Ambassador Rehman’s Message

September was an exciting and especially busy time for the Embassy. We welcomed Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar to Washington, D.C. on her first official visit to United States. We were also privileged to host President Asif Ali Zardari in New York for the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The frank and cordial exchanges that the Foreign Minister had throughout her visit to Washington with senior officials of the U.S. Administration, key members of the House and Senate, academics and leading voices from various think tanks and the Pakistani diaspora, together with President Zardari’s meeting in New York with Secretary Clinton fostered a better understanding of the bilateral relationship on all fronts.

I am happy to report that Pakistan’s relationship with the United States continues on a stable trajectory and is gaining momentum through the sincere efforts of the leadership, as well as the tireless work of dedicated officials both in the United States and Pakistan.

IN THIS ISSUE

2-4 High Level Visits
4-5 Trade & Economy
5 Beyond the Headlines
6-7 Embassy News

High Level Visits

• President Zardari Addresses the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly and meets with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in New York.
• Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar meets with Secretary Clinton and other U.S. dignitaries during her first official visit to the United States.
• Pakistan reaffirms commitment to polio eradication at UN and Global Citizen Festival.

Trade and Economy

• United States and Pakistan launch important infrastructure and finance initiative.
• Pakistan’s textile industry makes case for greater access to the U.S. market.
• Ambassador Rehman offers the assistance of the Embassy to U.S. businesses operating in Pakistan.

Beyond the Headlines

• Pakistan’s legacy of tolerance showcased at Smithsonian Sufi symposium.
• A U.S.-Pakistan Women’s Council is launched to support women’s entrepreneurship.

Embassy News

• Ambassador Rehman is recognized with the “Woman of the Year” award.
• Deputy Chief of Mission receives NDU delegation.
HIGH LEVEL VISITS

PRESIDENT ZARDARI ATTENDS 67TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In his address to the United Nations General Assembly, President Zardari cited the strategic regional pivot in Pakistan’s foreign policy as a reflection of democratic policy-making. He expressed his pride and gratitude toward the people of Pakistan for their resolve in the face of domestic and international challenges. The President noted that “the lesson we learned, from the last thirty years, is that history cannot be changed. But the future can – a future that is brighter, more prosperous and more secure, not only for Pakistanis, but for all people of the region, and indeed the world.”

The full text of the UNGA speech is available here: http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news546_09252012.php

PRESIDENT ZARDARI ADDRESSES THE 67TH UN GENERAL DEBATE SESSION

The President also met with several foreign dignitaries on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly including UK Prime Minister David Cameron, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, Chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Mirwaiz Mohammad Umar Farooq and with the UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown and Microsoft Founder Bill Gates.

PRESIDENT ZARDARI ADDRESSES THE 67TH UN GENERAL DEBATE SESSION

THE LEADERS OF PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, AND THE UK HELD THEIR SECOND TRILATERAL SUMMIT

PRESIDENT ZARDARI AND CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER YANG JIECHI

PRESIDENT ZARDARI AND UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR EDUCATION GORDON BROWN

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PRESIDENT ZARDARI AND ASEEF A ZARDARI REAFFIRM PAKISTAN’S FIGHT AGAINST POLIO

President Zardari and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari spoke about the important efforts being taken to eradicate polio in Pakistan. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, President Karzai, President Zardari, and other leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fighting polio. Updating the audience, the President said, “We are making real progress. Polio cases over the last year are down by two-thirds.”

PRESIDENT ZARDARI, BILL GATES AND ASEEF A BHUTTO ZARDARI

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari: “Join me in this fight.”

In Central Park, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari spoke to a crowd of over 60,000 gathered for the Global Citizen Festival – an international movement inspiring global citizens to permanently end extreme poverty and polio. “As Pakistan’s Ambassador for Polio Eradication, I am working to ensure that every Pakistani child in our cities, towns and villages is protected from this disease. Ms. Zardari added that now “is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a polio-free world.”

PRESIDENT ZARDARI, SECRETARY CLINTON AND OTHER LEADERS

PRESIDENT ZARDARI AND U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON MEET IN NEW YORK

The two leaders reviewed recent positive developments in the relationship and reaffirmed their commitment to deepen bilateral cooperation. The President was accompanied by members of the coalition Mr. Asfandyar Wali Khan (ANP), Mr. Farooq Sattar (MQM), and Mr. Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar (PML-Q) and other senior members of his delegation.

PRESIDENT ZARDARI, BILL GATES AND ASEEF A BHUTTO ZARDARI

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HIGH LEVEL VISITS

FOREIGN MINISTER KHAR MEETS WITH U.S. DIGNITARIES DURING HER FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT

While addressing members of the media with FM Khar, Secretary Clinton condemned as “disgusting” the recent anti-Islamic film and thanked Pakistan for its efforts in protecting the American Embassy in Islamabad and its Consulates. Foreign Minister Khar emphasized the importance of the U.S.-Pakistan partnership and the need to work together for regional peace and stability. The full text of their remarks can be found here: http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/09/198060.htm

FM KAR AND SECRETARY CLINTON

At a meeting with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Nita Lowey, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Foreign Minister Khar reaffirmed that Pakistan and the United States enjoy a special relationship which is vital for both countries’ security and the stability of the entire region. She also briefed the Congressional members on the progress that Pakistan has made towards securing human rights, gender equality and guaranteeing that the forthcoming elections will be free, fair and transparent. Representatives Howard Berman, John Tierney, Jim Moran and Sheila Jackson Lee also attended the meeting.

FM KAR, SEN. FEINSTEIN AND AMB. REHMAN

FOREIGN MINISTER KHAR SPEAKS AT THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE ASIA SOCIETY

At an event held by CFR and moderated by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan’s ongoing efforts for democracy and institution building. She urged the United States not to misjudge Pakistan’s intentions vis-a-vis Afghanistan, emphasizing that there can be no peace within the country without peace on its borders.

FM KAR AND FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

At the Asia Society, Foreign Minister Khar discussed the Pakistan-U.S. relationship and Pakistan’s regional and international role in achieving peace in the region. In responding to a question, Khar described the drone strikes in Pakistan as illegal, unlawful and counterproductive.

FM KAR AT THE ASIA SOCIETY


AMB. REHMAN, SEN. LUGAR, FM KAR, SEN. KERRY AND SEN. DURBIN

Foreign Minister Khar met with USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah to review the ongoing work of USAID in Pakistan including specific programs to improve economic collaboration. She conveyed Pakistan’s appreciation for U.S. economic assistance. Foreign Minister Khar also met with U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk to discuss the importance of expanding bilateral trade and promoting stronger investment ties with the United States to strengthen the partnership and improve regional stability. Khar also expressed her hope that the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) being negotiated between the two countries would be concluded soon.

USAID ADMINISTRATOR DR. RAJIV SHAH AND FM KAR
FOREIGN MINISTER KHAR SHARES HER VIEWS WITH STUDENTS AT SAIS

At the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University, the Foreign Minister provided a brief overview of Pakistan’s relations with the United States and noted Islamabad’s commitment to stabilizing Afghanistan and improving ties with India and the region through greater economic collaboration.

U.S. DIGNITARIES WELCOME FOREIGN MINISTER KHAR TO WASHINGTON AT A DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR REHMAN


TRADE AND ECONOMY

USAID LAUNCHES NEW PUBLIC-PRIVATE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

The United States announced the launch of the multi-year Pakistan Private Investment Initiative (PPII) that will pool private capital with up to $80 million in public financing in order to spur job growth and economic development by expanding access to capital for Pakistan’s small to medium sized companies. The investment funds will make equity investments in promising Pakistani companies under-served by existing sources of capital.

USAID TO REVITALIZE HISTORIC PESHAWAR-TORKHAM TRADE ROUTE

The United States will provide $70 million to upgrade the 46km supply route to the Afghan border. Trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan recently reached $1.5 billion and will continue to grow with improvements to transportation infrastructure.

PAKISTANI FASHION DESIGNER PROMOTES TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

At an event held to promote the benefits of trade as a mechanism for development, Deepak Perwani showcased a collection symbolizing the global appeal for Pakistani products to an international audience. Present at the event were Ambassadors Sherry Rehman and Robin Raphel and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Shahnaz Wazir Ali. Mara Burr, the Deputy Assistant to the United States Trade Representative focusing on South and Central Asian Affairs, spoke about the importance of strengthening bilateral trade as an important pillar of the Pakistan-U.S. relationship.
AMBASSADOR TO BUSINESS: “THE DOORS OF OUR EMBASSY ARE OPEN TO YOU.”

At the U.S.-Pakistan Business Council’s 10th Anniversary Gala, Ambassador Rehman expressed Pakistan’s desire to enhance its international trade and economic engagement. She acknowledged the role of American businesses operating in Pakistan: “Even when government relations stall, you continue to operate and you serve as a bridge between our nations. Your role has been invaluable.” The Ambassador noted that Pakistan provides one of the most liberal and attractive investment regimes in the developing world and committed to assisting businesses as they explore new investments in a host of promising areas in Pakistan, stressing that “The doors to our Embassy are open to you. We are here to facilitate your work.”

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

PAKISTANI SUFI HERITAGE SHOWCASED AT SMITHSONIAN SUFI SYMPOSIUM

Ambassador Rehman discussed Pakistan’s Sufi Saints and their inclusive religious discourse at an event entitled, “Sufism at the Smithsonian”. “The Sufi doctrine is simple and universal... the light of God resides in the heart of each person.” She stressed that Sufi practice encapsulates the very essence of Islamic faith and related the application of Sufism to the modern day. “For over a decade now, we have seen our ideals distorted by new walls of hatred and prejudice. Now, instead, is a time to think and reflect upon the message of unity, peace, togetherness and patience exemplified by the life and teachings of Sufi saints. Let there be no mistake that the essence of Islam advocates peace above all else.”

Sanam Marvi enthralled the packed house of Washingtonians with her devotional singing. Her accomplished performance traversed the colors of the Pakistani Sufi landscape through a variety of local languages including Punjabi, Seraiki, Sindhi and Urdu. Trained in the Sufi tradition of music, Sanam Marvi’s voice reflected the purity, depth and devotion unique to mystical Sufi kalam. After the performance, the Embassy hosted a dinner reception where all the participants were treated to traditional Pakistani cuisine.

Video: http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/Ambassador_Smithsonian_Marvi_09222012_V.php

LAUNCH OF THE U.S.-PAKISTAN WOMEN’S COUNCIL

Secretary Clinton announced the launch of the U.S.-Pakistan Women’s Council, acknowledging the critical role that economically-empowered women can play in strengthening national stability. Organized by the U.S. Department of State, American University and the Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America (OPEN), the Council will connect public and private entities with programs in Pakistan that support economic opportunities for women through entrepreneurship, business and leadership training.
AMBASSADOR SHERRY REHMAN RECEIVES ‘WOMAN OF THE YEAR’ AWARD IN NEW YORK

As she accepted this award bestowed by Pakistan League of the USA, Ambassador Rehman called for unity among Pakistani community members in the United States to confront the challenges facing Pakistan. Over 400 Pakistani-Americans attended the event. Ambassador Rehman dedicated her award to the women of Pakistan including her mother and Mohtarma Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Ambassador Rehman noted that “Islam is a global religion.” She cited North America as a living example of Islam’s unifying principles, emphasizing that “Democracy is not only compatible with Islam but is its central tenet. The American Muslim Community can serve as a bridge between North America and Muslims around the world.”

DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION ASAD KHAN RECEIVES NDU PARTICIPANTS OF SENIOR OFFICERS PROGRAM

The delegation led by Major General Aamir Riaz from Pakistan’s National Defense University and Lieutenant General (R) Charles J. Cunningham Jr. participated in a program, sponsored by the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS) and Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC), to address the challenges and opportunities for Pakistani-U.S. cooperation.

NEW YORK DIASPORA URGED TO HELP ADVANCE PAKISTAN-U.S. RELATIONS

At a luncheon organized by Consul General Fakir Asif Hussain, Ambassador Rehman called on Pakistani-Americans to help advance the Pakistan-U.S. bilateral relationship through overtures of friendship. Ambassador Rehman told community members that their active engagement is imperative in countering the negative image of Pakistan projected by the media. Ambassador Rehman also attended a lunch hosted by Shafqat Tanweer, President of Pakistan People’s Party-USA, at his Long Island residence and engaged with members of the local Pakistani community.
Counselor Muhammad Mudassir Tipu departed for his next assignment in Beijing and the Embassy welcomed two new colleagues to Washington.

Mr. Zaman Mehdi, First Secretary, is a graduate of National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad. He also received a Masters degree in International Relations from Peshawar University. In his career as a Foreign Service officer, he has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad as an Assistant Director in the European Affairs Division and later as Director of the Foreign Secretary’s Office. In his previous overseas assignment, Mr. Mehdi worked at Pakistan’s Embassy in Beijing, China, where he also studied Chinese language and Culture at China Foreign Affairs University.

Captain Adnan Ahmed, Naval Attache, is a graduate of Joint Services Command and Staff College, United Kingdom and has held various staff and field appointments over his distinguished career including as the Anti-Submarine adviser to the Commander of the Pakistan Fleet, staff officer for the Plans Division at Naval Headquarters and Captain of Training at Pakistan’s Naval Academy. The officer has had the privilege of commanding two ships: PNSTARIQ (T-21 Destroyer) and PNS SHAMSHEER (F-22P Frigate).

THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN HAS REVISED THE JURISDICTION OF ITS CONSULAR OFFICEES AS FOLLOWS:

WASHINGTON D.C.
1. DC
2. Maryland
3. West Virginia
4. Virginia
5. North Carolina
6. South Carolina
7. Pennsylvania
8. Tennessee

NEW YORK CONSULATE
1. New York
2. New Jersey
3. Rhode Island
4. Maine
5. Massachusetts
6. New Hampshire
7. Kentucky
8. Vermont
9. Connecticut
10. Delaware
11. Wyoming

LOS ANGELES CONSULATE
1. California
2. Nevada
3. Arizona
4. Utah
5. Idaho
6. Oregon
7. Washington
8. Hawaii
9. Alaska
10. Montana

CHICAGO CONSULATE
1. Illinois
2. Minnesota
3. Iowa
4. Missouri
5. Wisconsin
6. Indiana
7. Nebraska
8. Kansas
9. North Dakota
10. South Dakota
11. Michigan
12. Ohio

HOUSTON CONSULATE
1. Texas
2. New Mexico
3. Colorado
4. Oklahoma
5. Arkansas
6. Mississippi
7. Alabama
8. Georgia
9. Florida
10. Louisiana
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