



# Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

April 2007

Published by the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad



**Visit of Shirin Tahir-Kheli  
to Pakistan**

**History of Women in  
U.S. Foreign Service**

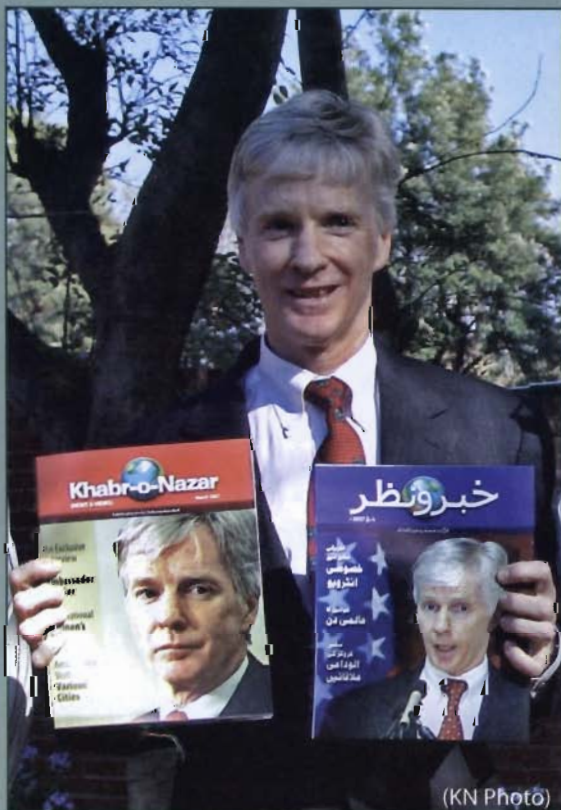
**An Interview With  
Noted U.S. Archaeologist**

**Visa Questions**



(PID Photo)

Commander U.S. CENTCOM Admiral William J. Fallon called on President General Pervez Musharraf in Rawalpindi on March 31, 2007



(KN Photo)

Former Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker is holding the special issue of Khabr-o-Nazar, during his farewell party at the Embassy on March 27, 2007



(PID Photo)

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf conferred Hilal-i-Pakistan on the former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Ryan C. Crocker, at an investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadar in Islamabad on March 23, 2007

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**Elizabeth O. Colton**

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Designed by

Raja Saeed Ahmed

Front Cover

Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State  
Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli  
(KN Photo)

## ■ Most Grateful

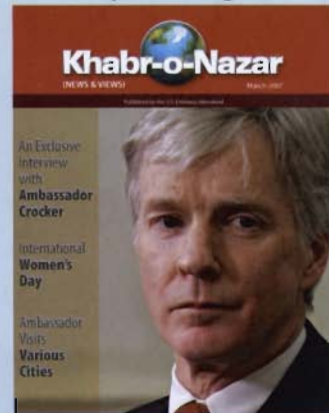
I am most grateful to you for sending me a complimentary copy of your monthly magazine, "Khabr-o-Nazar." It is an excellent publication and very informative. I want to continue receiving this magazine.

**Qutubuddin Aziz**

Former Chairman National Press Trust  
Karachi

## ■ Very Good Activity

I am doing my Masters in banking and finance from University of Management of Technology, Lahore.



My teacher gifted me an old issue of "Khabr-o-Nazar." I read it and found it to be very good activity by the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan. I also take this opportunity to salute all the U.S. military volunteers and citizens who have been participating in the rehabilita-

tion activity in the quake-hit areas of Pakistan. Really this is a great effort by the U.S.

**Malik Aziz-ur-Rehman Atif**  
Lahore

## ■ Acknowledge

This is to acknowledge with thanks for placing us on your mailing list. The February issue of "Khabr-o-Nazar" has been received.

**Jehangir Aziz**

Chairman, Punjab Textbook Board  
Lahore

## ■ Useful

Thank you very much for regularly sending the magazine which is very informative and useful for me.

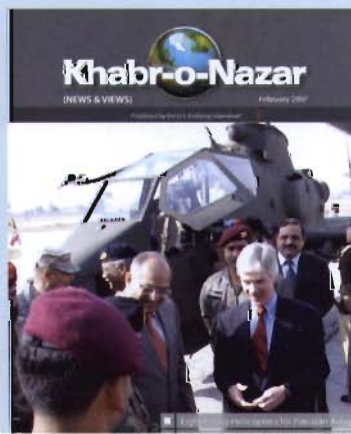
**Prof. Dr. Yasmin N. Farooqi**

Via email

## ■ Great Help

Institute for Development Studies Pakistan (IDSP) would like to thank you for sending your publication which is very informative and is a source of great help to our researchers.

**Shazia Wahid**  
Quetta



## ■ Excellent Publication

"Khabr-o-Nazar" is a multi-color and an excellent publication. Each and every article is informative. The U.S. efforts to enhance and strengthen the strategic partnership with Pakistan in education, health and economic growth are appreciable. America's solemn efforts for rehabilitation and reconstruction in calamity hit areas in Pakistan are unforgettable. I would like to suggest that there should be a page in the magazine about the historical places in the U.S.

**Muhammad Arif Ghani**  
Lahore

## ■ Elegant & Stylish

First of all let me congratulate you on producing "Khabr-o-Nazar" so elegantly and stylishly. It contains all the major current development in the United States and its activities of building and fostering harmonic relations with other countries of the world specifically Pakistan. Suggest if you could add a page on the activities of Pakistanis living in the various states of the U.S.

**Mustafa Hussain Siddiqui**  
Rawalpindi

## ■ Request

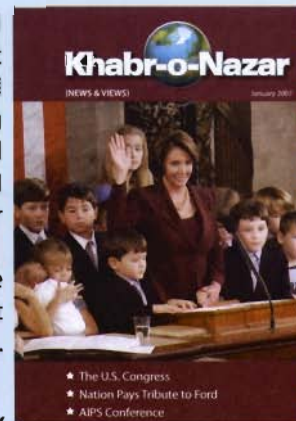
I am a lecturer in Political Science at Government Murray College Sialkot. I have been teaching International Relations and Foreign Policy since 1997. I request to have your monthly journal "Khabr-o-Nazar" so as to update myself and my student researchers on the U.S. policies.

**Muhammad Iqbal Roy**  
Sialkot

## ■ Reservoir of Information

Commission for Research and Human Development (CORHD) has been reading your magazine and found it a reservoir of useful information in the field of current affairs, gender development, human right, politics and various other global issues.

**Dr. Muhammad Rafiq Ford**  
Lahore





# The U.S. - Pakistan Relationship Remains Strong

## Assistant Secretary for South & Central Asian Affairs Richard A. Boucher's Remarks to the Press in Islamabad on March 15, 2007

Excerpts:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOUCHER: I am pleased to announce that during my visit I was able to confirm today, to the government of Pakistan, that we will be providing \$750 million over the next five years to support the tribal area development strategy. This is a good plan. It is a comprehensive plan to provide economic development, education, and other opportunities to the people who live in the border regions of Pakistan, the tribal areas in particular.

We are very pleased to be able to support it. The President has said we would. And I was able to confirm that we are going to ask our Congress for the funding. And indeed we have asked our Congress to make an adjustment to the budget this year and put another \$110 million into the State Department account so that we can use that with money we already have so that we reach this figure of \$150 million a year.

In addition, the Defense Department has asked for authority to spend \$75 million this year to support the military development and transformation of the Frontier Corps. This is another important project that the Pakistani government has underway that we are going to be supporting over time.

So I think it was good that I was able to do this today. We've made a general promise and I think today I was able to say specifically that we've worked out how to do it.

I think this commitment to the development of Pakistan, this commitment to a long term relationship, is another example of the very broad and deep relationship we have and that we are developing with

Pakistan.

I've said before and I will say it again. We have a fundamental interest in the success of Pakistan as a moderate, stable, democratic Muslim nation. This is a path that the President and the people of Pakistan have set out upon. We have tried to support it - I think not only in our words but in our deeds. And today's announcement is another example of that.

Our support and our work goes across the boards in many fields: education, energy, democracy and elections, economic reform and economic ties, obviously our counter-terrorism cooperation, our diplomatic cooperation around the world, the relationships we have with developing the military as well as developing the economy and the social system. That, in a sense, is what I was able to talk about today - these various aspects of the relationship - with the variety of people that I met with.

Once again, let me just say that we have a very strong, enduring relationship with Pakistan, very strong cooperation and support in many areas in the overall development of Pakistan - economically, politically, socially. Making the border area safe for everyone; fighting against common enemies, the militant extremists who have attacked Pakistani citizens and Pakistani soldiers and who have attacked people around the world.

So, we all need to continue on this course. We are here for the long-term as a partner for Pakistan in these many, many areas. And it was my pleasure to make my small contribution with another visit at this time.

# Female's Involvement Vital For COUNTRY'S STABILITY:

Ambassador Tahir-Kheli



Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State for Women's Empowerment, Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli, told a gathering of students and faculty of the Fatima Jinnah Women University in Rawalpindi on March 15 that "for a country to be stable, it must involve the female population."

"The empowerment of women is vital for the promotion of democracy and freedom," Ambassador Tahir-Kheli told the female university students. "Strengthening the role of women and providing opportunities for them are important elements in economic development as well as social and political progress,"

Upon arrival in Islamabad on March 14, Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli met with President Musharraf and first lady Begum Sehba Musharraf during a dinner hosted by the President for the outgoing U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker.

Ambassador Thair-Kheli also called on the Minister for Women's Development Sumaira Malik and Foreign Secretary Riaz Khan besides meeting with some other women parliamentarians from different political parties.



## U.S Diplomat Stresses

# Empowerment Of Women

Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State for Women's Empowerment, Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli, has emphasized the commitment of Secretary Condoleezza Rice and President Bush "to sustained efforts to improve the political, social and economic standing of women."

"Fifty-two percent of the population is women. For a country to be stable, it must involve the female population," Tahir-Kheli said during her meetings with women journalists and business leaders in Karachi on March 13. "Empowerment of women is tied to the safety, security and prosperity of a nation."

During her visit to Karachi, Special Adviser Tahir-Kheli called on the Sindh Governor, Dr. Ishrat ul Ibad. She also met with different groups of leading women journalists, business leaders and human rights activists. She also participated in question and answer session at the Institute for Business Administration, where she praised

the efforts of the institute to develop future female business leaders.

She stated that the students have the responsibility of "mentoring" the new female business leaders. "When you teach a woman to read, you teach nineteen other people. When you teach a man to read, you teach one person," she observed.

She said education is vital to change the mindsets of not only women but also men on the human rights issues and justice in society. "For a nation to grow it must educate its entire population" stated the American diplomat at the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development.

# Pakistan

on Its Way to Becoming Region's

## Central Conduit for Development:



(KN Photo)

U.S. Charge d'affaires  
**Peter W. Bodde**

U.S. Charge d'affaires, Peter Bodde, has emphasized that Pakistan's strategic location in South Asia will play a significant role in the 21st century as it is on its way to becoming the region's central conduit for resource development, economic and infrastructure expansion and communication technology. He was delivering the keynote address at a conference on U.S.-Pakistan relations at the National Defense College/Naval Post-Graduate School in Islamabad on February 21.

"In the post 9/11 environment, the U.S. understands that we must tailor our policies to support a long-term regional strategy based on a simple premise: the U.S. is committed to stability, security and prosperity for our partners in South and Central Asia," Peter Bodde said. "It will remain in America's long-term national interest to maintain a vibrant and broad-based strategic partnership with Pakistan."

The American Charge d'affaires said that the understanding of the future of the U.S.-Pakistan relationship reflects the vision and actions of both President Bush and President Musharraf.

"In addition to our ongoing vital cooperation in counter-terrorism and defense, the U.S. and Pakistan cooperate in the economic, education, development and scientific arenas, among others," Bodde noted.

Saying that the United States supports President Musharraf's "comprehensive plan" to recast the Pakistani government's relationship with the FATA, Peter Bodde said that there can be no purely military solution to the challenges in FATA.

Expressing deep U.S. condolences to the Pakistani and Indian people for their losses after the blast on the train line from New Delhi to Lahore, U.S. Charge Bodde said that this senseless violence serves no purpose other than to strengthen the resolve of peace-loving people everywhere. "That Foreign Minister Kasuri went to New Delhi this week for talks with Foreign Minister Mukherjee is a testament to the strength of India and Pakistan's commitment to a new relationship," he said.





(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

# History of Women

## In The U.S. Foreign Service



(KN Photo)

A talk by  
U.S. Consulate  
Peshawar's  
Principal Officer  
Lynne Tracy

U.S. Consulate Principal Officer, Lynne Tracy, encouraged female university students to actively pursue their professional dreams and to consider public service as a way to serve their communities and their country. The encouragement came as part of Ms. Tracy's talk on "A History of Women in the U.S. Foreign Service," delivered on March 20 at Peshawar University's Lincoln Corner.

"American women have made great strides in many fields over the past century, including diplomacy," stated Ms. Tracy. "Just thirty-seven years ago, American women had to resign from the Foreign Service in order to get married. Today, Secretaries Albright and Rice have proven that women can serve effectively as America's top diplomats."

America's first female diplomats joined the Diplomatic Service in the 1920s. Until 1970, women Foreign Service Officers needed to resign their commission in order to get married. Such restrictions no longer apply and in 1997, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright became the first woman to lead the Department of State. Women have served as U.S. ambassadors throughout the world and two, Nancy Jo Powell and Wendy Chamberlain, have served as U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan.

Dr. Haroon Rashid, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, welcomed Ms. Tracy to the University and students from several departments attended the talk. The talk was organized as part of the U.S. Consulate's celebration of Women's History Month



(KN Photo)

# USAID launches \$16.7 million **safe drinking water project**

The U.S. government on behalf of the American people on February 14 donated \$ 16.7 million to Pakistan for the provision of safe drinking water in 31 selected districts/agencies of all the four provinces, including the earthquake-affected areas of NWFP, FATA and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). The Acting Deputy Administrator of USAID, James R. Kunder, inaugurated the nationwide project at a ceremony held at the Government Girls' High School, Sector III in Rawalpindi.

"Water and sanitation-related diseases were responsible for sixty per cent of the total number of child mortality cases in Pakistan," USAID's Kunder said in his keynote address. "With the support of the American people, the Pakistan Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene Promotion Project will provide technical assistance in hygiene, sanitation promotion, community mobilization and capacity building in order to compliment Pakistan's substantial investments in hardware for safe drinking water."

The senior USAID official, James Kunder, said that in line with President Pervez Musharraf's efforts to make his vision for 'Clean Drinking Water for All' become a reality, the project was being implemented in partnership with the Government of Pakistan's Clean Drinking Water Program.

The project is being implemented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through Abt. Associates. Support for this project is part of the \$1.5 billion in aid that the U.S. Government is providing to Pakistan over five years to improve economic growth, education, health, and governance.



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

# “USAID’s Best Contribution Can Be Towards System’s Development”

*James R. Kunder is the acting deputy administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Recently, he was in Pakistan to assess some of USAID’s programs and conduct discussions with the Government of Pakistan. During his brief stay in Islamabad, Mr. Kunder conducted a press briefing regarding the USAID activities in Pakistan and around the region. Following are the excerpts from his discussion:*

- USAID provides about \$25 billion in U.S. assistance to nearly eighty countries around the world as part of U.S. foreign assistance program. Pakistan is one of the largest foreign assistance recipients of the U.S. government.
- Regardless of the Global War on Terrorism, the U.S. and Pakistan have maintained a strategic partnership spanning several decades. We have a shared interest in human progress and in battling the historical problems of disease. We also have a shared commitment to democracy and greater citizen participation in public life.
- We are assisting the government’s Election Commission, for example, in preparing for the upcoming elections; we are discussing our shared interest in recovery from the terrible earthquake that struck Pakistan on October 8, 2005; and we are beginning to open new schools in the earthquake-affected area as part of a larger U.S. government commitment to build 50 schools in the coming year that were destroyed in the earthquake.
- The Pakistani government has been discussing the possibility of increased economic development activities in the FATA region and we met with FATA and Pakistani government officials to learn more about government’s plans.
- We have a very broad partnership with the government of Pakistan. It is built around four core development areas: improved health care; improved education; direct support for the government in terms of cash assistance, but also support for democracy and improved government processes; and also economic growth—more job opportunities.
- In addition to these four core areas, USAID is providing in excess of 500 million dollars either in earthquake relief or reconstruction.
- U.S. foreign assistance works in a way that engages the host government on what the highest priorities are. I think among the considerations in determining what areas we will work, it is the priority of the Government of Pakistan. Major infrastructure, for example, roads and electric power development may not be the comparative advantage of bilateral donors like the United States. We believe our best contributions can be in system’s development.



*Ms. Sonjya hosted a dinner in Minneapolis, Minnesota*



*Writer at Cincinnati Airport*

# Americans are deeply religious

As a Pakistani, the United States of America had been in my everyday conversations in relation to so many areas of concern. Much of the information about the U.S. came to me through the media which I used to ardently watch. There had never been a direct contact with any real American who could tell me what the truth is about them. It was a fortunate chance for me to visit USA in September 2005 as part of the team of "International Visitors Leadership Program," sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. It would not be wrong to say that I was, in fact, looking forward to such an opportunity in order to find out the "truth" about this country.

The 9/11 incident and all that Pakistan has been facing after that was in my mind when I landed at the Washington's Reagan International Airport after a prolonged journey of almost 24 hours due to changing flights at different airports. I was expecting tough checking of not only my baggage but also of myself because I was a scarf-wearing lady from Pakistan. But to my utter surprise nothing of the sort happened. I was treated like any other ordinary passenger there and my scarf was not at all noticed as an issue.

The State Department's interpreters were also of Pakistani

origin speaking fluent Urdu and permanently settled in the States. Since I was the only female member of the group, there was a female interpreter also present especially to greet me. I was later told that this arrangement was specially made to accommodate the cultural norms of Pakistan for a woman.

The theme of our trip was to see the status of religion in U.S. educational system. We had appointments in four different states namely Washington (and Virginia), Utah, Minnesota and Pennsylvania. The travel and lodging arrangements were excellent and we were made comfortable in every respect.

The Washington appointments were aimed at introducing us to the American education system and the rules of curriculum development. In other states we had appointments with the schools and universities to see firsthand the implementation of the education policy of the U.S. I learnt that the federal government has no constitutional role in the curriculum development for the school kids. The states (the provinces in our language) publish their own books. The only active role of the centre that was evident in the education system was the "No Child Left Behind" policy introduced recently. This policy keeps a comparative check

on the performance of the public schools. It also means that if the parents wish to get their kid change school due to non-satisfactory results, they can even get a grant from the federal government to pay the expenses of the new school, if it happens to be a private school. This is being resented by the states because they see it as the interference of the Centre in the State autonomy and a pressure on Public Schools. In the U.S., State's autonomy is regarded as a sacred possession and centre cannot dictate its rules.

We were taken to public and private schools belonging to Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths and even some local faiths like Mormon and Quaker faiths. Public schools follow the secular policy of American system, which does not mean anti-faith, but it actually means that in a multi-religious society, the State cannot decide which religion is to be taught officially. It is left to the parents and the society. In private schools and universities the option is available to teach the religion too and there are many private institutions being run on faith systems of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Of course, private schools and universities are more expensive and rely on grants and donations of the private individuals or the organizations. Public schools and universities are all funded by the states.

We visited one private kindergarten school of Muslims called Adam Academy in Virginia and I was touched to see

the Christian –Muslim cooperation there. The house in which that small school was being run for Muslim kids belonged to a Christian lady and she had donated it to the education of Muslim children. She also participates in the Friday prayer activities of those Muslim kids by baking for them special chocolate chip cookies.

The impression that Americans do not know anything about the outside world is not really correct. I repeatedly asked one question from young kids in all the schools I went to. "Have you heard of Pakistan?" and the answer was, "Yes of course." Then I would ask, "Is it after 9/11?" and they all said, "No, we knew about it even before that." Another thing that I discovered was that Americans are deeply religious people and the Hollywood image is not at all what America is in reality.

Three memories of the U.S. that I share with every one here in Pakistan are that when Ramadan started on 4th Oct, 2005, we were in Philadelphia and everyone in the streets greeted me with words of "Ramadan Karim" or "Happy Ramadan." The hotel staff was ready to serve us Sahar (pre-dawn) food for fasting. I was amazed by the awareness of Americans about Islamic culture of fasting. The second memory is of New York where 9/11 happened but the people in the Time Square actually praised my scarf and the way I was wearing it. The third memory is the day when we were leaving from New York on 8th October, 2005, at a time when the massive earthquake hit Pakistan. Everyone at the airport was aware of this tragedy and was asking me about my family and friends, even though they did not know me personally.

*Misbah Saboohi is the Deputy Dean, Faculty of Shariah and Law, at the International Islamic University Islamabad. She went on the Department of State's International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) on the topic of "Religion and Education in the U.S." in September 2005.*

# people

**By: Misbah Saboohi,  
International Visitor Alumna**

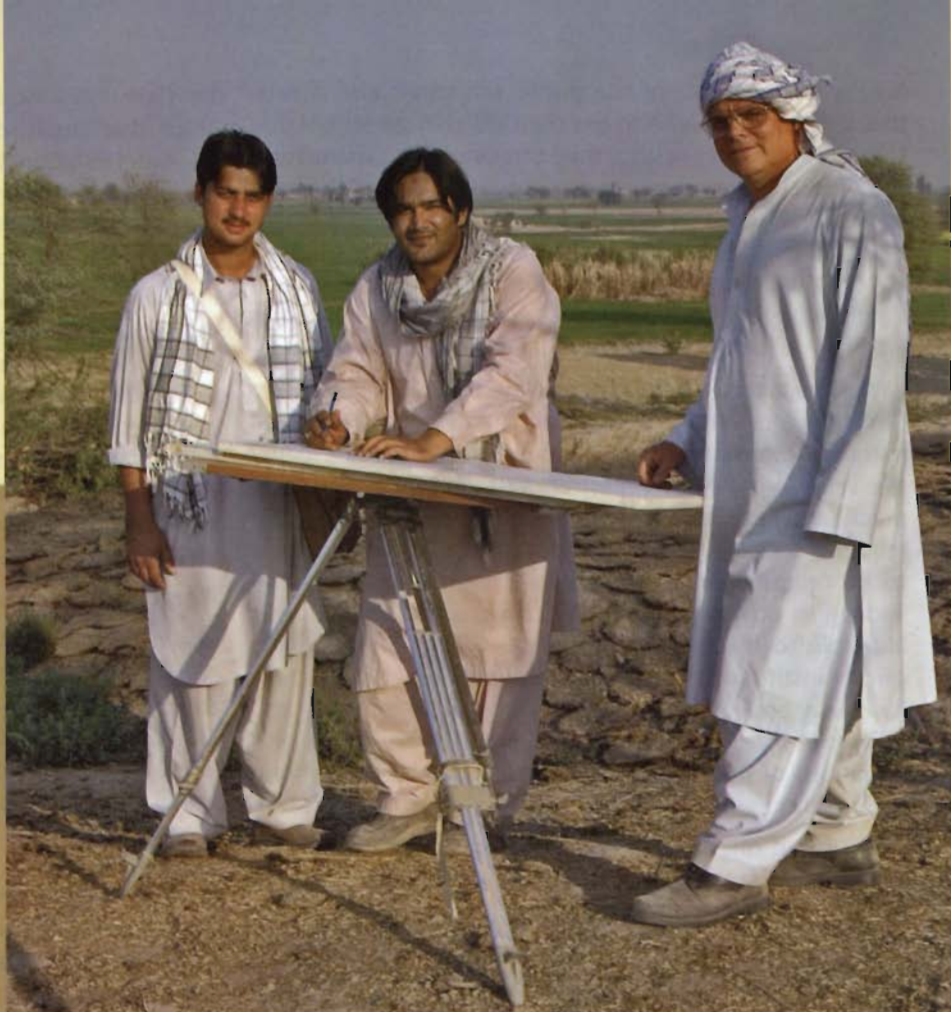
*Writer with Ms. Naureen Butt, the interpreter*



# We Hope That Archaeology is Introduced at all the Universities in Pakistan



Dr. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA and Co-Director of the Harappa Archaeological Research Project (HARP). Born in India, Dr. Kenoyer has been digging in the subcontinent for the last over twenty years. He is the author of numerous books and articles and is one of the world's leading authorities on the ancient Indus civilization. He speaks several South Asian languages fluently and has been involved in a variety of archaeological and ethnographic projects in Pakistan and India since 1974. Dr. Kenoyer, who is also the President of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), recently visited Islamabad to attend a conference. Taking advantage of his presence in Islamabad, "Khabr-o-Nazar" had a sitting with him. Following are the excerpts from his interview:



**Q: Dr. Mark Kenoyer, please tell us something about your early life. Where were you born and from where you received your early education?**

A: I was born in India and lived there for eighteen years. My father was a missionary doctor in Assam. I used to speak Bangla language in my early days, and now I can speak both Urdu and Hindi languages. I completed my schooling at Woodstock School in Mussoorie (India). After graduation, I went to the United States to study Archaeology. At the start, I studied at Wheaton College in Chicago, and then I joined the University of California- Berkley. I did my Masters and PhD in Archaeology under the direction of Dr. George F. Dales, who was also a leading archaeologist working in Pakistan.

**Q: Would you like to tell us about AIPS and its objectives?**

A: American Institute of Pakistan Studies is a research institution. Both Pakistani and American scholars exchange views and share their research work through this institute. American experts come to Pakistan on scholarship, and Pakistani scholars visit the United States for research work. In this way, our students learn about Pakistan, its society and politics.

**Q: Who manages the AIPS, and how do you run its financial matters?**

A: The United States and Pakistan signed an agreement in 1973, since then we receive financial assistance for educational exchange programs. However, no government official is involved in deciding the nature of these programs as this is decided by our executive committee. We usually organize conferences here in Pakistan and get scholars to the United States and bring in experts from there. We seek advice from the Ministry of Education. People and students in the U.S. do not know about Pakistan. They do not know that Pakistan has a very ancient civilization and it has various institutions and different groups. We are introducing a good image of Pakistan in the United States through AIPS.

**Q: You have done a lot of research on Pakistan and Indus Valley. How did you make up your mind to initiate research here in Pakistan?**

A: When I went to the United States from India, a professor of mine named Dr. Dales, who lived in a small town, advised me to work in this field. I went with Dr. Dales to a town Balakot Sonmiani, to excavate ruins, and this town is situated near Karachi. When I was working there, I developed interest in Indus Valley. My teacher Dr. George F. Dales had been excavating at Mohenjo-Daro in 1964. But, this work was not completed due to various factors and the lowest levels of the site were not reached due to the water logging in that area. He stopped excavation there. Then the Department of Archaeology requested Dr. Dales and me to come to Harappa, as there was a little information about Harappa. And, there was no major excavation at the site since 1935. Now, we are excavating in Harappa since 1986.

**Q: You have worked in Sindh. Please let our readers know about the Indus civilization and its languages.**

A: First of all, I would like to tell you that we are not sure about the ancient language. We are not able to read the inscriptions of Indus civilizations. It had been written on stone, clay pots, but they are illegible. The language of this civilization is destroyed, that is why we are excavating Harappa. And we hope that we will succeed in getting some tablets or stones that have the writings like that of Rosetta Stone. In that way, we will be able to decipher that language. We have not got anything from Harappa yet. It seems that the people of Harappa never taught their language to anyone. I am still excavating a factory of seals in Harappa. If those seals have any inscription, we will be able to know about their language.

**Q: Are you satisfied with the quality of syllabus of archaeology being taught at the Pakistani universities, or does it need some improvement?**

A: I teach a course in the United States about the Indus Valley Civilization. It consists of twenty-five lectures. It tells us about the origin of archaeology. Actually, the study of archaeology is a product of colonial period. Prior to the British Colonial period, there was no Archaeology in this part of the world. The British people established this subject. Only rulers could do that, as they required understanding of the civilization to rule the people. Now, there are elements of nationalism in this discipline too. Pakistan has several ancient civilizations. Some people say that China has the most of the ruins. The United States too has ruins and monuments. But here in Pakistan, no one takes interest in the subject of



archaeology. But we hope that this science will be introduced in all the universities with the help of our excavation and the training we are imparting to the students here in Pakistan. I feel that all universities should include my latest book (on Indus Valley) in the syllabus. I have also written a coloring story book for children to introduce them with this science.

**Q: It infers from your discussion that the science of archaeology is a product of colonial period. Is it so?**

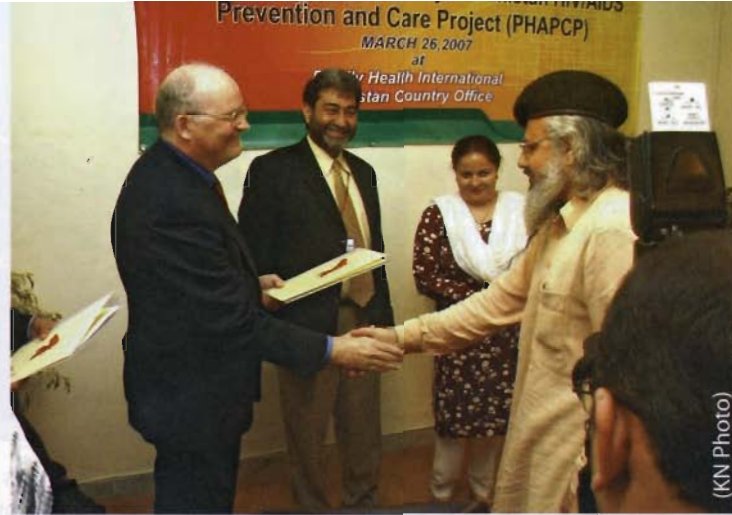
A: The study of archaeology is definitely a product of colonial period across the world. There was no archaeology before colonial period. When the English people came here (in the subcontinent), and the French people arrived in Egypt, the rich and influential people excavated coins and sometimes statues from different ruins to decorate their drawing rooms. Then, they realized the significance and value of these treasures. So, the study of archaeology was started. With the passage of time, when people recognized that if they have an ancient stone in England, how it is possible that a similar stone is available in India too? In the beginning, they considered Europe as the center of civilizations, but later on, they found out that it was not the case. Europe was a relatively underdeveloped region during the 3rd millennium BC and the valleys of Indus, Nile, Tigris, Euphrates, and Yellow river were the real heart of civilizations. When the New World was discovered, this science was transferred to America and South America. Those continents had their own civilizations. So, this subject is very important.

**Q: You have been living in Pakistan for a long period. What do you like most in Pakistan?**

A: I consider Pakistan my home, and like its every thing. I like its dust and its hot weather. I am fond of Multan's dust, hot summer and its cemeteries. The people of Pakistan are very hospitable. You can visit and stay at anyone's house. You can eat at anyone's home. Everyone will welcome you, and I like this quality. 'Dal and Roti' (Lentils and bread) and vegetables are my favorite dishes.



Islamabad: USAID Mission Director in Pakistan, Jonathan Addleton, awarding grant document to a representative of one of the three organizations to receive financial assistance under the expanded 'HIV and AIDS Prevention and Care Project' (PHAPCP).



## USAID EXPANDS

# HIV and AIDS Project in Pakistan

The Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Pakistan, Jonathan Addleton, expanded the \$2.7 million Pakistan HIV and AIDS Prevention and Care Project (PHAPCP) by awarding grants to three organizations to help stop transmission among the most vulnerable segments of the population in Turbat, Peshawar and Karachi. Over the past year the USAID-funded project has been helping local organizations to implement transmission prevention activities in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan, Karachi, and Larkana.

"I am very happy to announce that three new sites are being added in 2007 with three new partners," Mr. Addleton said at the grants award ceremony held in Islamabad on March 26, 2007. "With this grant, the United States reaffirms its commitment to improving the health and quality of life of Pakistani people. This is the moment to redouble our efforts to prevent the further spread of this devastating disease."

Though Pakistan has a low prevalence of HIV/AIDS, it faces a high risk of the disease becoming more widespread. HIV/AIDS in Pakistan has now reached the stage of being an epidemic concentrated in certain segments of the population and efforts are needed to prevent the disease from becoming widespread within the general population.

The three new partners will develop strong outreach and peer education programs for eliminating or reducing risk behaviors such as injecting



drugs or having unprotected sex and encouraging those most at risk to get frequent tests. In addition to the high risk groups, the new partners will educate out of school boys between the ages of 13 and 24 as well as homeless children about how to avoid infection. In Karachi and Peshawar, the project will also establish confidential testing facilities for HIV and AIDS. In Turbat, Balochistan, the project will provide medical and emotional support for those already infected by HIV and AIDS.

In 2006, USAID awarded the \$2.7 million Pakistan HIV and AIDS Prevention and Care Project to Research Triangle International (RTI) and its subcontracting partner, Family Health International (FHI) to help stop transmission of HIV/AIDS among the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Support for HIV/AIDS is part of the \$1.5 billion in aid that the U.S. Government is providing to Pakistan over five years to improve economic growth, education, health, and governance.



# PHOTO GALLERY



U.S. Consulate Lahore's Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen presenting certificates to high achieving law graduates at the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Punjab Law College



U.S. Consulate Lahore's Principal Officer Bryan Hunt delivering remarks on "Higher Education in the U.S." at the Annual College Fair of the Lahore Grammar School



U.S. Embassy Vice Consul Carol Hanlon conducting a workshop for women entrepreneurs on "Market Positioning." The U.S. Consulate in Lahore arranged the workshop in collaboration with the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI)





# Access English Micro-



By: Saima Jabeen, Saher Naz & Fahim A

A two-year grant of \$150,000 made to Lahore NGO CARE (Cooperation for Advancement, Rehabilitation and Education) in 2004 enabled 200 students studying in different government schools to learn written and spoken English in an American-style classroom experience. A renewed grant of \$150,000 was made to CARE in 2006.

The first Access program in Pakistan was started in 2004 in Lahore, followed by programs in Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Multan and Gwadar.

The Access English Micro-scholarship Program is an initiative of the U.S. State Department for 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 compete more effectively with students who have studied in English-medium schools for admission to Pakistani colleges and universities and improve their ability to obtain good jobs upon graduation.

After we joined the Access class in September 2004, we were surprised by the difference of atmosphere in the Access classroom from the environment of the government school classrooms. Even the teaching techniques were different, which made it easy for us to learn English in a friendly environment.

The language skills we have learnt in this class including reading, writing, speaking have helped us a lot in our daily lives. We can now communicate with people more conveniently and are able to convey our thoughts to them more clearly both in English and our



own language Urdu.

We have tried our best to pass on our knowledge of language to others in our social circle and we are teaching the current students to use these skills also.

Our visit to America was the first ever visit to any country outside Pakistan. We liked the experience of traveling by air and enjoyed it very much. We felt like birds flying through the air.

We visited Washington D.C. where we stayed with Access

# scholarship Program

## Impressions of some Lahore-based program graduates about their stay in the U.S.

students from around the world. We also liked Washington D.C. because it has a lot of monuments and museums to see. The most memorable experience was our traveling in trains and buses all by ourselves in Chicago which gave us a lot of confidence.

We made friends with students of other countries, as well as with our host families. We are still in touch with them through email and net chat. We exchanged views about the festivals, food, dresses of our country as well as the fact that we are quite open-minded and liberal people contrary to the world's impression about us.

Before we visited the U.S., we had a wrong impression about the country, but the people's hospitality changed our views.

We have now graduated from the Access class and when we look back, we notice a huge difference in our personalities. When we joined the class we were unable to speak English language fluently. But now, through the great efforts of our teachers, we are not only able to speak English but also to speak it well. Besides, we have developed confidence in ourselves and all the hesitation in speaking the language has now been removed.

We would like to thank the American government as well as our NGO CARE Foundation who provided us an exposure to a completely different experience of learning, grooming and above all, traveling abroad to broaden our vision of the world.



# VISA QUESTIONS

## Consul General Kay Anske responds

**Q: Can the residents of Lahore and Karachi apply for visa at the U.S. Consulates in their respective cities?**

**Consul General:** Islamabad is the only post authorized to process visas applications.

**Q: It is being heard that Pakistanis are being discouraged to travel to the U.S. by the visa officials. Is this true?**

**Consul General:** Definitely NOT true. The U.S. Embassy welcomes and encourages Pakistanis to apply for visas. In fact, more than 70% of Pakistani applicants receive their visas.

**Q: When I went for the visa interview, I was told by the visa official that mine would go for a 'name check.' What is this process and how long does it take?**

**Consul General:** Additional processing is needed for most applications. This will take an average of 2 months.

**Q: What documents do I need to carry with me while going for a NIV interview?**

**Consul General:** You must bring your passport, the application forms with photo, and the receipt for the \$100 fee. You may bring any other documents that you believe will show that you are qualified for the visa.

**Q: Is there any "appeal system" against the decision of the Visa Officer? How sooner could I apply again for a U.S. visa, if denied the first time?**

**Consul General:** There is no "appeal" system. You are welcome to re-apply at any time. While I cannot guarantee that the decision will be different, you will have a different officer for a fresh look at your application.

**Q: Please advise where we can find the best agents to help us through the visa process, and how much should we pay to them?**

**Consul General:** Agents are not required.

**Q: We quite often read stories about Pakistanis and others being mistreated when they reach the U.S. airport. What will happen to me when I land in the United States? Will they strip search me?**

**Consul General:** At the airport, the immigration and customs officer will look at your passport and visa and then determine how long you may stay in the U.S. This will only take a few minutes. Only a few Pakistanis must register which will take a little longer.

**Q: Do I need to apply electronically on the internet for the U.S. visa? Has the old system of filling hard copy of visa form been abolished?**

**Consul General:** You may still handwrite or type your application if you submit your application through American Express or SpeedEx. However, we encourage all applicants to use the Electronic Visa Application Form. The new form significantly speeds up the initial processing of your application.

**Q: When I apply for a visa, must I state what my religion is? Will I be asked tougher questions and will take longer, depending on my religion or my surname?**

**Consul General:** Religion is never a consideration in the visa process.

**Q: I am a Muslim woman. Will it help my chances to get a visa if I remove my veil or head scarf?**

**Consul General:** Religion and religious dress is not a consideration in the visa process. However, we do ask that women submit a photo where we can see the full face.

**Q: If I speak a Pakistani language, will the visa office reject me?**

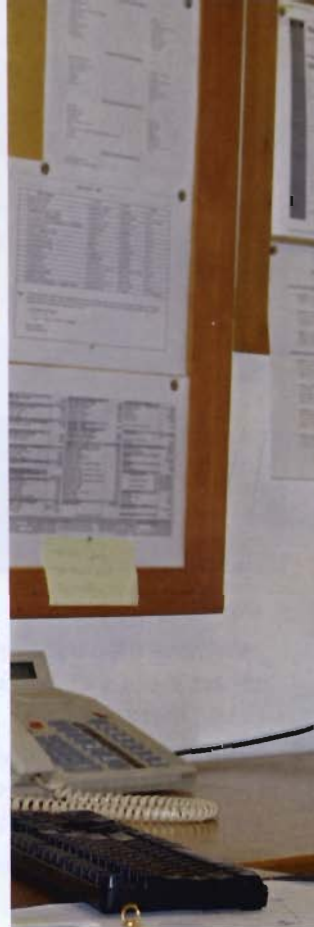
**Consul General:** No. Many of the interviewing consular officers speak Urdu. For any other language, we have trained translators working in the office.

**Q: If I have already been rejected once, should I reapply or just forget about ever visiting the United States?**

**Consul General:** You are welcome to reapply. While I cannot guarantee the issuance of the visa, you will be interviewed by a different officer for a fresh view of your case.

**Q: How long does the visa interview last?**

**Consul General:** Most interviews last several minutes. The length of the interview will depend on the type of visa.



# ویزا

## قونصل جنرل کے اینسکی جواب دیتی ہیں

**سوال:** کیا کراچی اور لاہور کے امریکی قونصل خانے میں ویزا کیلئے درخواست دی جا سکتی ہے؟  
جواب: ویزا درخواستیں دینے کیلئے مجاز شہر صرف اسلام آباد ہے۔

**سوال:** یہ بات عام ہے کہ ویزا احکام امریکہ جانے کے خواہشمند پاکستانیوں کی حوصلہ شکنی کرتے ہیں۔ کیا یہ صحیح ہے؟

جواب: قطعاً صحیح نہیں ہے۔ امریکی سفارتخانہ ویزا درخواستیں دینے والے پاکستانیوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کرتا ہے۔ درحقیقت، 70 فیصد سے زائد پاکستانی درخواست گزاروں کو ویزے جاری کئے جاتے ہیں۔

**سوال:** میں جب ویزا انٹرویو دینے گیا تو مجھے حکام نے کہا کہ پہلے آپ کے نام کی جانچ پڑتال ہوگی۔ یہ طریقہ کار کیسا ہے اور اس پر کتنا وقت لگتا ہے؟

جواب: بیشتر درخواست گزاروں کیلئے اضافی کارروائی کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے۔ اس عمل پر اوسطاً دو مہینے لگتے ہیں۔

**سوال:** نان ایگریٹ ویزا انٹرویو کیلئے کوئی کوئی دستاویزات ساتھ لے جانا ضروری ہوتی ہیں؟

جواب: آپ کو اپنا پاسپورٹ، درخواست فارم، جن پر فوٹو چسپاں ہو، 100 ڈالر ویزا فیس کی رسید اپنے ساتھ لے جانی چاہئے۔ آپ دوسری دستاویزات بھی ساتھ لے جا سکتے ہیں جو، آپ کے خیال میں، دکھانے سے ویزا کیلئے آپ کی اہلیت ثابت ہوتی ہو۔

**سوال:** ویزا افسر کے فیصلے کے خلاف ایپل کرنے کا کوئی ”نظام“ رائج ہے؟ اگر جہلی بار میری درخواست مسترد کر دی گئی ہو تو میں کتنے عرصے بعد دوبارہ درخواست دے سکتا ہوں۔

جواب: آپ کسی بھی وقت دوبارہ درخواست دے سکتے ہیں۔ اگرچہ اس بات کی ضمانت نہیں دی جا سکتی کہ دوبارہ فیصلہ مختلف ہوگا لیکن آپ کی نئی درخواست کا جائزہ لینے کیلئے ویزا آفسر کوئی اور ہوگا۔

**سوال:** براہ مہربانی مشورہ دیں کہ ویزا کارروائی میں مدد دینے کیلئے ہمیں بہترین ایجنٹ کہاں سے مل سکتے ہیں اور انہیں کتنا معاوضہ ادا کرنا چاہئے؟

جواب: ایجنٹوں کی ہرگز ضرورت نہیں ہوتی۔

**سوال:** ہم اکثر پیشتر یہ واقعات پڑھتے ہیں کہ پاکستانی اور دوسرے ملکوں کے لوگ جب امریکی ہوائی اڈے پر پہنچتے ہیں تو ان سے بدسلوکی کی جاتی ہے؟ میں جب امریکہ پہنچوں گا تو میرے ساتھ کیا برتاؤ ہوگا؟ کیا میری جامہ تلاشی لی جائے گی؟

جواب: ہوائی اڈے پر ایگریگیشن اور کسٹمز آفسر آپ کا پاسپورٹ اور ویزا دیکھیں گے اور اس بات کا تعین کریں گے کہ آپ کتنا عرصہ امریکہ میں قیام کر سکتے ہیں؟ اس عمل پر چند منٹ سے زیادہ نہیں لگیں گے۔

محض چند پاکستانیوں کی رجسٹریشن کی جاتی ہے، جس پر ذرا زیادہ وقت لگتا ہے۔

**سوال:** کیا انٹرنیٹ کے ذریعے امریکی ویزا کی درخواست دینا ضروری ہے؟ کیا ویزا فارم پُر کرنے کا پرانا طریقہ کار ختم کر دیا گیا ہے؟

جواب: بیشتر انٹرویو چند منٹ میں ختم ہو جاتے ہیں۔ انٹرویو کا انحصار ویزے کی نوعیت پر ہوتا ہے۔



(فونو گراف)

جواب: اگر آپ امریکن ایکسپریس یا سپیڈ ایکس کے ذریعے اپنی درخواست بھیجنا چاہیں تو اب بھی درخواست فارم میں اندراج، ہاتھ سے یا ٹائپنگ کے ذریعے کر سکتے ہیں۔ تاہم، تمام درخواست گزاروں کی حوصلہ افزائی کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ الیکٹرانک ویزا درخواست فارم کا استعمال کریں۔ اس نئے فارم سے آپ کی درخواست پر ابتدائی کارروائی نمایاں طور پر تیز ہو جاتی ہے۔

**سوال:** کیا ویزا درخواست فارم میں مذہب کا اندراج کرنا پڑتا ہے؟ کیا مذہب یا خاندانی نام کی بنیاد پر مجھ سے زیادہ سخت سوال کئے جائیں گے اور انٹرویو پر زیادہ وقت لگے گا؟

جواب: ویزا کے عمل میں مذہب پر کبھی توجہ نہیں دی گئی۔

**سوال:** میں ایک مسلمان خاتون ہوں۔ اگر میں اپنا نقاب ہٹا دوں یا برقعہ اتار دوں تو کیا مجھے ویزا ملنے کے امکانات بڑھ جائیں گے۔

جواب: ویزا کے عمل میں مذہب یا مذہبی لباس پر ہرگز توجہ نہیں دی جاتی۔ تاہم، ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ خواتین فارم پر ایسی تصویر چسپاں کریں جس سے ان کا پورا چہرہ واضح دکھائی دے۔

**سوال:** اگر میں اردو میں بات کروں تو کیا ویزا آفسر میری درخواست مسترد کر دے گا؟

جواب: بیشتر قونصل افسر اردو جانتے ہیں۔ دوسری زبانوں کے سلسلے میں ہمارے دفتر میں مترجم موجود ہوتے ہیں۔

**سوال:** اگر پہلے کبھی میری درخواست مسترد کی جا چکی ہو تو کیا مجھے دوبارہ درخواست دینی چاہئے یا امریکہ جانے کا خیال دل سے نکال دینا چاہئے؟

جواب: دوبارہ درخواست دینے پر آپ کا خیر مقدم کیا جائیگا۔ تاہم آپ کو ویزے کے اجراء کی ضمانت نہیں دی جا سکتی، آپ کی درخواست کا نئے انداز میں جائزہ لینے کیلئے کوئی اور آفسر آپ سے انٹرویو لے گا۔

**سوال:** ویزا انٹرویو پر کتنا وقت لگتا ہے؟

جواب: بیشتر انٹرویو چند منٹ میں ختم ہو جاتے ہیں۔ انٹرویو کا انحصار ویزے کی نوعیت پر ہوتا ہے۔