MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR DR. ASAD M. KHAN

May was a significant month for us. The Congressional Pakistan Caucus was formally announced and is now active. Our regular engagements on the Hill also continued. I had useful meetings with key U.S. Senators as well as members of U.S. House of Representatives. These interactions provided useful opportunities to brief the Senators and Congressmen on Pakistan-U.S. relations.

During my visit to Houston, Texas I had quite productive engagements. I interacted with several members of Congress based in Texas. I also spoke at the World Affairs Council of Houston and attended a luncheon with business leaders. A number of events hosted by the Pakistani American community organizations were also part of my visit.

To effectively communicate our viewpoint, we continued regular interactions with both U.S. media and Pakistani media based in the U.S.

Ramadan-related activities filled our social calendar in May. The Embassy maintained its annual tradition and hosted an Inter-faith Iftar event where faith leaders from several religions were in attendance. I also had the honor of attending Iftar events hosted by the White House and by Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland. This was in addition to Iftar events hosted by other embassies and prominent community members from D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area. Apart from being important social gatherings, these events radiated a collective message of peace, compassion and tolerance.

Earlier this month, just prior to Ramadan, the Embassy opened its doors to the general public for “Passport D.C.,” a day-long open house event, where Pakistan’s traditional culture, music, dance and food were showcased for the public.

In the next few weeks we will continue to reach out and maximize our engagement with various stakeholders.
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Ambassador Asad M. Khan met Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-NC). They discussed Pak-US relations & the regional situation. Ambassador Khan briefed Senator Graham on Pakistan’s efforts for supporting the U.S.-led Afghan peace process. They agreed that a strategic Pakistan-U.S. partnership was vital for long-term regional peace.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and had a useful discussion on Pakistan-US relations and the situation in South Asia.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) and discussed bilateral relations. Ambassador Khan briefed the Senator on opportunities for cooperation in Pakistan’s agriculture sector.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan called on Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. They had a useful exchange of views on bilateral relations and recent developments in South Asia.

In a meeting with Rep. John Curtis (R-UT), Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan apprised the congressman of the regional situation and exchanged views on the current state of Pakistan-US relations.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan had a meeting with Congressman Michael Waltz (R-FL), Member House Armed Services Committee. Amb. Khan appreciated Congressman Waltz’s deep understanding of the region and the issues it is facing.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL) and discussed ways to strengthen Pakistan-U.S. ties and developments in the region.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) and exchanged views on Pakistan’s relations with the U.S., particularly focusing on ways to promote bilateral trade and investment.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with Rep. Gregory Stanton (D-AZ) and talked to him about his experiences as Phoenix Mayor in dealing with water conservation, economic growth and infrastructure development issues.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV). Ambassador briefed her on the bilateral relationship, regional situation and other areas of mutual interest. Ambassador Khan thanked the congresswoman for her friendship with the Pakistani-American diaspora in the Las Vegas area.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan and Congressman Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) and had an in-depth exchange of views on a range of bilateral issues. They also discussed regional peace and security.

In a meeting with Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ), Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan thanked the congressman for looking after the large Pakistani-American community of his district in New Jersey.
CONGRESSIONAL PAKISTAN CAUCUS FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

The Congressional Pakistan Caucus for the 116th Congress was announced in Houston by its two Co-Chairs, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D) and Congressman Jim Banks (R) in the presence of Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan and a large number of community members.

Congresswoman Lee reiterated her continued commitment to strengthening Pakistan-US bilateral relations. As the founding Co-chair of Pakistan caucus over the years, she remarked that its revival for the 116th Congress was an important step forward with regard to expanding the scope of bilateral ties geared to improving lives and livelihoods of people in both countries. She also praised the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Congressman Jim Banks also extended his support and commitment towards a strong and effective Pakistan Caucus.

On this occasion, Ambassador Asad M. Khan expressed deep appreciation to Congresswoman Lee for her steadfast support to Pakistan over the last many years and "her commitment to a stronger partnership with Pakistan." He also welcomed Jim Banks as the Republican Co-chair of the Pakistan Caucus. The Ambassador assured both congressional representatives of a close working relationship aimed at building stronger linkages between the people as well as parliamentarians of both the countries.

EMBASSY OUTREACH

EMBASSY OPENS ITS DOORS FOR “PASSPORT DC: AROUND THE WORLD EMBASSY’ TOUR”

The Embassy of Pakistan opened its doors to the public during the annual “DC Passport : Around the World Embassy Tour”. Highlights of the Pakistan Pavillion at the event included cultural display of provinces of Pakistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir, folk dances, live music and mouthwatering cuisine. Stalls of traditional Pakistani dresses and henna & handicrafts drew attention of ladies & children in particular. Pakistan Embassy maintained the tradition established over the years, of attracting a large number of visitors at the event.
EMBASSY OUTREACH

EMBASSY HOSTS ANNUAL INTERFAITH IFTAR

To share the blessings of Ramadan and promote interfaith harmony and mutual understanding, the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC hosted its annual Interfaith Iftar Dinner. Eminent scholars representing Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism attended the iftar. The leaders of faith prayed in their respective languages, emphasizing the importance of interfaith harmony, peace and tolerance. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Asad M. Khan highlighted Pakistan’s multi-religious, multi-cultural and pluralistic society. He also gave an overview of the recent steps taken by the Government to promote religious harmony including preservation of religious heritage sites and opening of Kartarpur corridor. He said that recently announced revision of visa policy will help tremendously in promoting religious tourism in the country. Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee, Ambassador of Turkey H.E. Serdar Kılıç, members of the diplomatic corps, U.S. Administration officials, academia, media, opinion makers and Pakistani-American community attended the event.

AMBASSADOR HOSTS ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF PAKISTANI DESCENT OF NORTH AMERICA (APPNA) DELEGATION

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan hosted a delegation of Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) led by its President Dr. Naseem A. Shekmani, at the Embassy. Ambassador Khan shared with them views on Pakistan-U.S. relations. Appreciating the role APPNA has been playing in the field of healthcare in the US, Ambassador encouraged the Association and its members to continue contributing actively towards stronger Pakistan-US ties.
AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES AT THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF HOUSTON

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan addressed a large audience invited by the World Affairs Council (WAC) of Houston. He shared the Government’s perspective on “Pakistan Today and its Vital Role in South Asia and Beyond”. Ambassador Khan apprised the audience of the Government’s “Ehsaas and Kifalat” Program that will ensure provision of education and health to all as a fundamental right as envisaged in the Constitution of Pakistan. In his remarks, Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan stressed the need for better service delivery underpinned by more accountable governance. The newly implemented Citizens’ Portals will provide common citizens a platform for their voices to be heard at the highest level in the government.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PAKISTAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER HOUSTON (PAGH) HOSTS AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met a cross-section of Pakistani-American community from various parts of Texas at a ‘meet and greet’ event organized by the Pakistan Association of Greater Houston (PAGH). Addressing the gathering, Ambassador highlighted the concrete measures recently taken by the Government to facilitate tourism in the country. He said that the introduction of new visa regime is a significant step in this direction. Appreciating contribution made by overseas Pakistanis in country’s development over the decades, the Ambassador highlighted the government’s interest in facilitating the Pakistani diaspora. He urged them to take lead in exploring investment opportunities through joint ventures in Pakistan.
Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan welcomed a group of Pakistani-American community leaders at the Embassy. He briefed them on a range of issues covering Pakistan-US relations, situation in South Asia and consular support services of the Embassy.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan was hosted by Business Executives for National Security (BENS) in Houston. Ambassador Khan shared his thoughts and perspective on building a strong and mutually beneficial Pakistan-US partnership.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan spoke with Art Rascon of ABC 13 News and shared his views on Pakistan-US relations, political developments in the region and Pakistan's efforts against terrorism.

The interview can be accessed at https://abc13.com/society/pakistani-ambassador-to-the-united-states-visits-houston/5282921/

Left: Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan spoke to WTOP Radio's National Security correspondent, J.J. Green on Pakistan-US relations and Pakistan's tremendous efforts against terrorism.

The interview can be accessed at https://wtop.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/THE-HUNT-MAY-23-jgr-WEB.mp3?_=1
AMBASSADOR ATTENDS SPECIAL RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan attended special reception hosted by the Ambassador Stuart Holiday, President Meridian International Center to welcome newly arrived Ambassadors in DC. Ambassador Khan also met with former House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Ed Royce and David Bohigian, Acting President OPIC.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR’S FUNERAL

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan attended Senator Richard Lugar’s funeral in Indianapolis. A very large number of his family, friends & admirers gathered to celebrate his life and to pay him final respects. In his passing, US lost a great patriot & public servant and Pakistan, a good friend.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS IFTAR HOSTED BY TURKISH AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan attended an Iftar hosted by the Turkish Ambassador Serdar Kilic at Diyanet Center in Maryland. In his remarks, he appreciated the architecture of the Center and its role it’s playing in the service to the Muslim Community.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS IFTAR HOSTED BY GOVERNER OF MARYLAND

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan joined Governer Larry Hogan at the Governor’s Iftar for the Muslim community of Maryland. He met various faith leaders and a large number of members of the Pakistani-American community of Maryland on the occasion.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS WHITE HOUSE IFTAR DINNER

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan attended the White House Iftar dinner where he met with Kellyanne Conway, Counselor to the US President.

AMBASSADOR MEETS LITERARY ICON BAPSI SIDHWA

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Bapsi Sidhwa, a literary icon from Pakistan. Ms. Sidhwa presented Ambassador with a signed copy of her book ‘The Crow Eaters’. Bapsi Sidhwa is the author of four novels and one of Pakistan’s most prominent English fiction writers.
PEPSICO TO MAKE $1 BILLION INVESTMENT IN PAKISTAN DURING FIVE YEARS: CEO

Lauding the Pakistani government for focusing on the ease of doing business indicator, PepsiCo Chief Executive Officer for Asia, Middle East and North Africa (AMENA) Mike Spanos said that the company has planned to make an investment of US one billion dollars in Pakistan during next five years. Mr. Spanos added that Pakistan has a large population majority of which is young, and PepsiCo sees growing socio-economic conditions for the population which is a great business environment and an opportunity for foreign direct investment.

https://fp.brecorder.com/2019/05/20190516474773/

PAKISTAN RANKED 3RD BEST IN HYDEL POWER GROWTH

Pakistan has been placed at third position by the United Kingdom-based renowned organisation — International Hydropower Association (IHA) — in its recently issued report titled “2019: Hydropower Status Report — Sector Trends and Insights”. According to IHA report while listing down top 20 countries by newly installed capacity states that Pakistan managed to add 2,487MW of hydel electricity in 2018 following China and Brazil at the first and second rung that added 8,540MW and 3,866MW to their systems respectively.


PAKISTAN SUSTAINS UPGRADED STATUS IN MSCI EMERGING MARKET INDEX

Pakistan has retained its May 2017’s upgraded status in Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Emerging Market Index as it successfully averted a likely downgrading to Frontier Market Index. All three Pakistani large and mid-cap stocks ie Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDC), MCB Bank (MCB) and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) continued to remain part of the MSCI Global Standard Indexes.


PAKISTANI WOMAN SCIENTIST ASMA ZAHEER HONOURED WITH IBM’S HIGHEST AWARD

Pakistani computer scientist Asma Zaheer has been honoured with IBM’s highest prestigious award “Best of IBM 2019”. Ms. Zaheer is the first Pakistani Computer Scientist who has been awarded with this highest prestigious award of the company.

https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/475699-pakistani
PAKISTANI PEACEKEEPER POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED UN MEDAL FOR 'SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE LINE OF DUTY'

Pakistani peacekeeper Naik Naeem Raza, who served the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and was martyred last year, was on Saturday posthumously awarded a UN medal by Secretary General António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres for his supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Raza had embraced martyrdom during an ambush on a UN Convoy in January 2018. The posthumous award is a Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, which was received by Pakistan’s Ambassador to the UN, Maleeha Lodhi during a ceremony held at UN Headquarters in New York to commemorate the International Day of Peacekeepers. Ambassador Lodhi said the act was recognition of the “sacrifice, dedication and professionalism of Pakistan’s peacekeepers”.


REASONS TO VISIT PAKISTAN

Beautiful Landscape
Food Lover's Paradise
Magnificent Architecture

Cultural Diversity
Plentiful Sports and Activities
Treasure Chest of World History

Beautiful Handicrafts
Truck Art
Amazing hospitality