



EMBASSY of THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN in WASHINGTON DC



MESSAGE FROM DR. ASAD M. KHAN, CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES

The month of July marked the beginning of high level bilateral interactions between the new Government and the US leadership. In this regard Secretary Kerry met Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, on the sidelines of the 20th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Brunei Darussalam. Secretary Kerry also paid his first official visit to Pakistan as Secretary of State.

Other high level engagements during this period also testify to the expanding depth and breadth of bilateral cooperation. Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), Ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the US Senate visited Pakistan to meet the leadership. He also visited Karachi to engage the business community. Ms. Elizabeth L. Littlefield, President & CEO of Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) visited Islamabad and met the Finance Minister. These high level exchanges signify the huge potential for expanding bilateral economic engagement in trade and investment fields. On the Embassy’s part, we will continue to support all such initiatives that bring in the much needed energy to enrich economic content in the relationship. There are, of course, tremendous opportunities for our expatriate community in the US as well to benefit from an expanding Pakistan-US economic engagement.

July also brought the start of the holy month of Ramadan, reinforcing the spirit of Islam as a religion of peace, tolerance and compassion. To share and celebrate the blessings of Ramadan, the Embassy of Pakistan hosted an Interfaith Iftar inviting people from various faiths to join the traditional breaking of the fast. On the occasion religious leaders of different faiths underlined the common message of peace, love for humanity and harmony. The Embassy also for the first time hosted Muslim Friends and colleagues in the US Administration at a separate Iftar. As part of our outreach to the Hill the Embassy was privileged to host Congressman Andre Carson and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee as special guests on these occasions.

I would like to conclude by conveying my best wishes and sincere greetings on the blessed occasion of Eid ul Fitr to all our readers.

SECRETARY KERRY VISITS PAKISTAN



Secretary John Kerry visited Islamabad on his first visit as Secretary of State and met the top Pakistani leadership. During his stay in Islamabad Secretary Kerry held in-depth exchanges on a host of issues including regional security and energy. The two countries also announced the revival of the strategic dialogue.



Secretary Kerry with Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz.

Secretary Kerry’s meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was followed by a press conference with Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz held at the PM House.

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PAKISTAN-US RELATIONS

ADVISOR TO PM ON NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. SARTAJ AZIZ MEETS SECRETARY JOHN KERRY



Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs met Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of the 20th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Brunei Darussalam. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening and expanding the relationship. The advisor apprised Secretary Kerry that the main focus of the foreign policy of the newly elected government will be economic revival and socio-economic development and stressed the need for greater market access to Pakistani exports to the United State.

ELIZABETH L. LITTLEFIELD, PRESIDENT OPIC VISITS PAKISTAN



Elizabeth L. Littlefield, President Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), visited Pakistan and held a wide range of consultations with the Finance Minister and other key members of the new economic team in Islamabad. In her joint press conference with the Finance Minister Ms. Littlefield said that both sides pledged to enhance cooperation in the energy sector with special focus on development of bio-gas and wind energy to help Pakistan overcome its power crisis. The two sides discussed issues related to investment in various sectors of the economy, particularly in the energy sector. Both sides also agreed to continue dialogue on the pending issues of Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) to tap the investment potential.



US Secretary of State John Kerry visited Zero Point Grid SubStation in Islamabad along with Minister for Water and Power, Khawaja Asif, where they saw recently installed 'smart meters' that allow for more efficient and cost-effective electricity distribution

US SENATOR BOB CORKER CALLS ON ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), Ranking Member of the Foreign Relations Committee visited Pakistan. During his stay in Pakistan Senator Corker met the Advisor on Foreign Affairs and Chief of Army Staff among others. Matters of mutual interest including trade and investment promotion, regional issues and the situation in Afghanistan came under discussion during Senator Corker's meetings in Pakistan. He also visited Karachi where he interacted with the business community.



Cd'A Dr. Asad M. Khan and Mrs. Zunaira Asad with Secretary Kerry

President Obama and Secretary Kerry separately hosted Iftar receptions for Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions from Islamic countries in Washington DC. Cd'A Dr. Asad Majeed Khan represented Pakistan at the receptions.

EMBASSY HOSTS INTERFAITH IFTAR



The Embassy of Pakistan hosted a large group of interfaith leaders at an Iftar as part of its annual outreach to all the religious communities based in Washington, DC. On the occasion, religious leaders of Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Muslim communities Rev. Dr. Carol Flett, Rabbi Bruce Lustig, Mr. Nanik Lahori, Mr. William Aiken, Bhai Gurdarshan Singh and Imam Mohamed Magid offered prayers from their respective faiths each underlining the common message of peace, love for humanity, mutual harmony and greater religious freedom. Also among the participants were Congressman Rep. Andre Carson, Ambassador of Nepal Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, members of the diplomatic corps, U.S. administration, academia, think-tank experts and human rights practitioners.

Speaking on the occasion, Chargé d' Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan highlighted that the newly elected democratic Government of Pakistan under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was committed to the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam for a pluralistic, democratic Pakistan where all citizens enjoy equal rights and freedom to practice their faith.

Rep. Andre Carson appreciated the Embassy's efforts in bringing together representatives of different faiths and stressed on the need to promote interfaith harmony.

Video: http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/Interfaith%20Iftar%20_07302013.php

Speech: http://www.embassyofpakistanusa.org/news596B_07302013_interfaith.php

MUSLIM OFFICIALS IN THE US ADMINISTRATION JOIN THE EMBASSY OFFICERS FOR IFTAR



The Embassy hosted its first ever Iftar dinner for Muslim officials working in the US Government. Congressional staffers also attended the event. Welcoming the guests on the occasion, Chargé d' Affaires, Dr. Asad M. Khan thanked the officials, staffers and their spouses for coming to the Embassy and joining its officers in celebrating the month of Ramadan and sharing its blessings.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee also joined the Iftar and appreciated the Embassy's efforts to reach out to officials in the US system. She conveyed the greetings and well wishes of the US Congress and expressed the hope for improved and robust ties between the US and Pakistan.

EMBASSY HOSTS ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS CONFERENCE



The Embassy hosted the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference 2013. Recognizing Rotary's decades old partnership with Pakistan, Chargé d' Affaires Dr. Asad M. Khan appreciated the excellent philanthropy based community services Rotary International's members are providing in Pakistan and across the globe. Addressing the gathering Cd'A highlighted that the Embassy is especially focused on reaching out to the youth as part of its recently launched Generation Next Initiative. The awards ceremony was followed by a documentary on Pakistan capturing the achievements of some of the most outstanding Pakistani youth. The purpose was to provide the audience a glimpse of what Pakistan has to offer and motivate them to dig deeper and learn more about Pakistan.

Video: http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/Youth%20Branch_Rotary_07052013.php



Zaman Mehdi, Political Counselor at Embassy of Pakistan, led a group of Interns to visit the office of Congresswoman Jackie Spier (D-CA) where they met with Chief of Staff Cookab Hashemi.



Students of various schools & colleges visited the Embassy where they were briefed by Syed Naveed Safdar Bokhari, Counselor at Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC



Mohsin Chandna, Economic Minister at the Embassy hosted dinner for Mr. Charles Collyns, Assistant Secretary Treasury. Mr. Shahid Javed Burki, Mr. Ray Mehmood and Mr. Michael Kaplan also attended the dinner.



Chargé d’Affaires Dr. Asad Majeed Khan meeting with Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA), Chairman House Foreign Affairs Committee in his office to discuss Pakistan US bilateral cooperation



Interns meet Mr. Shujjat Ali Rathore, Minister at Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC



Chargé d’Affaires meeting with Congressman Bradley Schneider (D-IL), member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

ALSO PAKISTAN...

PRESIDENT ZARDARI FELICITATES MALALA, WORLD COMMUNITY ON CELEBRATING HER 16TH BIRTHDAY



Source: http://news.bbcimg.co.uk/media/images/68703000/jpg/_68703870_68703869.jpg

President Asif Ali Zardari has felicitated Malala Yusufzai and the international community on celebrating her 16th birthday by inviting her to a special event organized by the United Nations in New York. Malala Yusufzai was received by the UN Secretary



Chargé d’Affaires meeting with Congressman Andre Carson (D-IL)

ALSO PAKISTAN...

General Ban Ki Moon and honored to address the special session of the Youth Assembly of the world body to mark her 16th birthday. The President said that Malala's survival and the honor bestowed on her by the international community tells us that extremism can best be fought through collective action. The President said that getting back on her feet, after being shot in the head, demonstrates that it is indeed a battle between good and evil and that while democracy's agenda is peace and progress the agenda of the extremists is death and destruction. The President called for collective efforts towards girls' education.

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=242624&Itemid=2

PAKISTAN ARMY. FIRST FEMALE PARATROOPERS MAKE HISTORY



In a landmark achievement 24 lady officers of Pakistan Army successfully completed a paratrooper training course at Parachute Training School, Peshawar. Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani congratulated all the lady officers and their training staff on successful completion of the Course. Captain Kiran Ashraf was declared the best paratrooper of the batch, while Captain Sadia became the first woman officer to jump from a MI-17 helicopter.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/576801/pakistan-army-first-femaleparatroopers-make-history/>

50 YEARS ON, PAKISTAN PART OF THE OSCARS ONCE MORE

After a hiatus of about 50 years Pakistan will be submitting its third entry to the Oscars. The entry will be for the Best Foreign Language Film category. The committee to choose the film is chaired by Emmy and Academy award winning documentary filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy and includes Mehreen Jabbar (Director/Producer), Mohsin Hamid (Author), Rahat Kazmi (Actor/talk-show anchor/professional speaker and academician), Akifa Mian (writer, director and assistant professor of Film at Beaconhouse National University), Framji Minwalla (professor at IBA) and Samina Peerzada (film actress/director).

<http://dawn.com/news/1033634/50-years-on-pakistan-part-of-the-oscars-once-more/>

AT PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM, PAKISTANI ARTIST COMMUNICATES WITH QUILTS



Naina, a textile artist hailing from Tharparkar, Pakistan, demonstrated the art of rally, traditional Pakistani textiles, at the Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena. The artist-in-residence event was intended to be part craft demonstration, part cultural exchange. Naina speaks no English, so the demonstration in the museum's courtyard was a cultural exchange through the language of craft, with visitors learning not only about Naina's textiles but also about life in Pakistan.

<http://www.latimes.com/features/home/la-lh-artist-naina-ralli-quilts-pacific-asia-museum-20130718,0,1226416.story>

SONGWRITER FROM PESHAWAR STANDS 3RD AT US COMPETITION



Jehangir Aziz Hayat, a songwriter, guitarist and singer from Peshawar won the third position in the recent US-based International Songwriting Competition for 2012 in a tough contest involving more than 20,000 entries from 119 countries. Jehangir Aziz Hayat won the third place in the competitive adult contemporary category for his song "What Makes Me Happy."

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-188451-Songwriter-from-Peshawar-stands-3rd-at-US-competition>



The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback.
Please send your comments to newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org
or visit www.embassyofpakistanusa.org
