Message from Asad M. Khan, Chargé d’Affaires

On May 11th, the people of Pakistan rejected violence and embraced democracy and good governance when they turned out to vote in record numbers. This historic democratic transition is a source of pride and honor for all of those who believe in Pakistan and wish us well.

The credit for where we are today goes to the vision and sagacity of our leadership and the responsibility shown by all the institutions. The successful democratic transition is the culmination of a process embodying incremental but definitive change. Over the last two decades we have seen the gradual emergence of a completely free media, a robust, vibrant, and active civil society and an independent judiciary. These developments have served to protect democracy and further institutional consolidation in Pakistan.

The Embassy of Pakistan keenly looks forward to further positive developments as Pakistan builds upon the edifice of a democratic state with inclusive political and economic institutions to achieve peace, stability and prosperity.

I also wish to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of Ambassador Sherry Rehman, who stepped down in May after serving as Ambassador for the last eighteen months. During this difficult but important period, Ambassador Rehman worked tirelessly to establish a foundation for an ongoing friendship between Pakistan and the United States based on respect and mutuality of interests.

As Charge d’Affaires for the interim period, it is my honor to lead the mission in Washington.

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AMBASSADOR REHMAN HOSTS FINAL EVENT BEFORE RETURNING TO PAKISTAN

Capping off her tenure as Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Rehman invited her counterparts, colleagues and friends to an event at the Residence to celebrate their shared accomplishments.

PAKISTAN-U.S. RELATIONS

TRILATERAL CORE GROUP ON AFGHANISTAN MEETS IN BRUSSELS

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, and Pakistan Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani continued trilateral consultations on the sidelines of a NATO meeting. Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary, Jaliq Abass Jilani also attended. The trilateral meeting emphasized that a peaceful, stable and united Afghanistan is vital for regional peace and economic development. Participants agreed to enhance mutual cooperation to achieve a sustainable reconciliation process and meet shared objectives. Pakistan reaffirmed its consistent support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. While in Brussels, General Kayani also met with Chairman of the Military Committee of NATO, General Knud Bartels, who hosted a dinner in honor of General Kayani and his delegation.

MEETING OF SECURITY, STRATEGIC STABILITY, AND NONPROLIFERATION WORKING GROUP

As part of an ongoing series of senior level engagements, the Acting Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Rose Gottemoeller and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Zamir Akram, co-chaired the fifth round of the U.S.- Pakistan Security, Strategic Stability, and Nonproliferation (SSS&NP) Working Group in Washington. The delegations exchanged views on issues of mutual importance, including international efforts to enhance nuclear security and peaceful applications of nuclear energy. Reflecting the significance of these issues, both delegations look forward to continuing the process and will explore meeting in Islamabad this fall.

Joint Statement: http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/05/210130.htm

PAKISTANI AND ISAF LEADERSHIP DISCUSS MUTUAL COOPERATION

Pakistan’s Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, and U.S. General Joseph F. Dunford, Commander of International Security Assistance Forces, met in Islamabad as part of continuing efforts to strengthen military-to-military cooperation and regional stability and to discuss the threat of militancy along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. General Kayani reiterated Pakistan’s desire for a peaceful, stable and united Afghanistan. It was General Dunford’s first visit to Pakistan in his official capacity.

PAKISTAN HOSTS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN RAWALPINDI TO COUNTER IEDS

A U.S. delegation led by Lieutenant General Michael D. Barbero, Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), visited the military’s General Headquarters to discuss greater cooperation with the Pakistan Army’s Counter IED Organization (CIEDO). Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani welcomed representatives from over 25 countries, inviting their cooperation in overcoming the tools of terrorism and highlighting steps Pakistan has taken to counter the threat posed by IEDs. General Kayani called for a technological solution in order to replace the ingredients used to make IEDs and greater regional cooperation in monitoring their production. Lieutenant General Barbero called on Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Rashid Mehmood and held bilateral talks with the Director of General Military Operations and the Chairman of CIEDO that focused on furthering regional collaboration and improving existing coordination.

FIRST VISIT FOR NEW SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Newly appointed Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) Ambassador James F. Dobbins visited Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbass Jilani, Chief of Army Staff Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, and Prime Minister-elect Nawaz Sharif to discuss bilateral relations and regional security. Accompanying Ambassador Dobbins were Special Assistant to the President Lt. Gen. Douglas E. Lute (Ret.) and the Charge d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Ambassador Richard Hoagland. Prior to his appointment as SRAP, Ambassador Dobbins served as the Director of the RAND International Security and Defense Policy Center and previously held positions in the State Department and White House. A month earlier, acting U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan David D. Pearce, Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, met with General Kayani and Foreign Secretary Jilani in Pakistan to discuss ways in which the United States and Pakistan can continue to work together to advance the Afghan-led reconciliation process and contribute to a secure, stable, and prosperous future for the region.

AMBASSADOR DOBBINS VISITS FOREIGN SECRETARY JILANI TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND REGIONAL SECURITY

James F. Dobbins visited Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani, Chief of Army Staff Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, and Prime Minister-elect Nawaz Sharif to discuss bilateral relations and regional security.
**Pakistani and U.S. Scientists Work Together to Combat Cotton Disease**

As part of a multi-year collaboration with Pakistani scientists, American cotton experts visited Pakistan to review progress and plan new strategies with their Pakistani counterparts to fight diseases affecting local cotton yields. Scientific cooperation is helping enhance the productivity of Pakistan's agricultural sector, especially for small farmers. Dr. Brian Scheffler, USDA’s Lead Scientist in the Cotton Productivity Enhancement Program, said Pakistani researchers had made impressive progress in combating agricultural diseases.

**Sacrifices of Pakistani Peacekeepers Honored by UN**

The United Nations honored four Pakistani peacekeepers who died in the line of duty in 2012. They, along with nearly 110 other fallen peacekeepers from the international community, were posthumously recognized in a ceremony led by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon marking the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

**Also Pakistan**

While the mainstream media often focuses on the problems Pakistan faces and the challenges confronted by our government and our society, there is a substantial amount of good news coming out of Pakistan.

The Embassy is pleased to share these stories of achievement with you. as we redefine a narrative for Pakistan based on the values of equitable democratic and social entitlements, pluralism, rule of law and transparent governance.

"LAMHA" WINS BEST FEATURE FILM AWARD

The main prize at the D.C. South Asian Film Festival went to "Lamha", a Pakistani feature film also known as "Seedlings". The award was presented by the Indian Ambassador to the US, Nirupama Rao, to Producer Meher Jaffri. The film, which also won two awards at the New York City International Film Festival, centers around a young couple struggling to reconnect after the loss of their only child.

**Delegation from Pakistan's National Defense University Visits Embassy**

Ambassador Behram hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting National Defence University Delegation from Pakistan. The Ambassador and NDU delegation head Lt. General Nasser Khan Janjua spoke on the occasion.

**Embassy News & Events**

The School of International Service (SIS) at American University in Washington, D.C. organized its annual F. Gunther Eyck Award at the Embassy. The Award was presented to a SIS faculty member and a SIS graduate by SIS Dean James Goldgeier. Ambassador Rehman, officers of the Embassy and faculty and students from American University attended the event.
AMBASSADOR SHERRY REHMAN RECOGNIZED AS A “WOMAN OF IMPACT”

Ambassador Rehman was recognized by the Women in the World Foundation, a prominent American organization dedicated to women’s advancement. The Foundation released the names of 125 Women of Impact in the world, included among which were former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, current U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice, and Pakistan’s Oscar winning film director Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy.

AMBASSADOR REHMAN ADDRESSES PRESTIGIOUS LECTURE SERIES

Ambassador Sherry Rehman spoke at the “Off the Record Lecture Series” event at The Century Association Club in New York.

DELEGATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES VISIT WASHINGTON

Chargé d’Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan hosted a reception at the Embassy in honor of a Pakistani delegation consisting of civil society representatives visiting the United States. Members of the delegation work with various NGOs from different parts of Pakistan on issues such as education, human rights, women’s rights, democracy, water scarcity and climate change. One of the members presented a traditional Sindhi Ajrak to Dr. Khan.

U.S. EDUCATION EXPERTS VISIT EMBASSY

At an event organized by the Close-Up Foundation, Embassy Counselor Naveed Safdar Bokhari briefed teachers from various middle and high schools from across the United States on Pakistan’s history, society, culture, and foreign policy, including Pakistan-U.S. relations.

VISITING PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS WITH AMBASSADOR REHMAN

Journalists visiting the United States through the International Center for Journalists Exchange Program met with Ambassador Rehman at the Embassy of Pakistan.

AMBASSADOR REHMAN AND UN ENVOY GORDON BROWN TEAM UP FOR CHILD EDUCATION

Ambassador Rehman spoke at a UN Global Education event titled “Call to Action: Reports to the Special Envoy from Civil Society” hosted by the UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Ambassador Rehman received a “One Million Signature Petition” from out-of-school Pakistani children presented by Ms. Baela Jamil, the director of Idara-e-Taleem-o-Agahi.

EMBASSY CONTINUES ROUNDTABLE SERIES ON DISTANCE LEARNING

Chargé d’Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan hosted a follow-up roundtable discussion at the Embassy on distance learning with experts from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

EMBASSY UPDATES

Captain (Ret.) Muhammad Khurram Agha, Minister (Trade) at the Embassy of Pakistan, arrived in Washington, D.C. in April. Mr. Agha holds a MBA in E-Business from the University of Canberra (2003) as well as a Master’s degree in History. Prior to joining the Embassy, Mr. Agha served as the Commissioner of the Multan Division. He has also served as the District Coordination Officer for Vehari and Multan and Principal Staff Officer to the Prime Minister. Mr. Agha was a member of the Pakistan Army for six years.

PAKISTAN PARTICIPATES IN PASSPORT D.C.

More than 4,000 people visited the Pakistan Embassy to see displays of Pakistani culture during the annual Around the World Embassy Tour in Washington, D.C. The Embassy arranged a series of events to showcase Pakistan’s colors, cuisine and creative arts, highlighted by a colorfully decorated Pakistani rickshaw.

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The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback.
Please send your comments to newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org
or visit www.embassyofpakistanusa.org