



EMBASSY of
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
in WASHINGTON DC



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

As I return to the Embassy in Washington after a gap of 15 years to take up my assignment as the Ambassador of Pakistan to the US, I am humbled by this great honor and privilege. I am also acutely conscious of the responsibilities associated with this important and sensitive position.

Happily, the challenges and transient irritants that bedeviled the relationship for some time, have given way to an ever expanding array of opportunities and possibilities for expanded bilateral cooperation in 2013, which in many ways was a landmark year for Pakistan-U.S. relations. In this regard, the Prime Minister's historic visit to the U.S. in

October 2013 was not only a watershed mark in capturing the good tidings in the relationship but also in providing the future vision and direction for an enduring and mutually beneficial partnership. Having made a humble contribution in building this momentum, while serving as the Foreign Secretary in Islamabad, I am determined to further build on that positive trajectory to take the relationship to a new and higher plane.

The 2014 promises to be an equally exciting and important year in the relationship. Adding a robust trade and investment dimension to our ties, promoting people to people contacts and educational and scientific collaboration between the US and Pakistan would of course remain my key priorities in Washington.

I am also aware that members of the Pakistani-American community have high expectations from the Embassy and the Consulates. Let me assure you that I and my team at the Embassy and the Consulates will make every effort to live up to your expectations. I will also make it a point to create as many opportunities as possible and interact with the members of the Pakistani-American community.

I also firmly believe that Pakistani-Americans have a critical role in bringing the two countries and societies closer to each other. We will look forward to your guidance and cooperation as we endeavor to harness the true potential of this relationship.

Let us begin 2014 with the conviction that with clarity of purpose and sincerity of effort, we will be able to transform the Pakistan-U.S. relationship into a truly strategic partnership benefiting our two peoples.

May I wish all of you and your families a very happy and prosperous New Year.

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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS IN PAKISTAN



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif cutting the cake during a function to mark the Christmas celebrations at Governor House, Lahore.

The Christian community in Pakistan celebrated Christmas with traditional fervor and gaiety. A celebratory ceremony attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and members of the Christian community was held at the Governor House, Lahore. Addressing the audience Prime Minister stressed the need for interfaith unity while highlighting that minorities enjoyed equal rights in Pakistan and any discrimination on the basis of religion was not only against the constitution but also a betrayal of the promise of the Quaid to the nation.

AMBASSADOR JALIL ABBAS JILANI PRESENTING A COPY OF HIS CREDENTIALS TO ACTING CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AT US STATE DEPARTMENT, NATALIE JONES – JANUARY 2, 2013.



US SECRETARY DEFENCE, CHUCK HAGEL, VISITS ISLAMABAD

US Secretary Defence, Chuck Hagel, visited Pakistan during the month of December. During his stay in Islamabad Secretary Hagel called on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and met with the Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif. In his meetings in Islamabad, Secretary Hagel updated the Pakistani side on the US and NATO efforts to promote stability in Afghanistan. The two sides agreed to work to strengthen Pakistan-US relations and reaffirmed the importance of Pakistan-US strategic partnership for peace and stability in the region. Secretary Hagel also flagged the importance of keeping the ground supply routes out of Afghanistan open and thanked the Prime Minister for Pakistan's continued support. Meanwhile Secretary Hagel's was conveyed Pakistan's concerns over continuing US drone strikes, stressing that drone strikes were counter-productive towards efforts to combat terrorism and extremism on an enduring basis.



US Secretary Defence, Chuck Hagel, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad.



US Secretary Defense Chuck Hagel with Pakistan COAS, General Raheel Sharif

EMBASSY NEWS AND EVENTS

APPNA DELEGATION VISITS THE EMBASSY



Mohammad Hassan, Cd'A a.i., Embassy of Pakistan, addressing the APPNA delegation and Embassy officials

A delegation of APPNA (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America) visited the embassy. The delegation was led by Dr. Asif Rehman, President, APPNA and included key APPNA members from all over the US who arrived in Washington, DC for APPNA's day on The Hill. The delegation was briefed by Cd'A a.i. Mr. Muhammad Hassan on the state of play in the bilateral relationship and the Embassy's outreach efforts. The meeting also discussed ways and means to enhance the scope of cooperation and APPNA's linkages with the Embassy.



Dr. Talha Siddiqui of APPNA addressing APPNA delegates and Embassy officials.

UNDERSTANDING PAKISTAN – 2

The Embassy organized its second course on 'Understanding Pakistan' from Dec 4-18, 2013. The course is designed to provide interested young Americans and Pakistani-Americans a basic understanding and knowledge of Pakistan's society and culture, economy, trade and foreign policy. Congratulating participants on successfully completing the course, Charge d' Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan underscored the importance that the Embassy attaches to reaching out to the American and Pakistani-American youth to promote awareness and understanding about Pakistan. The course participants, he noted, represented a wide cross section of the American private and public sectors including university and college students, US government officials, businessmen and entrepreneurs. The participants deeply appreciated the initiative terming it very timely and highly useful. The first course was held in June last year.



Ambassador Tauqir Hussain and Embassy Officers delivering lectures on various aspects of Pakistan during the second 'Understanding Pakistan' course at Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC.



Cd'A Dr. Asad M. Khan with participants of "Understanding Pakistan-2" Course.

FAREWELL DINNER FOR PAKISTAN ARMY TECHNICAL LIAISON OFFICER



The Embassy hosted a farewell lunch in honour of Col. Sohail Zafar who served as the Pakistan Army Technical Liaison Officer at the Embassy of Pakistan. Col. Salman Wasif Ali Khan replaces Col. Sohail Zafar as the new PATLO.

PARTICIPANTS OF FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM VISIT THE EMBASSY



A group of Pakistani teachers who were visiting the US under the State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program, met with Cd'A Dr. Asad M. Khan at the Embassy.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

- The new Government took reins of the economy at the brink of collapse. Following was the state of the economy when the new Government took over in June 2013. GDP growth averaged at less than 3%; Inflation around 12%; Foreign Exchange Reserves stood at US\$ 11 billion; Circular Debt of Rs.503 billion crippling the power sector and the economy as a whole; Fiscal Deficit at 8.8%; Investment/GDP 12.6%; Debt/GDP 62.7%; Public Debt 14.36 trillion.
- The Government took a series of austerity measures to cut down expenditure, which resulted in reduction of Budget deficit by 2.2%. from Rs.690 billion in November 2012 to Rs.570 billion by December 2013.
- An Extended Fiscal Fund (EFF) of US\$ 6.64 was negotiated with the IMF in September 2013. The first review of the Program has been successfully cleared by the IMF Board in Dec and the Government is set for the second review in March 2014. This enabled the country to pay off installments of old debts, sent a signal to the international community that Pakistan would honor its international commitments and helped improve our credit ratings.
- In order to increase own source revenues new tax incentives were announced on 28 November 2013. Revenues have since registered 17% increase from Rs. 679 billion in November 2012 to Rs. 792 billion by December 2013.
- Inflation is being monitored by ECC and National Price Monitoring Committee and inflation has been brought down to single digits.
- The Current Account Deficit is around 1% of GDP which is very healthy. The Capital Account has been under pressure due to loans taken by the previous government however the government is committed to control it and has prepared well laid out plans to increase foreign exchange reserves to around US\$ 20 billion.

EMBASSY UPDATES

The Embassy is pleased to introduce new officers that have arrived in Washington, DC to join the Pakistan Mission.



Mr. Sajid Bilal
Counselor
(Political & Consular Affairs)



Ms. Huzefa Khanum
Third Secretary
(Political Affairs)



Gp. Capt. Waqas Ahmed Sulehri
Air Attaché



Captain Khurram Shahzad
Army Tech.Liaison Officer



Col. Salman Wasif Ali Khan
Attaché Defense Procurement (ADP)
(Defense)

ALSO PAKISTAN

While the mainstream media often focuses on the problems Pakistan faces and the challenges confronted by our government and society, there

is a substantial amount of good news coming out of Pakistan.

We are 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.

\$1 MILLION PRIZE FOR PAKISTANI PEDIATRICIAN

The first \$1 million Caplow Children's Prize was won by, Dr. Anita Zaidi, a Pakistani pediatrician trained at Pakistan's Aga Khan University with additional degrees from Duke and Harvard. Dr. Zaidi beat 550 other entries, including those from major charities like Doctors Without Borders. With the prize money, she will train midwives and set up a transportation network to get mothers in birth crises to hospitals. She will also try to change prejudices that some families harbor against hospitals, and get food and vitamins for mothers and vaccines for children. The neighborhood she plans to help is Rehri Goth, a fishing village.



BERKLEE STUDENT USMAN RIAZ NAMED TED SENIOR FELLOW

Berklee student Usman Riaz has been named one of 12 TED senior fellows. At 22, the Pakistani composer, multi-instrumentalist, and filmmaker is the youngest TED senior fellow ever selected. Riaz has performed on the TED main stage and travelled all over the world sharing his artwork and music with audiences. TED is a nonprofit devoted to ideas worth Spreading. The TED Fellows program helps world-changing innovators from around the globe become part of the TED community and, with its help, amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.





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