MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ASAD M. KHAN

April has been a very busy and productive month for us. We had the opportunity to host a high-level delegation led by Finance Minister Asad Umar who visited DC to attend the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings 2019. On the sidelines of the Spring Meetings, Finance Minister held several interactions with senior World Bank and IMF officials. At the U.S.-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC), Finance Minister had the opportunity to highlight Pakistan’s increasingly business-friendly policies garnering great interest from major US investors. The Embassy hosted an event where the Finance Minister addressed the Pakistani-American community. Before leaving for Pakistan, the Minister also held meetings with prominent businessmen and investors in New York.

Another high-level visit that took place in April was of Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar. Besides meetings with U.S. Senators and Congressmen, the Governor also attended events organized by leading Pakistani-Americans of D.C., Maryland and Virginia (DMV) area, held in his honor.

My outreach efforts at the congressional level continue in full swing. I have also held regular meetings with senior U.S. government officials. On the US Side, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and Ambassador Alice Wells visited Islamabad where they held useful discussion with senior officials in Pakistan.

This month I had the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles where I met several California-based Congressmen, prominent business executives and IT professionals, members of Pakistani-American community on the West Coast. During visits to University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and University of Southern California (USC) I was pleased to meet with Pakistani-American students.

My media engagements with U.S. media and DC based Pakistani media were also consistent during this month. I met with editorial boards of Reuters and LA Times to ensure that Pakistan’s stance on important subjects, particularly regional security, is heard loud and clear.

The Embassy, as always, continues to make sincere efforts in promoting the spirit of interfaith harmony. As you all know, our Christian brethren celebrate Easter in the month of April and to celebrate the occasion, we hosted a special ceremony for our Christian compatriots.

By the time you have this News Letter in your inbox, the Holy Month of Ramadan would have started with all its blessings. I would like to convey my sincerest wishes and prayers for all Muslims in USA and the World at large, for a blessed month.

Dr. Asad M. Khan
Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States
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Finance Minister Asad Umar visited Washington, DC where he participated in the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings 2019 and attended a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines.

The Finance Minister Asad Umar met with the new World Bank President David Malpass and apprised him of the macroeconomic situation in the country. Mr. Malpass appreciated the reform process in the country and assured continued World Bank support.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with President Asian Development Bank, Takehiko Nakao and apprised him of the current macroeconomic situation in the country. The Finance Minister and Mr. Nakao discussed continuation of Pakistan’s ongoing engagement with the Asian Development Bank.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with Mr. David Lipton, First DMD, IMF and discussed ongoing negotiations with IMF.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with the World Bank team led by Hartwig Schafer, Vice President for South Asian Region. They discussed pipeline projects as well as the sectors where World Bank could further scale up its interventions in Pakistan.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Al-Jadaan on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings 2019. Mr. Al-Jadaan apprised the Finance Minister of increasing growth momentum of Saudi economy and potential employment opportunities for Pakistani construction workers in Saudi Arabia.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with Philippe Le Houerou, CEO, IFC.

Finance Minister Asad Umar in a meeting with Jihad Azour, Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Al-Jadaan on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings 2019. Mr. Al-Jadaan apprised the Finance Minister of increasing growth momentum of Saudi economy and potential employment opportunities for Pakistani construction workers in Saudi Arabia.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with Mathew Rycroft, Permanent Secretary, Department for International Development (DFID).

Finance Minister Asad Umar had a detailed meeting with a team of World Bank’s Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Finance Minister had a Meet & Greet session with the IMF, World Bank and IFC staff members.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with his counterparts from Afghanistan and Tajikistan and discussed regional connectivity.

Finance Minister Asad Umar met with Queen Maxima of Netherlands.
FINANCE MINISTER VISITS WASHINGTON DC

FINANCE MINISTER SPEAKS AT THE US-PAKISTAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (USPBC)

In a business roundtable with members of the US-Pakistan Business Council, Finance Minister Asad Umar highlighted the government’s focus on improving the ease of doing business in Pakistan. He said that the Prime Minister Imran Khan was personally monitoring the reform process in this regard. Members from PepsiCo, Coca Cola, Procter & Gamble, Uber and Facebook participated event. The companies expressed their strong interest in Pakistan’s market and shared their future plans as well as issues where they needed support from the government.

FINANCE MINISTER ADDRESSES PAKISTANI-AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

Finance Minister Asad Umar gave a roundup of his meetings with global financial institutions on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings 2019. He apprised the audience about the current macro-economic situation in the country. He also responded to questions from participants regarding the state of Pakistani economy and government plans for the future. Finance Minister encouraged the Pakistani-American diaspora to take advantage of new business opportunities and make massive investment in Pakistan.

GOVERNOR PUNJAB VISITS WASHINGTON DC

Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar visited Washington, DC where held meetings with members of the Congress. Discussions focused on strengthening Pak-US ties and the Government’s agenda for peace and security in South Asia. The Governor also highlighted Pakistan Government’s efforts for promoting religious tourism in the country. Ambassador Dr. Asad M Khan accompanied Governor Punjab during his Congressional meetings.

EMBASSY of THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN in Washington DC

FINANCE MINISTER WITH BUSINESS LEADERS AT THE US-Pakistan BusinessCouncil, Washington, DC

Finance Minister Asad Umar with Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan, Executive Director, Asia President, USPBC Esperanza Gomez Jelalian, and other officials.

Finance Minister Asad Umar addressed a large group of Pakistani-American businessmen and professionals at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC.

Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan at a community event in Virginia.

GOVERNOR PUNJAB with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) at Capitol Hill.

Governor Punjab with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) at Capitol Hill.

Governor Punjab with Senator Gary Peters (D-MI).

Governor Punjab with Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).
MEETINGS WITH SENATORS

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and updated him on bilateral relations and regional issues of common interest.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and had a good discussion on a range of issues, including Pakistan-US relations, Afghanistan and climate change-related challenges in South Asia.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan held a useful discussion on bilateral relations and the regional situation during a meeting with Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on South Asia.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan during a meeting with Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) deeply appreciated Senator’s concern for peace and stability in South Asia. They also discussed bilateral relations and the regional situation.

MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN), Member House Armed Services Committee. They discussed the regional situation in South Asia and Pakistan-US relations. Congressman Banks praised the Pakistani-American community of his constituency.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan called upon Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX), Ranking Member of House Armed Services and had an in-depth exchange on Pakistan-US relations as well as on the regional situation.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Congresswoman Susan Wild (D-PA) and had a very positive exchange of views on strengthening Pakistan-US relations.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA) in his home district of California.

In a meeting with Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA), Ambassador Asad M. Khan discussed the state of bilateral relations between Pakistan and the US and the regional security environment.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Congressman Jimmy Gomez (D-CA) in Los Angeles during which they discussed the latest in Pakistan-US relations.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) and discussed ways to strengthen Pak-US ties. Ambassador Khan briefed Rep. Bass on regional developments and thanked her for her close liaison with the Pakistani-American community of Southern California.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH). Ambassador Khan briefed Congressman Chabot on the latest situation with regard to Pakistan’s relations with the US and updated him on regional developments.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) in Los Angeles. They had a useful exchange of views on broadening Pak-US relations.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Congressman Mike Levin (D-CA) during his trip to Los Angeles, California.
TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN US SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL POMPEO AND FOREIGN MINISTER SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI

US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke by telephone and exchanged views on the current situation in the region. They also discussed bilateral issues. Both sides agreed that de-escalation was important for peace and stability in South Asia. Foreign Minister Qureshi said that Pakistan-US ties were important for promoting regional peace and stability. He appreciated US role and efforts in diffusing tensions in the region. He informed Secretary Pompeo about the de-escalatory measures taken by Pakistan including the handing over of the Indian pilot. He urged the US to play its role for resumption of dialogue between Pakistan and India to find solutions to all outstanding disputes.

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS VISITS PAKISTAN

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells visited Islamabad to review key items on the Pak-US bilateral agenda and to discuss regional security, including joint efforts to advance the Afghan peace process. Ambassador Wells met with the Finance Adviser to the Prime Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, Additional Secretary for Interior Tariq Sardar, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Hayat. She began her visit with a joint meeting with U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and an interagency delegation comprised of senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Pakistani military. Ambassador Wells and Ambassador Khalilzad also met with Chief of Army Staff General Bajwa.

PAKISTAN & US OFFICIALS DISCUSS AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS IN ISLAMABAD

US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Alice Wells met with the government’s interagency delegation led by Additional Secretary Americas Aftab Khokhar. Both sides discussed bilateral relations and the Afghan reconciliation process in today’s meetings. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and Khokhar highlighted the "need to intensify engagement" in matters pertaining to economy and trade.

AMBASSADOR MEETS CEO FOREVER 21

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met Mr. Do Won Chang, CEO Forever 21 and briefed him on business and investment opportunities in Pakistan.
THINK TANK EVENTS

AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES AT LOS ANGELES WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan addressed at Los Angeles World Affairs Council on Pakistan-US relations followed by an interesting Q&A session.

AMBASSADOR MEETS PRESIDENT OF RAND CORPORATION

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met Michael D. Rich President and CEO of RAND Corporation. Ambassador Khan interacted with RAND researchers including from Pakistan working on various development and security issues.

AMBASSADOR WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (GWU)

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan welcomed a group of students from George Washington University. Ambassador Khan briefed them on a range of issues including Pakistan-US relations, recent developments in South Asia and trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan.

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

EMBASSY HOSTS ROUNDTABLE WITH CHAIRMAN HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION (HEC)

The Embassy organized a roundtable discussion with Dr. Tariq Banuri, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC). Leading scholars and academicians from Pakistani-American community participated in the discussion. Chairman HEC Dr. Banuri apprised the participants about the objectives and goals set by HEC to improve the higher education environment in Pakistan. He also shared number of initiatives taken by the Commission in improving the quality of higher education particularly in the field of research. Ambassador Khan extended all possible help and cooperation in furthering the efforts of HEC with various educational institutions in the US.

AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UCLA)

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan spoke at the University of California (UCLA) Center for India & South Asia on peace and security environment in South Asia. Ambassador Khan also interacted with the Pakistan Student Association (PSA).

AMBASSADOR HOSTED BY PAKISTAN ARTS COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC)

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan was hosted for lunch by Pakistan Arts Council (USC) Board. During the visit, Ambassador Khan also visited Pakistan Arts Council of USC Pacific Asia Museum.
AMBASSADOR WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM LE MARS MIDDLE SCHOOL, LE MARS, IOWA

Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh interacted with a group of students from Le Mars Middle School, Iowa at the Chancery.

AMBASSADOR PRESIDES OVER PAKISTANI-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (PAPA) OATH CEREMONY

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan presided over an oath-taking ceremony of newly elected panel of Pakistani American Press Association (PAPA) and congratulated the new office bearers. The event was held in Washington, DC. (RIGHT)

EMBASSY WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM LE MARS MIDDLE SCHOOL, LE MARS, IOWA

Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Rizwan Sheikh participated in the Fulbright re-entry seminar in Nashville, Tennessee. Pakistan continues to be the largest recipient of US Fulbright Programme in the world.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION PARTICIPATES IN FULBRIGHT RE-ENTRY SEMINAR, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan welcomed a group of Pakistani law students participating in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2019, sponsored by the US Department of Justice.

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

PHILLIP C. JESSUP INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2019 PARTICIPANTS VISIT THE EMBASSY

AMBASSADOR'S EDITORIAL INTERACTION WITH REUTERS

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Editorial board members and senior journalists of Reuters at their Washington Bureau.

AMBASSADOR MEETS LOS ANGELES TIMES' EDITORIAL BOARD

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Editorial board of the Los Angeles Times.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AMBASSADOR MEETS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Ambassador Asad M. Khan had a wonderful evening with Council of Pakistan-American Affairs (COPA) Board Members in Los Angeles.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS THE CITIZEN FOUNDATION IN LA

Ambassador Asad M. Khan attended The Citizen Foundation (TCF) event in Los Angeles.

AMBASSADOR HOSTED BY COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN

AMBASSADOR WELCOMES NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY (NDU) DELEGATION

At the initiative of ‘All Neighbors International’, a Virginia-based community organization, and with the support of the Embassy of Pakistan, an Easter Celebration Dinner was held at the Embassy. In his remarks, Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan reflected on the spirit of Easter and stressed upon the importance of interfaith harmony. He highlighted the religious diversity and pluralism of Pakistan. Ambassador also reiterated the commitment of the leadership of Pakistan to protect and promote the rights of all citizens, including minorities.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan welcomed the National Defense University (NDU) delegation visiting USA at the Embassy of Pakistan and briefed them on the current state of Pakistan-US relations.
**PM IMRAN KHAN AMONG TIME’S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF 2019**

Prime Minister Imran Khan has been named among the ‘100 most influential people’ of 2019 by Time magazine. Pakistani journalist Ahmed Rashid writes for PM Imran Khan in Time’s 100 most influential people ‘he still generates the broadest hope among young and old that he can turn Pakistan around, and help make South Asia an ocean of peace rather than a state of permanent conflict.’


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**PM IMRAN KHAN EMERGES AS 9TH MOST POPULAR WORLD LEADER**

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry announced the government is introducing a "new revolutionary visa policy" to encourage tourism in the country. The government has decided to provide the e-visa facility to 175 countries and visa on arrival to 50 countries. Visa on arrival will also be provided to Indian-origin British and American citizens holding United States or United Kingdom passports.


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**5 PAKISTANIS AND A STARTUP MAKE IT TO FORBES 30 UNDER 30 ASIA 2019 LIST**

Five Pakistanis and a local startup have made it to the Forbes30 Under 30 Asia 2019 list of entrepreneurs and game-changers.

**Ahmed Rauf Essa, 27** co-founded Telemart, which Forbes describes as "one of the largest e-commerce platforms in Pakistan, while in business school at the age of 23".

**Karishma Ali, 21** of Chitral "is currently the only female football player from her hometown playing at the national club level", says Forbes. Ali has represented Pakistan at the Jubilee Games in Dubai and also founded the Chitral Women’s Sports Club.

**Laila Kasuri, 29** is currently a water analyst with Global Green Growth Investment’s Policy Solutions Division. Forbes said that she "has led research at organisations such as the World Bank, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences on climate-smart irrigation, flood risk reduction, and river basin planning".

**Zainab Bibi, 29** established the Pakistan Society for Green Energy in 2013 to develop new methods of renewable energy.

**Zain Ashraf Mughal, 28** founded Seed Out — a non-profit, non-religious and non-political crowdfunding platform — four years ago. It has raised over 600 entrepreneurs in four cities across Pakistan since then, with average funding of Rs90,000 per person.

**Roshni Rides** is a female-friendly carpooling platform for commuters based in Pakistan. The company was founded by Hanaa Lakhani, Gia Farooqi, Moneeb Mian and Hasan Usmani, four undergraduate business students at Rutgers Business School. The ride-sharing shuttle service beat out five other startup finalists and earned $1 million in funding at the 2017 Annual Hult Prize Competition.
FACEBOOK LAUNCHES INNOVATION LAB IN PAKISTAN

Facebook, in collaboration with the government and the National Technology Fund (Ignite), launched the first Facebook Innovation Lab in Pakistan. The Innovation Lab will focus on providing infrastructure access to developers, entrepreneurs and community groups, enabling them to network, train and grow their expertise.


VOLKSWAGEN PLANS $135MLN INVESTMENT IN AUTO PLANT IN PAKISTAN

German automaker Volkswagen has planned to invest $135 million to set up a plant for manufacturing and assembling of vehicles in Pakistan, in collaboration with a local partner. The plant would be set up in Balochistan. The plant would become operational in 2021 and would initially manufacture vans and double cabin vehicles.


PAKISTAN'S AISAMUL HAQ WINS HOUSTON DOUBLES TITLE

Pakistani tennis player, Aisamul Haq Qureshi along with Mexico’s Santiago Gonzalez won their first ATP Tour title as a team on Sunday. The duo defeated British brothers Ken Skupski and Neal Skupski 3-6, 6-4, 10-6 to win the Fayez Sarofim & Co US men’s clay court championship in Houston. This is Aisamul Haq’s 17th ATP title.

Photo: Tim Warner/Contributor Houston Chronicle