MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ASAD M. KHAN

Dear friends,

It is my privilege to return to Washington D.C. as Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States of America. I served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan from 2017-19.

Friends,

The last two months (January-February) have seen a number of developments in Pakistan-U.S. relations as well as in South Asia. Between Pakistan and the United States, we have a renewed convergence of interests in achieving peace through a political settlement in Afghanistan. Pakistan is making sincere efforts to ensure the success of the ongoing negotiations between the U.S. and various Afghan factions. In this regard, I had useful meetings with the U.S. administration as well as with leadership of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Sen. Lindsey Graham visited Pakistan and also met the Foreign Minister, leading a bipartisan Congressional Delegation on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference (February 15-16).

In South Asia, you are well aware of India’s aggression against Pakistan last week, perpetrated after the Pulwama attack of February 14th when 40 Indian security personnel perished in an attack inside Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Pakistan’s response has been dignified and mature. Our armed forces bravely defended the nation’s frontiers and proved their capability to the world. The Government of Pakistan has consistently maintained that we desire peace and that resolution of all issues is only possible through dialogue. However, if we are attacked, we will respond in self-defense. I have been in close contact with the U.S. government officials on this subject and am also raising our concerns with U.S. Congress as well as briefing the Pakistani American community.

My focus will be on harnessing the economic and trade potential of the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship. To this end, I will be planning to host investment conferences with the help of our Consulates General across the U.S. I will be meeting corporate CEOs and will encourage them to invest in Pakistan. In line with the Government’s policy, I will also beseech the interest of the Pakistani American community to contribute to the national development agenda in Pakistan. I look forward to working with you all.

Dr. Asad M. Khan
Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States
FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS WITH US SECRETARY OF STATE

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke with US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo and apprised him of the violation of Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir by India and the sentiments of Pakistani government, parliament and the people. He added that Pakistan is desirous of peace in the region, but will not compromise on its territorial integrity. Secretary Pompeo encouraged India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and avoid escalation.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ON THE SIDELINES OF THE MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers led by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. Sen. Graham chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee and also serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Graham was joined by several members of the congress. Former Senators Joe Lieberman and Saxby Chambliss also joined the US lawmakers. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that close engagement between Pakistan and the United States had historically proved to be a factor for stability in South Asia. He stressed the importance of a broad-based and structured relationship for promoting the two countries’ shared interests. Sen. Graham appreciated Pakistan's support for peace in Afghanistan, noting that the progress made in last month’s Doha talks would not have been possible without Pakistan’s assistance. Recalling his recent visit to Pakistan, the Senator said that he had been impressed by the successes Pakistan had achieved in its fight against terrorism. He echoed the Foreign Minister’s desire for a strategic and comprehensive partnership between Pakistan and the United States and stressed upon establishing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

SENATOR GRAHAM MEETS FOREIGN MINISTER IN ISLAMABAD

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi hosted US Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and senior member of Armed Services, Appropriations and Budget Committees. Foreign Minister apprised him of Government’s priorities on the external and internal fronts. Foreign Minister informed Senator Graham about Pakistan’s efforts for reconciliation in Afghanistan and regional peace. Reiterating the need for a positive engagement with the Capitol Hill, Foreign Minister underscored the need for broadening the discussions to deepen cooperation on bilateral trade, investment and people to people contacts. Senator Graham conveyed the well wishes of the US leadership to the Government and people of Pakistan. He said that US was appreciative of Pakistan’s sincere efforts to facilitate the Afghan reconciliation process. Senator Graham maintained that Pakistan remains an important country for the United States. He promised to campaign for strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Pakistan which would lay the foundation of strong, mutually beneficial and a sustaining relationship.

US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHAN RECONCILIATION HOLDS DELEGATION LEVEL TALKS WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IN ISLAMABAD

US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad held a delegation level meeting with the Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua to discuss developments in the Afghan reconciliation process. Ambassador Khalilzad was accompanied by an interagency delegation representing Departments of Defence, State and National Security Council. Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua was assisted by senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. Ambassador Khalilzad briefed the Pakistan side on his recent engagements in the region. He lauded Pakistan’s efforts in facilitating direct talks between Taliban and the US in Abu Dhabi last month. Foreign Secretary reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to facilitate Afghan reconciliation process to realize the shared goal of peace and stability in the region.
US AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER

US Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom, Ambassador Samuel Dale Brownback called on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to international cooperation on the issues of religious freedom. He expressed concern over Pakistan’s designation as a Country of Particular Concern by the US State Department and highlighted that the designation did not appear to be in sync with the ground reality. He highlighted that Pakistan-led initiatives to combat religious intolerance and promote interfaith harmony have been endorsed by the UNGA and Human Rights Council. The two sides agreed to work together to devise a strategy to get Pakistan out of the list of Countries of Particular Concern. The Foreign Minister drew attention of Ambassador Brownback to the systematic persecution and suppression of fundamental rights including religious freedom of the Kashmiri people at the hands of Indian forces. He urged Ambassador Brownback to take notice of egregious violations of human rights and religious freedom of minorities in India and the people in the Indian Occupied Kashmir.

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH AMBASSADOR DAVID HALE, US UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

As part of his introductory calls, Ambassador Asad M. Khan met with Ambassador David Hale, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Ambassador conveyed Pakistan’s desire to strengthen bilateral ties with the renewed convergence on Afghanistan. Welcoming Ambassador Khan, Ambassador Hale said he looked forward to working with him.

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS

Ambassador Asad M. Khan met with Alice Wells, principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs as part of his introductory outreach. The two sides discussed Pak-US relations, as well as the latest developments in the political reconciliation process in Afghanistan. They also discussed recent tensions in South Asia.

AMBASSADOR MEETS US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHAN RECONCILIATION

Ambassador Asad M. Khan met U.S. Special Representative on Afghan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad. They exchanged views on the ongoing efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Ambassador Khan reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to facilitate the reconciliation process and said that both Pakistan and the U.S. shared a common desire to achieve lasting peace in Afghanistan. Ambassador Khalilzad appreciated Pakistan’s support and said that there was good progress during the last four to five months. However, the process is still continuing and all sides need to be fully on board for it to succeed.
MEETINGS WITH US ADMINISTRATION

AMBASSADOR MEETS US AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sam Brownback US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom called on Ambassador Asad M. Khan. Both discussed ways in which Pakistan and the US could collaborate in future to advance common goals and objectives to advance interfaith dialogue and religious freedom.

Right: Ambassador Asad M. Khan shaking hands with Ambassador Sam Brownback

CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

Ambassador Asad M. Khan met Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee, Co-Chair of US Congressional Pakistan Caucus. Ambassador Khan briefed her on the evolving peace & security situation in South Asia in the wake of Indian aggression against Pakistan and our efforts to support peace process in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Asad M. Khan called on Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), member House Foreign Affairs Committee and Chair of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and briefed him on Pakistan-US relations and the situation in South Asia.

Ambassador Asad M. Khan met with Congressman Al Green (D-TX), member Congressional Pakistan Caucus and briefed him on Pakistan-US relations.

Ambassador Asad M. Khan spoke on the phone with Rep. Eliot Engel, Chairman House Foreign Affairs Committee and briefed him on the latest situation between Pakistan and India. Rep. Engel appreciated steps taken by Pakistan to de-escalate tensions in the region.

TRADE ECONOMY & INVESTMENT

UNITED STATES BUSINESS COUNCIL(USPBC) HOSTS AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Asad M. Khan visited US Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) and briefed its member companies on the numerous trade and investment opportunities available in Pakistan. Prominent participating companies included Cargill, Exxon Mobil, PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble, Motorola Solutions and others.
MEDIA OUTREACH

INTERACTION WITH US AND FOREIGN MEDIA

Ambassador Asad M. Khan briefed US and international media representatives at the Embassy of Pakistan. During the briefing, Ambassador covered a range of issues including deteriorating peace and security situation in the South Asian region.

MEET AND GREET WITH DC-BASED PAKISTANI MEDIA

Ambassador Asad M. Khan with DC-based Pakistani journalists after the ‘Meet & Greet’ event.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY OF MARYLAND HOSTS A RECEPTION IN HONOR OF AMBASSADOR

The South Asian Community of Maryland hosted a reception in the honour of Ambassador Asad M. Khan. In his address, Ambassador said Pakistan attaches highest importance to its relationship with the US and is keen on further enhancing Pak-US ties. He informed that both Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Trump are on the same page in their desire to achieve peace in Afghanistan.

Reiterating Pakistan’s desire for peace in the region he said that Pakistan was pursuing a policy of peaceful neighborhood. Representatives of the Sikh American community, who were also present on the occasion, welcomed Ambassador Asad M. Khan and thanked the Government of Pakistan for opening the Kartarpur corridor.

Ambassador Khan gave an overview of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision to build a New Pakistan, with a focus on human and social development.

The Ambassador particularly lauded the services of the Pakistani-American community in the U.S. and asked them to continue to play an active role in building better relations between the two countries.

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

UGRAD DELEGATION VISITS EMBASSY

Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Charge d’ Affaires hosted 135 Pakistani students participating in Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD). During the interactive discussion, the students had a constructive exchange of views on various facets of Pakistan-US relations.

Right: Charge D’Affaires with visiting UGRAD delegation.
AMBASSADOR HOLDS A VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH PAKISTAN CONSUL GENERALS IN THE US

To express solidarity and unity with the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir, a seminar to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day was organized at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC. A special video message by His Excellency Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir was screened, emphasizing the importance of a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Charter and UN Security Council resolutions. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Asad M. Khan said that Pakistan will continue to extend its unflinching moral, diplomatic and political support to the cause of self-determination of the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the international community, specifically the United States, to play its due role in resolving this longstanding dispute. He further called upon the US Administration to exercise its diplomatic clout in pressurizing the Government of India to put an end to reign of terror and genocide in Indian occupied Kashmir and fulfill its international obligations under international law. The panel of eminent guest speakers included Dr. Karen Elizabeth Parker – President, Association of Humanitarian Lawyers and IED delegate to the United Nations, Ambassador Touqir Hussain – former Ambassador and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, Rizwan Kadir – Director, The Kashmir Society, Dr. Imtiaz Khan – Professor at School of Medicine & Health Services at George Washington University and Sardar Zulfiqar Khan – prominent Kashmiri American leader. Each speaker discussed at length various facets of the Kashmir issue. They voiced deep concerns over the gross human rights violations being committed by Indian Security forces in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and paid rich tribute to the courageous people of Kashmir, who remained steadfast in their resolve to free themselves from brutal Indian occupation.

AMBASSADOR HOLDS A VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH PAKISTAN CONSUL GENERALS IN THE US


Ambassador Asad M. Khan, Abdul Jabbar Memon, Consul General of Pakistan in Los Angeles, Javed Ahmed Umrami Consul General of Pakistan in Chicago, Aisha Farooqui Consul General of Pakistan in Houston and Naem Iqbal Cheema, Acting Consul General in New York. Ambassador Asad M. Khan held video conference calls with all four Consul Generals of Pakistan in the U.S. Discussions revolved around community outreach and efficient consular service delivery. Ambassador conveyed instructions to all Consul Generals to organize Investment Conferences in their respective regions to sensitize potential investors about business opportunities in Pakistan. Ambassador informed that he would be paying official visits to each outpost where he would like to meet with corporate CEOs to apprise them about investment opportunities in Pakistan. He will also meet prominent community members in each region to share with them priorities of the current Government and brief them about Pakistan-U.S. relations.
CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMAD BIN SALMAN BRINGS INVESTMENT TO PAKISTAN

Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman visited Pakistan where he plans on investing $20 billion. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed memorandums of understanding in the energy and agriculture sectors, including one for a $10 billion oil refinery in southwestern city of Gwadar. Saudi Arabia also signed a pact to provide Pakistan with crude oil and petroleum products on delayed payments to meet its energy needs.

Right: Prime Minister Imran Khan with Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman

PAKISTAN BANAO CERTIFICATE

Pakistan launches "Pakistan Banao" (Make Pakistan) Certificate (PBC); a new investment certificate for overseas citizens. Overseas Pakistanis can earn a profit up to 6.75 percent on their investments by purchasing PBC in dollars. Overseas Pakistanis can register themselves through an online portal at https://www.pakistanbanaocertificates.gov.pk/index.

THE BRITISH BACKPACKER SOCIETY RANKS PAKISTAN AS THE #1 ADVENTURE TRAVEL DESTINATION

The British Backpacker Society ranked Pakistan as the #1 adventure travel destination for 2018. Co-founder of the British Backpacker Society said Pakistan was chosen in top spot, because it was "home to some of the world's friendliest and most hospitable people, and offers some of the world's most dramatic mountain scenery." The country's Karakoram Highway was probably the most special road trip on the globe. "It links Islamabad with the mythical Hunza Valley ... through peaks, valleys and glaciers so dramatic that your camera will inevitably run out of film. If you love mountains, there is just nowhere on earth like it!"

PAKISTAN CITIZEN PORTAL APP WINS AT DUBAI'S WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT 2019

Pakistan Citizen Portal app won second prize at Dubai's World Government Summit 2019 in the 'Best Citizen Service Delivery Competition'. The summit was attended by prominent government and industry leaders from around the world.
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