



EMBASSY of
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
in WASHINGTON DC



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

January has been a momentous month for Pakistan-U.S. relations. Islamabad hosted the fifth Ministerial level U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue. Secretary Kerry who led the U.S. delegation met with the leadership in Pakistan and reinforced the United States' commitment to the fight against terrorism and extremism.

A wide range of issues including fostering economic growth, enhancing energy and defence cooperation, developing counter-terrorism and law enforcement strategies were discussed. Secretary Kerry renewed the U.S. commitment to supporting private sector-led

growth in Pakistan.

I am pleased to share that an Education and Science & Technology Working Group has been established under the Strategic Dialogue framework to facilitate greater academic linkages and promote scientific and technological research collaboration between the educational and research institutions of Pakistan and the U.S.

The U.S.-Pakistan Working Group on Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism also met in Islamabad, providing us with an opportunity to apprise the U.S. side of the comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy being pursued by the law enforcement authorities in the wake of the Peshawar massacre. The U.S. side appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan, in the wake of the tragic Peshawar incident and offered to extend cooperation to fight terrorism.

Completion of the cooperative agreements of the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative (PPII) is a welcome development. It will launch two new private equity funds focused solely on Pakistan's dynamic and fast growing small and medium-sized businesses. USAID will provide a seed investment to capitalize the funds. Further, the launch of four new partnerships by USAID with private-sector banks in Pakistan is also a welcome move that will serve to improve access to finance for small businesses in Pakistan.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2..... U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue
- 3..... Pakistan-U.S. Relations
- 3..... Congressional Outreach
- 4-5.... Events

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN KERRY ASSURES PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF OF SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM



U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif during his visit to Pakistan to co-chair the fifth Ministerial Review of the Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said that relations with the U.S. are a vital component of Pakistan's foreign policy and appreciated U.S. President Barack Obama's message of friendship and cooperation in the aftermath of the Peshawar attack. Secretary Kerry assured that the United States would continue to support Pakistan in effectively combating terrorism and also addressing various other challenges. He also offered condolences, on behalf of the U.S. government and its people on the tragic incident in Peshawar labeling the terrorists as a 'common enemy' of the two countries. The Prime Minister also highlighted Pakistan's focus on greater market access for Pakistani products and US investment in Pakistan for creating job opportunities.

U.S.-PAKISTAN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

FIFTH MINISTERIAL U.S.-PAKISTAN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE



Adviser to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry during the fifth Ministerial U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue

The fifth Ministerial level Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Pakistan Advisor to PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry reviewed progress made in bilateral relations in the past year, and held wide-ranging discussions on sustaining and further building the momentum in bilateral cooperation. Secretary Kerry conveyed that a strong, prosperous and democratic Pakistan is an essential partner for the United States in advancing the shared goal of a stable and peaceful region. Both sides reiterated their commitment to an enduring partnership between Pakistan and the United States, which is vital for regional security and stability. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of the Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue for providing vision and direction for a strong and cooperative partnership between the two countries. Secretary Kerry expressed appreciation for the sacrifices of Pakistan's military personnel and civilians in the fight against terrorism and extremism, and he commended Pakistan's resolve and the steps being taken to tackle terrorism in a comprehensive and robust manner. He welcomed assurances of Pakistan's intent to dismantle all militant safe havens for terrorist and criminal networks. Building on the concrete results being achieved by operation Zarb-e-Azb, the two leaders discussed Pakistan's efforts to strengthen governance, expand development, and facilitate the return and rehabilitation of temporarily displaced persons in the tribal areas. Secretary Kerry pledged to continue U.S. support for these efforts and has committed approximately \$250 million to assist in the relief, return and rehabilitation of TDPs, and will continue discussions as needs emerge. The two leaders expressed satisfaction that the Working Groups constituted under the rubric of the Strategic Dialogue contribute to strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing shared interests, including in Pakistan's economic growth, increased trade and energy cooperation, regional stability, and countering extremism and terrorism.

Full text of the Joint Statement can be accessed at http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news701_10132015_US_SD.php

Remarks of Advisor Sartaj Aziz http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news702_10132015_US_SD_Joint%20Press%20Conf.php

U.S.- PAKISTAN WORKING GROUP ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COUNTER TERRORISM MEETS IN ISLAMABAD



Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Interior Secretary Shahid Khan and US Ambassador-at-large and Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism Tina Kaidanow during the meeting of Pak-US Working Group on Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism

The U.S.-Pakistan Working Group on Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism met in Islamabad. The two sides held a useful and wide-ranging discussion on various areas of cooperation between the US and Pakistan relating to law-enforcement and counter terrorism, cross border militancy, countering terrorist financing, counter-narcotics, border management and counter-IEDs. The Working Group meeting provided an opportunity to the Pakistan side to apprise the U.S side of the comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy being pursued by the law enforcement authorities in the wake of Peshawar massacre. The U.S side appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan and offered to extend cooperation to fight terrorism. The Working Group identified avenues for further cooperation in law enforcement and countering terrorism. The two sides agreed to continue their work and build on commonly agreed areas in the coming months.

STATEMENT OF THE ADVISER AFTER PRESIDENT OBAMA’S INDIA VISIT

In a statement after President Obama’s visit to India, Adviser to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs said, “Cooperative and collective actions by all member states are required to effectively tackle the global threat of terrorism. Pakistan is a leading partner of the international community in counter-terrorism. We also expect the same commitment from others. Pakistan is also the biggest victim of terrorism, including that sponsored and supported from abroad. Pakistan’s contribution and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism have been widely acknowledged. Pakistan rejects any insinuation or aspersion over its commitment to fight terrorism.”

... “We have also noted the Joint Statement suggesting that India is ready for NSG membership and other export control regimes. Pakistan is opposed to yet another country-specific exemption from NSG rules to grant membership to India, as this would further compound the already fragile strategic stability environment in South Asia, would further undermine the credibility of NSG and weaken the nonproliferation regime.”

... “Pakistan, along with a large majority of UN member states favours a comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make this principal organ of the United Nations more representative, democratic, effective, transparent and accountable. A country, in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions on matters of international peace and security, such as the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, by no means qualifies for a special status in the Security Council.”

... “Pakistan values its relations with the United States and expects it to play a constructive role for strategic stability and balance in South Asia.”

Full text of the statement is available at http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news703_10272015_US_MOFA.php

COMMANDER, US CENTCOM, GEN. LLOYD AUSTIN CALLED ON SECRETARY DEFENCE LT. GEN. (RETD) MUHAMMAD ALAM KHATTAK

Commander, US CENTCOM, Gen. Lloyd Austin called on Secretary Defence Lt. Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Alam Khattak and acknowledged the continued commitment of Pakistan towards peace. While expressing condolences on the tragic incident of the Peshawar School Attack, Gen Lloyd Austin said he is fully cognizant of the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan Army and its people in the continuing war on terror. The Secretary Defence informed the visiting commander that Pakistan plays a stabilizing role in the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. Muhammad Alam Khattak said that Pakistan has made sincere efforts to help stabilize the Afghan government and has facilitated the peace process in Afghanistan.



Right: General Lloyd Austin, CENTCOM Commander called on Secretary Defence, Lt. General (Retd) Muhammad Alam Khattak at the Ministry of Defense, Rawalpindi

CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

AMBASSADOR JILANI MEETS WITH SENATOR BOB CASEY AND CONGRESSMAN MARK MEADOWS



Ambassador Jilani with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) on the left and with Congressman Mark Meadows (R-NC) on the right

EVENTS

AJOKA THEATRE'S 'AMRIKA CHALO' MAKES ITS US DEBUT AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON,



Ambassador Jilani delivering opening remarks at the Georgetown University presentation of 'Amrika Chalo'



Playwright and Director of 'Amrika Chalo', Shahid Nadeem with the cast of the play

Ambassador Jilani and Ambassador Richard Hoagland delivered opening remarks at the US debut of Ajoka Theatre's play 'Amrika Chalo', a hilarious satire of U.S.-Pakistani relations set in an American consulate in Pakistan that exposes stereotypes. The play, written and directed by Pakistan's leading Theater artist, Shahid Nadeem was hosted by Georgetown University as part of its Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics' Myriad Voices festival. Ambassador Jilani offered his full support for the promotion of Pakistani art and culture in the US. In his remarks Ambassador Jilani said that drama is a very strong medium not just for entertainment but also to promote a softer image of the country. A large number of Georgetown University students and the Pakistani diaspora attended the event. The performance was sponsored by the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY "MAPPING WATERS" AN EXHIBITION BY SABAH HUSAIN



Ambassador Jilani with Saba Husain delivering opening remarks at the 'Mapping Water' exhibition held at the Embassy



Ambassador and Mrs. Jilani with Saba Husain at the 'Mapping Waters' exhibition

"Mapping Waters" an exhibition of paintings, paper works and prints by Sabah Husain was held at the Embassy. Ambassador Jilani inaugurated the show. The artwork displayed is inspired by the Urdu poetry of Noon Meem Rashid and the Persian poetry of Jalal ud din Rumi. Her concepts draw upon collective memory and mythology.

STUDENTS FROM CLOSE UP FOUNDATION VISIT THE EMBASSY



Pakistan Political Counselor, Sajid Bilal with visiting Close Up Foundation students

Students of the Close Up Foundation visited the Embassy where they met with Sajid Bilal, Political Counselor Pakistan . Students were briefed on Pakistan–US relations and given a lecture on Pakistan’s civil society. The Close Up Foundation is an organisation that partners with educators, schools, and youth organizations throughout the country to help young people develop the skills and attitudes to become informed and engaged citizens.



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