane Hotel in London.

The highly successful gala dinner included live entertainment, dancing, a gourmet meal, and a lively auction conducted by award-winning novelist, Sir Jeffery Archer. The Gala aimed to collect funds for equipping a new eye hospital in Lahore.

More than 250 people attended the Gala. Sajid Javed MP addressed the gathering and said that GLT's mandate was very close to his heart, and that there was a strong need for such institutions in the Pakistan. GLT ex-Chairman, Hasan Askari, spoke eloquently about the late Graham Layton's belief in the universality of compassion. Dr Rehan Rajput shared his first-hand observations of the care given and the medical complexity of cases handled by the 19 free eye hospitals and 54 clinics spread across Pakistan.

The British Pakistan Foundation is delighted to support the GLT and the LRBT in their mission to provide treatment to the people of Pakistan.



[\[Read More\]](#)

News and Highlights



Pakistan Day

March 23, 2015

Pakistanis everywhere celebrated Pakistan Day on March 23, 2015.

In Pakistan, the first Republic Day parade was held after a hiatus of 7 years, with units of all infantry divisions taking part. The parade included a 31-gun dawn salute, displays by JF-17 Thunder fighters and sky-diving demonstrations.

In the UK, the Pakistan High Commission held a reception to celebrate Pakistan Day on March 24, at the Jumeriah Carlton Tower in Mayfair.

March 23 marks the anniversary of the 1940 resolution calling for a separate homeland for the Muslims of India.



World Cup Dreams

March 2015

Earlier this month, Pakistani patriotism reached a feverish pitch, green shirts were retrieved from the backs of cupboards and circadian rhythms were disrupted as Pakistan played six matches in the World Cup.

Cricket fans experienced a whirlwind of emotions over the course of a few weeks; first despair as Pakistan lost to India and the West Indies, then optimism and even jubilation as we beat UAE, Zimbabwe and Ireland to go on to the semi-finals. The team lost against Australia and was out of the World Cup, allowing fans in the UK to return to their normal sleep cycles.

We will always support you Team Pakistan, and look forward to the next World Cup!



Celebrating Pakistan's Successes

March 10, 2015

Gulalai Ismail, founder of [Aware Girls](#), was awarded the Commonwealth Youth Award 2015 for Excellence in Development Work.

The Commonwealth Youth Awards celebrate young people aged 29 or under from Commonwealth countries whose work has had a significant impact on their communities and countries. Ismail was selected as the winner from Asia.

Ismail was born and brought up in Peshawar. In 2002, she founded Aware Girls to promote women's empowerment and gender equality in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Spotlight



Sir Anwar Pervez

Sir Mohammed Anwar Pervez, OBE HPk is the Chairman of Bestway Group UK and its subsidiaries. He was born in Pakistan in 1935 and he moved to the UK at the age of 21.

Sir Pervez worked as a bus driver before starting his career in the food business in 1963 when he opened a convenience store in Earls Court, London. In less than a decade, he had established ten convenience stores in and around West London.

Today, Bestway Group it is the second largest wholesaler in the UK. In 1992, Sir Anwar was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

[\[Read More\]](#)

Career Opportunities

Multiple Positions Available

Organisation: Islamic Relief

Location: London and Birmingham, UK

Deadline: On-going

Details: Full details available at: <http://www.islamic-relief.org/all-jobs/>



Survey

We would love to learn a little more about you! Please take a few moments to complete a short survey and enter a competition for a chance to win an iPad mini!

[\[Survey\]](#)

