MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

The month of March brings with it the commemoration of the ideals upon which our country was founded and marks a hope for a new beginning of a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan. We celebrated Pakistan Day at the embassy with traditional fervor, marking the 74th anniversary of the adoption of the Lahore Resolution which led to the creation of Pakistan.

During March I also had the honour of presenting my credentials to President Obama.

Meanwhile, Pakistan participated in the 3rd Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, where Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif highlighted Pakistan’s commitment to the objective of enhancing nuclear security.

Pakistan’s economy continues to strengthen and grow in the wake of tough economic reforms and fiscal austerity measures taken by the Government. In this context Pakistan’s rupee surged 5.2 percent during March, the best performance among world currencies, as the nation’s rising foreign reserves and improving economy buoyed investor confidence. The IMF, in one of its reports, appreciated the economic growth in Pakistan, boosted by a stronger manufacturing industry due to the easing of Pakistan’s chronic electricity shortage.

Pakistan also hosted a US-Pakistan Business Council delegation for a series of public and private sector meetings aimed at increasing trade between the US and Pakistan and encouraging US corporate investment in Pakistan.

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SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN KERRY’S MESSAGE ON PAKISTAN DAY

"On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, I extend warm wishes to the government and people of Pakistan on the 74th anniversary of the signing of the Lahore Resolution, which laid the foundation for Pakistan’s independence. Building stronger ties with the people of Pakistan has long been a deep personal commitment of mine. Our relationship is strong because our people-to-people ties with Pakistan are growing even stronger through the thousands of professional and academic exchanges that take place between our countries each year. On this special day, we remember the message of "hope, courage, and confidence" the Quaid-e-Azam delivered to the Pakistani people in his Eid-ul-Adha Message in 1947. Together, we must face our challenges with the same hope and determination. We all have a stake in Pakistan’s success, just as Pakistan has a stake in ours.”

For the full text of Secretary Kerry’s message please visit http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/03/223822.htm

PAKISTAN AT THE 3rd NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended the 3rd Nuclear Security Summit where he highlighted security measures taken by Pakistan to protect its nuclear installations, and plans to use the technology for development purposes. Prime Minister Sharif said, "Pakistan attaches highest importance to nuclear security because it is directly linked to our national security. Pakistan is a responsible nuclear weapons state. We pursue a policy of nuclear restraint, as well as credible minimum deterrence." The Prime Minister also stressed for provision of civil nuclear technology to Pakistan for overcoming energy crisis. He strongly advocated nuclear restraint, balance in conventional forces and ways to resolve conflicts for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

PAKISTAN’S NATIONAL STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT IN THE HAGUE


ECONOMY

REBUILDING PAKISTAN’S ECONOMY – A WRITEUP BY SENATOR MOHAMMAD ISHAQ DAR, FEDERAL MINISTER FOR FINANCE

After eight months of the present Government, and at the time when the second review of the IMF is completed, it is important to look back on what we have achieved over this period and see whether the economic course chartered out by the PML (N) has produced results…

Read entire write-up at http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news633_03072014_Economy.php
U.S.–PAKISTAN TRADE MISSION SEEKS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN PAKISTAN

A U.S.–Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) delegation led by Chairman Miles Young visited Pakistan March 16–20 for a series of public and private sector meetings aimed at increasing trade between the United States and Pakistan, and fostering U.S. corporate investment in Pakistan. USPBC has maintained an ongoing and active role in promoting private sector engagement in Pakistan and works closely with the American Business Forum in Lahore and the American Business Council in Karachi. USPBC members stressed that U.S. companies are eager to work with both countries to deepen U.S. private sector engagement in Pakistan during their meetings. Carolyn Brehm, Vice President of Government Relations for Procter & Gamble, said that Pakistan has made remarkable progress in a short time and that her company is expanding its business by making additional investments in Pakistan. She said that Procter & Gamble sees great potential in the huge Pakistani market.

EMBASSY CELEBRATES PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY

FLAG HOISTING CEREMONY AT EMBASSY

The Embassy celebrated the 74th anniversary of Pakistan National Day with an impressive flag hoisting ceremony followed by a reception. Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani hoisted the national flag and read out messages from the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the occasion. While congratulating the attendees, Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani highlighted the government’s focus on overcoming challenges faced by the country and underlined the significant positive turn in all sectors.

Flag Hoisting Ceremony Video. [http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/Flag_Hoisting%20_23032014.php](http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/Flag_Hoisting%20_23032014.php)

PAKISTAN DAY RECEPTION HELD AT THE EMBASSY

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani addressing guests at the Pakistan Day Reception

Ambassador James Dobbins addressing guests at the Pakistan Day Reception

Ambassador & Mrs. Jalil Abbas Jilani Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D–TX), co–chair of the Pakistan Congressional Caucus and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D–CA)
The Embassy hosted a reception marking the 74th anniversary of Pakistan National Day. The event was attended by senior US officials and members of Congress reaffirming the close strategic partnership between the two countries. US Special Representative Ambassador James Dobbins represented the US Administration at the gathering. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, co-chair of the Pakistan Congressional Caucus and Congresswoman Maxine Waters represented the US congress. Ambassador Jalani and Ambassador Dobbins underlined the importance of the vital cooperation between the two countries. Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Jalani noted that Pakistan-US relationship is back to full engagement with regular meetings in several areas covered under the Strategic Dialogue. Ambassador Jalani said he and his team of diplomats would devote efforts to augmenting Pakistan’s relationship with the United States. The Pakistani American community, Ambassador opined, makes the strongest bridge between Pakistan and the United States. Congratulating the audience on the occasion, Ambassador James Dobbins cited high-level bilateral engagement between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, President Obama and Secretary Kerry who met at The Hague, Netherlands, on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit. Ambassador Dobbins particularly appreciated the support offered by Pakistan to the process of reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan and called Pakistan a ‘critical partner’ in Afghan stability.

Video: http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/Pak_Day_Reception_24032014.php
Photos http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/Pak_Day_Reception_24032014_Slides.php

CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

AMBASSADOR JALIL ABBAS JILANI CALLS ON SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JOHN BOEHNER AT THE CAPITOL HILL

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani called on the Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner at the Capitol Hill. Ambassador Jilani conveyed greetings from Pakistan's leadership to the Speaker. He also thanked the Speaker for the consistent support extended by the US Congress for democracy in Pakistan. Ambassador Jilani briefed the Speaker on democratic transition in Pakistan and the positive trajectory achieved in Pakistan – US bilateral relations. John Boehner recalled his visit to Pakistan in 2011 and discussed a range of issues in Pakistan - US bilateral relations and the region. He reaffirmed the need for a closer partnership as a critical factor for regional stability.

AMBASSADOR JALIL ABBAS JILANI CALLED ON REP. PETER VISCLOSKY (D–IN), RANKING MEMBER DEFENCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani called on Rep. Peter Visclosky (D–IN), Ranking Member Defence Subcommittee of House Appropriations Committee. A range of issues in the bilateral relations were discussed. Ambassador Jilani also briefed Rep. Visclosky on domestic and regional developments.
AMBASSADOR JALIL ABBAS JILANI SPEAKS AT A LUNCHEON ORGANIZED BY ASIA SOCIETY

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani spoke at a luncheon organized by the Asia Society. In his remarks, Ambassador Jilani gave a detailed overview of the government's efforts to overcome the challenges in security, economic growth, and energy sectors. Highlighting some of the significant transformations that Pakistan has gone through in recent years, Ambassador Jilani said that today's Pakistan was a transformed Pakistan where democracy had taken strong roots, where free media and independent judiciary were contributing to an effective system of checks and balances and where all state institutions were working within constitutional parameters. Ambassador Jilani also dealt in detail with the contours of Pakistan-U.S. bilateral ties. In the regional context, Ambassador Jilani expressed the hope that the forthcoming elections in Afghanistan will herald an era of peace and stability in that country. He reiterated Pakistan's full support for an Afghan-lead and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process.

AMBASSADOR JALIL ABBAS JILANI HIGHLIGHTS PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC UPTURN AT A WELCOME DINNER HOSTED IN HIS HONOR BY THE SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY OF MARYLAND—WASHINGTON, DC METRO AREA

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani attended a welcome dinner hosted in his honor by the South Asian community of Maryland—Washington D.C. area led by Sajid Tarar and Jessie Singh. In his speech he highlighted the upturn in Pakistan's economy achieved in half a year after Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif introduced a series of policies and reforms to stimulate economic growth. On Pakistan–India bilateral trade, he said, it has expanded from $ 300 million in the not too distant past to $ 3.5 billion this year and is expected to touch the figure of 5 billion dollars by 2015. Ambassador Jilani expressed the hope that improved economic and trade relations would help bring peace and prosperity to the South Asian people. Ambassador Jilani praised the religious tolerance amongst South Asian communities, and said they have made important contributions to American politics and economy by excelling in various fields. Ambassador Jilani assured the Pakistani community of efficient services by the embassy and the consulates. Attorney General of Maryland Mr. Doug Gansler welcomed Ambassador Jilani. Secretary of State (Maryland) John McDonough, on behalf of Governor of Maryland, Martin O’ Malley, presented a Citation to Ambassador Jilani.

Video: http://www.embassyofpakistanusa.org/Ambassador_Dinner_Mr_Tarar_03012014V.php

AMBASSADOR JILANI AT MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY IN QUANTICO, VA

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani addressed officers of the Staff Course and War course at Marine Corps University in Quantico, VA. Speaking to the audience he said that a robust and forward looking defence partnership between Pakistan and the US is critical for security and stability of the region. Ambassador Jilani pointed out that Pakistan and the United States have made valuable gains in fighting Al-Qaeda and other terrorist networks and there is a mutual desire to further build on this fruitful cooperation. He appreciated US support in building Pakistan's capacity in meeting its security challenges. Pakistan, he said, remains unequivocally committed to defeat terrorism from its territory. Ambassador Jilani highlighted recent achievements in the defence partnership, including cooperation in countering the threat of IEDs, improved cross border coordination, smooth movement of retrograde cargo on the GLOCs and bilateral cooperation in maritime security. He added that Pakistan and the US can accomplish even better results by further deepening bilateral friendship and trust. The Ambassador also had an interactive round table discussion with senior fellows of the War course at the University.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, DR. ASAD M. KHAN SPEAKS ON POLIO ERADICATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

Speaking at an event organized by the United Nations Foundation, DCM, Dr. Asad M. Khan apprised the audience that Pakistan is striving to eliminate polio from the country as a national priority that includes an immunization drive as well as a coordinated effort to dispel myths associated with vaccination. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s “absolute” commitment to polio eradication and said progress towards that end is overseen at the level of prime minister. In addition, a national advisory group has been created to push the campaign at national and grassroots level. Dr. Asad M. Khan added that, going forward, Pakistan will also need continued international support to meet the goal of a polio-free Pakistan. He said that most of Pakistan is polio-free and the government has sought the help of media, civil society and religious leaders to eliminate misgivings about the polio vaccination campaign. As a result of these efforts, he noted, the refusal rate for polio vaccination among people has declined significantly to 0.14 percent. Dr. Asad Khan appreciated the contribution the World
Bank, Islamic Development Bank, UN Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization have made to realization of polio eradication programs. Ambassador John Lange, co–chair of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative’s Polio Partners Group, assured Dr. Asad M. Khan of sustained support for Pakistan’s efforts to get rid of the crippling polio disease.

### DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, DR. ASAD M. KHAN CELEBRATES PAKISTAN DAY IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN

![Celebration Photos]

### ALSO PAKISTAN

*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.

### IMF SEES PAKISTAN GROWTH PICKING UP

The International Monetary Fund said it saw strong signs of growth in Pakistan as the long–troubled economy undertakes structural reforms. The IMF, which this week released a fresh $555.6 million as part of its support program for Pakistan, confirmed its recent forecast of 3.1 percent growth this year, which was revised up from an earlier 2.8 percent. For the 2014–15 fiscal year, the IMF expected Pakistan’s growth to accelerate to around 3.7 percent. An IMF report said that the growth was boosted by a stronger manufacturing industry thanks to an easing of Pakistan’s chronic electricity shortages.


### PAKISTAN RUPEE SURGES 5.2% IN WORLD’S BEST PERFORMANCE

Pakistan’s rupee surged 5.2 percent during March, the best performance among world currencies, as the nation’s rising foreign reserves and improving economy buoyed investor confidence. The country’s currency stockpile climbed to $9.52 from $8.3 billion at the end of 2013. The economy is on course to achieve the official target of 4.4 percent expansion in the year ending June 30 after the prior period’s 3.6 percent growth.

The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback.

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