MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

2015 has been a year of active diplomacy, we witnessed multiple high level engagements here in Washington DC and in Islamabad, with both sides giving their best to promote an enduring partnership based on mutual respect. The high level and regular interactions were instrumental in understanding each other’s perspective on regional and international issues and further developing convergences. Wide-ranging discussions were held on sustaining and further building the momentum in bilateral cooperation and advancing shared interests, in the fields of Pakistan’s economic growth, energy, increased trade and investment, nuclear security, cooperation in promoting law and order by addressing the menace of extremism and working together for regional stability. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our interlocutors on the US side for their support and look forward to future discussions on improving market access for Pakistani exports and enhancing bilateral trade. We are also excited about the prospects for increased foreign investment and will continue to educate the world about the huge potential and opportunities that exist within our borders.

Pakistan remains steadfast in promoting peace and stability in the region. Our all encompassing and indiscriminate counter-terrorism operations, under the umbrella of National Action Plan, have been instrumental in eliminating the terrorist networks. As the operation goes into its final phase, the few remaining hideouts will be cleared in the very near future. Similarly in the urban areas, intelligence based operations have been very helpful in eliminating scores of the bad guys.

I wish you all and your families a very happy and prosperous 2016.

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AMBASSADOR JALIL ABBAS JILANI PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF BAHAMAS

H.E. Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani presented his credentials to Her Excellency Marguerite Pindling, Governor General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as non-resident High Commissioner.

Emphasizing the cooperation between Pakistan and the Bahamas in various multilateral forums, High Commissioner Jilani highlighted its role in promoting the shared interests of both countries in areas of economic development, climate change, peace keeping, trade, tourism and human rights. The Governor General felicitated High Commissioner Jilani on his appointment as the non-resident High Commissioner of Pakistan to the Commonwealth of Bahamas and assured full cooperation from her Government to strengthen the relationship with Pakistan.
COAS GENERAL RAHEEL SHARIF VISITS WASHINGTON, D.C.

COAS GENERAL RAHEEL SHARIF MEETS U.S. VICE PRESIDENT, JOE BIDEN

Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif met with U.S. Vice President, Joe Biden. Vice President Biden reaffirmed the United States’ interest in building a strong partnership with Pakistan addressing our shared counterterrorism, economic, and regional security concerns. He also thanked General Sharif for his steadfast support to counterterrorism cooperation with the United States and underscored the importance of expanding efforts to help further strengthen regional security. Both leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to peace in Afghanistan and the important role that the United States and Pakistan can play to support a reinvigorated reconciliation process in coordination with Afghanistan.

COAS GENERAL RAHEEL SHARIF MEETS U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN KERRY

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif met with Secretary of State John Kerry and discussed matters relating to regional security. The army chief reiterated Pakistan’s desire to solidify PAK-U.S. relations based on mutual interest and respect. The two leaders talked about an Afghan owned reconciliation and the way forward in this regard. Speaking on regional security, General Raheel also highlighted the need to resolve Kashmir issue. Secretary Kerry acknowledged the contributions and the enormous sacrifices made by Pakistan in its fight against terrorism, the ISPR chief said.

COAS GENERAL RAHEEL SHARIF MEETS WITH SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif met with the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services. He was welcomed by the Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman, Senator John McCain, Senator Jack Reed and senior members of the committee. Emphasizing terrorism as a global threat, General Sharif highlighted the need for a coordinated global response. He also stressed on the need for improved management at the Pak-Afghan and continued cooperation to deal with emerging threats. The U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services acknowledged Pakistan’s efforts against terrorism and assured the COAS of full support and cooperation in Pakistan’s counterterrorism efforts.
COAS GENERAL RAHEEL SHARIF ADDRESSES THE PAKISTANI COMMUNITY

COAS General Raheel Sharif addressed the Pakistani community at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC. Ambassador Jilani welcomed the Army Chief while highlighting the vital role played by the Armed Forces of Pakistan in safeguarding the country from internal and external threats. He profusely appreciated the immense sacrifices rendered by Pakistan Armed Forces personnel in bringing peace and security to the country. General Raheel Sharif expressed the unflinching commitment of the Armed Forces of Pakistan in ensuring peace and security in the country as well as in countering external threats. He asserted that the Armed Forces of Pakistan would take the war against terrorism to its logical conclusion and would not let the sacrifices of martyrs go in vain. Army Chief highlighted Pakistan’s commitment to friendly relations with its neighbors with dignity and honor. Noting Pakistan and the United States’ convergence of views on countering the existing and emerging threats in their mutual interest, he expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory and growth in the Pak-U.S. defence and counter-terrorism cooperation at this critical juncture in the history. Army Chief underlined that simultaneous with the return of peace and normalcy to the country, the completion of CPEC would herald greater economic prosperity throughout the region.

COAS GENERAL RAHEEL SHARIF MEETS WITH SENIOR U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIALS

Chief of Army Staff Gen Raheel Sharif held meetings with top US defense officials at the Pentagon. During the meetings, Gen Raheel and US Defense officials discussed defense cooperation between US and Pakistan and the need for enhanced defense coordination. The measures to strengthen military-to-military relations and regional security were part of the discourse. An increase in Tactical Reconnaissance Group (TRG) exchanges was also discussed.

COAS GENERAL RAHEEL SHARIF MEETS DIRECTOR CIA, JOHN O. BRENNAN

Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif visited the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters in Langley, Virginia, where he met with Director CIA, John Brennan. Discussing Security Challenges facing the region General Sharif highlighted the need for permanent stability and a conducive environment in the region for re-initiating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. The CIA chief discussed the opportunities presented for the future of an enduring regional peace and praised Pakistan’s efforts for the Afghan reconciliation process. He also acknowledged the accomplishments of Zarb-i-Azb and its positive impact on the security calculus.

COAS Gen. Raheel Sharif with Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.

COAS Gen. Raheel Sharif with Commander of the U.S. Central Command, General Lloyd J. Austin
CALL ON THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS BY THE U.S. ACTING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

The US Acting Special Representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ms. Laurel Miller, called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs (SAPM), Syed Tariq Fatemi in Islamabad. The Special Assistant highlighted Prime Minister's policy of peaceful neighborhood and non-interference in the region, and reiterated Pakistan's desire to build a constructive and trust-based relationship with Afghanistan. He stressed that peace in Afghanistan was vital for the peace and stability of the entire region, and highlighted Pakistan's contribution towards facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process. SAPM also outlined the progress achieved by Pakistan against all terrorist groups, as a result of the Operation Zarb-e-Azb. The US Acting Special Representative appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, in line with its policy for a peaceful neighbourhood. She also acknowledged the huge sacrifices made by Pakistan in the fight against terrorism and welcomed its resolute and concerted efforts against this common threat.