

# Khabr-o-Nazar

February 2008

Published by the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad



*American Information Resource Centers Promoting Knowledge  
U.S. Supports Conservation Efforts in Taxila  
Pakistan Automated Fingerprint Identification System Launched*





U.S. Embassy Cultural Attaché Constance Colding Jones, presenting books to Secretary General Intiaz Alam during her visit to the South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA). The 50 books presented to the institution cover aspects of U.S. foreign policy and international relations. The senior U.S. diplomat hoped that the books, to be added to the SAFMA library, would be a “valuable source of information and reference” for journalists, academics and researchers. Renowned author and columnist Munnu Bhai (far left) also attended.



Consul General Karachi Kay L. Anske attending the completion ceremony of the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) conducted by the U.S. Consulate and held at the Police Training Centre in Karachi. The certificates were awarded to participants from Sindh Police, FIA, and CPLC.



U.S. Consulate Karachi Public Affairs Officer Karen Waltz-Davis with students and teachers at Karachi High School enjoying holiday festivities.





# Khabr-o-Nazar

Issue No. 2

February 2008

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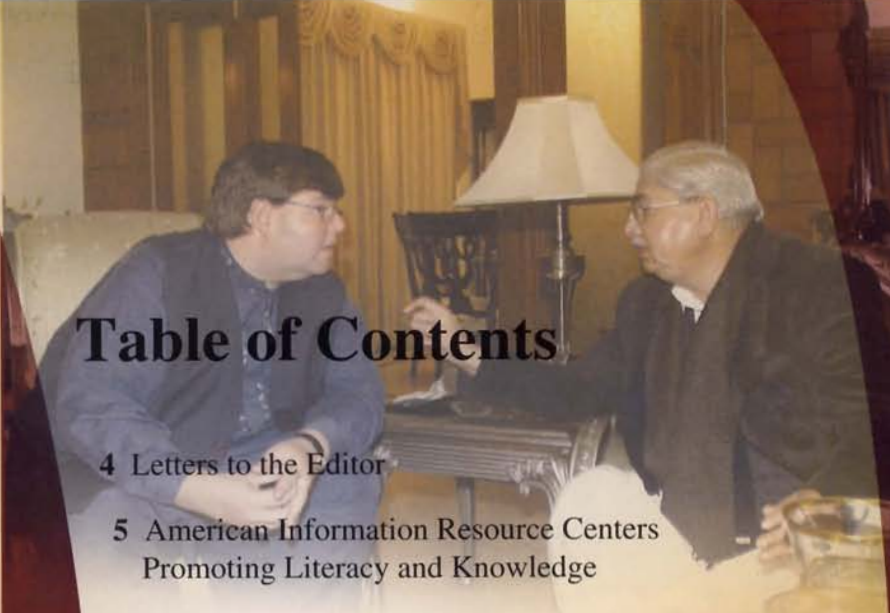
## Cover (English)

Regional English Language Officer Richard Boyum conducting a workshop for English teachers at the American Information Resource Center in Lahore.

## Cover (Urdu)

U.S. Embassy Assistant Press Attaché Megan Ellis greeting researchers and librarians of the Council of Islamic Ideology at a presentation by the American Information Resource Center in Islamabad.

## Table of Contents

- 
- 4 Letters to the Editor
  - 5 American Information Resource Centers Promoting Literacy and Knowledge
  - 6 American Cooking on Khyber TV
  - 7 Bryan Hunt Reiterates U.S. Commitment to Democracy in Pakistan
  - 8 Ambassador's Cultural Fund Supports Conservation Efforts at Taxila
  - 10 U.S. Funded "Pakistan Automated Fingerprint Identification System" Launched
  - 11 People's Hard Work behind U.S. Progress
  - 14 An Interview with Dr. Raza Bokhari
  - 15 U.S. Relations With Pakistan Are Important: Senator Lieberman
  - 16 U.S. Ambassador Visits Karachi
  - 18 Tolerance & Patience Prevails Everywhere
  - 20 Consul General Karachi visits the Turtle Conservation Program





# Letters to the Editor

**Khabr-o-Nazar**

(NEWS & VIEWS)

January 2008

Published by the U.S. Consulate General, Lahore



## Useful Magazine

I congratulate you for bringing out a useful and informative monthly magazine "Khabr-o-Nazar." I think this magazine is helpful for the people of Pakistan to understand the international issues and development support being provided to Pakistan from the U.S. I am interested to read this magazine regularly.

**Choudhary M.Arif**

Lahore

## Pleasure Reading

It has now been several years since we have been receiving "Khabr-o-Nazar." It is a useful, informative magazine, which tells us about the economic, social sector, civic society developments that the US is engaged in Pakistan. This is testimony of our long standing ties of friendship and the joint effort of our two countries to steer Pakistan towards a path of economic prosperity, development of social sector, civil society, freedom of the press and the strengthening and establishment of democratic institutions. It is a pleasure to read "Khabr-o-Nazar" to be informed about U.S. projects for the benefit of the future generations of Pakistan.

**Syeda Henna Babar Ali**

Lahore

## Praiseworthy

I received a copy of "Khabr-o-Nazar" from the Public Affairs Section for which I am grateful. I have gone through its contents and have found it to be an outstanding magazine with reference to its reading material. The hard work with which the magazine has been compiled is praiseworthy. The donation given by the U.S. government to the Punjab Auqaf Department for the restoration and renovation of Uch Sharif shrine is commendable for which we are thankful to the Government of the United States. The U.S. government's support for mosques, shrines and religious schools is laudable and should be continued.

**Muhammad Maqsood Ahmad**

Chairman International Sufi Council & Chief Khateeb,  
Data Darbar Mosque, Lahore



# American Information Resource Centers

## Promoting Literacy and Knowledge in Pakistan

There are two American libraries in Pakistan, known as American Information Resource Centers (AIRC), offering many information products and services to the citizens of Pakistan. AIRCs are part of the Public Affairs Section of the United States Mission in Pakistan and are located in the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and U.S. Consulate in Lahore. Both centers are staffed with highly trained library professionals.

AIRCs are primarily a reference and research service with a focus on dissemination of authoritative information about the United States to interested individuals and institutions, including academics, students, government officials, journalists and Non-Governmental Organizations. The mission of the AIRC is to provide its clients with balanced and current information on U.S. politics, government, law, economics, society, culture and the arts. All services are completely free of charge.

AIRC resources comprise more than 1,500 books, 300 documentaries and videos, and subscriptions to 40 magazines in print. Most importantly the AIRC offers access to 50 online databases through which thousands of scholarly journals, newspapers, E-books and research material can be easily accessed. The databases include Proquest, Ebscohost, Gale InfoTrac One File, Lexis/Nexis, Factiva and many others. Professionally trained AIRC staff can provide clients with relevant materials in response to complex information inquiries.

Besides, AIRC staff regularly offers discussion programs, internet search workshops, web-chats and speakers on topics of mutual interest. The AIRC staff regularly visits key institutions in Pakistan, collaborating with them to provide access to latest information



Regional English Language Officer Richard Boyum conducts a workshop at the AIRC in Lahore.



Participants peruse books at a workshop on "English Language Resources" at the AIRC in Islamabad.

about the U.S., as well as new information technologies and products.

We invite you to explore the resources available through the AIRCs by visiting the centers in person, making an inquiry by phone, fax or email or request a visit from one of our expert staff members to your group or institution. We look forward to hearing from you.

For appointment or a reference query please contact:  
AIRC Islamabad:

U.S. Embassy, Diplomatic Enclave, Ramna 5, Islamabad,  
Phone: 2082781, 2080000; Fax: 2273370

Email: [ircisb@state.gov](mailto:ircisb@state.gov)

Web: <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/pakistan/irc.html>

AIRC Lahore:

50, Sharah-e-Abdul Hameed Bin Badees, Near Shimla Road,  
Lahore, Phone: 042-603-4243, Fax 042-6034220, or

Email: [irclahore@state.gov](mailto:irclahore@state.gov)



# Baking Traditional American Cookies



On December 25, Khyber Television aired a Christmas-themed cooking show in which U.S. Consulate Peshawar Assistant Public Affairs Officer Ryia Miller demonstrated the art of baking traditional American sugar cookies. The show, conducted in Pashto, gave Miller the opportunity to discuss how Americans value family get-togethers, hope for peace and goodwill throughout the world, and share their good fortune with others. Peshawar Public Affairs Officer Steve Lebens also appeared and joined Miller in closing the show with a rendition of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas." Khyber TV has a large viewership in the NWFP and FATA as well as among Pashto speaking people in Afghanistan and in the Gulf states.



Ryia Miller, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate Peshawar, with Zaki ur Rehman, Anchor, Khyber AVT



# U.S. Commitment to Democracy in Pakistan Reiterated



Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan D. Hunt with PML-Q Punjab Secretary General Ch. Zaheer-ud-Din.



Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan D. Hunt with PML-N candidates for general elections, Rana Sanaullah Khan, Faqir Hussain Dogar, Sheikh Ijaz Ahmad, Malik Nawaz, Muhammad Afzal Khan and Khawaja Islam .



U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan D. Hunt with PPP electoral candidates Rana Aftab Ahmad Khan and Jahanzaib Imtiaz Gill at the former's Faisalabad residence.

In December 2007, U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt paid a two day-long visit to Faisalabad and Sialkot to meet prominent figures and election candidates from mainstream political parties in the districts. The meetings took stock of the U.S.-Pakistan relations, war on terrorism, and democratic institution-building with a reference to the coming general elections in the country.

In the meetings, Principal Officer Hunt reiterated the U.S. commitment to democracy and to furthering the cause of holding fair, free and transparent elections in Pakistan. "Because of our commitment to assist Pakistan in organizing fair and transparent elections, the U.S. administration has contributed over \$28 million for the computerization of the electoral lists and provision of transparent ballot boxes," he said.

The political figures expressed their hope for a long term and lasting relationship and continued cooperation between the United States and Pakistan.



National Assembly Speaker Ch. Ameer Hussain confers with U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan D. Hunt at District Nazim Akmal Cheema's Sialkot residence.



# Ambassador's Cultural Fund Supports Conservation Efforts in Taxila



The conservation and restoration of Jinnan Wali Dheri, a Buddhist stupa (shrine) and monastery at Taxila, “will not only protect the site from further decay, but will preserve it for coming generations,” according to Project Director Muhammad Bahadar Khan.

The Embassy of the United States of America in Pakistan is sponsoring the work through the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP). The fund was established in 2001 to help certain countries preserve their cultural heritage.

The U.S. Embassy and the Pakistan Department of Archaeology and Museums signed the grant agreement for \$32,887 in 2005. The project is still under way.

Work on the site to date includes archaeological excavation of the stupa area; conservation and restoration of the main chapels; relocating a road that formerly ran across the site, and improved drainage.

Local workers are carrying out the labor-intensive process of excavating and restoring the site. Their work not only provides short-term employment, but also develops knowledge they may be able to use at other archaeological sites in the area.

“The completion of the project will attract local and foreign tourists and will enhance the tourism industry in the project area,” the project director said. “It will generate academic and research interest in scholars and researchers.”



Photographs and reports document each step of the project so other researchers can see how it was carried out.

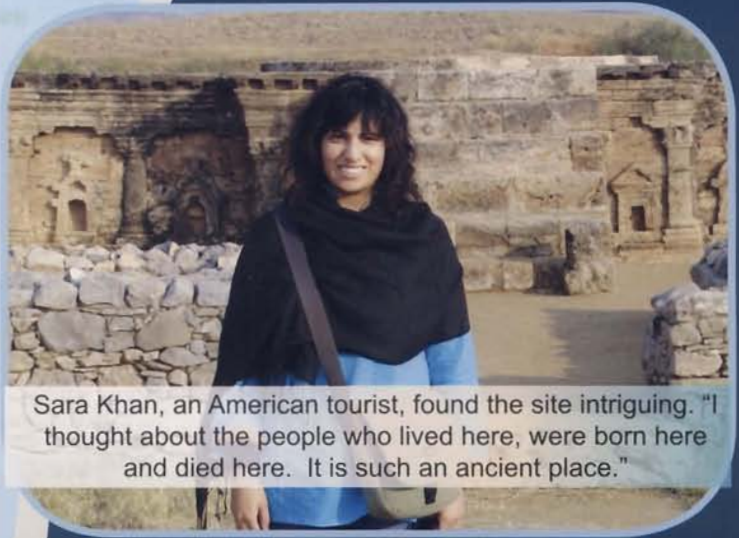
School and university students and teachers have been invited to visit the site to learn more about its history and how it is being preserved for the future.

The U.S. Embassy and its Consulates have begun important partnerships with the Peshawar Museum, the Lahore Museum, and the Taxila Museum with the goal of building direct linkages with American museums. A new partnership between the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and the Ministry of Culture and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts was launched in 2006.

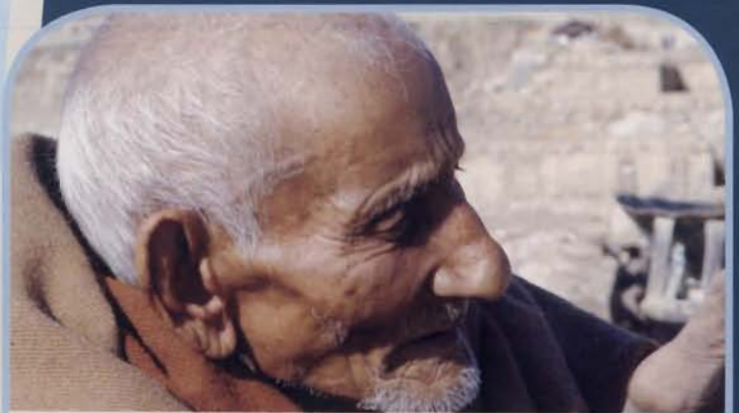
The U.S. Embassy and its partners in the Pakistani government and private sector will be looking to extend these initiatives in new directions as part of the growing strategic partnership between the United States and Pakistan.

Established by the United States Congress in 2001, the U.S. Ambassador's Fund has to date supported 379 cultural preservation projects worldwide, totaling more than \$10 million. The AFCP emphasizes the preservation of the world's cultural patrimony as an integral component of U.S. foreign relations. The U.S. Congress has noted that the program is a way for Americans to "show our respect for other cultures."

*The U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation sponsors nine projects in Pakistan Sirkap (near Taxila), Punjab; Mosque Mohabat Khan, Peshawar; Mansingh Haveli, Rohtas Fort, Jhelum; the Bazaar at entrance to the Wazir Khan Mosque, Lahore; Jinan Wali Dheri, Taxila, Punjab; Alamgiri Gate, Lahore Fort, Lahore; Caravan Serai at Gor Khuttree, Peshawar; the preservation of medieval Pashto, Arabic and Persian manuscripts at the Pashto Academy, University of Peshawar; and the Sufi shrine to Hazrat Jalaluddin, Uch Sharif, (near Bahawalpur), Punjab.*



Sara Khan, an American tourist, found the site intriguing. "I thought about the people who lived here, were born here and died here. It is such an ancient place."



Ali Zaman, a centenarian, told Khabr-o-Nazar that he is in favor of work being done for the preservation of Jinna Wali Dheri. "This is a cultural heritage, a memorial, therefore it should be preserved so that the coming generation will know about it."



School children drawing pictures of the site during an educational visit to Taxila.



# U.S.-Funded "Pakistan Automated Fingerprint Identification System" Launched

## Pakistan Automated Fingerprint Identification System (PAFIS)



The U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Peter W. Bodde speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan Automated Fingerprint System (PAFIS) at FIA Headquarters in Islamabad.

The U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission, Peter W. Bodde, inaugurated the Pakistan Automated Fingerprint System (PAFIS) in Islamabad on January 25, and declared it "a major contribution to police modernization in Pakistan" and "an outstanding example of bilateral cooperation" in law enforcement.

"I salute the persistence and dedication of those Pakistanis and Americans who have labored together to put this system into operation," the American diplomat said. "Pakistan now has a centralized, uniform, and modern method for collecting and categorizing fingerprints."

The U.S.-based firm Lockheed-Martin designed and implemented the five-year, \$13 million PAFIS project with funding from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Pakistani partners in the project are the National Police Bureau, the Police Service of Pakistan, and the Federal Investigative Agency.

"PAFIS brings a state-of-the-art law enforcement tool to Pakistan and multiplies the capabilities of Pakistani law enforcement to identify those who perpetrate terrorism and other criminal acts," DCM Bodde said.

Before the advent of PAFIS investigators had to conduct manual comparisons, a time-consuming and unproductive method of seeking information. Now, with PAFIS, Pakistan has the capability to place into a central database the fingerprints of every criminal who is arrested anywhere in the country.

In its first months of operation, PAFIS has already shown good results. Of the 440,000 fingerprint records Pakistani police have collected, some 122,000 are already active in the database. The system is connected to 52 remote terminals, and this will expand in the future.



Caretaker Prime Minister Mohammed Mian Soomro being briefed about the PAFIS (top) while two Pakistani officials demonstrate PAFIS (bottom).

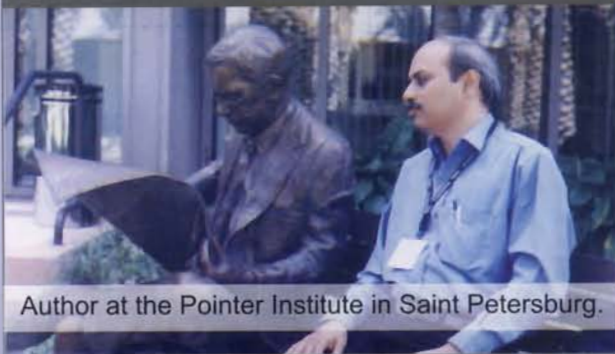
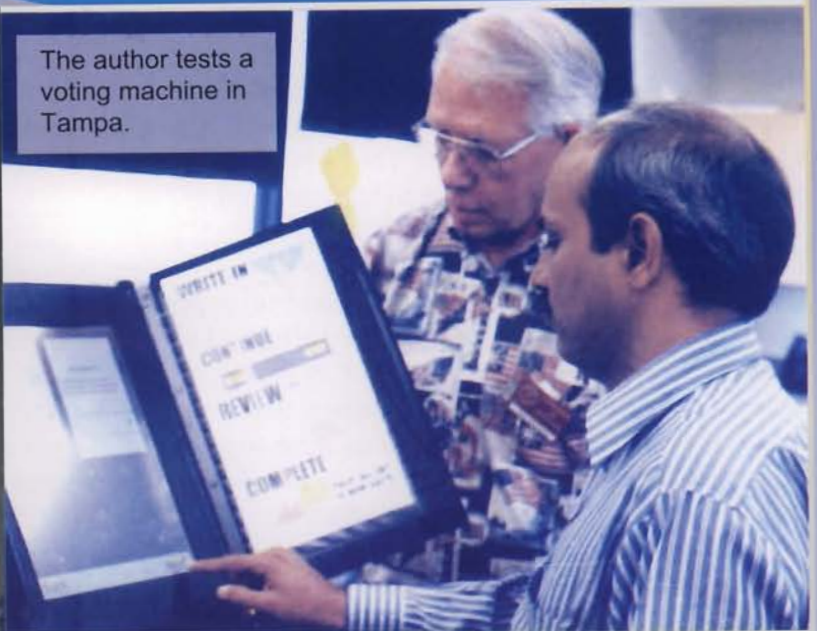




# “People’s Hard Work Behind U.S. Progress”

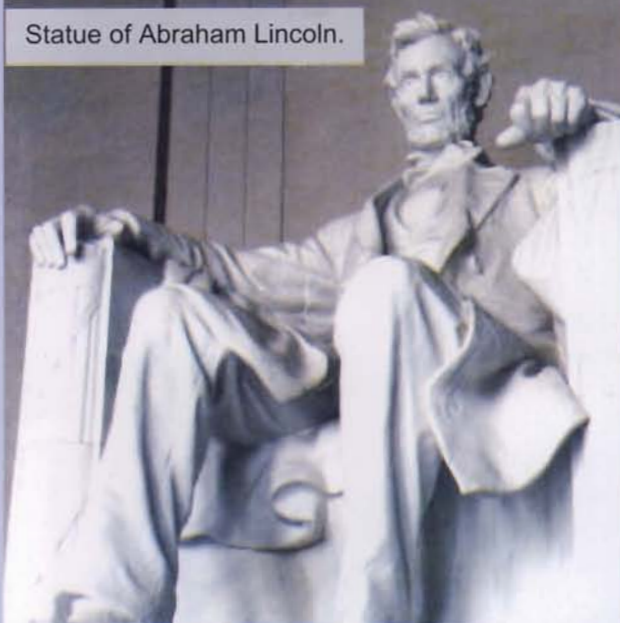
By Imtiaz Mateen

The author tests a voting machine in Tampa.



Author at the Pointer Institute in Saint Petersburg.

Statue of Abraham Lincoln.



*Mr. Imtiaz Mateen is the Deputy Editor at the Urdu weekly, “Akhbar-e-Jehan.” He participated in a special International Visitors Leadership Program from September 26 to October 15, 2004. The program, titled “The 2004 U.S. Elections: Role of Press,” included participants from India and Pakistan.*

The critiques of the United States always talk about its cultural values and unbridled freedom. I got an opportunity to visit the United States during September 26 to October 15, 2004 to look closely into its civilization, its development and progress and how its system works. Only then I realized how did the United States achieve this pinnacle of advancement. It was a time when the presidential electioneering was in full swing, and all the Americans were focusing on the speeches and debates of the presidential hopefuls.

Following the orientation meeting, a reception luncheon was arranged at a prominent hotel of Washington DC. It was a tricky task for me to choose any American dish, but since I was sitting beside our hosts Courtney and Joshua, they helped me a lot. In fact, I should say that I asked Joshua to choose a dish for me as I was an alien and had no idea about American cuisines. Later on, Joshua told me that he was Jewish. Indeed, it was my first interaction with any member of the Jewish faith in my life. If we look back into the historical background, both Jews and Muslims are cousins, as Jews are descendants of Prophet Isaac and Muslims are descendants of Prophet Ismael who both were real brothers. Whenever Joshua met me in Washington, he always tried to learn a word of Urdu language, and I always explained to him Urdu words with English spellings. I was surprised that during our farewell meeting Joshua made a brief speech in Urdu language, albeit it was written by his Pakistani friend. Though brief, and uttered nervously, the speech was completed successfully.

More than three years have passed since my visit to the U.S. on an International Visitors Leadership Program, but I still enjoy it consciously. The basic aim of the visit was to introduce the U.S. to the people of the world. To let them know how its system works, how its institutions are strengthened, how



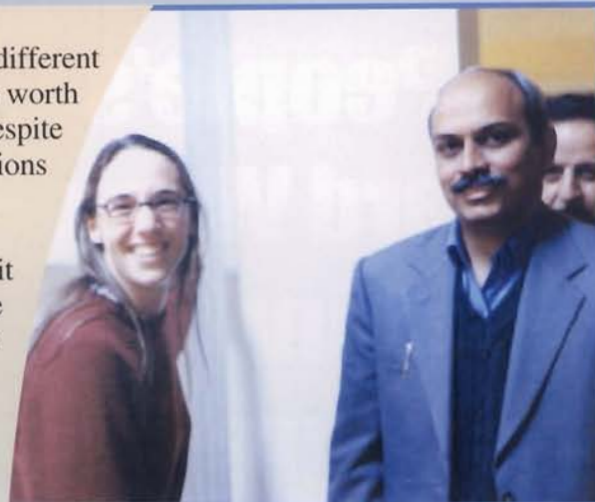
it has a rich political system, what is the lifestyle of people of different cities of the U.S and what is the role of media in the society? It is worth mentioning that the American media follows a code of conduct despite a lot of freedom of expression. They always make prudent decisions about what to show or what not to televise at all.

There are numerous things worth seeing in Washington, but a visit to the Department of State can be a wonderful experience for those who are really interested in international affairs. I saw a long queue of foreign visitors at the reception hall of the huge building of the State Department. And this also demonstrates how things work here. Also standing in queue with us were some senior German naval officials who had come there to discuss some important issues. During the meeting with the State Department officials, I felt that since there were a large number of Indian immigrants in the U.S., the Indian point of view is widely acknowledged here in Washington, D.C.

Another unique characteristic of Washington, D.C., is a vast park spanning from Capitol Hill to the Abraham Lincoln's Memorial and several old and new buildings around it have been transformed into different museums. Every museum is so huge that it requires at least a day to go through it. The Air and Space Museum is a center of attraction for all those who are interested to know about space and air travel. Here you can find everything from the airplane of the Wright Brothers to the spaceships that traveled to the Moon. It is a good collection of antiques of aviation history. In the Wright Brothers section, one can see the different parts of their wooden house too. There were big pictures of these genius brothers in the portico of the house as they were receiving visitors to their home. I read an Urdu maxim in my childhood about a piece of the Moon, but there I literally touched a piece of stone of the Moon that astronauts brought from the lunar surface. Now, I can say proudly that I have touched a piece of Moon!

It was a good experience for me to attend a tea party at the World Affairs Council in Seattle, as I got a chance to meet with young Americans working in different fields of life. On that day, there was a presidential debate going on and the people remained engaged in watching that debate on their television sets. But there were some guys like me who were more interested in meeting and chatting with the participants of the Council. It was a very important meeting which provided us the opportunity to put our point of view across on several issues and also to listen to their perception on world affairs.

Since a sea cruise in Pakistan is not a readily available option, I availed this opportunity and enjoyed a cruise to Telecom Island from Seattle. This voyage was a part of my program. Here I am also reminded of the famous 'Verica' circus that I saw in Washington, D.C. It was my first chance to enjoy a circus since there are no real professional circuses in Pakistan. Telecom Island is a small hamlet of American Indians with a thick forest of Christmas trees. Some American Indians played a drama based on folklore in a restaurant on that Island. It was a very interesting play and the set was also unique and unusual.



Author at Radio KUOW Seattle.



Author with the statue of Wright Brothers at Aerospace Museum.



The most important part of the U.S. media that impressed me very much was radio. I preferred listening to radio in my hotel room throughout my stay instead of watching TV. It was radio which made me aware that morning in America actually starts even before 4 o' clock everyday. Any radio station you tune into will tell you about the latest traffic situation on the highways and the weather condition besides holding other interesting discussions. Radio advertisements are also quite different and interesting as compared to similar ads in Pakistan. In Washington, D.C., I visited the office of VOA, where I met with some very senior broadcasters who very warmly welcomed me. I also got an opportunity to visit a well-known radio station KUOW 94.9 in Seattle. It is a public radio station that runs on the funds donated by the local community.

Seattle is undoubtedly a scenic city. It was a good place for a guy like me who had come from Karachi, a cosmopolitan city thronged with crowds everywhere. There was very thin traffic even in downtown Seattle despite that fact that it had skyscrapers ranging up to 70 stories. Weather in Seattle is very cold, but its people are very warm and affectionate. When I talked to a coachwoman waiting for customers at a beautiful square in Seattle, I found simplicity in her talk like that of a rustic of some village. Her dress and demeanor showed that she was from a distant land of Wild West. I also visited an Islamic school in Seattle. An American Muslim lady was running that school and her American husband started the school, and she converted to Islam after quite some time. All the school teachers were Americans, but their students were the children of immigrants coming from several countries.

Kalamazoo is a small but very serene and calm town. One can see late night hustle bustle on streets in Karachi, but there was no traffic on the roads of the central business area of this town even at five in the evening. It was a surprise for me. And furthermore, I saw many people eating their dinner at hotels in candle light at 6'o clock. I heard from my elders that they used to dine at sunset. Here in Kalamazoo, I realized that these people too are following their old traditions.

The United States has all that one can think of but after meeting with people of different shades of opinion a thing that has come to the fore is that it is becoming more and more difficult for a large number of people to sustain their living standard in the U.S. The big and costly shining cars, the skyscrapers and the attractive residential areas can make you happy, but you can also see people in the streets and markets who are penniless and destitute. No doubt, nature is benevolent to the U.S., but the important key to progress of the U.S. is the hard work of its people and the wisdom of its leaders.



Owner, teacher and principal of Islamic School, Seattle.



Kids at Islamic School in Seattle.



American ladies with their kids and the author in Kalamazoo.



# “Muslims live in full freedom in the U.S.”

*Dr. Raza Bokhari, a Pakistani-American, has been living in the United States for the last 18 years. He is the president of the Pakistani American Public Affairs Committee (PAKPAC.) He is also a medical doctor and the CEO of a multi-national pathology company. Recently he visited Pakistan. Here are some excerpts from his exclusive interview with 'Khabr-o-Nazar.'*



Dr. Raza Bokhari talking to 'Khabr-o-Nazar' in Islamabad.

**KN:** There is a popular perception in Pakistan that Pakistani immigrants in the U.S. are living under some kind of pressure whether or not they are settled there as legal immigrants. Is this true?

**Dr. Bokhari:** I don't think that this is true. There are 50 states in the U.S. and 300 million people live there. There is big diversity in the United States- its strength is by virtue of the diversity of its immigrant community, its small businesses and its social fabric. People mind their own business. Religion is a private matter in the U.S. Pakistanis can dress in 'shalwar kameez' there and lead their lives according to Islamic culture. They are living there in full freedom, the perception that Muslims are upset there is not correct.

**KN:** Do Muslims have religious freedom in the United States? Can they practice their rituals without any intimidation or threat?

**Dr. Bokhari:** Absolutely, yes. There are about 5 to 6 million Muslims in the United States; about half are converts, and many are African-Americans. Islam is not new in the U.S. and has been present since the early days of the nation. Most Muslims from the Middle East, India and Pakistan arrived in the 1960s and 1970s. They comprise about two

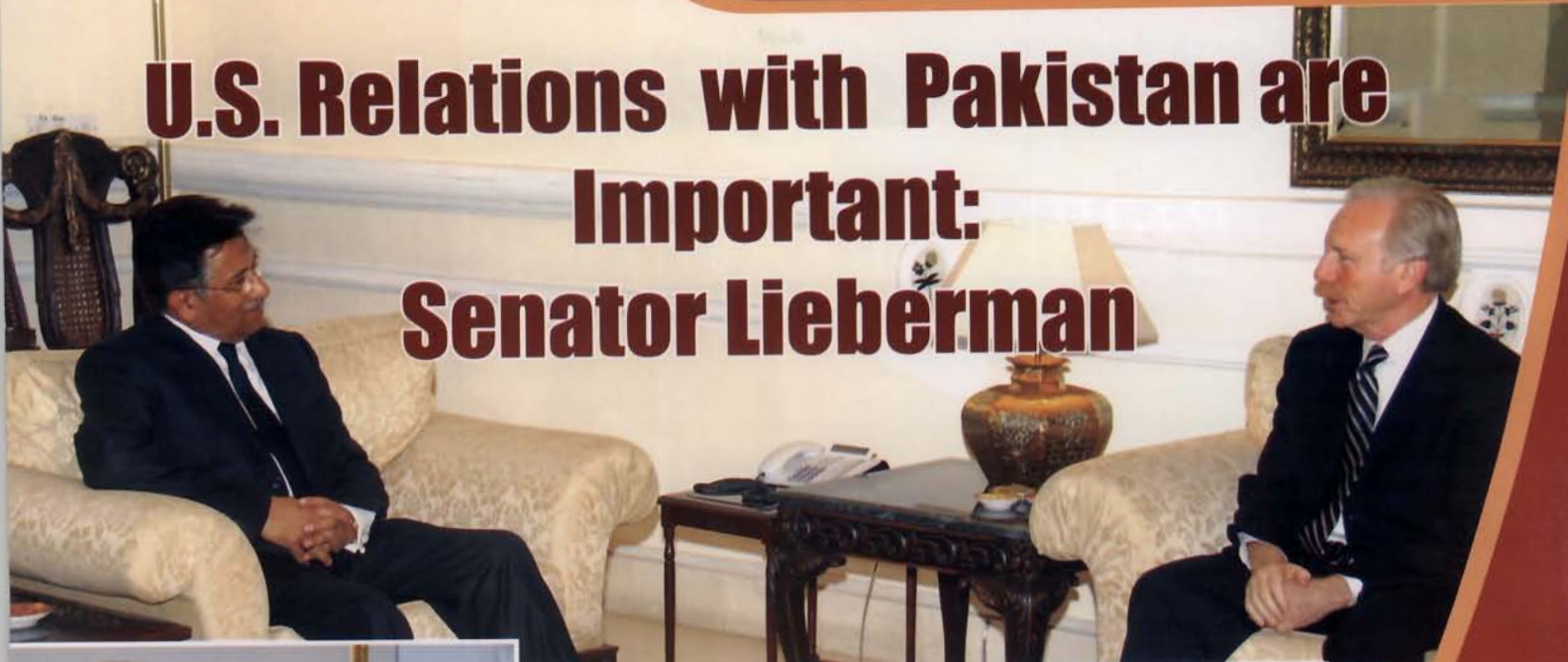
million or so. But according to a study, 44 percent of these immigrant Muslims are from Pakistan. They celebrate Eid and observe fasting in Ramadan. There are about 1400 mosques, Islamic centers and they congregate there. They are actually flourishing even more in the post 9/11 era as there has been more awareness, a regeneration in the identity of their faith and religion. And quite frankly I think they are living prosperous lives. Even now, the White House and Secretary Rice host iftar dinners in honor of Muslims every year.

**KN:** What do you think about the situation following departure of Ms. Karen Hughes (U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs)? And what challenges will her successor have to confront? What might be done to change negative perceptions?

**Dr. Bokhari:** Whatever one billion Muslims think about the U.S. is very important. People outside the U.S. have a different approach towards the United States, especially with reference to the war in Iraq and the Afghanistan issue. They think that the U.S. is fighting against Islam, but if truth be told, the U.S. is waging war against terrorism. When a catastrophic earthquake hit Pakistan in 2005, Americans donated 510 million dollars within 24 hours. President Bush sent American troops to Pakistan to lend a hand in rescue operation and they saved numerous lives. These actions are important in understanding the character of the American people.



# U.S. Relations with Pakistan are Important: Senator Lieberman



President Pervaz Musharraf talking to U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman who called on him in Rawalpindi on January 9, 2008.



U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman shaking hand with Caretaker Prime Minister Mohammedmian Soomoro at Prime Minister Secretariat in Islamabad on January 8, 2008.



Senator Lieberman addressing the press conference.



A view of journalists during the press conference.

U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman has reiterated that both parties in the U.S. Congress are keen to promote a "broad-based and long-term relationship" with Pakistan adding that the United States and Pakistan "share values and common interests."

"The United States' relations with Pakistan are very important," Senator Lieberman said while addressing a crowded press conference in Islamabad near the conclusion of his visit to Pakistan on January 9, 2008.

The U.S. Senator said that he has been assured by President Musharraf and Prime Minister Soomro that the elections would be held February 18 and that they would be free, fair, and transparent. "Fair elections are important for the future of Pakistan."

Replying to a question Senator Lieberman said, "I am reassured and impressed by the briefing given to me by General Khalid Kidwai on the safety of Pakistan's nuclear weapons."

Answering another question, the American Senator said that he had also raised the issue of the freedom of press in Pakistan with President Musharraf.

Senator Lieberman of Connecticut is now serving in his fourth term in the U.S. Senate. He is the Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and is also a member of the Armed Services, Environment and Public Works, and Small Business Committees.



# Ambassador Patterson Lauds Pakistan's Ancient Culture



Ambassador Patterson at Mohatta Palace Museum in Karachi.



Ambassador Patterson coming out of Mohatta Palace's main gate after visiting the art gallery. US Consul General Kay Anske and Ayela Khuhro, Assistant Curator of gallery, are also seen in the picture.



Ambassador Patterson with PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari.



Ambassador Patterson with prominent lawyer Munir A. Malik.



The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, expressed her “deepest appreciation” for “Pakistan’s proud and ancient culture and history” during her tour of the special exhibition of ceramic tiles at the Mohatta Palace Museum in Karachi on January 26.

The American Ambassador visited the museum housed within the Mohatta Palace and admired the exhibition “Tales of Tiles” showcasing the history of decorative ceramics of Pakistan dating back to the Indus Civilization.

During her visit to Karachi, Ambassador Patterson also visited Bilawal House and expressed her condolences over the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during her meeting with Bhutto’s widower and PPP party Chairman Asif Ali Zardari.

The senior American diplomat also called on the city Nazim, Mustafa Kamal, at the Karachi Water Sewage Board and discussed matters pertaining to the local government’s development schemes for Karachi.

In her meeting with the members of the American Business Council, Ambassador Patterson discussed the economic climate in the country with special reference to encouraging and promoting U.S. investment in Pakistan.

The Ambassador held a number of other meetings, including with MQM deputy leader Dr. Farooq Sattar, as well as one with lawyer Muneer A. Malik at his house, and another with Farooq Hassan, Chief Executive of the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP).



Ambassador Patterson and Karachi Consul General Kay Anske being greeted by Assistant Curator Ayela Khuhro during their visit to the Mohatta Palace.



Ambassador Patterson meeting with Karachi city Nazim Mustafa Kamal.



U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson during her visit to Gul Mohar art gallery with artists Shakeel Siddiqui and Shaheen Siddiqui.



# Tolerance & Patience Prevail Everywhere in U.S.

By Syed Hassan Reza

The author in front of Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Sometimes it is very important for professionals to come out of their monotonous routine and revive their knowledge, skill, and experience. The United States Education Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) and the U.S. Department of State provided a chance to 13 English language teachers from Pakistan to go to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to follow a Professional Development Program (PDP). It is important to mention here that 13 teachers from India were also going to follow PDP at UCLA along with 13 teachers from other side of the border. So imagine what a beautiful triangle of the U.S., India, and Pakistan!

I consider myself one of the fortunate teachers from Pakistan, selected by the USEFP along with 12 other teachers to travel to Los Angeles (L.A.) on 24th June, 2007. Being in L.A. was

entirely a new experience. L.A. was quite different from my past experience of London. Its weather, its people, and even the university itself were all very different. It was totally a new and memorable experience. Professor Val D. Rust started by briefing us about the city and state of California when he first picked us up from L.A. airport to Hitch Suites at UCLA. The next morning, we had an orientation at Moore Hall as well as a complete tour of the campus. In the evening, we enjoyed a great welcome dinner at Professor Marijana's place.

Our class schedule was very hectic, but the activity-based teaching atmosphere kept our spirits high all the time. The weekend was a highly awaited period of the week because of our visits to different places. I never imagined being in Hollywood, at Universal Studios or Disneyland. These specialties of L.A. made





Dinner at Professor Marijana's place in Los Angeles. Hassan, Shakti, Anil, Fatima Neena and Mandeep.



Hassan and Professor Val D. Rust along with latter's sister in the center.



Writer at the UCLA Campus.

our trip more special.

American society is entirely multi-cultural and California is no exception. I was surprised to observe people speaking Spanish along with English. The thing that inspired me the most was the democratic values in American society, be it among states or people living in a community. Opinions are respected and honored, while tolerance and patience prevail everywhere.

Arriving in Washington, D.C., and leaving L.A. after more than a month made everyone sad. We were going to leave L.A. after spending such a nice time which nobody was going to forget. However, the Library of Congress, the Capitol Building, the Kennedy Center, and everything we saw in D.C. was worth seeing. The visit to the Pakistan Embassy and the Department of State were the formal parts of our D.C. tour. We were given a chance to describe to officials at the State Department our spectacular learning experience as English

language teachers at UCLA. We also informed them about the technological constraints a teacher encounters in India and Pakistan.

On the 5th of August it was our day to say farewell to the United States. We had already started having nostalgic feelings for L.A. and this burden was going to be added after having an amazing experience in Washington DC. In the morning, at the entrance of Holiday Inn, Virginia, we and our American friends from UCLA bade farewell to our Indian friends with tears in everybody's eyes. After a great learning experience, everyone was eager to get back home where our beloved ones were going to receive us at the Islamabad airport.

*The author, Syed Hassan Raza, is an English language teacher who attended the U.S. State Department sponsored Professional Development Program at University of California, Los Angeles from June to August 2007.*



# Turtle Conservation Program: Consulate Staff visits Hawks Bay

The U.S. Consul General in Karachi, Kay L. Anske, and five consulate employees participated in a turtle-watching excursion at the Sindh Wildlife Department Turtle Conservation Program at Hawks Bay, Karachi, to mark the World Wetlands Day. Through their participation, the Consulate General highlighted its strong support for the conservation efforts for the endangered Olive Ridley turtle and green turtle.

After the turtle lays her eggs, the eggs are gathered and taken to a secure incubation and hatching facility. After 40-60 days of incubation under the sun, the entire nest hatches at night. Consulate employees assisted in the release of the new generation of turtles into the sea. "How profoundly moving it was to actively participate in the protection of this endangered species," Kay Anske said. She also suggested involving school students of Karachi in a turtle conservation program to bring about awareness at an early age.

Pakistan is of global importance to the survival of the endangered marine turtles. Its sandy beaches support one of the worlds few remaining turtle nesting grounds in the Indian Ocean. Dr. Fahmida Asrar, Deputy Conservator, Sindh Wildlife Department, and Adnan Hamid Khan, Game Officer, Turtle Project, provided a tour of the Sindh Turtle Museum and explained that "protection of the natural habitat, allowing the turtles access to nesting areas, assisting in moving the eggs to a protected hatching facility, keeping detailed data and tagging the turtles, provides vital information for the future of the Olive Ridley and green turtles who migrate to this area."



Karachi Public Affairs Officer Karen Waltz Davis shows one of the recently hatched baby turtles.



Group of green turtles at Hawks Bay in Karachi.