

Press release: British High Commissioner launches photography exhibition in Quetta

The British High Commissioner, Thomas Drew CMG, visited Quetta to launch a photography exhibition and IELTS in Balochistan. The exhibition, entitled 'Shared History. Shared Future.', showcases 70 years of UK-Pakistan relations and will be open to the general public from 19 to 21 July at the Shahi Qila Hall in the Serena Hotel in Quetta.

The Governor of Balochistan, Muhammad Khan Achakzai, and the British Council's Country Director for Pakistan, Ms Rosemary Hilhorst OBE, also joined the British High Commissioner at the event along with guests from Quetta and wider Balochistan, including some of the British Council's local school partners.

During his two-day visit to Quetta the British High Commissioner, Mr Thomas Drew, met a range of political, security and trade leaders in the province. He met the Governor of Balochistan, Muhammad Khan Achakzai, the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, Ms Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, the Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Leader of the Opposition in the Balochistan Provincial Assembly, Maulana Abdul Wasay and President of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Abdul Wadood Achakzai.

Mr Thomas Drew also earlier met with Commander Southern Command, Lt Gen Aamer Riaz, Inspector General Frontier Corps, Maj Gen Nadeem Anjum and visited Quetta Staff and Command College and met with the Commandant Maj Gen Aamir Abbasi and the British student.

The British High Commissioner, Mr Thomas Drew CMG, said:

This is my first visit to Quetta as High Commissioner and I am delighted to be here in the provincial capital of Balochistan, a region that has such great potential for a brighter future for Pakistan.

The photographs that are displayed today in this exhibition showcase the strong links that have existed over the last 70 years between the UK and Pakistan. Whether it is cooperation in sports, politics, development, defence, trade, education, infrastructure or culture, the UK remains committed to our goal of a secure, stable and prosperous Pakistan.

The re-launch of the international English language testing system in Quetta today further emphasises the strength of our relationship, and the UK's investment in Balochistan.

The Country Director of British Council Pakistan, Ms Rosemary Hilhorst OBE said:

British Council has been working in Pakistan for the last 70 years in the fields of arts, education, English and society. We are committed to helping people here realise their potential and building friendly relations between the people of Pakistan and the UK.

IELTS is the world's most popular English Language Test; nearly 3 million IELTS tests were taken around the world last year. The test opens doors to educational and professional opportunities and I am delighted that people of Quetta will now be able to take the IELTS test in their own city.

Over the coming months, the British High Commission's 'Shared History. Shared Future.' photography exhibition will tour the UK and other cities in Pakistan. Throughout the year, the British High Commission, in collaboration with the Pakistan High Commission in London, is organising several events and activities to mark 70 years of UK and Pakistan's relations. Details of these events are regularly featured on the British High Commission's social media pages.

Contact

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More Information:

About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide. We value diversity and difference. We work in over 100 countries in the areas of arts, education and English. In Pakistan, we have been working since 1947. For more information, please visit the [website](#)

For updates on the British High Commission's 70th Anniversary of UK – Pakistan relations and for more information on British Council in Pakistan:

- Twitter: [@pkBritish](#), [@UKinPakistan](#), [@ChevPakistan](#), [@tomdrewUK](#)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/bhcpakistan](#) [facebook.com/BritishCouncilPakistan](#)
- Instagram: [@UKinPakistan](#); [@BritishCouncilPakistan](#)

[Press release: Foreign Secretary arrives in Japan for strategic dialogue](#)

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson arrives in Tokyo today (Thursday 20 July 2017) for talks on regional security and the continuing strength of UK-Japan trade.

During the two-day visit he will:

- Take part in a strategic dialogue with Japan's Foreign Minister, Fumio Kishida, and other senior politicians to consider increased foreign and security policy cooperation to tackle threats to regional stability.
- Hold talks on increased co-operation on cyber safety, and visit Japan's NEC 'Innovation World', a public technology centre
- Meet Japanese business leaders and investors, along with representatives from British businesses, to discuss the future of the strong UK-Japan trading and investment relationship.
- Meet with Japanese Olympics Minister Tamayo Marukawa to share UK expertise for their preparations for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020. He will also meet Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike and visit the British Olympic sailing team in Hayama City.
- Visit Waseda University's robotics centre, where robots have been developed to help in disaster situations and healthcare. The university works closely with the University of Birmingham in the UK and has a co-operation agreement on robotics, sharing knowledge and skills.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

I have come to Japan to build on our historic relationship, which is based on common values, support for democracy, human rights and free and open markets. Japanese companies invest more than £40 billion in the UK and our commercial relationship is stronger than

ever. We do great work together on everything from defence and security to education, research and innovation.

As London Mayor I had the privilege and honour to see up close how dramatically the Olympic and Paralympic Games unified and lifted our great capital, and I am excited for the people of Tokyo that they will soon experience the magic that the Olympics brings. I'm proud that our world-leading expertise in staging major events will help to forge an even stronger UK-Japan partnership ahead of the 2020 Olympic Games.

Following the visit to Japan, the Foreign Secretary will travel to New Zealand for talks on trade and security, before moving on to Australia next week.

Notes to editors:

- The UK has developed a status as an expert in staging major international events, following the success of London 2012. British companies were integral to the success of last year's Rio Olympics, with more than 100 experts from the London 2012 games working closely with Brazilian officials in the four years leading up to the Rio Games. Many will be working again with the Tokyo organisers.

Further information

Speech: "We must all work together – the United Nations, this Council, the countries and organisations of Africa – to address the root causes of conflict."

Thank you Mr President, and thank you Secretary-General and Commissioner Chergui for your positive and constructive briefings this morning. It was also a pleasure to hear the interventions of the Foreign Minister of Senegal and the Deputy Minister of Ukraine, who reminded us that yesterday was Nelson Mandela Day. He would have turned 99 yesterday. And so I wanted to begin with a quote from him, in his book, Long Walk to Freedom, he said, and I quote: "Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished."

"Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished."

And that flame does remain hidden for far too many people across the continent of Africa. For the people of the Kasais in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for the people of South Sudan, that flame may appear almost extinguished, lost amidst the shadows of instability and conflict.

But though the flame grows dim in parts of the continent, Mandela was right; it cannot be extinguished.

We know this from the great strides made by countries like Cote D'Ivoire, moving away from years of war, and now looking ahead to decades of peace.

We see it in progress towards democracy, like the elections in Somalia in February, where women won nearly a quarter of the parliamentary seats, and that was a vital step towards one person, one vote elections.

And we see that flame burn brightly in the work of organisations like the African Union, like ECOWAS, helping African countries find common cause to overcome common concerns.

And Mr President, this Council has a vital role to play in fostering that flame. And to do so, here are three particular things that I think we need to do.

First, we must all work together – the United Nations, this Council, the countries and organisations of Africa – to address the root causes of conflict. We spend too much time and money responding to crises rather than preventing them. And that's why the United Kingdom so strongly supports the Secretary-General in his agenda of Sustaining Peace and his increased focus on conflict prevention.

And for that agenda to succeed, the United Nations needs to diversify the way that it engages, using development cooperation proactively to build peace, and supporting more diplomacy, including mediation. As the ECOWAS's mediation in the Gambia showed, this means more cooperation with regional actors who have the right experience and influence to deliver results on the ground. And this Council, and our colleagues in the African Union, must demonstrate unambiguously to those who perpetuate conflict that there are severe political and economic consequences for doing so.

Second thing, Mr President, we must all be ready to respond when conflict does occur. Effective, efficient UN peacekeeping is one of our strongest assets to do so. And it is a shared asset; African nations provide over half of the peacekeepers deployed to African missions. And I want to pay tribute to them, all of them, for their service, so often in dangerous circumstances.

The United Kingdom is committed to improving the planning of peacekeeping missions, the quality and quantity of pledges of troops and equipment, and the performance of missions and troops on the ground.

But this will all count for little if we don't have the trust of those we seek to protect. This means, amongst other things, eradicating the corrosive spectre of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers. We must implement fully the framework for action in Resolution 2272 to uphold and enforce the

high standards of conflict. Zero tolerance must mean zero tolerance.

And in parallel, we need more women working in missions, out in the field reassuring local populations, gathering vital intelligence, contributing to more effective operations.

And thirdly, Mr President, we need to strengthen and deepen our existing partnerships. The UN and African Union relationship is critical for peace and security in Africa. As we've seen in Somalia, Mali, Central African Republic, this relationship makes such difference to those most in need.

So we applaud your efforts to make those joint efforts more systematic and we are reassured that the UN/AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security will lead to better co-operation and co-ordination.

There are many issues we should address to realise fully the co-operation envisioned in resolution 2320: agreeing mechanisms and processes, sharing standards and procedures – including on human rights, accountability and transparency – and establishing, as the Secretary-General reminded us again today, a source of sustainable and predictable financing for African peace support operations.

We welcome the work that the United Nations has done with the African Union so far on this agenda. And we now need to see that work continue and I look forward to our visit as a Security Council to Addis Ababa in September.

So there is a lot more to do, Mr President. But we cannot be deterred in our efforts to support peace and security in Africa. And I'd like to close by returning to the words of the late Nelson Mandela. "Do not look the other way; do not hesitate. Recognise that the world is hungry for actions, not words. Act with courage and vision." So let us all act in that spirit.

Thank you.

[News story: Africa Minister Stewart: UK stands shoulder to shoulder with Uganda](#)

During his first visit to Uganda in his new role, the Minister emphasised the UK's strong relationship with Uganda and continued partnership in tackling serious challenges in the region. This united approach saves lives and builds prosperity in Uganda, while helping to combat insecurity in neighbouring South Sudan, supporting huge numbers of refugees to rebuild their lives.

The Minister met people living in Impevi refugee centre, which hosts over

120,000 refugees, where he saw how UK aid is providing vital food, water and shelter to those in need. Increasing violence in South Sudan has forced millions of people to flee their homes to escape starvation and unimaginable horrors, with over 2,000 seeking refuge in neighbouring Uganda every day.

The Minister met with President Museveni to discuss bilateral trade between the UK and Uganda and strengthening the Commonwealth. They also discussed the ongoing crisis in South Sudan and the IGAD led peace process, Uganda's continuing work in Somalia and their support for family planning.

Minister for Africa Rory Stewart said:

"I am delighted to be visiting Uganda and to meet President Museveni. The UK places great value in our relationship with Uganda and I look forward to strengthening this relationship yet further as the new Minister for Africa.

"The importance of Uganda's role in the region cannot be overstated and it is vital to securing a lasting peace in South Sudan. South Sudan faces a worsening humanitarian crisis with over half the population in desperate need and ongoing violence forcing almost four million people to flee their homes and unimaginable horrors, with almost half seeking refuge in neighbouring countries like Uganda.

"The UK stands with Uganda as it manages the fallout of this tragedy. We are committed to both addressing the root causes of forced displacement, but also sustainable support to Uganda in responding to the influx of refugees. Thanks to UK aid, refugees reaching Uganda are receiving shelter, food, medical care, a measure of safety and the hope for a future in the region. This is in everyone's interests".

The UK is supporting Uganda in managing its growing refugee crisis by providing emergency support as well as helping strengthen services in the local host communities through rapidly upgrading infrastructure, hospitals and schools. On a visit to Vurra Cope Primary School in Rhino Refugee Settlement, where over 2000 of the 3000 students are South Sudanese refugees, the Minister saw how UK support is enabling these children to get back into education and give them hope for the future.

Minister Stewart also met beneficiaries of a UK supported family planning programme in Uganda, which is helping to provide integrated family planning and sexual reproductive health services to vulnerable young people in the area. This was in the same week as the landmark London Family Planning Summit at which the UK increased life-saving assistance to ensure women across the globe have access to modern contraception. The UK recently announced an increase in family planning support to Uganda which will help 380,000 additional women to get access to modern family planning methods, enabling them to finish their education, get better jobs and provide for their smaller, planned families to escape the cycle of poverty.

In the last year, UK aid in Uganda has fed 650,000 people, vaccinated 235,000 children, provided healthcare for 65,000, sheltered 181,000, provided clean water for 40,000 and essential relief items for 64,000 people.

[Press release: A20 near Dover returns to national speed limit](#)

Drivers using the A20 to Kent are benefitting from faster journeys this morning (Tuesday 18 July) after the national speed limit was reinstated overnight.

The work is part of an upgrade to a project known as Dover TAP, which helps relieve congestion in Dover town centre by managing peaks of traffic arriving at the port, and meets a commitment made by Highways England to restore the national speed limit ahead of the summer getaway.

A 40mph speed restriction, which has been in place since 2015, was removed at 8pm on Monday evening, and the A20 approaching the port of Dover is now operating at the national speed limit. The temporary 40mph limit will now only be used when the traffic lights that control traffic on approach to the port are in use.

Highways England Regional Director Simon Jones said:

I am delighted that we've met this key commitment to restore the national speed limit on the A20 in time for the busy summer holiday season. Removing the 40mph limit will speed up journeys for the many thousands of people who'll be using Dover to get away on their holidays this summer, as well as people living and working in Dover.

The update comes two weeks after Highways England unveiled the 27 new electronic signs being installed along the road. Work on these permanent electronic signs continues until later this summer, with a lane closure on the coast bound carriageway and additional restrictions as needed. The interim mechanical signs – most commonly used for roadworks – have enabled the national speed limit to be restored in the meantime.

Traffic lights have been in place at the end of the A20 dual carriageway near Dover since April 2015 as part of a trial to help manage traffic arriving at the port during peak periods, with a 40mph speed limit on the approaches to the traffic lights in place for safety. The trial was successful in reducing congestion in Dover town centre and also had a positive effect on air quality in the town.

The traffic lights have been used on more than 200 different occasions to keep traffic flowing through Dover town centre.

Now the arrangement has been made permanent and the new electronic signs,

which have now been installed, have enabled the national speed limit to be restored along the road when the traffic lights are not being used.

Barbara Buczek, Port of Dover Director of Corporate Development and Operational Businesses, said:

The return of the national speed limit on the A20 will enhance journeys to, through and around Dover for residents, holiday makers and the nation's trade.

Alongside Highways England, the Port and its partners are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve the effectiveness and fluidity of traffic movements at Dover's nationally-critical European Gateway.

In total, 27 electronic signs are being installed, with 10 miles of ducting and more than seven miles of cabling to support the new signs. In addition, three weather stations will be added as well as four fog signs to enhance the real-time information provided to drivers.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.