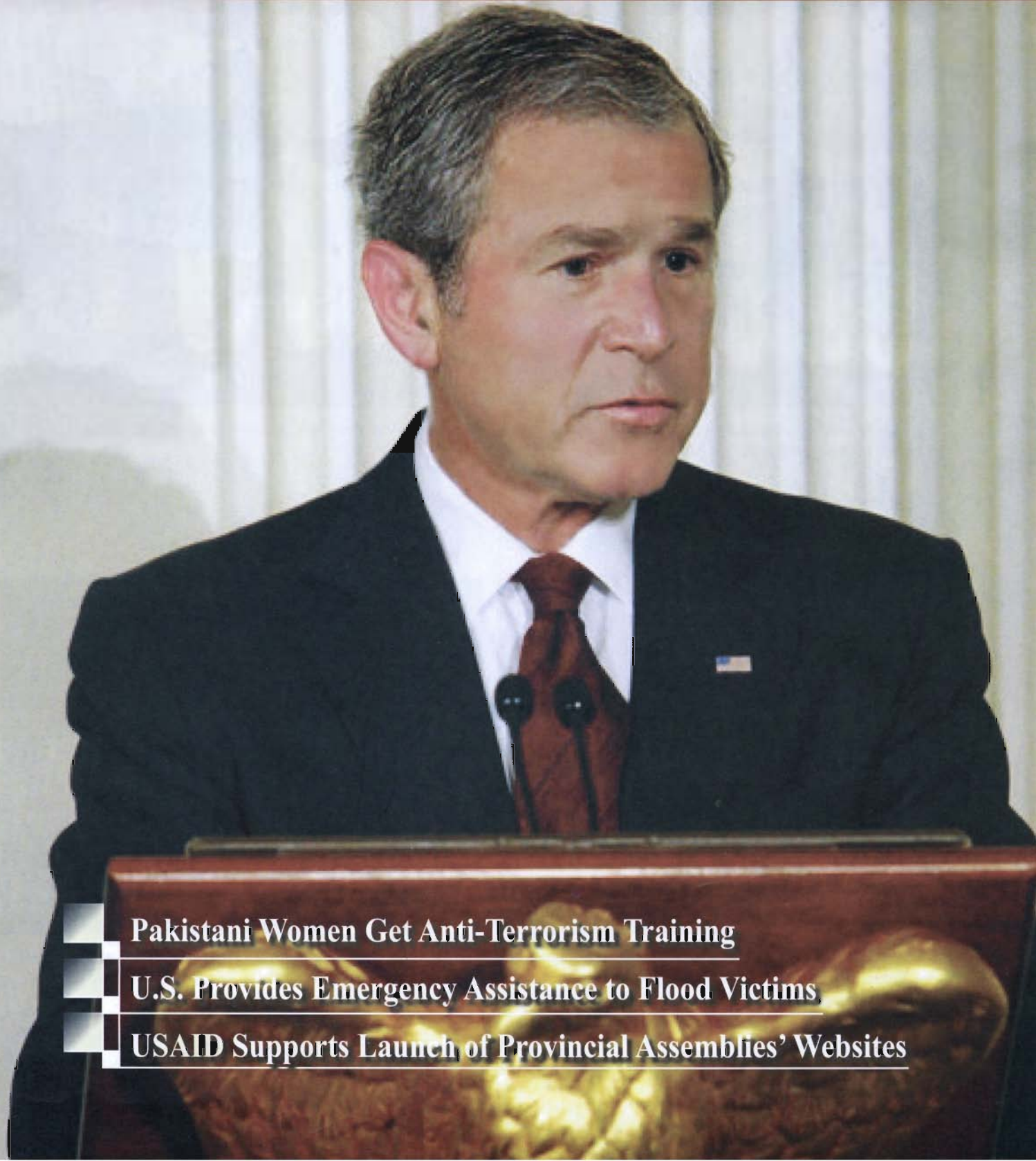


# Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

September 2008

*Published by the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad*



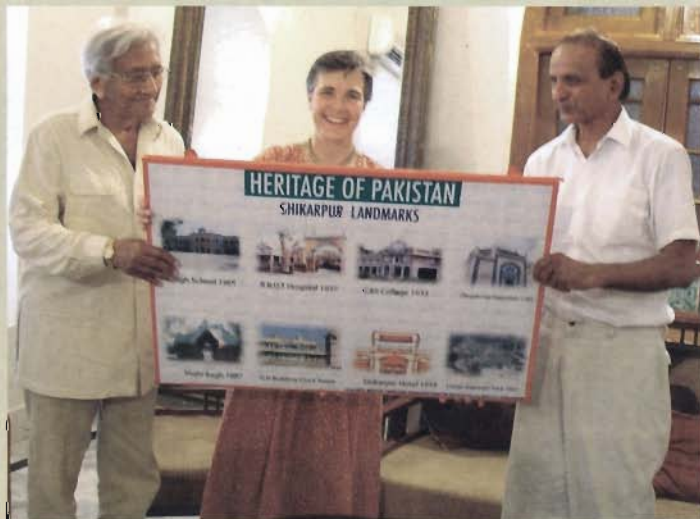
**Pakistani Women Get Anti-Terrorism Training**

**U.S. Provides Emergency Assistance to Flood Victims**

**USAID Supports Launch of Provincial Assemblies' Websites**



US Consul General Kay Anske with the officer-bearers of Sukkur Chambers of Commerce and Industry after her visit to the chamber's office in Sukkur.



Senior Pakistan Peoples Party leader MNA Aftab Shaban Mirani and Researcher Naseem Mughul presenting 'Heritage of Pakistan' photographs of Shikarpur city to the U.S. Consul General Kay L. Anske during her visit to Shikarpur.



US Consul General Kay Anske talking to media after holding a meeting with District Nazim Sukkur Syed Nasir Hussain Shah at his office in Sukkur.

# TABLE OF Contents



<b>04</b>	<b>Letters to the Editor</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>Pakistani Women Get Anti-Terrorism Training</b>
<b>07</b>	<b>Senior U.S. Officials Visit Earthquake-Hit Areas in Muzaffarabad, and Lahore School of Economics</b>
<b>08</b>	<b>Joint Communiqué: United States - Pakistan Economic Dialogue</b>
<b>09</b>	<b>Crossing the Language Barrier . .</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>U.S. Provides Emergency Assistance to Flood Victims</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>26 Pakistani Students Embark on Education Program to U.S.</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>English ACCESS Micro-Scholarship Program New Batch Passes Out</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>U.S. Consulate Karachi's Activities</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>USAID Joins Hands with Corporate Sector to Improve Health of Pakistanis</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>HIV-AIDS Workshop in Sargodha</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Indian, Pakistani Students Enjoy a Week in Lahore Vow to Spread the Message of Peace</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>USAID Funds Update of Provincial Assemblies' Websites</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>USAID Launches Balochistan Component of \$90 Million National Education Program</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>President Bush Attends Iftaar Dinner</b>

**Editor-In-Chief**

Lou Fintor  
Press Attaché  
U. S. Embassy Islamabad

**Published by**

Public Affairs Section  
Embassy of the United States of America  
Ramna-5, Diplomatic Enclave  
Islamabad - Pakistan  
Phone: 051-2080000 Fax: 051-2278607  
Email: infoisb@state.gov  
Website: <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov>

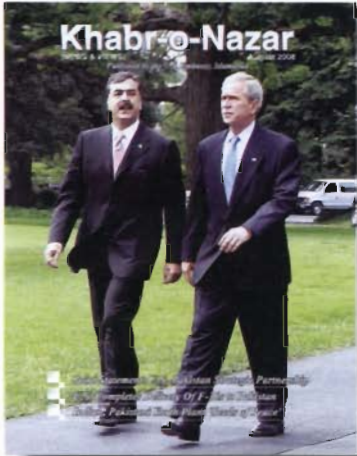
**Designed & Printed by**

Classical Printers, Islamabad

**Cover**

President George W. Bush welcomes guests to the Iftaar Dinner with Ambassadors and Muslim leaders in the State Dining Room of the White House, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2008, to celebrate the traditions of Islamic faith and culture. (White House photo by Chris Greenberg)

# Letters to the Editor



## Attractiveness

The beautiful getup and the colorful pages of Khabr-o-Nazar add to its attractiveness. I'm pleased to see the picture of prominent actor Jamal Shah in your magazine. Jamal Shah and I are from the same town. After reading about the services of the U.S. assistance, it is essential to express our gratitude. However, the United States will have to do a lot for the backward province of Balochistan. If it sets up higher educational institutions in our province, we can make use of the U.S. programs in a much better way.

**Shahbaz Chakar**  
Quetta

## Goodwill

American Senator Feingold visited the earthquake-affected areas on May 28, and reviewed the reconstruction programs himself. Such acts and visits play a vital role in harboring goodwill, affection and mutual understanding among nations. I would like to request you to publish the biographical sketches of the contributing writers of your magazine.

**Turray Baz Gul Yousaf Zai**  
Killah Abdullah, Chaman

## Will Certainly Help

A viable economy, and strong defense system guarantee stability of a country in the 21st century. The U.S. has provided 14 F-16 fighter jets recently. This addition will certainly help strengthen Pakistan's defense. The American supply of the state-of-the-art arms demonstrates importance that it gives to Pakistan.

**Asif Ansari**  
Jamshoro

## Impartial

Khabr-o-Nazar is an impartial magazine that shows the true picture of the United States. The U.S. is a philanthropic, democratic and secular country, where everyone has equal rights. We are proud of Pak-U.S. friendship.

**Shaharyar,**  
Gujranwala



# Pakistani Women Get Anti-Terrorism Training

*Course Organized Under Department of State's Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program*

**A**mbassador Anne W. Patterson complimented the “dedication and determination” of the women participants of the six-week Crisis Response Team Course (CRTC), organized by the Department of State Anti Terrorism Assistance Program which concluded in Islamabad on August 21. Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani presented certificates to the participants.

The CRTC was designed for a 12-member team and taught the participants the principles

of organization, commanding and conducting hostage rescue operation. It also focused on intervention tactics in stronghold assault situations. The course provided the participants with basic skills to resolve high-risk terrorist confrontations using a variety of options while employing the minimum force necessary to protect human life and to limit collateral damage.

“You brave women will encounter a greater threat here than your counterparts in most countries. Police and security forces of

Pakistan sacrifice their lives every day to prevent suicide bombings and other attacks,” Ambassador Patterson remarked while speaking at the graduation ceremony. “I commend your courage and your dedication. I also salute your families who understandably are apprehensive but surely also very proud of the work you have undertaken.”

The course also represented a successful partnership between Pakistan and the United States. Around the world, the Diplomatic Security Anti-Terrorism Assistance

## Anti-Terrorism Training

Program brings together counter-terrorism experts from the United States and partner nations to work and learn together, fostering cooperation and coordination of counter-terrorism efforts.

Since its inception, Pakistan ATA has successfully conducted over 90 intensive antiterrorist courses of instructions and trained over 1500 Pakistani officials and law enforcement officers. This program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, provided training, equipment, and technology targeted to respond most effectively to the security situation in Pakistan.

“We share the Government of Pakistan’s goal to detect, deny, defeat, capture, and prosecute terrorists and their organizations,” the American Ambassador said.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said that Pakistan is a fore-runner state in the war against terrorism, adding that it was high time to confront the worst threats before they emerge.

“The war on terror cannot be won on defensive. We have to take the battle to the doorsteps of the extremists,” the Prime Minister emphasized.

Referring to the CRTC, the Prime Minister hoped that training and orientation of the program involving latest trends, knowledge and equipment would add impetus to the talent of the participants.

Chief Security Officer of Prime Minister Secretariat Syed Kaleem Imam highlighted the importance of training courses for the law enforcing personnel to help them get better understanding about the complex issue of terrorism.

The Acting Director of Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program, Lynnda Tibbetts, declared the course a “tremendous success.”



*Participants of the Crisis Response Team Course.*



*Daniel S. Sullivan talking to journalists in Islamabad.*

## Senior U.S. Officials Visit Earthquake-Hit Areas in Muzaffarabad

### Also Visit Lahore School of Economics

**T**he United States Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, Daniel S. Sullivan, and the Acting Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South Asia, Claudio Lillienfeld, visited earthquake affected areas in Muzaffarabad region on August 10 to assess the progress of the U.S.-supported reconstruction work and discuss strategies to bolster economic development.

Assistant Secretary Sullivan, who last visited Muzaffarabad in 2006, met with Chief Secretary of AJK, Javed Majeed, and Muzaffarabad Development Authority Chairman Zahid Amin.

Secretary Sullivan also visited the Makri Park, which was constructed with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In April 2006, USAID funded a \$1.7 million project to remove debris from the city of Muzaffarabad; the project cleared 8.5 million cubic feet of rubble from the town center and deposited it at the government-designated landfill of Makri, a ravine on the bank of the Neelum river.

Assistant Secretary Daniel S. Sullivan emphasized “the strong and vibrant US-Pakistan bilateral trade relationship” during his visit to the Lahore School of Economics on August 12.

Speaking with students and faculty of the Lahore School of Economics, Assistant Secretary Sullivan stated that “the health of U.S. economy is also vitally dependent on the growth and development of those countries with which we trade and invest.”

Assistant Secretary Sullivan was received at the Lahore School of Economics by Rector Dr. Shahid Amjad Chaudhry. Following his remarks, Assistant Secretary Sullivan responded to student and faculty’s queries on the United States-Pakistan bilateral economic relationship.

During his visit to Lahore, Assistant Secretary Sullivan also met with Punjab Finance Minister Tanveer Ashraf Kaira and held separate meetings with representatives of the business community.



*The United States Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, Mr. Daniel S. Sullivan visited earthquake affected areas in Pakistan’s Muzaffarabad region to assess the progress of the U.S.-supported reconstruction work.*





## Joint Communiqué: United States - Pakistan Economic Dialogue

Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Interior, Labor, Law and Justice, Water and Power, Education, the Board of Investment, and the State Bank of Pakistan, as well as Pakistan's Economic Minister to the United States, participated. They were joined by officials

access to exports from businesses in these areas and create employment opportunities for the border regions.

Trade liberalization, protection of intellectual property rights, and labor issues, all aimed at fostering increased economic opportunities, were also discussed. Useful discussions about the issues that remain in concluding a BIT, which would promote a more open, transparent, and predictable business climate, were discussed as well. We agreed that the United States and Pakistan have a strong interest in resuming BIT negotiations and that our investment experts should meet as soon as possible to do so. Ways to increase the opportunity for Pakistani students to study at U.S. universities, including through expanding scholarship opportunities, were considered, and we agreed to pursue the matter further.

Recognizing rising world fuel and food prices, policy measures already taken by the GOP to cope with rising prices and ways in which bilateral cooperation in energy and agriculture could be strengthened, in particular increasing capacity and attracting greater U.S. investment in the these areas. The two parties spoke of positive steps to better address matters relating to eliminating terrorism financing networks and strengthening Pakistan's Money Laundering Ordinance. There was also discussion about ways to strengthen GOP efforts for sustainable socio-economic development of the border areas.

The two delegations agreed to meet again in 2009 in the United States.

from the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, Treasury, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Embassy.

The two delegations discussed Pakistan's macroeconomic policies, including fiscal and monetary reforms and social safety net measures the GOP has taken and plans to take to promote economic growth, provide protection to vulnerable groups, and increase prosperity of all Pakistanis. The United States and Pakistan agreed on the importance of GOP measures to stabilize the economy, to adhere to the announced macroeconomic policy and targets, and to continue Pakistan's structural reforms, including monetary and fiscal policy adjustments. A fruitful discussion was held on establishing Reconstruction Opportunity Zones, which will facilitate job creation and economic development in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, North West Frontier Province, the earthquake-affected areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Balochistan within 100 miles of the Afghan border. The Reconstruction Opportunity Zones will provide greater market

**I**slamabad - Following is the text of the Joint Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the U.S.-Pakistan Economic Dialogue on August 11, 2008.

The third Pakistan-U.S. Economic Dialogue was held today under the co-chairmanship of Pakistan's Minister of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Statistics, Syed Naveed Qamar, and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs Daniel S. Sullivan. The Dialogue sought to deepen the U.S.-Pakistan economic partnership and further develop a long-term, broad-based economic relationship that mutually benefits the citizens of our two countries. The two sides discussed a wide-ranging agenda, including macroeconomic policy, labor, intellectual property rights, energy, agricultural cooperation, eliminating terrorism financing networks, Reconstruction Opportunity Zones, a GOP scholarship proposal, foreign assistance and FATA development, regional cooperation and transit trade, private sector cooperation, and a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). Representatives from Pakistan's Ministries of Finance, Commerce,





*Political Officer Darrin MacKinnon, and Assistant Public Affairs Officer Roya Miller talking to the PTV host Abasin Yousafzai in a program to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peshawar Consulate*

# Crossing the Language Barrier ...

**P**ashto-speaking American officers of Peshawar Consulate participated in a Pashto television program on Pakistan Television (PTV) to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Peshawar Consulate. During the program, Assistant Public Affairs Officer Roya Miller and Political Officer Darrin MacKinnon discussed the cultural bridges that have been built between the community and the Consulate over the last 50 years, including the initiative to train American officers deputed at Peshawar Consulate to speak Pashto.

“The themes of music are universal” said MacKinnon. The officers chose three Pashto music videos to play and discussed how music overcomes national boundaries. Miller noted that by exploring the music of another culture, people can get a better understanding of each others traditions and values.

PTV is the only broadcast channel in Pakistan’s Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA). The program, conducted entirely in Pashto, was viewed all over Pakistan including the NWFP, the Frontier Regions, and FATA.





*U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan D. Hunt presenting a cheque of \$50,000 to the Inspector General of Punjab Police to help flood relief operations in Rajanpur.*

## U.S. Provides Emergency Assistance to Flood Victims

**T**he United States Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provided \$50,000 in emergency relief to people in flood-affected areas of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and an equivalent amount to the Punjab Police force which assisted with flood relief operations in Rajanpur.

The assistance amount for NWFP flood victims provided jerry cans and tankered potable water, kerosene lamps, cooking stoves, fuel, and kitchen utensils to

approximately 5,400 individuals or some 900 households in Patwar Bala and Patwar Payen of Peshawar district. The assistance package for the Punjab police force will primarily be used to buy fuel and repair police vehicles that are being used in support of flood relief operations and that help provide security for those displaced by flooding in Rajanpur.

“The United States extends its condolences to the families affected by this terrible disaster,” said U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson in Islamabad on August 11. “This

assistance from the American people will provide essential items to help the flood victims. We stand by you in this trying time.”

The relief assistance USAID provided was crucial in the early stages of a natural disaster to avert further injury or loss of life. USAID has provided similar assistance to Pakistan during flooding in 2003, 2005 and 2007. Immediately following the October 2005 earthquake, USAID provided relief that saved lives in the earthquake-affected areas. It has since helped rebuild some of the hardest-hit areas.



## 26 Pakistani Students Embark on Education Program to U.S.

The Mission Director of United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Anne Aarnes, underlined the need for buildings “cross-cultural understanding” and termed the exchange programs as the “first step of broadening world view” of the participating students.

“I know your parents and teachers are proud of your high academic achievements and your selection for this program,” said Ms. Aarnes while speaking at a send-off ceremony organized in Islamabad on August 13 for the 26 Pakistani high school students who were selected for a two-week science and technology exchange program in Washington.

The exchange program is part the USAID’s \$90 million Links to Learning (ED-LINKS) program which will teach the students web development, digital photography and video production. The first batch of students (14 boys and 12 girls) under this program represents both rural and urban areas of Islamabad Capital Territory.

“You are going to have once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience American life firsthand, while also learning more about the latest information technology,” USAID’s Aarnes said. “I know that you will be proud and effective representatives of Pakistan, and that you will form rewarding

friendships with the American students and teachers you meet.”

ED-LINKS will send up to 30 students each from Balochistan, Sindh and the Islamabad Capital Territory every year. Students are selected based on merit from underprivileged households in these areas. The ED-LINKS program works in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan.

Since 2002, the U.S. Government through USAID has provided more than \$2 billion to Pakistan to improve economic growth, education, health, and governance and to assist with earthquake reconstruction.

*USAID Pakistan Mission Director Anne Aarnes and Additional Secretary of Ministry of Education Shahid Ahmed are grouped together with students who embarked on a two-week USAID education program to Washington*



# English ACCESS Micro-Scholarship Program New Batch Passes Out

**U.S.** Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan D. Hunt distributed certificates to the graduates of English ACCESS Micro-scholarship Program in Multan on August 20 and expressed the hope that the “graduates would now have enhanced English language skills.”

“Graduates of the program are now better equipped to gain admission to Pakistan’s universities and, in the future, participate in a job market which values communication skills,” Principal Office Bryan Hunt said while speaking at the graduation ceremony of English ACCESS Micro-scholarship Program.

The English ACCESS Micro-scholarship Program is an initiative of the U.S. State Department that provides an American-style classroom experience to underprivileged youth around the world. The goal of this two-year program is to adequately prepare bright students in written and spoken English so that they can gain admission to Pakistan’s universities, thus permitting them to compete more effectively with students who have studied in English-medium schools.

The first ACCESS program in Pakistan was launched in Lahore in 2004. Approximately 1,370 students are participating in the ACCESS Micro-scholarship program throughout Pakistan, which is currently being run in Peshawar, Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi, and Gwadar.

During their visit to Multan, Principal Officer Hunt and Public Affairs Officer Mell also visited SOS village where they were briefed about the contribution of SOS towards the welfare of children.



*U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer, Bryan D. Hunt distributing certificates to graduates of the English ACCESS Micro-scholarship Program in Multan.*



*Lahore, August 21, 2008 - Graduates of the English ACCESS Microscholarship Program with U.S. Consulate Lahore's Principal Officer Bryan Hunt and Trustee CARE Foundation Seema Aziz after the certificate distribution.*

# Activities of U.S. Consulate Karachi



U.S. Consul General Kay Anske laid a floral wreath at the tomb of John Jacob, the founder of Jacobabad district in Upper Sindh. DCO Jacobabad Mohammad Rashid and DPO Saqib Ismail Memon received the Consul General upon her arrival in the city.

## Consul General Pays Homage to Jacobabad's Founder

U.S. Consul General Kay Anske laid a floral wreath on the grave of Sir John Jacobs, the founder of the city of Jacobabad while on a tour of Upper Sindh on July 22. District Coordination Officer (DCO) Muhammad Rashid and District Police Officer Saqib Memon received the Consul General. She was accompanied by Political Officer Mr. Tim Hall. During an hour-long meeting, DCO Rashid briefed the Consul General about the ongoing development projects in the areas of health, education, water supply, and road construction.

## American Diplomat Visits IBA Sukkur

U.S. Consulate Karachi Public Affairs Officer Karen Waltz-Davis called on the Director of Sukkur's Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Nisar Siddiqui on July 25. Ms. Davis observed that "producing sound professional managers who understand the latest global trends makes the student and Pakistan more competitive in the business

market." She noted that the new focus of video conferencing by the Institute will help link Sukkur IBA and the business education institutions globally. Director Nisar Siddiqui briefed the BPAO about the increased registration of students and the academic strength of faculty and the Institute.



BPAO Karen Waltz-Davis presenting a book to Mr. Nisar Siddiqui, Director, Institute of Business Administration, Sukkur.

## SALU Linkage With U.S. Varsities Discussed



Dr. Nilofer Shaikh, Vice Chancellor, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur presenting a memento to Karachi Public Affairs Officer Karen Waltz-Davis.

U.S. Consulate Karachi Public Affairs Officer Karen Waltz-Davis met with the Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU), Khairpur,

Dr. Nilofer Shaikh, on July 24. The American diplomat was apprised of the ongoing academic programs and efforts to establish linkages with leading universities of the United States. Karen Waltz-Davis stressed the need to develop curriculum reflective of changing trends in various disciplines especially English, political science, and international relations. Ms. Davis also encouraged faculty members to investigate the opportunities to study in United States by exploring the Fulbright scholarships Program through the U.S. Education Foundation in Pakistan.

Ms. Davis also distributed certificates to participating journalists from Sukkur, Khairpur, Gambat, Theri, Ranipur and Hingorja in the workshop "Investigative Reporting and Effective Communication Skills," at the Mass Communication Department. This workshop, a joint collaboration with State Alumni Association Jamshoro (SAAJ) was funded by the U.S. Government to provide training to rural journalists in investigative reporting for social development and poverty reduction.



# USAID Joins Hands with Corporate Sector to Improve Health of Pakistanis

*Kathleen McDonald, Director Health, Democracy and Governance, USAID/Pakistan, addressing the signing ceremony held in Islamabad on August 18.*

**T**he United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed three Memorandums of Understanding in Islamabad on August 18 with well-known corporate sector firms Mobilink, Medentech, and Unilever Pakistan.

“USAID is helping Pakistani communities to have access to clean water and adopt sanitary practices that save lives,” said Ms. Kathleen McDonald, Director Health, Democracy and Governance, USAID/Pakistan. “We look forward to find new avenues with this innovative partnership with

corporate sector while we serve our common objective of helping the citizens of Pakistan live a better and a healthier life.”

Signed through the USAID-funded Pakistan Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene Promotion Project, these agreements will help leverage the strengths, expertise and resources of the private sector to aid Pakistan in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of significantly reducing the incidence of diarrhea through safe drinking water and hygiene promotion.

By signing the Memorandum of Understanding, Medentech ensures

that a large number of households in 40 districts will have an easy access to Aquatabs. Similarly, Unilever re-affirms its commitment to cut down the incidence of diarrhea-related deaths by promoting hand washing with soap and creating better hygiene awareness among the vulnerable rural communities. Mobilink supports the USAID-funded Pakistan Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene Promotion Project in communicating critical messages concerning safe drinking water and hygiene in main local languages, using the same approach as its Kissan (Farmer) Helpline Service.





## HIV-AIDS Workshop in Sargodha



*U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt addressing a training workshop in Sargodha focusing on religious scholars' role in spreading awareness about HIV-AIDS.*

**U.S.** Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt recently attended a training workshop in Sargodha focusing on ulema's role in spreading awareness about HIV-AIDS. Inter-Religious Council for Health (Punjab) collaborated with UNICEF in holding the workshop, which was attended by a number of religious scholars from various schools of thought.

Imam and Khateeb of Lahore's Badshahi Mosque Maulana Syed Abdul Khabeer Azad chaired the event, while Dr. Ali Razzaq and Dr. Shazia Saad Ali represented the Punjab AIDS Control Program and UNICEF respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Hunt underscored the important role ulema could play in increasing awareness about this issue. Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad reminded the ulema about their social responsibility in this regard.



*Indian and Pakistani Seeds attend the Wagah Border Ceremony.*

## Vow to Spread the Message of Peace Indian, Pakistani Students Enjoy a

“Everybody here is so hospitable and warm. Wherever we go, we get respect and warmth, which is the most delightful part of this home stay program,” remarked Hasit Mistry, an Indian participant of the Seeds of Peace program, about his week-long visit to Lahore.

Organized by Pakistan Program Director Sajjad Ahmed and his Indian counterpart Feruzan Mehta, the program brought 18 Indian Seeds and 7 delegation leaders to Pakistan’s cultural capital, Lahore, where they stayed with the Pakistani Seeds and got an introduction to their family life.

In 2001, Seeds of Peace – a New York-based non-governmental, non-

political organization -- launched a pilot program for Indian and Pakistani teenagers from Mumbai and Lahore. Since then, over 150 Indian and Pakistani students have participated in the program, with another 12 from each country attending the camp in June 2008.

A number of activities were planned for the students, including workshops to impart leadership skills and explore attitudes towards bilateral issues which the Seeds used during their presentations when visiting five schools in Lahore. Muhammad Saad, a Pakistan student and host, said he found the workshops “amazing, unconventional and constructive.”

The Indian students’ visit, however,

was not only educational; there were visits to tourist sites like the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, Gurdwara Dera Sahib and of course, the famed, pedestrian-only Anarkali Bazaar where they shopped to their heart’s delight. The visit also gave an opportunity for the Indian guests to witness the Wagha Border flag-lowering ceremony from the Pakistani side.

Attending a dinner with the Pakistani and Indian Seeds, Public Affairs Officer Traci Mell encouraged them “to spread the message of peace and tolerance,” and hoped that “this visit would be the beginning of many lifelong friendships.”

“It was a great learning experience,” Monica Wahri, delegation leader





*Seeds visit a local school.*

from 2003, stated. “The warmth and affection showered on us was overwhelming. I have brought back with me not only memories of the time we spent in Lahore, but also all the stories that my host and her family shared with us and that is a treasure I will always hold close to my heart.”

Also in Lahore to accompany the children was Paul Mailhot, Director Global Programming, Seeds of Peace, who said he “had a great time” and “can’t wait to do it again.” Remarking on the

home-stay program, SOP Program Director, India, Feruzan Mehta felt that such “opportunities should be created more often.”

The Seeds of Peace summer camp brings together children from various conflict regions around the world for six weeks of activities designed to promote peacemaking and conflict resolution skills between students from both sides of a conflict. Students are chosen through a competitive process involving recommendations, essays and interviews.

That the Lahore visit was a learning experience for all, was encapsulated by Mrs. Maliha Abrar when she remarked that the Indian students’ “different outlook on life in Pakistan helped us to analyze things in a better way.”

The visit concluded with a farewell dinner where the Indian guests and Pakistani hosts exchanged gifts and promised to continue spreading the message of peace. It was only befitting that the trees they chose to plant in Lahore were “sukh-chain” – symbolizing peace and tranquility.

## Week in Lahore

*Indian and Pakistani Seeds pose for a picture at their welcome reception.*





Speaker Punjab Assembly Rana Muhammad Iqbal pressing the button to officially launch the updated Punjab Assembly website. Director of USAID's Democracy and Governance Office Michael Hryshchyshyn looks on.

# USAID Funds Update of Provincial Assemblies' Websites

**A**re you interested in finding out more about the legislators from your constituency? Do you want to write to them about issues important to you? Do you want to know how the Assemblies operate? Or perhaps you just want to take a virtual tour of the Assembly building. All this information is now just a click away, thanks to the USAID-funded update of the Punjab, NWFP and Sindh Assembly websites.

"In recent years, the NWFP and Punjab Assemblies have been at the forefront of increasing public access to legislators and the work they do on behalf of their constituents," said Michael Hryshchyshyn, Director of the Office of Democracy and Governance for USAID/Pakistan at the launch of the Punjab Assembly website.

Inaugural events were held in the three provincial capitals to launch the websites. After expressing his appreciation for USAID's contribution, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Rana Muhammad Iqbal pressed the button, formally inaugurating the website for the Punjab Assembly. A large number of male and female MPs from different parties were present on the occasion and expressed keen interest in the website.

U.S. Consulate Lahore's Principal Officer Bryan Hunt hoped that the website "would prove to be a useful resource for voters, students, researchers and the media."

Addressing guests at the launch of the Sindh Assembly website, U.S. Consul General in Karachi Kay L. Anske remarked that it provides the "public opportunity to be more involved in their government."

The websites, [www.panwfp.gov.pk](http://www.panwfp.gov.pk) (NWFP), [www.pap.gov.pk](http://www.pap.gov.pk) (Punjab) and [www.pas.gov.pk](http://www.pas.gov.pk) (Sindh) provide a full display of information in English and Urdu on their Assemblies including history, members, bills, acts, Assembly proceedings, and resolutions. They also highlight the functions of the Standing Committees and their activities through reports,

news releases and clippings, and photographs. Additionally, there are e-mail portals allowing citizens to directly query the Assembly officials, encouraging more public input into its deliberations.

"We believe that these websites will help increase public understanding of and interest in the political process, promoting transparent and participatory governance and fostering democracy in Pakistan," Mr. Hryshchyshyn added.

The construction of these websites is part of USAID'S \$9.3 million Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project (PLSP) that is partnering with Pakistan's national and provincial legislatures to strengthen parliamentary institutions and processes.



Speaker Punjab Assembly Rana Muhammad Iqbal addressing members of parliament at the launch of the USAID-sponsored update of Punjab Assembly website.

# USAID Launches Balochistan Component of \$90 Million National Education Program

**T**he United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Balochistan's Education and Literacy Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Quetta on August 19 to expand USAID's nationwide \$90 million ED-LINKS program to the province.

"This program promises great rewards in Balochistan," said Mr. Edward Birgells, USAID/Pakistan's Acting Mission Director. "It will improve the teaching skills of some 10,000 teachers, build the capacity of officials to improve school management and increase the learning of more than 83,000 students."

Focused on improving education throughout Pakistan by improving key educational components such as teachers' skills, ED-LINKS will work in 695 middle and secondary schools in Kech, Panjgoor, Awaran, Khuzdar, Kachhi, Sibi, Jaffarabad, Pishin, Killa Saifullah, Killa Abdullah and Loralai.

"Investing in education is synonymous to investing in the future," said Mr. Birgells. "The American people firmly believe this and they are funding this program to help Pakistanis invest in a better future for their children and their nation."



*L to R Ed Birgells, ED-LINKS CoP John Raleigh, Balochistan Education Department Minister Shafiq Ahmed Khan.*



*ED-LINKS CoP John Raleigh and Balochistan Education Minister Shafiq Ahmed Khan signing a MoU to expand USAID's nationwide \$90 million ED-LINKS program to Balochistan.*

**T**his year's gathering, we pay special tribute to the many contribution Muslim Americans have made to our nation. We join in wishing Muslims around the world, "Ramadan Mubarak."

According to the teachings of Islam, Ramadan commemorates the revelation of God's word in the Holy Koran to the prophet Mohammad. The word has become the foundation for one of the world's great religions. Today more than a billion Muslims around the globe celebrate the month of Ramadan with daily fasting, heartfelt prayer, and acts of charity.

During Ramadan, we are reminded of Islam's long and distinguished history. Throughout the centuries, the Islamic world has been home to great centers of learning and culture.

one of our nation's most ingenious biomedical engineers. Last month, the good professor and his team of researchers at Georgia Tech unveiled an incredible invention that could one day help people with severe disabilities operate wheelchairs and surf the Internet by simply moving their tongue. Through this pioneering research, this good professor has brought new hope to thousands. He, like others in this room, have earned the admiration of our citizens.

Stories like the professor's remind us that one of the great strengths of our nation is its religious diversity. Americans practice many different faiths. But we all share a belief in the right to worship freely. We reject bigotry in all its forms. And over the past eight years, my administration has been proud to work closely with Muslim Americans to promote

*President Bush, right, and Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser bin Fahd Al-Sabah at the Iftaar Dinner the White House in Washington, D.C.*



# President Bush Attends Iftaar Dinner

## Excerpts from President Bush's Address at the Dinner

Muslim thinkers and scientists have advanced the frontiers of human knowledge. People of all faiths have benefited from the achievements of Muslims in fields from philosophy and poetry to mathematics and medicine.

At the beginning of a new century, Muslims in the United States are continuing this proud tradition of innovation and invention. Tonight we honor members of the Muslim community who've risen to the top of their professions. Among our guests are individuals with wide-ranging accomplishments -- from working on the Apollo Program, to pioneering advances in healthcare and medicine, to developing cutting-edge applications for the Internet.

One of these innovators is Professor Maysam Ghovanloo. This immigrant from Iran has become

justice and tolerance of all faiths.

We've also partnered with Muslims around the world to spread freedom to millions of people who have never known it before. We're helping the people of Iraq and Afghanistan build free societies after decades of tyranny. And during the month of reflection, we will remember all the brave Muslim Americans who wear the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. They represent the best of our nation. I'm honored to be their Commander-in-Chief.

As we break the fast tonight, let us give thanks for all those who serve a cause greater than themselves. Let us give thanks for the many ways that Muslim Americans have enriched our lives. And let us give thanks that we live in a country that makes one people out of many.



*President Bush speaks during the Iftaar Dinner in the White House, Sept. 17, 2008. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)*



بائیومیڈیکل انجینئر بن چکا ہے۔ گزشتہ ماہ اس نیک پروفیسر اور ان کے محققین کی ٹیم نے جارجیا نیک میں ایک ناقابل یقین ایجاد کا انکشاف کیا ہے جس سے ایک دن شدید معذوری کے شکار لوگ محض زبان ہلا کر ڈھیل چیز چلا سکیں گے اور انٹرنیٹ بھی استعمال کر سکیں گے۔ اس جدید تحقیق کے ذریعہ اس نیک پروفیسر نے ہزاروں لوگ کے دلوں میں امید کی کرن روشن کر دی ہے۔ اس استاد کی کہانی کی طرح کے واقعات ہمیں یہ یاد دلاتے ہیں کہ ہماری قوم کی طاقت مذہبی تنوع میں مضمر ہے۔ امریکی لوگ مختلف مذاہب کی پیروی کرتے ہیں۔ لیکن ہم سب اس بات پر یقین رکھتے ہیں کہ مذہبی آزادی کا حق ہر ایک کو ہے۔ ہم تعصب کی ہر قسم اور شکل کو مسترد کرتے ہیں اور گزشتہ آٹھ برسوں میں میری انتظامیہ کو اس بات پر فخر ہے کہ اس نے مسلم امریکیوں کے ساتھ مل کر تمام مذاہب سے انصاف اور رواداری کے فروغ کے لئے کام کیا ہے۔

صدر بش کے افطار عشاء یہ میں خطاب سے اہم اقتباسات :  
اس سال اس اجتماع میں ہم ان بہت سے مسلم امریکیوں کو خاص طور پر خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے ہماری قوم کے لئے متعدد خدمات سرانجام دیں۔ ہم دنیا بھر کے مسلمانوں کو رمضان کی مبارک باد پیش کرتے ہیں۔

اسلام کی تعلیمات کے مطابق رمضان کا مہینہ خدا کے الفاظ قرآن مجید کی صورت میں پیغمبر محمد ﷺ پر نازل ہونے کی یاد دلاتا ہے۔ یہ الفاظ دنیا کے ایک بڑے مذہب کی بنیاد بنے۔ آج کرۂ ارض پر ایک ارب سے زیادہ مسلمان روزانہ روزہ رکھ کر، دل سے دعائیں مانگ کر اور خیرات و صدقات کے ذریعہ ماہ رمضان گزارتے ہیں۔

ماہ رمضان میں ہم اسلام کی طویل اور شاندار تاریخ یاد کرتے ہیں۔ صدیوں سے عالم اسلام علم اور تہذیب کے بڑے

## صدر بش کی افطار ڈنر میں شرکت



State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

ہم نے دنیا بھر میں مسلمانوں کے ساتھ مل کر کروڑوں لوگوں کی آزادی کے لئے کام کیا ہے، جس سے وہ کبھی آشنا نہیں تھے۔ ہم عراق اور افغانستان کے لوگوں کو عشروں کی آمریت کے بعد آزاد معاشروں کے قیام میں مدد دے رہے ہیں۔ غور و تدبر کے اس مہینے میں ہم ان تمام بہادر امریکی مسلمانوں کو یاد کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے ریاست ہائے متحدہ امریکہ کی فوجی وردی زیب تن کی ہے۔ وہ ہمارے معاشرے کے بہترین لوگوں کی غمازی کرتے ہیں۔ مجھ ان کے سپہ سالار ہونے پر فخر ہے۔

اب جب ہم آج روزہ افطار کرتے ہیں تو ہم ان لوگوں کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے اپنی بساط سے بڑھ کر عظیم مشن کے لئے خدمات سرانجام دیں۔ آئیے ہم امریکی مسلمانوں کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے ہمارے معاشرے کو اپنے متعدد اطوار سے مزین کیا ہے۔ آئیے ہم شکر ادا کرتے ہیں کہ ہم ایک ایسے ملک میں رہتے ہیں جس نے بہت سے لوگوں کو یگانگت کے رشتے میں جوڑ دیا ہے۔

مراکز کا حامل رہا ہے۔ مسلم مفکرین اور سائنسدانوں نے انسانی علم کے افق وسیع کئے ہیں۔ تمام مذاہب کے پیروکار انسانوں نے فلسفہ، شاعری، علم ریاضی اور طب کے میدانوں میں مسلمانوں کی کامیابیوں سے استفادہ کیا ہے۔

ایک نئی صدی کے آغاز میں امریکہ میں مسلمان جدت و اختراع کی اس زریں روایت کو آگے بڑھا رہے ہیں۔ آج شب ہم مسلم امت کے ارکان کی عزت کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے اپنے اپنے شعبوں میں اپنا لوہا منوایا ہے۔ ہمارے مہمانان گرامی میں ایسے ایسے افراد موجود ہیں جو اپلو پروگرام سے لے کر صحت اور طب میں اور انٹرنیٹ کے جدید ترین اطلاق میں ترقی جیسے وسیع اور زبردست کارہائے نمایاں انجام دے چکے ہیں۔

ایسے ہی ایک موجد پروفیسر ٹیم غودالو ہیں۔ ایران سے ترک وطن کر کے آنے والے یہ شخص ہماری قوم کا نابذہ