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Dear Friends,

We began the month of February by observing February 5th as Kashmir Solidarity Day to express our moral, diplomatic and political support to the innocent Kashmiri brothers and sisters who are bravely facing the atrocities committed by the occupying Indian security forces. An important development this month was adoption of a Resolution by the New York State Assembly to recognize February 5th as “Kashmir Day”.

As a part of our outreach efforts, I continued my engagements with the think tanks and important media outlets to highlight various aspects of Pakistan-US relations and our perspective on important regional and global issues. These interactions included a talk at Stimson Center and background briefings to senior journalists representing important media outlets in Washington D.C.

Pakistan Navy hosted a successful Naval Exercise Aman-21. Navies from 45 countries Including US, Russia, China and Japan participated in the Exercise this year. The highly successful event highlighted the important role being played by Pakistan Navy in regional and global maritime security.

The FATF Plenary was held on 22-26 February 2021. FATF acknowledged Pakistan’s impressive achievement by completing 90% of its current FATF action-plan with 24 out of 27 items rated as 'largely addressed' and the remaining 3 items partially addressed. FATF also appreciated Pakistan’s high-level political commitment since 2018 that has led to this significant progress. Pakistan remains committed to complying with FATF evaluation processes.

Our community outreach activities continued in virtual mode. I interacted with President OPEN Global and its Charter members to discuss ways to connect Pakistani and US investors and address challenges faced by startups/investors in Pakistan. I had virtual meetings with President APPNA and members of APPNA Alliance to discuss ways in which the Embassy could collaborate with them on issues affecting the Pakistani American community especially in the context of COVID-19 vaccine. I also had a virtual meeting with Dr. Omar Atiq, a Pakistani-American oncologist who wrote off $650,000 in debt from 200 of his cancer patients. Through this gesture, Dr. Atiq has indeed set a high example of selfless love and empathy for humanity.

Pakistani Americans continue to rise and shine in the US. We congratulate Bushra Amiwala, a Pakistani-American college student at DePaul University, who became the youngest Muslim elected official in the United States; distinguished Pakistani cardiologist, Dr. Hina Chaudhary, who was featured amongst the top science fellows by the National Institute of Health (NIH) in the United States of America; and Pakistani-American lawyer, Lina Khan, who made it to Time Magazine’s list “2021 TIME100 NEXT”. Lina M. Khan is an American scholar specializing in antitrust and competition law in the United States.
The Embassy organized a special event to observe ‘Kashmir Solidarity Day’ on February 5, 2021 to express Pakistan’s support for the just struggle of the Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination as envisaged in the UNSC Resolutions and in accordance with wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Messages of the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read out. A special documentary featuring the history and significance of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and a photo exhibition highlighting the recent spate of Indian atrocities and massive human rights violations in the IIOJK were also screened.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan reiterated Government of Pakistan’s continued moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He lauded the role played by the Pakistani and Kashmiri American community in highlighting the gross human rights violations in IIOJK and echoing the voice of innocent Kashmiris in the halls of U.S. Congress. He stressed upon them to continue sensitizing the respective Congressmen and members of civil society on this grave issue.

Expressing complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people, all speakers strongly condemned the gross human rights violations of the Kashmiri people being committed by Indian occupation forces. They demanded that India should immediately repeal draconian laws, end the military siege, stop demographic changes in the occupied region, lift communication blockade and release all political prisoners in IIOJK.

READ HERE.
AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES THE KASHMIR DISPUTE WITH WASHINGTON DIPLOMAT

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan had an in-depth conversation on the genesis of the Kashmir dispute and the plight and sufferings of the people of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir with Eric Ham, co-host Global 360, The Washington Diplomat.

AMBASSADOR JOINS APPAC VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON ‘KASHMIR HUMANS WITHOUT HUMAN RIGHTS”

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan spoke at a virtual conference titled ‘Kashmir Humans without Human Rights’ hosted by the American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC). Senator Bob Menendez and Congressman Tom Suozzi also expressed concern over the alarming situation in IIOJK.
KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY

NEW YORK PASSES RESOLUTION TO RECOGNISE FEBRUARY 5TH AS KASHMIR DAY

Consulate General New York congratulates New York State Assembly for passing the resolution to make New York the first State in US to recognize February 5th as “Kashmir Day”. We appreciate the role of Assembly member Nader Sayegh and APAG USA in this context.
Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan held a webinar with Stimson Center on “The Future of US-Pak Relation amidst Geopolitical Churn”.

Ambassador Khan called for a stand-alone and broad-based partnership between Pakistan and the US, with trade, investment and economic cooperation as new anchors of the relationship.

Reiterating Pakistan’s commitment to the Afghan peace process, Ambassador said that all efforts and energy should go into making the intra-afghan negotiations successful.

The Ambassador also spoke in detail about India’s destabilizing actions in IIOJK and called on the US to play its traditional role of “tension diffuser” in South Asia and urge India to create an enabling environment for a constructive dialogue with Pakistan to resolve all disputes, foremost being the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The virtual event was very well attended with participation of scholars, members of academia and think tanks from diverse backgrounds.

Ambassador’s comments were covered by Reuters.

WATCH HERE.
LUNCH MEETINGS WITH U.S. MEDIA

Ambassador with Sam Feist, Washington Bureau Chief and Senior VP, CNN


Ambassador with Jonathan Landay, National Security Reporter, Reuters
VIRTUAL MEETINGS WITH U.S. MEDIA

Ambassador in a zoom meeting with David Ignatius, Associate Editor and Columnist, The Washington Post.

Ravi Agrawal, Foreign Policy Magazine Editor in Chief, in conversation with Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS WITH U.S. MEDIA

Ambassador in conversation with Shannon Tiezzi, Editor-in-Chief, The Diplomat

Ambassador held a zoom meeting with Hannah Bloch, Digital Editor and Michele Kelemen, Diplomatic Corps Reporter, National Public Radio.
AMBASSADOR HOSTS SECOND VIRTUAL COMMUNITY TOWNHALL

Held my second virtual town hall on first Saturday of the month. Listened to the issues & problems faced by community members, who hailed the initiative & appreciated the opportunity to directly interact with the Ambassador @ForeignOfficePk @SMQureshiPTI @PakPMO
AMBASSADOR INTERACTS WITH ORGANIZATION OF PAKISTANI ENTREPRENEURS (OPEN) GLOBAL

Had a Zoom conversation with Moazzam Chaudhry President OPEN Global. We discussed Pakistan's economic stabilization and growth momentum and the investment opportunities as Pakistan moves up the ease of doing business index @PakinUSA @razak_dawood @a_hafeezshaikh

Delighted to interact with OPEN Charter Members this afternoon. Discussed ways to connect Pak-US investors and address challenges faced by investors/start-ups in Pak. @PakinUSA stands ready to facilitate the conversation between Pak-US businesses & policy makers.
AMBASSADOR HOLDS VIRTUAL MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF PAKISTANI DESCENT OF NORTH AMERICA (APPNA)

Delighted to speak to @RizwanKhalidMD, President APPNA. Appreciated APPNA’s outstanding charitable and educational contributions over the years and for acting as an important bridge between Pakistan & US @PakinUSA

AMBASSADOR SPEAKS WITH APPNA ALLIANCE AND OPEN GLOBAL MEMBERS

Delighted to virtually meet APPNA Alliance and OPEN Global members to discuss ways in which Embassy could collaborate with them on issues affecting the Pakistani American community members including those relating to Covid vaccine.
Bushra Amiwala, a Pakistani-American college student at DePaul University, became the youngest Muslim elected official in the United States. She now serves on the Board of Education for Skokie School District 73.5. Amiwala also became the first Muslim elected to the board of education in her district.

On February 20, 2021 Bushra Amiwala stepped up to the plate to receive the highly coveted Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) award for exemplary community service and youth excellence.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan held a virtual meeting with Dr. Omar Atiq, a Pakistani-American oncologist based in Arkansas. Considering the financial strain that his patients were facing due to COVID-19, Dr. Atiq wrote off $650,000 in debt for 200 of his cancer patients as a holiday gift.
Asad M. Khan @asadm17  Feb 26
Despite being subjected to perhaps the most challenging & comprehensive action plan ever given to any country, Pakistan has completed almost 90% of its current FATF action-plan. We remain committed to bringing FATF evaluation processes to a successful conclusion.

Hammad Azhar @Hammad_Azhar  Feb 25
Pakistan has completed almost 90% of its current FATF action-plan with 24 out of 27 items rated as 'largely addressed' and remaining 3 items 'partially addressed'.

FATF has acknowledged Pak's high level political commitment since 2018 that led to significant progress. 1/3

Show this thread

Pakistan Embassy US @PakinUSA  Feb 11
resolve for regional peace and secure sea routes
#AMANExercise2021 navies of 46 countries including 🇳🇵 as well as NATO countries are collaborating for maritime security

Pakistan Trade Mission Washington DC @PakUSTrade  Feb 19
Workers remittances from US reached an unprecedented level of $1.407B during seven months (July-Jan) of FY 2021, up 45.8% on YoY basis
@StateBank_Pak @PakPMO
U.N. human rights experts have urged India to ensure that the rights of people in Kashmir are safeguarded after New Delhi stripped the disputed region’s semi-autonomous status and imposed a slew of administrative changes through new laws.

Two experts for the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement that the changes “could curtail the previous level of political participation of Muslims and other minorities” and expressed concerns about demographic changes in the region.

READ HERE.
FAREWLL DINNER FOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION

The Embassy bid farewell to Mr. Ubaid Nizamani, Deputy Chief of Mission (tenure) and welcomed Syed Naveed Bokhari as the new Deputy Chief of Mission.

Ambassadr Dr. Asad M. Khan presenting a plaque to DCM Ubaid Nizamani

Syed Naveed Bokhari
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, D.C.
PAKISTAN TO HOST WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2021

Pakistan will host World Environment Day 2021 in partnership with the UN Environment Program. This year’s observance of World Environment Day will be on the theme of ‘ecosystem restoration’ and focus on resetting our relation with nature. It will also mark the formal launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030.

Pakistan’s Adviser to Prime Minister and Minister for Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam joined UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen to acknowledge the urgency of preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. Led by Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Government of Pakistan – in one of the world’s most ambitious afforestation efforts – plans to expand and restore the country’s forests through a '10 Billion Tree Tsunami' initiative spread over 5 years.

READ HERE.
PAKISTANI-AMERICAN DOCTOR FEATURED AMONG TOP AMERICAN CARDIOLOGISTS

Distinguished Pakistani cardiologist, Dr. Hina Chaudhary, has been featured amongst the top science fellows by the National Institute of Health (NIH) in the United States of America.

Also known as the ‘Cardiac Magician’, Dr. Chaudhary is a renowned cardiologist, scientist, and entrepreneur whose research work primarily focuses on the process of the growth of new heart muscles after a heart attack.

READ HERE.

PAKISTANI-AMERICAN LAWYER MAKES IT TO ‘2021 TIME100 NEXT’

Pakistani-American lawyer, Lina Khan, has been included in Time Magazine’s list of “2021 TIME100 NEXT”. Lina M. Khan is an American scholar specializing in antitrust and competition law in the United States. She is an associate professor of law at Columbia Law School. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts praised her efforts, “For too long, giant tech companies have thrown around their weight to crush competition, exploit our data and spread disinformation. They may think they’re too big to be held accountable, but Lina Khan is proving them wrong.” – READ HERE.
Proud Moment for the Pakistani Youtuber community as Shezan Saleem JO-G has become the first Pakistani Youtuber to be featured on the world's renowned streaming platform Amazon Prime Video.

Shezan's Travel Film "The Beautiful Sindh", which shows the beauty of Pakistani landscape, architecture and culture, has been published on the video streaming platform.

The Travel Film has been released as "Ishq e Qalandar - The Beautiful Sindh". The film highlights historical sites, culture, traditions, and food from the Sindh province of Pakistan. Currently, it has been launched in the US and UK only but soon it will be available in other parts where Prime video services are available.
A team of Pakistani students from the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI) won second place in the first round of the 2021 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) competition where they had to design, build, and fly an aircraft. The Pakistan team won against their peers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford University. The final round of the competition will take place on April 16-19, 2021.

READ HERE.
Marvel has cast its first ever on-screen Muslim superhero for the Disney+ series Ms. Marvel. Kamala Khan aka Ms. Marvel is a Pakistani-American superhero who protects the streets of Jersey City with her one-of-a-kind embiggening power. Iman Vellani, 18, will play the character in the groundbreaking TV show. Marvel is reportedly planning to feature her in future films too.

[READ HERE](http://example.com).

Rohan Khatwani, a ninth-grade Pakistani student set a world record by arranging the periodic table in just 1 minute and 58 seconds.

[READ HERE](http://example.com).
Dr Zubaida Sirang, an eye surgeon from Chitral, has become the first Pakistani doctor to make it to the list of Book Authority. The book titled “Optics Made Easy; The Last review of Clinical Optics” is also one of the three best sellers on Amazon. Book Authority is the world’s leading platform for recommendations for nonfiction books.

READ HERE.