

Islamabad to London

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The Youth Parliament of Pakistan arranged one week U.K Study Visit from 4-9 July 2010. Before going into detail of visit, let me first brief you about Youth Parliament Pakistan. The Youth Parliament Pakistan (YPP) is one of the projects of PILDAT. The PILDAT is a non-governmental organization, which mainly work for strengthening democracy in Pakistan.. The structure of Youth Parliament is copied from National Assembly of Pakistan. However, it is unofficial, selected and has no constitutional status. Youth Parliament has one year tenure, met five times in a year and five day each time. The members are selected from every corner of the country on the basis of merit and seats are allocated on population basis.

The main objective of Youth Parliament is to inculcate democratic principle, values and norms in the mind of the youth. The legislative business of Youth Parliament consisted upon Bills, Resolutions and Calling Attention Notices. On the basis of participation of members in legislative work, secretariat of YPP award certificate to best Young Parliamentarians and on overall performances he/she selected for U.K study visit.

Youth parliament delegation flew from the Islamabad airport on 4 July, Sunday 9:45 am and it took 9 hour non-stop flight to reach on Heathrow airport of London. The objective of visit was to study the political structure, role of civil societies and youth organizations with in the British society. We had meeting with the British high officials, including Deputy Mayor of London, Chatham House expert on Asian politics, Foreign and Commonwealth Organization, all Muslim Pakistani origin MPs Ans Sarwar, Sajid Javid, Yasmeen Qurashi, Seeda Warsi and Lord Nazir. We visited House of Lords and House of Commons. We had number of meetings with youth organizations and Muslim communities based in London, including Conservative Future, British Youth Council and British Youth Parliament, All British Pakistani Students Associations and City Circle.

What we observed through these meetings and interactions with British citizens was amazing. Their political and social system works properly in respected boundaries. Although British have no written constitution, despite of that British has not witnessed any martial law or any institutional clashes. Discussing with a MP of British, we asked him about the role of MP in his constituency and power demarcation with local government. He briefed us that MP do not perform, unlike Pakistan, any duty of construction, infrastructure, opening school and further MP has not any budget allocation for any work in his constituency. All these work comes under the jurisdiction of local government, where as in Pakistan, our MNA perform all above functions.

British citizens are very cooperative and well disciplined. They have managed every thing rationally. The Transport system, Architecture and cleanliness were conspicuous features. The most thing which surprised us was the under ground railway system. In whole London, there is a underground railway system. We enjoyed a lot while traveling in Tube. It was a fantastic experience. I wish Pakistan had such system, at least in Karachi.

In my observance, what I conclude from London visit, we do not have efficient system of management and utilization of resources. But British people utilize their resources in constructive way.