



EMBASSY of THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN in WASHINGTON DC



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

2015 witnessed an upsurge in Pakistan-U.S. relations. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's official visit to Washington, DC, at the invitation of President Obama, this year gave new impetus to the relationship. Together, we have continued to overcome challenges, working together in areas of mutual interest and expanding bilateral cooperation between our two countries. Working Groups under the rubric of the Strategic Dialogue have also continued to contribute towards strengthening the bilateral cooperation and advancing shared interests. Throughout the year, we

witnessed multiple high-level engagements in both Washington and Islamabad aimed at highlighting Pakistan's vast untapped potential and attracting investment from the U.S. private sector.

I am grateful for the support my interlocutors in the United States extended to foster this friendly relationship and look forward to continue working on improving market access for Pakistani exports, enhancing bilateral trade and resolving Pakistan's energy issues. Our outreach at The Hill, too, has helped in projecting Pakistan's perspective on various regional and international issues and led to a better understanding of our point of view.

With the United States reviewing its draw-down plan in Afghanistan, Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process and looks forward to continued cooperation with the United States on this front. Pakistan will continue playing supportive role regarding Afghan peace and reconciliation process as this is the most viable option to end violence and promote stability in Afghanistan and the region.

Meanwhile in Pakistan, significant progress has been made in counter-terrorism initiatives. Though the security situation in the country has significantly improved, the recent atrocities at Bacha Khan University are a painful reminder of our ongoing struggle and efforts in our fight on terror.

I am hopeful that 2016 will continue to be a year of thriving democracy and economic revival for Pakistan.

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MEETING OF THE QUADRILATERAL COORDINATION GROUP ON AFGHAN PEACE & RECONCILIATION PROCESS



A Quadrilateral meeting of Pakistan, Afghanistan, the U.S. and China was held in Islamabad, on the sidelines of the Fifth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference. The meeting reiterated its support for Afghanistan's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and affirmed full support to the democratically elected National Unity Government of Afghanistan. It was agreed that authority of the Afghan State and the legitimacy of Afghanistan's constitution must be fully respected by the international community. The meeting agreed to work together to enhance mutual trust and confidence between Afghanistan and Pakistan to create an enabling environment for peace talks and broadening political, economic and security cooperation. The meeting expressed full commitment to enabling an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process that promotes a dialogue between the Afghan Government and Taliban groups, including on reduction and renunciation of violence. All four countries agreed to work together to create a conducive atmosphere that encourages Taliban groups to engage in meaningful and sustained negotiations.

PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES JOINTLY ORGANIZE THE U.S.–PAKISTAN CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE

Pakistan and the United States jointly organized ‘U.S.–Pakistan Clean Energy Business Opportunities Conference’ in Washington DC. The conference was aimed at attracting U.S. private sector investment in Pakistan's energy sector. Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi represented Pakistan. In their remarks both Ministers briefed the participants on the successful energy sector reforms and government's policies to promote foreign investment in the energy sector. Underlining the growing cooperation between Pakistan and the United States, Ambassador Jilani highlighted that the Conference was organized in pursuance of the Clean Energy Partnership launched recently by the Prime Minister and President Obama in October. He also briefed the participants about the improved security and economic situation in Pakistan, which was attracting worldwide attention. The participants of the Conference extensively deliberated the lucrative opportunities in the energy sector of Pakistan and appreciated the initiative taken by the Embassy of Pakistan and USAID.



Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at the U.S.–Pakistan Clean Energy Business Opportunities Conference

PAKISTAN – U.S. RELATIONS

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES HOLD A TRILATERAL MEETING IN ISLAMABAD

Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States held a trilateral meeting in Islamabad to explore and encourage all efforts for dialogue between Afghanistan's government and Taliban groups. The three countries expressed their commitment to accelerate diplomatic and political efforts to put an end to the conflict in Afghanistan. They reiterated their full commitment to enabling an Afghan–led, Afghan–owned political process to promote dialogue between the Afghan government and groups of Taliban on the future of Afghanistan and the cessation of violence. Afghanistan and Pakistan agreed that all forms of terrorism present a great threat to both countries and the region and committed to preventing their territory to be used by any violent extremist group or third party. The United States committed to supporting these efforts.

A joint statement was issued after the meeting which can be read at http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news764_12092015_2015.php

U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, ANTONY BLINKEN, CALLS ON THE ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Antony Blinken called on Sartaj Aziz, the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference. The Adviser expressed satisfaction at the successful visit of the Prime Minister to the U.S. and underlined the need for a long term multidimensional partnership between Pakistan and the U.S. for regional peace and stability. The Adviser also highlighted Pakistan's commitment to the policy of non–interference and peaceful neighbourhood in the region. Mr. Antony Blinken highlighted the importance of Pakistan–U.S. relations for the region. He also appreciated Pakistan's strong commitment and firm actions taken to counter terrorism and recognized Pakistan's sincere efforts towards facilitating the reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

PAKISTAN – U.S. RELATIONS

CALL ON THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS BY THE U.S. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

The new U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP), Ambassador Richard Olson, called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs (SAPM), Syed Tariq Fatemi. The SAPM felicitated Ambassador Olson on his new assignment and reassured him of Pakistan's continued support and cooperation to his office. He reiterated Pakistan's earnest desire for establishing friendly and cooperative relations with Afghanistan and stressed that Pakistan was committed to supporting all efforts for peace and development in Afghanistan. The Special Assistant underlined that hosting the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process reflected Pakistan's continuous commitment to and contribution towards regional and international efforts for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.



SAPM, Syed Tariq Fatemi, in a meeting with U.S. SRAP, Ambassador Richard Olson

EMBASSY OUTREACH AND EVENTS

AMBASSADOR JILANI DELIVERS A KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Ambassador Jilani delivered a keynote speech at the World Affairs Council, Washington D.C.. Ambassador Jilani shared his perspective on Pakistan-U.S. relations, regional security challenges and educational advancement in Pakistan. He highlighted recent high level engagements between Pakistan and the U.S. including the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to Washington DC in October. He also pointed out expanding cooperation in all vital areas ranging from defense, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation to energy, economy and trade as well as education, science and technology. Ambassador Jilani also talked about the emerging challenges and Pakistan's contribution to bringing peace and stability in the region. He shared that comprehensive counter-terrorism operations were instrumental in eliminating terrorist networks operating from the region. He expressed hope that the renewed contacts between the leadership of Pakistan and India would help reduce tension and revive dialogue process for the resolution of all outstanding issues.



Ambassador Jilani at the World Affairs Council

THE EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN ORGANIZES A COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY TO HONOR THE MARTYRS OF ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL PESHAWAR



L-to-R. Cd'A Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, U.S. Deputy SRAP, Jonathan Carpenter, Secretary Defence Lt Gen (Retd) Muhammad Alam Khattak and Corps Commander 1 Corps, Lt General Umar Farooq Durrani

EMBASSY OUTREACH AND EVENTS

The Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, D.C. organized a commemorative ceremony to honor the martyrs of Army Public School Peshawar. Secretary Defence Lt Gen (Retd) Muhammad Alam Khattak and Corps Commander 1 Corps, Lt General Umar Farooq Durrani highlighted the successes achieved by Pakistan in the Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Government's firm resolve to completely eliminate last vestiges of terrorism and extremism from the country. Mr. Jonathan Carpenter, U.S. Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) read the message of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on the occasion. Secretary Kerry in his statement appreciated the resilience and spirit of the Pakistani nation and urged the importance of uniting in opposition to terrorism and the poisonous ideology that fuels it. Secretary Kerry also reaffirmed U.S. determination to stand with the Pakistani people in countering violent extremism and in building a secure and prosperous future for all. State Department's Principal Deputy SRAP, Ms. Laurel Miller was also present on the occasion. Charge d'Affaires Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh highlighted the sacrifice rendered by of the people of Pakistan in combating terrorism. He also underlined the steps taken by Pakistan in implantation of National Action Plan (NAP) and also appreciated the cooperation and support of the United States in this endeavor. A documentary prepared by ISPR on Operation Zarb-e-Azb was also screened for the audience.



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