MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

August is a month of great historical significance as it reminds us of the arduous struggles of our forefathers and the sacrifices they made to achieve our homeland, and enjoins us to rejuvenate our commitment to the ideals upon which Pakistan was created. This August marked the 68th independence day of Pakistan which was celebrated at the Embassy with traditional zeal and fervour. The Embassy welcomed the community to join in the celebrations and it was heartwarming to see so many of you enthusiastically participate.

With Congress in recess, August provided the Embassy a chance to completely focus on the vibrant Pakistani community. I had the opportunity of visiting Houston, Texas where the community and consulate hosted large gatherings reflecting the rich diversity of the Pakistani-American Diaspora in the area. My meetings with the local community gave a unique opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest. One of the objectives of this visit was also to highlight the abundant Shale Energy Resources in Pakistan and attract investments from American Energy companies. I also had the honour of having a very useful interactive session with the faculty and students of Rice University, Houston, TX.

As you know Pakistan has been hit with devastating floods in recent days. We sympathise with the people affected by the floods and pray for their security and rehabilitation. The Government of Pakistan is working assiduously to mitigate the damage and evacuate the affected from the impacted areas.

Finally, I am pleased to share that the operations against extremists and terrorists in North Waziristan are going on and have been a huge success so far. We are absolutely confident that in the next four to five weeks we will be able to clear the entire area of all these elements, and this is something that enjoys the overwhelming support of the people of Pakistan.

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PAKISTAN CELEBRATES ITS 68TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at the flag hoisting ceremony held at Aiwan-e- Sadr

The full text of the Prime Minister’s and President’s messages can be found at the below links.
http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/PM_%20message_14%20Aug%202014_14082014.php
http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/President%E2%80%99s%20message_14%20Aug%202014_14082014.php
THE EMBASSY CELEBRATES PAKISTAN’S 68TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Pakistan’s 68th Independence Day celebrations were held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC. H.E. Ambassador Jilani hoisted the National Flag and read out Independence Day messages of the President and the Prime Minister. In his message, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that the Independence Day was an occasion for all of us to remember and recall the ideals and aspirations that inspired Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Dr. Allama Mohammad Iqbal. He said that Pakistan was the culmination of a long and arduous constitutional struggle. It was made possible only because millions of Muslims exercised the oldest, most basic democratic right — the right to vote for their own future. President Mamnoon Hussain in his message urged the nation to stand united against all those elements that are bent upon tarnishing our image and identity as a progressive, peaceful and tolerant society. He exhorted the people to work together as a unified nation to gradually meet the challenges that we face today.


AMBASSADOR JILANI VISITS HOUSTON, TEXAS

At a luncheon hosted by the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association Ambassador Jilani highlighted the need for market access to USA for Pakistani textiles, surgical instruments, food, and other products. He apprised the audience about Pak-US relations that stand considerably improved with the start of the ongoing strategic dialogues and formation of working committees on terrorism, security, energy, trade, education & science. Ambassador Jilani also mentioned that with various reforms done by the Government of Pakistan, doing business is now easier and more lucrative adding that Pakistan is in need of energy and with abundance of Shale Energy Resources in Pakistan, it provides an opportunity for the American Companies, especially from Texas to be engaged in the Shale Energy Sector. He appreciated the vital role that associations like HKSCA have been playing in improving the trade and people-to-people relationships between USA and Pakistan. Ambassador Jilani received a Congressional Certificate from Congressman Al Green, and Honorary Citizenship Certificate from Mayor Pro Tem Ed Gonzales on behalf of the City of Houston. Ambassador Jilani also delivered a keynote address at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy on “Pakistan’s Vision for Peace and Prosperity in South Asia” where he highlighted the importance of peace and stability in South Asia in the global context. He said that positive changes like rise of democracy and civil society had taken roots which kindled hope for the region’s better future.
Ambassador Jilani also made a brief trip to the city of Midland to gauge interest in helping Pakistan develop its unconventional hydrocarbons. Ambassador Jilani was warmly received at a luncheon attended by Midland Mayor Jerry Morales as well as local oil and business men. Ambassador Jilani suggested sending Pakistanis to the Permian Basin for training in new technologies like horizontal drilling and slickwater fracturing. Amongst other engagements Ambassador Jilani spoke at the Asia Society Texas Center on “Political Transitions in South Asia and the Prospect of Peace” where he discussed key issues affecting Pakistan and its neighbors, such as the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan–India relations, security challenges in the region, and emerging opportunities for civilian.
AMBASSADOR JILANI ATTENDS MTBC’S BELL RINGING CEREMONY AT NASDAQ IN NEW YORK

Ambassador Jilani attended the bell ringing ceremony of MTBC at NASDAQ, New York where, Mahmud Haq, CEO, MTBC rang the Closing Bell. While talking to the media Ambassador Jilani said that the occasion is of much importance for Pakistan as a member of the Pakistani diaspora has achieved the success of getting his company listed at NASDAQ. Mr Jilani further highlighted the skills and expertise of Pakistani Software developers that have played a key role in the success and development of MTBC. Ambassador Jilani expressed the desire to see more Pakistani expatriates find such acknowledgement at NASDAQ. MTBC is a leading provider of proprietary, web-based electronic health records, practice management and mHealth solutions.

Right: Ambassador Jilani with Mahmud Haq, CEO, MTBC and Ambassador Cameron Munter
BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING (BCIU) HELD A LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR JILANI

Business Council for International Understanding in Washington DC held a luncheon discussion with Ambassador Jilani. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Jilani highlighted the various steps the Government of Pakistan has taken to facilitate foreign direct investment. The Ambassador stated that as a result of Government policies Pakistan’s economy has been revived, inflation and fiscal deficit reduced and flow of FDI increased. Moody’s has recently raised Pakistan’s standing from negative to stable and the World Bank has placed Pakistan ahead of many countries in the region on the ease in doing business index. Referring to various projects of regional connectivity the Ambassador said that completion of these projects will open up enormous opportunities for international investors. Ambassador Jilani invited the participants to invest in Pakistan’s energy sector projects and encouraged them to participate in the forthcoming Diamer Basha Business Opportunity Conference being held in Washington DC. The Ambassador added that following the successful military operation in North Waziristan, the Government is coming up with a Plan of Action for Rehabilitation of the IDPs. He invited the US companies to participate in various economic projects in FATA.

AMBASSADOR JILANI HOSTED THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 5TH ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT THE EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN

Ambassador Jilani hosted the participants of US-PAK Foundation’s 5th Annual Youth Leadership Conference. The event was aimed at strengthening the Embassy's outreach efforts to the Pakistani American community, particularly the youth. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Jilani highlighted the potential of the Pakistani American diaspora, especially the young generation. He urged the participants to look at the opportunities in the mainstream American society and also join professions in politics, Administration, judiciary and media. Ambassador Jilani also briefed the participants on the Embassy's open door policy for the Pakistani American community and drew their attention to the various youth-oriented programs being conducted by the Embassy as its Generation Next Initiative. Mr. Irfan Malik the President of USPAK Foundation and the members of its Advisory Board offered their gratitude to the Ambassador for the Embassy's continued support and for providing an opportunity to the young Pakistani American students to strengthen their linkages with the community and the country of their origin.

Link: http://www.embassyofpakistanusa.org/Pak%20US%20Foundation_08152014.php

PAKISTANI AMERICAN CONGRESS (PAC) DELEGATION CALLS ON THE AMBASSADOR

Left: Ambassador Jilani with the Pakistani American Congress Delegation
A group of students and faculty from DC9 Metropolitan Urdu Center visited the Embassy. Mr. Sajid Bilal, Counselor (Education) Embassy of Pakistan briefed the students on Pak-US relations and Pakistan’s history, culture and traditions. DC9 Metropolitan Urdu Center provides local elementary and middle school students around the DC metro area a chance to learn Urdu. During the program students are expected to improve their Urdu language skills, familiarity with Urdu culture, and social studies and art-related content knowledge through an engaging curriculum firmly grounded in STARTALK-endorsed effective teaching principles.

A group of students from Pakistan visited the Embassy where they met with Ambassador Jilani. They were briefed on Pak-US bilateral ties. The students were visiting the US under a student exchange program sponsored by the US Department of State.

**ALSO PAKISTAN...**

**PAKISTAN’S DR. DURDANA HABIB WINS THE 2014 GRACE HOPPER CELEBRATION CHANGE AGENT ABIE AWARD**

Dr. Durdana Habib, the first Pakistani woman to receive a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore in 1983 received the 2014 Grace Hopper Celebration Change Agent ABIE Award. The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing is the World’s Largest Gathering of Women Technologists.
The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback.

Please send your comments to newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org
or visit www.embassyofpakistanusa.org