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MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Dear friends,

We are just one month into the new year and we have already witnessed two high-level engagements in the Pakistan-U.S. relationship. Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Donald Trump met in Davos – their third meeting in the last six months. They had an excellent discussion on bilateral matters and the regional situation. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi also visited Washington on January 16-17. He met Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and National Security Advisor Amb. Robert O’ Brien. He also had productive meetings on the Hill, including the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Congressional Pakistan Caucus.

From the U.S. side, Amb. Zalmay Khalilzad visited Pakistan to share the progress made in peace talks on Afghanistan. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Amb. Alice Wells also paid a visit to Pakistan and met the Pakistani leadership to discuss progress on bilateral cooperation.

These exchanges have laid a solid foundation for the rest of the year and we anticipate the positive trajectory of the relationship to continue.

My own engagements and interactions with the U.S. government officials, think-tanks and media continued throughout the month. I had the honor of ringing the bell at NASDAQ stock exchange. We are pursuing the promotion of tourism in Pakistan as well as building people to people linkages between Pakistan and the U.S.

I wish you all a very happy and productive 2020!!!
Prime Minister Imran met President Donald Trump on January 21, 2020 in Davos, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. This was Prime Minister’s first engagement after arrival in Davos, where both leaders participated in the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The Prime Minister and President Trump agreed to further strengthening the bilateral relationship especially with respect to enhancing bilateral trade and investments. President Trump hailed the growing relationship between the United States and Pakistan.

Both sides discussed the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The Prime Minister underscored the need for sustained U.S. role to help resolve the festering dispute of Jammu and Kashmir. President Trump reiterated his willingness to work on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and help ease tension between Pakistan and India.

The two sides exchanged views on the way forward regarding the Afghan peace and reconciliation process.

Discussing the evolving situation in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, the Prime Minister apprised President Trump of Pakistan’s efforts for de-escalation in the region. He also emphasized that all sides should exercise maximum restraint and utilize diplomatic means to reduce tensions and resolve issues.
Prime Minister Imran Khan gave a detailed interview to CNBC’s Hadley Gamble at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Click here for more information.

Prime Minister Imran Khan Speaks to Jonathan Tepperman of Foreign Policy Magazine

Click here for more information.
FOREIGN MINISTER’S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S.

Foreign Minister Arrives In Washington, DC

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Washington DC on 16-17 January 2020. The Foreign Minister met with senior Administration officials, members of the U.S. Congress, media, think tanks and the Pakistani Diaspora. Foreign Minister focused on Pakistan’s diplomatic outreach, which has been undertaken on the direction of Prime Minister Imran Khan in the wake of the recent tensions in the Middle East/Gulf Region. The objective was to support efforts for de-escalation and resolution of differences and disputes through political and diplomatic means.

The Foreign Minister, while reviewing full spectrum of bilateral relationship, underscored the value Pakistan attaches to a broad-based, long-term and enduring partnership with the U.S in line with the vision of the leaders of the two countries.

The Foreign Minister briefed his interlocutors on the prevailing situation in IOJ&K, especially the prolonged sufferings of the Kashmir is caused by India’s unilateral and illegal actions of w.e.f. August 2019.

The Foreign Minister also highlighted Pakistan’s role and continued resolve to support the Afghan peace and reconciliation process.
Foreign Minister Meets U.S. Secretary Of State

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo in Washington, DC on 17 January 2020. They held wide-ranging talks on bilateral ties and regional issues.

Foreign Minister said that close engagement between Pakistan and the United States had always been mutually beneficial and a factor for stability in South Asia. He stressed that a more robust trade and investment relationship is key to achieving President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Imran Khan’s shared vision for a long term and enduring partnership.

Foreign Minister apprised Secretary Pompeo of the grave humanitarian situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that peace in South Asia would remain elusive until India agrees to the resolution of the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir according to United Nations resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Foreign Minister said that the convergence between Pakistan and the United States had created a unique opportunity for peace in Afghanistan. Highlighting Pakistan’s efforts for the Afghan reconciliation process, Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored that peace in Afghanistan was ultimately a shared responsibility.

Secretary Pompeo appreciated Pakistan’s support for political reconciliation in Afghanistan and its efforts for peace in the neighborhood.

Click here for more information.
Foreign Minister Meets U.S. National Security Advisor


The Foreign Minister apprised the National Security Advisor about Pakistan’s efforts for peace and stability in the region. He also briefed NSA O’ Brien on the grave human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan’s support for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Amb. O’ Brien appreciated Pakistan’s efforts for maintaining peace in the Middle East and South Asia. He also acknowledged Pakistan’s contribution to efforts for achieving a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan.

[Click here for more information]
Foreign Minister Meets The Leadership Of The Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met the leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at Capitol Hill on 16 Jan 2020. Republican Senator Jim Risch and Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, welcomed the Foreign Minister.

Click here for more information.

Foreign Minister Meets Senior Republican Senator, Lindsey Graham


Click here for more information.
Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the Pakistan House on 17 January 2020. Foreign Minister said that Pakistan attached importance to its relations with the United States, and wanted to further strengthen and broaden the two countries’ strategic partnership.

Click here for more information.
The Pakistan Caucus of the U.S. Congress hosted Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at Capitol Hill on January 16. The event was attended by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Co-Chair, Congressional Pakistan Caucus, Congressman Thomas Suozzi Democratic Co-Chair and Congressman Jim Banks, Republican Co-Chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, as well as other members of the Caucus.

Click here for more information.
Foreign Minister Meets Chairman House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep Elliot Engel

Chairman House Foreign Affairs Committee Elliot Engel met with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on the occasion of the Pakistan-U.S. Congressional Caucus Meeting held on January 16.

U.S. Under Secretary Of Defense Calls On Foreign Minister

U.S. Under Secretary of Defense, John Rood called on Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on 16 Jan 2020 at the Pakistan House. During the meeting, Foreign Minister and the Under Secretary discussed various aspects of Pakistan-U.S. defense cooperation as well as the evolving regional situation. The Under Secretary briefed the Foreign Minister about the ongoing defense related cooperation between the two countries.

Click here for more information.
The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) hosted Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi for a conversation titled “Reframing the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Relationship” on 16 Jan 2020.

Click here for more information.
Foreign Minister’s Exclusive Interview On Fox News ‘The Story With Martha MacCullum’

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Quereshi appeared live on the FOX news show ‘The Story with Martha MacCullum’. The Foreign Minister weighed in on tensions between the U.S. and Iran. 
Click here for more information.

Click here for more information.
Foreign Ministers Holds An Interactive Session With U.S. And International Media

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi interacted with editors and senior correspondents from the U.S. and international media at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC on 17 January 2020.

Foreign Minister Briefs Washington-Based Pakistani Media

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi departed the U.S. on January 17, 2020 upon completion of his official visit to Washington, DC. He was seen-off by Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan.
FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS NEW YORK

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Secretary General UN António Guterres in New York on 15 Jan 2020.

Briefing the Secretary General on the grave situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Foreign Minister said that eight million Kashmiris continue to be placed under indefinite curfew, lockdown and communications blackout for over 150 days.

Foreign Minister also welcomed consideration of the issue of Jammu & Kashmir by the Security Council a second time in the last five months which reaffirmed its disputed status as per the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

While acknowledging the Secretary General’s statement of 8 August 2019, Foreign Minister underlined the urgent need for the United Nations to act decisively by taking immediate steps to halt these dangerous policies, discourage India from provoking a conflict with Pakistan and avert humanitarian catastrophe and growing dangers to South Asian peace and stability.

Foreign Minister also briefed the Secretary-General on Pakistan’s ongoing efforts to defuse tensions in the region through proactive engagement with Iran, Saudi Arabia and the U.S.

Secretary General Guterres expressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in South Asia and Gulf region through political dialogue, diplomatic solutions and respect for human rights.

[Click here for more information](#).
Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan was invited to speak at the 10th Annual Session of the American Pakistan Foundation (APF) – a leading community organization working to empower the diaspora and strengthen Pak-U.S. relations. In his remarks, Ambassador Khan lauded the contributions of the Foundation on bringing together the community from all over the U.S. and harnessing the potential of the youth.

Group Photograph of the Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan with community members during official visit to Houston from 25-26 January 2020.
AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with young parliamentarians from Punjab Assembly Ch. Muneeb ul Haq and Hina Butt visiting the U.S. as part of the American Council of Young Political Leaders Exchange Programme at ACYPL. Stronger parliamentary linkages help strengthen Pakistan- U.S. relations.
MEDIA OUTREACH

Ambassador Speaks With Foreign Policy Magazine

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan in an off-the-record interaction with Mr. Ravi Agrawal, Managing Editor of the Foreign Policy at Chancery on 08 January 2020.

Ambassador Gives A Detailed Interview On AAJ TV ‘Washington Night Show’

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan was interviewed by Mr. Asim Siddiqui in his weekly program ‘Washington Night Show’ on AAJ TV on the occasion of New Year 2020.

Click here for more information.
“So, the United States should be engaged, and should exercise its moral authority in Kashmir, but to stop India and to help secure freedom for the people of Kashmir.

Real people are dying both in Kashmir, and now across India’s cities, because of India’s actions – actions motivated by an extremist, xenophobic, anti-Muslim ideology that seeks to realize a vision of a Greater India. Ultimately, standing by India in Kashmir means standing by that vision – and going against the core values of the United States.”

Click here for more information.
KASHMIR IN JANUARY 2020

Pakistan welcomes UN Security Council discussing the situation in Jammu & Kashmir again. An internationally recognized dispute, J&K remains on the Security Council’s agenda & its consideration by the Council reflects a recognition of the seriousness of the prevailing situation.

J&K dispute must be resolved in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions & the will of the Kashmiri people. We will continue to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people until they secure their inalienable right to self-determination.

Message of the Foreign Minister on Right to Self-Determination Day for People of Jammu and Kashmir

The United Nations, especially the Security Council, bear the responsibility to ensure fulfillment of the promise of granting the right to self-determination to the Kashmiris. India’s illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 are aimed at altering the disputed status of IOJ&K and bringing about demographic change to undermine the right to self-determination of Kashmiris have been widely rejected. India’s unrestrained oppression has reached unprecedented levels with the inhuman lockdown now in place for over 150 days.

Click here for more information.
Occupied J&K is an internationally recognized dispute that has been on the agenda of UNSC for 7 decades. Today's discussions have once again reaffirmed its Int'l dispute status and the urgency to resolve it in accordance with UNSC resolutions & aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In my meetings with President UNSC, President UNGA & UN Secretary General @antonioguterres, I emphasized the humanitarian crisis and the reign of terror unleashed on innocent Kashmiris by India since 5 August 2019. twitter.com/SMQureshiPTI/s...

#Pakistan re-affirms its unflinching support and solidarity with the Kashmiri people as the inhuman lockdown in IOJ&K reaches 150 days.

Press Release by @ForeignOfficePk

#KashmirStillUnderCurfew
#KashmirBleeds

#Today marks 71 years since UN promised that #Kashmir will decide its future through a free and impartial plebiscite. Yet India's 150 day #siege and attempted annexation of the region continues. It's time the world made India respect Intl Law and #HumanRights #FreeKashmir
DAVOS, Switzerland (Reuters) - Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan called on Wednesday for the United Nations to help mediate between nuclear armed India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

“This is a potential flashpoint,” Khan said during a media briefing at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, adding that it was time for the “international institutions ... specifically set up to stop this” to “come into action”.

Click here for more information.

President Donald Trump said the United States was watching developments between India and Pakistan over Kashmir “very closely” and was prepared to help if necessary, but did not say how.

Speaking ahead of talks with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, Trump said trade and borders were both critical points for discussion, while Khan said that for him Afghanistan was the top priority.

“Trade is going to be of very, very paramount importance ... and we’re working together on some borders, and we’re talking about Kashmir in relation to what is going on with Pakistan and India. And if we can help we certainly will be helping,” he said.

Click here for more information.
Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, called on Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood. A range of bilateral issues, including political engagement and economic partnership, were discussed. It was emphasized that a strong trade and investment relationship was key to advancing the shared vision of the leadership of both countries for a long term, broad-based and enduring partnership.

Foreign Secretary highlighted the grave human rights and humanitarian situation in IOJ&K, intensified ceasefire violations from the Indian side, belligerent rhetoric of the Indian civil and military figures, and India’s aggressive measures along the LoC. The importance of the international community playing its role in peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute was emphasized.

The two sides also discussed recent developments regarding the Afghan peace and reconciliation process. The Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan’s resolve to continue to support the peace process and pursue positive development of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

Click here for more information.
U.S. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONCILIATION VISITS PAKISTAN

U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad visited Islamabad on January 31. In his meetings with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and other government officials, Ambassador Khalilzad discussed U.S. efforts to facilitate a political settlement to end the war in Afghanistan. He welcomed Pakistan's ongoing efforts to support a reduction in violence that will pave the way for a U.S.-Taliban agreement, intra-Afghan negotiations, and a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in support of a sustainable peace. Ambassador Khalilzad also continued to emphasize the economic and security benefits that a lasting peace can bring to the region.

Click here for more information.
Ambassador Meets A Group Of Students From Osgood Center For International Studies

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan interacted with a group of university students from across the U.S., undergoing a short course at the Osgood Center for International Studies, at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC on 10 January 2020. Ambassador briefed them about Pakistan-U.S. relations, current security situation in the region and ongoing humanitarian crisis in occupied Kashmir.

Click here for more information.
Ambassador Hosts A Group Of Students From George Mason University And Other Institutions Of The DMV Area

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan hosted a group of students from George Mason University and other institutions of the DMV area at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC on January 07, 2020. Ambassador Khan briefed them on Pakistan’s policy priorities, particularly on grave humanitarian crisis in Kashmir and the role of diaspora youth in shaping up the future of Pakistan-U.S. relationship. Click here for more information.
Global Undergraduate Exchange Program Delegation Visits The Embassy

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan hosted a group of 98 Pakistani students visiting the U.S. under the Global UGRAD exchange program on 03 Jan 2020. Ambassador Asad M. Khan welcomed the participants at the Embassy and briefed them on a range of vital foreign policy issues. Ambassador Khan emphasized the importance of seven decades old Pak-US bilateral relationship, of which educational exchanges is an important component. He expressed confidence in further fortification of this long standing relationship in the years to come.

Click here for more information.
Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan rang the NETSOL closing bell at the NASDAQ Stock Exchange in New York at a prestigious ceremony that signals the end of trading for the day on Wall Street. Netsol CEO Najeeb Ghauri and Consul General New York Ayesha Ali were also present on the occasion.

Click here for more information.
Ambassador Meets American Society Of Travel Advisors (ASTA)

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Zane Kerby, CEO of American Society Of Travel Advisors (ASTA). Ambassador highlighted recent reviews by Conde’ Nast, Forbes and Wild Frontiers highlighting Pakistan’s tourism potential & attractiveness as top Holiday Destination 2020.

‘Sikhs Of America’ Delegation Calls On Ambassador

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan briefed a ‘Sikhs of America’ delegation on Pakistan's efforts to promote religious freedom and interfaith harmony, while rejecting recent Indian media reports as malicious & mischievous. The delegation thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for his forward looking vision and support to Sikh devotees.

Click here for more information.
TOURISM

Update in U.S. Travel Advisory

Asad M. Khan @asadm17

Pakistan is truly open for business and tourism. After UK & several other countries U.S. also recognizes improved security situation in Pakistan's major cities, particularly Islamabad in its latest travel advisory @StateDept @State_SCA @PakEmbassyDC @ForeignOfficePk

#Pakistan is a @CNTraveler top destination for #2020. #UK also revises its travel advisory. We are ready for the #world - #safe and more #modern than ever: rb.gy/bnqwcj #DestinationPakistan #PakYourBags #UK @PakEmbassyDC @ForeignOfficePk @sayedzbukhari

Spokesperson @MoFA @ForeignOfficePk

Pakistan has noted the update in the U.S. Travel Advisory, which has acknowledged that “Pakistan’s security environment has improved.” This is a step in the right direction.
Improved Security Situation In Pakistan Leads To Change In UK Travel Advice

The UK changed its travel advice on January 24, 2020 to reflect the improved security situation in Pakistan. The British High Commission Islamabad said that the announcement is the result of a comprehensive review of UK travel advice for Pakistan, based on a wide-ranging assessment of the country’s security situation.

The improved security situation allowed for the return of British Airways to Pakistan in June 2019 and the visit by The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in October 2019. Among other changes, the advice now allows for travel by road to the North of Pakistan as well as the Kalesh and Bamboret Valleys.

Dr Christian Turner, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, said:
Following my arrival in December 2019, I made this review of the travel advice a priority. It is great credit to the hard work of the Government of Pakistan in delivering improved security over the past five years. I am delighted that British nationals will be able to see more of what Pakistan has to offer.

[Click here for more information.]

Forbes: 10 Best Under-The-Radar Trips For 2020

Forbes Magazine listed Pakistan as one of the world’s ten best under-the-radar trips for 2020. Wild Frontiers has been tipping Pakistan as the next big destination for a couple of years now, but with the recent visit and royal seal of approval from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, they anticipate the destination will continue to be one to watch. “Pakistan is perhaps the ultimate adventure travel destination,” says founder Jonny Bealby.

[Click here for more information.]
Sumbul Siddiqui, a Pakistani-American legal aid attorney, has been elected as mayor of Cambridge, Massachusetts, winning confidence of her fellow city councilors. According to The Boston Globe, Sumbul Siddiqui is the first-ever Muslim woman elected as mayor of Cambridge. Ms. Siddiqui is currently serving her second term on the Cambridge City Council, and first as Mayor of Cambridge.

Click here for more information.

Just spoke to Mayor @SumbulSidd to congratulate her on her historic election. It’s always great to see #PakistaniAmericans excelling in public service. I have no doubt that Mayor Siddiqui will serve the people of Cambridge, MA, with great devotion and diligence @PakEmbassyDC
Mountaineer Muhammad Ali Sadpara
Becomes First Pakistani To Scale Mont Blanc

Mountaineer Muhammad Ali Sadpara made national history by becoming the first Pakistani to scale Mont Blanc.

Click here for more information.
Overseas Remittances To Pakistan Highest In Four Years

Click here for more information.