AMBASSADOR’S MESSAGE

I am delighted to share the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter covering the period July-September 2017. These three months were particularly important for Pakistan-US relations. On September 19, Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi had a very positive meeting with US Vice President Mike Pence in New York. He had a brief meeting with President Donald Trump as well. The Prime Minister also had useful engagements with US media, think tanks and the business community.

The other highlight of this period was the 71st Independence Day of Pakistan, on August 14, 2017. A wide range of Independence Day related activities were organized and attended by the Embassy as well as our Consulates General in partnership with the Pakistani-American diaspora. It was heartening for me to witness the spirit of patriotism and enthusiasm among community members across America.

Apart from a hectic schedule in Washington, I travelled to Boston, Chicago, New York and Orlando where I had the opportunity to interact with several US Congressional representatives in their home districts. I also had the privilege of speaking at a number of think-tanks, universities, media houses as well as interacting with members of the Pakistani American communities in each of these cities.

I hope you will enjoy going through the details of our numerous activities which are covered extensively in this edition.

-Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

PRIME MINISTER ABBASI MEETS U.S. VICE PRESIDENT PENCE

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi met US Vice President Mike Pence on the sidelines of the 72nd UNGA session in New York. The two leaders held discussions in a cordial atmosphere. Both sides discussed issues relating to bilateral relationship as well as peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. Prime Minister shared Pakistan’s concerns and views with regard to the US strategy for South Asia. Both sides agreed to work together to carry forward the relationship which has been a historic partnership for the last seven decades. It was agreed that the two countries would stay engaged with a constructive approach to achieve shared objectives of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region.
Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressed a luncheon gathering arranged in his honor by the U.S.-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) of the US Chamber of Commerce in New York. The Prime Minister enumerated economic achievements of Pakistan and shed light on the continuing financial reforms being pursued for better corporate governance, and attractive investment opportunities available for foreign investors. While addressing the participants, the Prime Minister said that US-Pakistan trade and economic partnership can be further expanded with renewed efforts in public and private sectors of both the countries. He expressed confidence that the USPBC would continue to play a facilitative role towards this objective.

ADDRESS AT THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (CFR)

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressed the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), in New York on the sidelines of the 72nd UNGA session. While highlighting the significant progress made by Pakistan in economic and security domains, Prime Minister reiterated that the Government and people of Pakistan remain fully committed to rid the country of the menace of terrorism and extremism. He added that the Government has successfully carried out indiscriminate counter-terrorism operations against the militants. He stressed that Pakistan’s great sacrifices in the war on terror need to be acknowledged by the world.

FOREIGN SECRETARY MEETS US UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AND OTHER SENIOR US OFFICIALS

Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua met US Under Secretary of State Thomas A. Shannon in New York. Discussions were held in a frank and cordial manner. The Foreign Secretary conveyed Pakistan’s viewpoint on the new US strategy for South Asia and emphasized that peace in Afghanistan is a high priority for Pakistan. She stressed that intra-Afghan dialogue is vital for bringing lasting peace to the country and the region. Pakistan would continue to play a facilitating role for a peaceful Afghanistan. On Pakistan-US relations, Foreign Secretary emphasized that Pakistan has always considered relations with the US as one of its most important relationships. Pakistan genuinely desires to build this relationship further to the mutual benefit of both countries based on mutual trust and respect. She told Amb. Thomas Shannon that though recent statements by the US had evoked strong public reaction in Pakistan, both countries, however, could work together to attain common objectives such as defeating Daesh in Afghanistan and the region. Both sides agreed to remain engaged at all levels in the coming days. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Pakistan’s Ambassador to the US also attended the meeting. In New York, Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua also met senior US officials Ms. Lisa Curtis, Senior Director at the National Security Council and Deputy Assistant to the President on South and Central Asia as well as Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.
A flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy to celebrate 70th Anniversary of Independence of Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry highlighted the proud journey of Pakistan since its independence. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador said that the people of Pakistan and United States shared common values of democracy, liberty, justice, and rule of law. He expressed confidence that the two countries will work together to further deepen their decades old ties. Under Secretary of State, Ambassador Thomas A. Shannon conveyed felicitations to the people of Pakistan on behalf of President Donald Trump and Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson. He emphasized that Pakistan and the U.S. share a long and enduring relationship. He acknowledged the tremendous sacrifices of people of Pakistan in fight against terrorism. After the national anthem of both the countries, messages from the President and Prime Minister to the nation were read out by Minister (Press) and Deputy Chief of Mission respectively. The event was attended by Acting Assistant Secretary of State Ambassador Alice Wells and Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense, David F. Helvey besides other officials of the Departments of State and Defence and representatives of the Pakistani diaspora.

On 13th August, the Embassy organised an 'Open House' event to celebrate Independence Day.
To commemorate 52nd Defence Day of Pakistan, the Embassy hosted a reception which was attended by senior US officials, members of the diplomatic corps, as well as Americans and Pakistani-American diaspora. Ambassador Aizaz A. Chaudhry lauded the services and sacrifices of the armed forces of Pakistan. Special documentaries highlighting the valor and courage of Pakistan’s armed forces were also screened for the audience.

Ambassador Aizaz A. Chaudhry met Congressman Peter J. Roskam (R-IL) during his visit to Chicago. He briefed him on Pakistan’s significant and hard-earned gains in counter-terrorism operations in FATA as well as the economic progress being achieved in the country as a result of prudent macro-economic policies and improved security situation.

During his visit to Chicago, Ambassador Chaudhry met Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-IL) at a dinner hosted by the Consul General of Pakistan, Chicago. Ambassador exchanged views with Congressman Davis on various issues related to Pakistan-US ties.

Congressman Tom Garret (R-VA) met Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry when he accompanied a business delegation to the Embassy. The delegation discussed ways & means for improving economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry met Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) during his visit to Chicago. He briefed her about Pakistan-US relations. He also presented her delectable Pakistani mangoes – a unique savory delight of Pakistan.
PKISTAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (PABA) DELEGATION CALLS ON THE AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry met with a Pakistan American Business Association (PABA) delegation. M. Siddique Sheikh, Chairman and Founder of PABA led the delegation. He was accompanied by Congressman Tom Garrett (R-VA), Member House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Debbie Jones, President of Prince William Chambers of Commerce & Industry, and prominent businessmen and government officials. Ambassador Chaudhry strongly urged American businessmen and entrepreneurs to explore the countless investment opportunities in Pakistan. During the meeting, PABA delegation discussed various proposals including organizing an international Business Convention in 2018, visa facilitation for business community and greater connectivity between banking channels of both the countries.

AMBASSADOR INVITES U.S. MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN PAKISTAN

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry hosted a luncheon for representatives of US multinational companies (MNCs). He invited them to take advantage of favorable investment climate in Pakistan. Ambassador highlighted business opportunities created as a result of Pakistan’s economic turnaround during the last four years. He stressed the need to bring US travel advisory in consonance with positive reality of today’s Pakistan. President of The Potomac Exchange, Mrs. Katherine Moss, thanked the Ambassador for his participation and stated that business community was delighted to know about Pakistan’s improved economic and security situation. She added that members were looking forward to benefitting from new investment opportunities in Pakistan. The Potomac Exchange is a Washington, DC based business forum which facilitates meaningful dialogue between US businesses and foreign missions in the United States.

AMBASSADOR MEETS PAKISTAN DELEGATION VISITING THE US PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO) TO ATTEND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS WORKSHOP

AMBASSADOR MEETS UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) DELEGATION

William Hammink, Senior International Development Executive, USAID accompanied by Diane Ray, Acting Deputy Assistant called on Ambassador Aizaz A. Chaudhry. They discussed various ongoing USAID programs in Pakistan.

DELEGATION OF PAKISTANI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) PROFESSIONALS VISITS THE EMBASSY

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry met a 16-member delegation of Pakistani IT professionals. The delegation was in the US to participate in Microsoft’s Global Partner event "Inspire". Talking to the delegation Ambassador said that Pakistan was an emerging market and there was tremendous potential for promoting our IT sector at the international level. Ambassador Chaudhry emphasized that our IT firms and professionals must explore new export opportunities & forge investment links with US IT firms.

DIRECTOR OF GILEAD SCIENCES CALLS ON AMBASSADOR

Claudio Lilienfeld, Director of Gilead Sciences called on Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry to brief him about company’s operations in Pakistan. Ambassador commended Gilead’s work and offered support in facilitating the company’s activities in the country.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR US-PAKISTAN WOMEN COUNCIL (USPWC) CALLS ON AMBASSADOR

Ms. Charity Boyette, Executive Director US Pakistan Women Council (USPWC) called on Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry. They discussed different projects and initiatives taken by USPWC and its partners to increase women’s access to employment opportunities.
Ambassador Aizaz A. Chaudhry addressed at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). He briefed the audience on Pakistan’s economic turnaround and successes in its fight against terrorism. He also shared Pakistan’s perspective on key issues and developments in the region. Ambassador said that Pakistan would continue to support an inclusive political reconciliation process in Afghanistan as this is the only viable path towards obtaining lasting peace in the region. Ambassador Chaudhry reaffirmed that Pakistan was ready to work with the United States as a partner for achieving peace and security in the region.

AMBASSADOR HOSTS MEMBERS OF THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL (WAC), WASHINGTON, DC

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry hosted a dinner for members of the World Affairs Council as part of WAC’s “Embassy Series”. Former Congressman Jim Moran presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ambassador Chaudhry on behalf of the World Affairs Council.

PRESIDENT, ASIA FOUNDATION CALLS ON THE AMBASSADOR

Mr. David Arnold, President of the Asia Foundation, called on the Ambassador. He briefed him about the activities of the Foundation in Pakistan, where it has been working since 1954. Ambassador thanked the Foundation for its commendable work in Pakistan, particularly its book donation program which has been widely acknowledged.

SENATOR MUSHAHD HUSSAIN, CHAIRMAN OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE SPEAKS AT THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL
MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Chairman Washington Times, Thomas P. McDevitt paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Aizaz A. Chaudhry.

THE BOSTON GLOBE EDITORIAL BOARD

Ambassador Aizaz A. Chaudhry exchanged views with members of The Boston Globe Editorial Board during his visit to Boston, Massachusetts.

VOICE OF AMERICA

Ambassador Aizaz A. Chaudhry gave an interview to Saqib ul Islam for Voice of America show “View 360”.

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

AMBASSADOR DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry delivered a keynote address on “Celebrating 70 years of Pakistan-U.S. Friendship” at the Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago. Ambassador Chaudhry briefed the students about Pakistan-US relations, Pakistan’s relations with its neighbors and geo-political importance of the country.

Right: Ambassador with Dr. Richard J. Helldobler, President and faculty members of Northeastern Illinois University

AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW & DIPLOMACY, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry address at his Alma Mater, Tufts University. He spoke on Pakistan-US relations and discussed “Security and Stability in South Asia”. Admiral James G. Stavridis, Dean of Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy welcomed Ambassador Chaudhry to the University.

Right: Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry with Richard H. Shultz, Professor of International Politics at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry spoke at the Northeastern University Department of Cultures, Societies & Global Studies. Professor Mai’a K. David Cross of the Political Sciences Department moderated the event.

AMBASSADOR SPEAKS AT PARDEE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES, BOSTON UNIVERSITY (BU)

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry with Professor Adil Najam, Dean of Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University (BU).

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry spoke about Pakistan-US relations at ‘Policy Leaders Series’ of Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University.
AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES AT AL-QALAM ACADEMY

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry was Guest of Honour at Al-Qalam Academy’s annual dinner held in Springfield, Virginia. Ambassador appreciated the role of Al-Qalam Academy in imparting modern education along with Islamic teachings. Ambassador Chaudhry commended the management of the Academy for their commitment and passion for making it a technology-driven institute of modern learning.

AMBASSADOR MEETS “SUMMER SISTERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM” DELEGATION

A delegation of young Pakistani female students, sponsored by the Summer Sisters Program, called on Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. Under the Summer Sisters Program, the US-Pakistan Women’s Council helps lower-to-middle income Pakistani high school girls explore new education and career options in pre-college programs at top US Colleges and Universities. The Ambassador welcomed the students and appreciated Summers Sister Program for providing useful exposure to the young female students. He urged the students to work hard and do their part in connecting Pakistan with the rest of the world by promoting a positive image of the country.

DR. SUMERA HAQUE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY & JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CALLS ON AMBASSADOR

Dr. Sumera Haque, Senior Director, Clinical Operations George Washington University and Consultant, John Hopkins School of Medicine called on Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry. During the meeting, Dr. Haque discussed gender equality issues faced by women in developing countries and apprised the Ambassador of efforts made by her in this domain.

EMBASSY HOSTS PAKISTANI ROBOTICS TEAM

Deputy Chief of Mission, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh met with a Pakistani Robotics Team that won three out of six competitions held under First Global Challenge Competition. He praised them on their wonderful performance in bringing laurels to the country at this prestigious forum.

PRESIDENT CREATIVE ASSOCIATES CALLS ON THE AMBASSADOR

Leland Kruvant, President of Creative Associates called on Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry. He apprised him about his organization’s work in education sector in Pakistan.

EMBASSY HOSTS A DELEGATION OF PAKISTANI TEACHERS VISITING THE US

The Deputy Chief of Mission, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh hosted a delegation of Pakistani teachers visiting the US for an interactive session on bilateral relations.
AMBA SADOR ADDRESSES 31ST ANNUAL PAKISTAN FESTIVAL AT BULL RUN PARK, VIRGINIA

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry attended the 31st Annual Pakistan Festival, held at Bull Run Park, Virginia. Addressing a large gathering, he highlighted Pakistan’s remarkable transformation to a modern Muslim State. Ambassador urged Pakistani American community, particularly second generation young Pakistanis to play their role in the mainstream American polity with vigour and strength.

AMBA SADOR ATTENDS PAK DAY PARADE AT EDISON, NEW JERSEY

The Ambassador witnessed a Pakistan Day Parade held by Pakistani American community in Edison, New Jersey on August 20, 2017. Consul General New York, Raja Ali Ejaz was also present at the event, which was largely attended.

AMBA SADOR SPEAKS AT APPNA 40TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry attended the 33rd Pakistan Day Parade at Madison Avenue, New York. He congratulated the organizers and participants on 70 years of Pakistan’s independence. The Parade was widely attended and included national songs by popular singers, colorful and thematic floats, and food stalls. The Ambassador recognized the valuable role being played by the Pakistani diaspora as a bridge between Pakistan and the US. He expressed his confidence that Pakistan-American youth will contribute to further deepening of Pak-US friendship in the years ahead. An Independence Day cake was jointly cut by the Ambassador, Consul General and New York Police Department (NYPD) officers of Pakistani origin.

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry addressing the 40th APPNA Convention in Orlando, Florida

Embassy Consular Camp booth at the 40th APPNA Convention in Orlando, Florida

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry addressed the concluding ceremony of 40th APPNA (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent in North America) Convention in Orlando, Florida. He paid rich tribute to the pioneers of APPNA for their foresight & efforts in creating the impressive organization. He also highlighted Pakistan and the US’ shared values and hopes for peace, understanding and tolerance. Ambassador visited a special Consular Camp organized jointly by the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC and Consulate General, Houston during Annual Convention of APPNA to facilitate the community members.
AMBASSADOR MEETS PAKISTANI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

During his visit to Orlando, Florida, Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry met the Pakistani American community members at a separate event. He assured the community members of the full support of the Embassy as well as its Consulates regarding all issues pertaining to consular affairs.

CONSUL GENERAL CHICAGO AND PAK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY HOST AMBASSADOR

Consul General of Pakistan Mr. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, in collaboration with Pakistani-American Community of Chicago, hosted a dinner to welcome Ambassador Chaudhry on his first official visit to the Midwest region. Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-IL) also attended the event. Representatives of Attorney General of Illinois, Mayor of Chicago, Chancellor East West University, Chairman Central Asian Productivity United of North Illinois University and a large number of Pakistani-American community also attended the event. Ambassador presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Michael Blair, Director Sales at Community Tissue Services for playing a pivotal role in dispatching donation of skin grafts for the victims of a fuel tanker blast in Pakistan in June 2017.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS COMMUNITY EVENT IN FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Amb. Aizaz A. Chaudhry presented souvenirs & acknowledged the services of Barry Hoffman and Shahid Khan, Honorary Consuls General for Pakistan, at a community event in Framingham, Massachusetts.

SISTER CITIES: SIALKOT AND BOLINGBROOK, IL

Amb. Aizaz Chaudhry was in Bolingbrook, Illinois when Sialkot and Bolingbrook were declared Sister Cities on July 24, 2017.

AN EVENING WITH AMJAD ISLAM AMJAD & ANWAR MASOOD

Amb. Aizaz Chaudhry attended a Mushaira, organized by a local charity in Springfield, Virginia featuring renowned Pakistani poets Prof. Anwar Masood and Dr. Amjad Islam Amjad.

MISCELLANEOUS

EUROPEAN UNION (EU) SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHANISTAN CALLS ON AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin, EU’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, called on Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry. He briefed the Ambassador on EU’s position for bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan. Ambassador Chaudhry shared Pakistan’s perspective on the issue.

BISHOP JUAN CARLOS MENDEZ CALLS ON AMBASSADOR

Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez, founder of Churches in Action and a leader of the Los Angeles Interfaith Council called on Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry. During the meeting Ambassador Chaudhry and Bishop Mendez reiterated the need for Interfaith harmony.
Pakistan at 70:
Seventy years of Friendship
With the United States of America