



**Pakistan-United States
Working Together**

2018

YEAR IN REVIEW

(JUNE - DECEMBER)

**EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN
WASHINGTON, DC**

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AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

I am delighted to share “2018: Year in Review (June-December)” – a publication that highlights the Embassy’s outreach activities.

From the moment I assumed office as Ambassador on 29th May, I used every possible avenue to project Pakistan’s narrative and to rebuild bilateral ties between Pakistan and the US. I presented my credentials to US President Donald J. Trump at the White House on 22nd June. Since then, I have had numerous and regular engagements with key US Senators and Congressmen, senior US Government officials including Secretary Mattis and Secretary Pompeo, policy makers, think-tank experts, media as well as academia.



A most notable achievement and opportunity is the revival of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus and the launch of a Foundation to support Pakistani Americans to work at Capitol Hill. These efforts, aimed at improving parliamentary diplomacy between our two countries, will also help foster better people to people relations in the coming years.

Another key moment was Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi’s visit to the US from 23rd September – 3rd October. During his visit, he met Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and National Security Advisor John Bolton. He met with 9 US Senators and 8 members of the House of Representatives. The Foreign Minister also met the Pakistani American diaspora and spoke at the US Institute of Peace and Asia Society. The visit was well-received both in Washington as well as Islamabad and has laid the foundation for sustained dialogue and engagement between our two countries.

Several other high-level delegations and personalities visited the US from Pakistan this year, including Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen. Zubair Mahmood Hayat and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi. Delegations comprising senior Pakistani government officials, students, teachers and media representatives also visited the US and were hosted at the Embassy.

To maximize outreach, I traveled extensively around the US and met prominent politicians and members of our diaspora in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Kansas, Boston and Hartford as well as the D.C., Maryland and Virginia region. In every place, it was heartwarming to see that our diaspora was playing an important role as members of their local communities. I also noted that our Consul Generals were discharging their duties effectively and remained actively engaged with the community.

Despite a busy schedule working with the US Government and Congress, I enjoyed attending as many community events as I could. I am particularly grateful to APPNA, OPEN and SANA for inviting me to their annual conventions.

As part of our public and cultural diplomacy efforts, the Embassy organized a series of special cultural events and lectures to mark important national occasions such as Pakistan’s Independence Day on 14th August where Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan graciously performed, Defence & Martyrs Day (6th September), Kashmir Black Day (27th October) and Mehfil-e-Milad hosted by my wife Saira (7th December).

Now that my term as Ambassador comes to an end, Saira and I would like to thank all our friends and well-wishers from across the US who made this a memorable experience. The warmth, affection and support we received has touched our hearts and we hope to continue these friendships in the years to come.

Let us hope and pray that the next year brings Pakistan and the US closer together.

Happy New Year!

Ali Jehangir Siddiqui

PAKISTAN-US RELATIONS

The Pakistan-US relationship is a comprehensive and broad-based relationship that dates back to the birth of Pakistan in 1947, when President Harry Truman sent a congratulatory message to the Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah on Pakistan's "emergence among the family of nations."

In the 71 years since this auspicious beginning, Pakistan and the United States have built a robust and comprehensive relationship that drives mutually beneficial cooperation in areas ranging from education to energy and from defense to trade and investment.

The relationship is firmly rooted in broad convergence of interests on regional and strategic issues. The two countries have always worked together for regional peace and stability. Pakistan-US cooperation played an important role in the eventual defeat of communism and in ensuring the peaceful end of the Cold War.

Following the terrible events of 9/11, Pakistan and the United States have been partners in the fight against terrorism. Our security, intelligence and defence cooperation has helped significantly degrade the threat posed by terrorist groups in the region, and ensure that the US mainland has not been attacked again.

Pakistan and the United States remain actively engaged in efforts to restore peace to Afghanistan, and are key partners in several multilateral initiatives aimed at that objective. Indeed, the past six months have seen the two countries further strengthen their joint efforts for achieving a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Pakistan-US convergence of interest extends far beyond the political and security realm. The United States has been a major investor in the early post-independence development of Pakistan's industrial and agricultural infrastructure, most notably playing an important role in supporting the construction of key hydroelectric dams in Pakistan.

Trade and economic cooperation continues to flourish. Bilateral cooperation in the energy sector, in particular, has risen appreciably in recent years. Major US energy giants, like ExxonMobil, are making a return to Pakistan, impressed by Pakistan's improved security environment and huge market potential.

Cooperation between the two countries in the education sector runs just as deep. The Fulbright Scholarship Program for Pakistan has been one of the largest in the world and the United States has also helped set up many of Pakistan's elite private as well as public-funded universities.

If common interests provide the political and economic ballast for the Pakistan-US relations, common values fuel the people-to-people dimension of the relationship. The aspiration towards democracy, diversity and the rule of law animates the societies of both countries.

The Pakistani-American community and the thousands of young Pakistanis who travel to the US every year in pursuit of education and employment are testament to the United States enduring appeal as the land of opportunity. Nearly one million Pakistani Americans not only bring the two countries together but are making outstanding contributions to American life as outstanding entrepreneurs, doctors, engineering, and, increasingly, in public service.

Meanwhile, Pakistan continues to modernize its industrial and connectivity infrastructure to better utilize its prized location in one of the highest growth regions in the world.

Having worked together successfully in the past in dealing with some of the pressing geopolitical challenges of our times, Pakistan and the United States are primed to take their economic relationship to a new level in the future.

I am hopeful that good relations and friendship already existing between the people of American and Pakistan will be further strengthened and the bonds of friendship between our two countries will be more firmly riveted."

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to the US Ambassador to Pakistan (February 26, 1948)

The American people anticipate a long history of close and cordial relations with your country.

US President Harry S. Truman in his message to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah at the Independence Day of Pakistan (August 14, 1947)



Pakistan-United States
Working Together



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui with US President, Donald J. Trump while presenting his credentials at the White House, Washington, DC on June 22, 2018.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

EMBASSY CELEBRATES 72ND INDEPENDENCE DAY OF PAKISTAN 14TH AUGUST, 2018



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui hoisting the national flag on the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui addressing at the flag hoisting ceremony to mark the 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan.



Secretary of State of Maryland, John C. Wobensmith reading out an Independence Day message on behalf of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and the people of Maryland.



DCM Rizwan S. Sheikh reading an Independence Day message from caretaker Prime Minister Nasir-ul-Mulk.



Minister (Press) reading an Independence Day message from President Mamnoon Hussain.

The Embassy celebrated Pakistan's 72nd Independence Day with traditional zeal and fervor. Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui hoisted the national flag and congratulated fellow Pakistanis all over the world, particularly those residing in the US, on Pakistan's 71 years of freedom. He said freedom was a cherished goal for which the founding fathers had rendered great sacrifice. Ambassador Siddiqui paid special tribute to the bravery and courage of the nation, particularly of our security forces, who have laid down their lives in defense of the motherland. He reiterated Pakistan's desire to work with the US towards building a mutually beneficial bilateral relationship. As a special gesture, Secretary of State of Maryland, John C. Wobensmith read out a felicitation message on behalf of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and the people of the State of Maryland.

Special messages from the President and Care-Taker Prime Minister were read out by Minister (Press) Abid Saeed and DCM Rizwan S. Sheikh respectively. Greetings messages on Pakistan's Independence Day were also received from senior elected officials across the United States including US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Governor Jeff Colyer of Kansas, Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland, Governor Bruce Rauner of Illinois, Senator Gary Peters, Congressman Ed Royce, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congressman J. Luis Correa, Congressman Brad Sherman, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, Congressman Peter J. Roskam, Congressman Anthony Brown, among others.

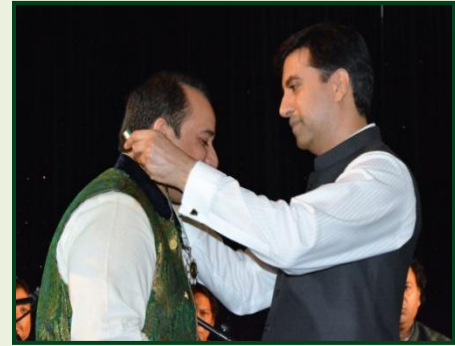
INDEPENDENCE DAY

QAWALI EVENING TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Embassy hosted a cultural evening to celebrate the 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan. World renowned musician Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan entertained the audience with 'Qawali' music. Amongst prominent guests were Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South & Central Asia, senior officials from State Department, Department of Defence, USAID, Ambassadors and officers from diplomatic missions based in Washington, DC as well as prominent members of the Pakistani-American diaspora.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui with Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South & Central Asia.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui conferring first of the Embassy of Pakistan Medal of Excellence on Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of music.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMUNITY EVENT AT BULL RUN PARK, VIRGINIA



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui addressed a large gathering of Pakistani-Americans at 'Pakistan Independence Day Celebration' event held at Bull Run Park, Virginia. – August 18, 2018.



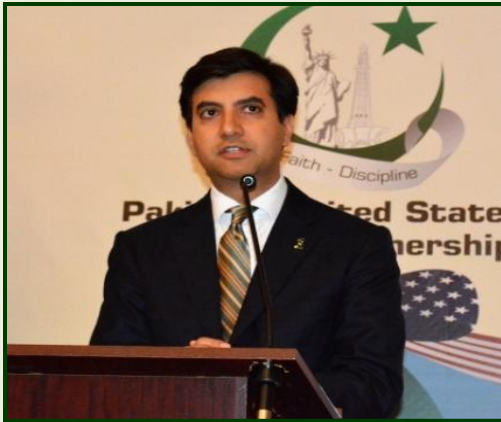
Congresswoman Barbara Comstock (R-VA) felicitated Pakistani-Americans at 'Pakistan Independence Day Celebration' event held at Bull Run Park, Virginia.- August 18, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui, Mrs. Saira Siddiqui and their daughters Jehan and Zara cutting a cake to celebrate the 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan at a community event held at Bull Run Park, Virginia.- August 18, 2018.

DEFENCE DAY

EMBASSY CELEBRATES ‘DEFENCE AND MARTYRS DAY’



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui addressing at the ‘Defence and Martyrs Day’ event held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC



Defence Attaché Brig. Kamal Anwar Chaudhry addressing at the ‘Defence and Martyrs Day’ event held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC.



Chief Guest, Randall Schriver, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Asian & Pacific Security Affairs addressing at the ‘Defence and Martyrs Day’ event held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC.

The Embassy celebrated ‘Defence and Martyrs Day’ on September 06, 2018 to pay rich tribute to all those who rendered their precious lives in defending the country over past seven decades and during the war on terror. Mr. Randall Schriver, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. While felicitating Pakistani nation on the occasion, Mr. Schriver appreciated Pakistan for extending full cooperation to the US in fighting the war on terror. He appreciated Pakistan’s prompt and critical support in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy. He reiterated Pakistan’s importance as a friend, a supporter and a key partner. The Assistant Secretary added that the US was fully cognizant of Pakistan’s valuable contribution in the war on terror, and emphasized that the US did not take those sacrifices lightly.

Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui highlighted the heavy loss of precious lives in praised Pakistan for emerging against all the odds. He said that strong and robust military cooperation between Pakistan and the US has always been pivotal to strengthening relations between the two countries.

Defence Attaché Brig. Kamal Anwar Chaudhry remarked that Defence Day is a commemoration of the resolve and commitment of Pakistani nation and the armed forces who have withstood and surmounted both external and internal challenges in defending the homeland.

MEETINGS WITH US ADMINISTRATION

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS US SECRETARY OF STATE



Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi & US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shaking hands before start of the official meeting – October 2, 2018.

During his official visit to the US (October 1-3, 2018), Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo at the State Department for wide-ranging talks on bilateral and regional issues. Foreign Minister said that close engagement between Pakistan and the US had always been mutually beneficial and a factor for stability in South Asia. He stressed that going forward, a broad-based and structured framework for dialogue would best serve the shared interests of both the countries.

Foreign Minister Qureshi also highlighted the development-focused and people-centric agenda of the new Government, which was contingent on peace and security in Pakistan's neighborhood. Foreign Minister noted that Pakistan and the United States shared a common desire for peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region at large. Noting that the use of force had failed to deliver results, Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's support for a political settlement in Afghanistan. Welcoming the Foreign Minister to the State Department, Secretary Pompeo said the United States looked forward to working with the new Government of Pakistan in implementing its reform agenda. He appreciated Pakistan's support for political reconciliation in Afghanistan and its efforts for bringing peace and stability in the neighborhood.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS US NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met US National Security Advisor (NSA) John Bolton at the White House on October 2, 2018. They discussed Pakistan-US bilateral relations and the regional situation in South Asia, including the efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution to the Afghan situation. Foreign Minister Qureshi assured Pakistan's long held position that there was no military solution to the situation in Afghanistan and reasserted Pakistan's continued support for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister also underlined that the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity provided the most effective mechanism to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The two leaders agreed that continued cooperation between the two countries would be in the interest of peace and security in South Asia.

MEETINGS WITH US ADMINISTRATION

AMBASSADOR CALLS ON SECRETARY OF STATE OF ILLINOIS



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui along with DCM Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, CG (Chicago) Faisal Tirmizi and other officers of the Consulate called on the longest serving Secretary of State of Illinois, Jesse White – August 28, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui presented gifts, including traditional Sindhi cap to Mr. Jesse White, Secretary of State of Illinois. - August 28, 2018.

AMBASSADOR MEETS SECRETARY OF STATE OF MARYLAND



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui met Mr. John C. Wobensmith, Secretary of State of Maryland on August 29, 2018. They discussed ways to promote trade and investment ties between Pakistan and the State of Maryland.

CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

During his visit to the US, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with the leadership of US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and other senators to discuss bilateral relations and the importance of Pakistan-US cooperation for peace and stability in the region.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi with Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), Chairman Senate Foreign Relations Committee & Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee – Oct 3, 2018.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi with Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee – Oct 2, 2018.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi with Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Ranking Member of Senate Armed Services Committee– Oct 2, 2018.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi with Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR), Member of Senate Armed Services Committee- Oct 3, 2018.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC). – Oct 2, 2018.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi with Senator James Risch (R-ID), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on South Asia – Oct 2, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui met with Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX), Chairman House Rules Committee on 5 October 2018 in Dallas, TX.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, Consul General Aisha Farooqui and prominent Pakistani-American Tahir Javed at the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) dinner, Washington D.C. - Sept 16, 2018.

FORMATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PAKISTAN CAUCUS FOUNDATION (CPCF)



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui, Rep. Eric Swalwell, Rep. Henry Cuellar and Mr. Tahir Javed speaking at the formal launching of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus Foundation (CPCF) at the Embassy of Pakistan - December 19, 2018

The Embassy hosted a ceremony for the formal launching of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus Foundation (CPCF). Speaking at the event, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, founder and co-chair of the Pakistan Caucus, announced that the Congressional Pakistan Caucus will be reconstituted when the newly elected 116th US Congress takes oath in January next year. She also announced the creation of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus Foundation (CPCF), a non-partisan non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that will work with the Congressional Pakistan Caucus. The Foundation will have a governing Board and an advisory board, comprising select members of Congress and prominent Pakistani-Americans led by Mr. Tahir Javed, a prominent Pakistani-American based in Houston, TX. In addition to advocacy and philanthropic work, the aim of the Foundation would be to work at the grass roots level to promote Pakistani-American youth and get them employment in the US political system. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) and Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) expressed support for the Caucus and the Foundation. While emphasizing the importance of friendly ties between Pakistan and the US, they said that both countries could cooperate in many areas including trade and energy. Speaking at the event, Tahir Javed said that nearly 40 members of the incoming Congress from both parties were likely to join the Caucus. Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui welcomed the Caucus and the newly announced Foundation. He added that, under the leadership of Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee, the Caucus would help foster better relations between Pakistan and the US



THINK TANK EVENTS

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressed leading U.S corporations and investment firms at the Atlantic Council in New York on September 25, 2018. Foreign Minister outlined Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of proactively working for peace in South Asia. The Atlantic Council event was attended by the senior leadership of major US companies such as Boeing, Procter and Gamble, GE, Uber, Motorola as well as a number of major global investment funds that collectively manage US\$ 2,500 billion in capital.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressing at the Atlantic Council, New York.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi with Fred Kempe, President of Atlantic Council and Sigve Brekke, CEO of Telenor.

FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS AT THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE (USIP)

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) on October 04, 2018. At an interactive session titled, 'Pakistan's New Government: Change or Continuity in Foreign Policy?' he shared the new government's strategy, particularly for engaging with the United States. Foreign Minister said that Pakistan's new government wants to seize an opportunity for a political solution of the war in Afghanistan and a "new convergence" of thinking among the Pakistani, Afghan and US governments is creating much of that opportunity.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi speaking at the United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC.



TRADE & ECONOMY

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS PRESIDENT OF WORLD BANK



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with President of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim on September 24, 2018. Foreign Minister briefed Mr. Kim regarding Pakistan's position on the Indus Water Treaty.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS CHAIRPERSON EXXONMOBIL LNG



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi received Ms. Emma Cochrane, Chairperson ExxonMobil LNG on October 3, 2018. Ms. Cochrane shared ExxonMobil's excitement and interest in making investment in Pakistan.

AMBASSADOR MEETS US ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE BUREAU OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui met with Francis R. Fannon, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Energy Resources to discuss bilateral cooperation in energy, trade & investment sectors – August 28, 2018



AMBASSADOR MEETS FEDERATION OF PAKISTAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY DELEGATION



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui met with a delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) in New York, on September 26, 2018.. Ambassador apprised the delegates about initiatives being taken to promote business relations between Pakistan and the US.

FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS PAKISTANI MEDIA



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi briefing Pakistani media at a press briefing held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, DC on October 3, 2018.



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi with Embassy press officers and members of the Pakistani media after the press briefing.

CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF BRIEFS US & PAKISTANI MEDIA



Chief of Naval Staff speaking with Pakistani and American media at a press briefing organized by the Embassy, on September 17, 2018.

AMBASSADOR VISITS BLOOMBERG STUDIOS IN WASHINGTON DC

Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui along with Press Minister, Abid Saeed and Press Attache, Zoobia Masood visited the Washington Bureau of Bloomberg News on July 2, 2018. He met with the senior editorial team and discussed various challenges as well as opportunities in the US-Pakistan bilateral relations. Later he appeared in a live interview on Bloomberg's television program titled "Balance of Power" with Shery Ahn and David Westin. Ambassador Siddiqui also gave a live radio interview to Amy Morris, co-host of the daily radio show "Politics, Policy, Power & Law".



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui with Bloomberg's senior editorial team.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui giving a live interview on Bloomberg television program titled "Balance of Power".



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui during his live interview on Bloomberg daily radio show "Politics, Policy, Power & Law".

AMBASSADOR MEETS VISITING PAKISTANI JOURNALIST DELEGATIONS

A delegation of young Pakistani journalists currently enrolled in "The US-Pakistan Professional Partnership Program for Journalists in Urdu language", called on Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui on 14 November 2018. During the meeting, Ambassador Siddiqui briefed them about Pakistan-US bilateral relations, and important regional and international issues.



A delegation of young Pakistani journalists participating in a course "Increasing the Capacity of Women Journalists" sponsored by the International Visitors Leadership Program called on Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui on 4 December 2018 at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERACTS WITH THE PAKISTANI COMMUNITY



Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi addressing prominent members of the Pakistan-American community

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held an exhaustive interactive session with prominent members of Pakistani-American community from all across the US at the Embassy of Pakistan on September 23, 2018. Foreign Minister conveyed Prime Minister Imran Khan's appreciation for the community's strengths and contributions and his keenness to engage with the Pakistani diaspora. Foreign Minister said that despite myriad complex challenges, new Government would do its best to come up to the expectations of people of Pakistan as well as overseas Pakistanis. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi also stated that government is striving for across the board accountability. Policies are being formulated to encourage investments in Pakistan, Foreign Minister said.

AMBASSADOR VISITS TEXAS



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui met a cross-section of Pakistani-American community comprising of eminent community leaders, professionals and students at a dinner hosted by Consul General of Pakistan in Houston, Aisha Farooqui on October 8, 2018



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui, Consul General Aisha Farooqui and prominent members of Pakistani American community called on former US President George W. Bush in Dallas, TX on October 5, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui attending a community event held in his honor in Houston, TX on October 8, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui and APPNA President Dr. Iqbal Zafar Hamid at the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) Annual Convention 2018 in Dallas, Texas on July 8, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui participated in the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) Annual Convention 2018 held in Dallas, Texas on July 8, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui delivering a talk on 'Youth & Community Engagement' at the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) Annual Convention 2018 in Dallas, Texas on July 8, 2018.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AMBASSADOR MEETS PAKISTANI-AMERICAN LAWYERS



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui at an interactive session with Pakistani-American lawyers in New York, December 13, 2018



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui at a luncheon with Pakistani-American lawyers in Washington, DC, December 18, 2018

AMBASSADOR VISITS CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

I-VOTING FOR OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui was the keynote speaker at OPEN Chicago Annual Conference 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui attending a community dinner at University Club, Chicago, November 9, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui made an important announcement regarding voting rights for overseas Pakistanis on September 11, 2018. He informed the Pakistani community of the honourable Supreme Court's decision allowing overseas Pakistanis to vote in upcoming by-elections to be held in Pakistan on October 14, 2018. He encouraged the community members to register themselves at www.ecp.gov.pk in order to cast their I-votes.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS DC SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui attended the screening of "Koi Ashiq Kisi Mehboob Say (Some Lover to Some Beloved)", a movie on the life & works of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, at D.C. South Asian Film Festival on September 8, 2018. Ambassador Siddiqui highlighted the importance of promoting diversity of Pakistan's arts & culture in the US.

EMBASSY OUTREACH

AMBASSADOR VISITS PAKISTAN CONSULATE GENERAL, LOS ANGELES

Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui visited the Pakistan Consulate in Los Angeles, CA on October 5, 2018. In addition to meeting with officers and staff, he also inspected the Consular Section of the consulate. Consul General Jabbar Memon briefed the Ambassador about various initiatives taken by the consulate to improve the consular services. Ambassador appreciated the hard work and dedication of the consulate staff in rendering consular services.



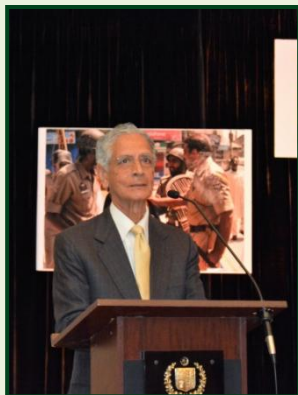
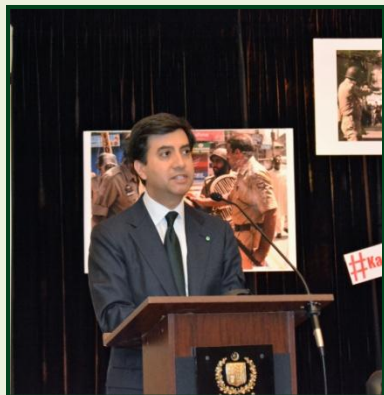
EMBASSY EVENTS

AMBASSADOR PRESIDES OVER A CONFERENCE OF CONSULS GENERAL AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELLORS



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui presided over a day-long conference of Consuls General and Commercial Counsellors to the US at the Embassy on June 24, 2018. Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui highlighted the importance of extending efficient consular services and promoting bilateral trade between Pakistan and the United States. Ambassador Siddiqui applauded the steps taken by the Embassy and the Consulates General, and asked the concerned officers to further improve areas of consular services based on the feedback received from the community. Ambassador Siddiqui directed trade and commercial officers to focus on untapped sectors on both Pakistan and US sides for enhancing commercial ties between the two countries.

EMBASSY HOSTS KASHMIR BLACK DAY EVENT



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui and Ambassador Touqir Hussain addressing the audience at Kashmir Black Day Event

EMBASSY EVENTS



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui with panelists at Kashmir Black Day Event



Guests viewing a photographic exhibition at the Embassy displaying human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir

The Embassy organized a special event to commemorate Kashmir Black Day on October 26, 2018. Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui reaffirmed Pakistan's continued and unflinching moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Indian-Occupied Kashmir. While citing a recent Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report that highlights oppressive legal measures used by India to justify its brutality in Kashmir, he urged American people to discuss the Kashmir issue and appealed to them to take cognizance of the human plight of Kashmiri people. A photographic exhibition was held depicting horrendous human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir. A documentary showing the struggle of the Kashmiri people in the face of atrocities being perpetrated by Indian occupation forces was also played. Guest speakers, including Amb. Touqir Hussain – former Ambassador and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, Dr. Imtiaz Khan – Professor at School of Medicine & Health Services at George Washington University, and Sardar Zulfiqar Khan – prominent Kashmiri American leader, spoke on the occasion. The event was attended by a large number of Pakistani Americans, Kashmiri community members and different segments of American civil society including students from Washington-based Universities and Capitol Hill staffers.

EMBASSY HOSTS MEHFIL-E-MILAD



The Embassy hosted a solemn ceremony of Mehfil-e-Milad on December 7, 2018, to celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). While speaking on the occasion, Mrs. Saira Siddiqui, wife of Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui welcomed all the participants and reflected upon the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

AMBASSADOR ADDRESSES STUDENTS AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (SAIS)



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui addressed a group of students at the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) on 14 November 2018. The discussion was moderated by Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute at the SAIS. During Ambassador's address and the Q&A, he spoke about Pakistan's remarkable strides in democracy, economy, science, education and women empowerment. He also covered various aspects of Pakistan's foreign policy including its efforts to bring durable peace in Afghanistan.

AMBASSADOR DELIVERS A LECTURE AT PARDEE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES, BOSTON UNIVERSITY



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui delivered a talk on US-Pakistan Relations at the Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, MA on 29 November 2018. The talk was hosted by Dr. Adil Najam.

AMBASSADOR HOSTS FLECHTER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY, TUFTS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui engaged in an interactive session over lunch with Alumni of Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (Washington DC Chapter) on Monday, 5 November 2018 at the Embassy.

AMBASSADOR INTERACTS WITH GLOBAL UGRAD-PAKISTAN STUDENTS GROUP



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui met with a group of 108 students visiting the US as part of the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program on August 9, 2018. The students represented various Pakistani universities and geographical regions. During an interactive session with the students, ambassador responded to a number of questions pertaining to Pakistan-US relations.

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

AMBASSADOR INTERACTS WITH STUDENTS FROM JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA (JSA), GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui interacted with a group of students from across the US enrolled in the Junior State of America (JSA) Summer Program, Georgetown University, Washington, DC – July 20, 2018

AMBASSADOR HOSTS SUMMER SISTERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM DELEGATES



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui met with a group of high school students from Pakistan visiting the US under the 'Summer Sisters Exchange Program' - July 13, 2018.

AMBASSADOR MEETS 2018 US PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui met with the 2018 US Presidential Scholar Ibraheem Khan on June 30, 2018. Ibraheem is of Pakistani descent and would be attending Harvard University on a full scholarship.

AMBASSADOR HOSTS STUDENTS OF THE OSGOOD CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui held an interactive session with graduate students from Germany, China and the United States enrolled in the Osgood Center for International Studies on August 1, 2018. Ambassador Siddiqui briefed them about Pakistan's position on regional and global issues.

AMBASSADOR HOSTS A GROUP OF TEACHERS



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui hosted a group of secondary school teachers from Pakistan on July 11, 2018. The group was in the US to attend a 6-week fellowship/training at Virginia Tech University in Virginia.

EMBASSY HOSTS A FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR AMBASSADOR

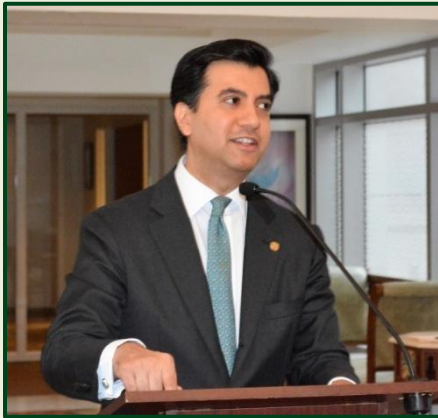
Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC hosted a farewell ceremony in honour of Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui on 9 December 2018. All the officers of the Embassy along with their spouses wished Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui and Mrs. Saira Siddiqui all the best in future endeavors.



Embassy officers with Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui at the farewell reception hosted in his honour.



DCM and Mrs. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh presenting a memento to Ambassador and Mrs. Ali J. Siddiqui



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui, Deputy Chief of Mission Rizwan Saeed Sheikh and Defense Attaché Brig. Kamal Anwar Chaudhry speaking at the farewell ceremony.



Press Minister Abid Saeed, Finance & Accounts Officer Muhammad Tayyab and Trade Minister Ali Tahir delivering remarks at the farewell ceremony.



Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbas presented a memento to Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui on September 18, 2018. CNS visited the Embassy during his official visit to the US.



Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi NI(M) had an interactive session with South Asia Watchers at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC on September 18, 2018.



Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat NI(M) with Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui during an Embassy Forum event held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC.



The Embassy held a prayer ceremony for martyrs and victims of terrorist attacks on election rallies in Pakistan at a "Remembrance Event" on July 16, 2018. Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui, officers and officials of the Embassy joined the prayers. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Siddiqui said, having achieved remarkable successes in the war against terrorism, the entire nation is fully determined to eradicate the menace of terrorism from our country.



Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, President of Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) called on Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui and briefed him about ISNA's contributions in fostering inter-faith harmony and promoting understanding between Islam and other religions.



Mr. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, outgoing Consul General, Chicago and incoming Consul General, Mr. Javed Umrani called on Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui at the Ambassador's office for a briefing - September 6, 2018.



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui hosted a delegation of District & Session Judges from Pakistan. The delegation is visiting USA to attend the Intellectual Property Judicial Workshop in Alexandria, Virginia.



The late Mr. Muhammad Rafiq



Ambassador Ali J. Siddiqui delivering a commiseration speech at a prayer service in honour of the late Mr. Muhammad Rafiq.



A prayer ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC on 28 November 2018 to offer fatha on the sad demise of the late Mr. Muhammad Rafique, a staff member of the Ambassador's office. On this occasion, all officers and staff of the Embassy prayed that Allah Almighty may grant eternal peace to the departed soul and bless his family with strength and forbearance to deal with the loss.



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