



# Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

August 2007

Published by the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad



Ambassador Patterson  
Presents Credentials

Celebrating Pakistan's  
60th Birth Anniversary

Ambassador's Fund  
for Alamgiri Gate



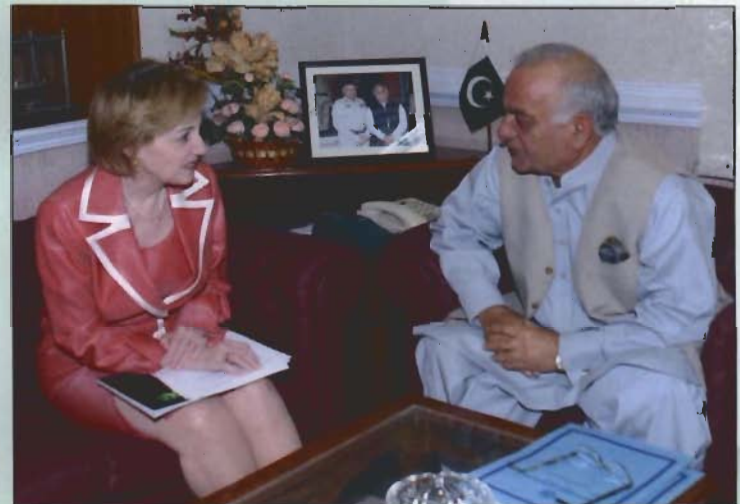
The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, talking to the Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mohammad Ali Durrani, in Islamabad. (PID Photo)



The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, called on the Federal Minister for Health, Muhammad Nasir Khan, in Islamabad. (PID Photo)



The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, meeting with the Federal Minister for Culture, G. G. Jamal, in Islamabad.



The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, met with the Senior Federal Minister and Minister for Defense, Rao Sikan-der Iqbal, in Rawalpindi. (PID Photo)



The Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping, Babar Khan Ghauri, meeting with the new U.S. Ambassador, Anne W. Patterson, in Islamabad. (PID Photo)

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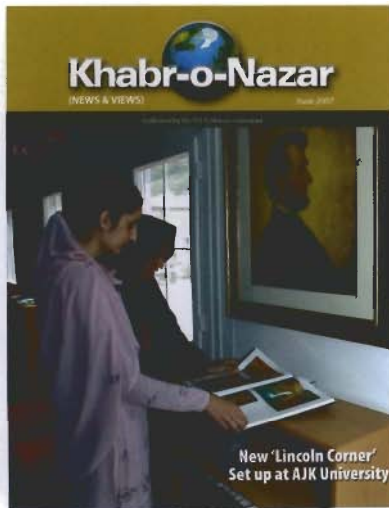
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*Printed by***Classical Printers, Islamabad***Designed by***Raja Saeed Ahmed***Front Cover*

The front view of Lahore Fort's Alamgiri Gate being renovated through the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. (KN Photo)

# Letters to the **Editor**



## **Inspired**

I saw an old copy of "Khabr-o-Nazar" in the office of one of the provincial ministers in Karachi. I found the magazine very 'special one.' Though I was not able to go through it completely, it inspired me.

Ghulam Hussain Shaikh  
Larkana

## **Helpful**

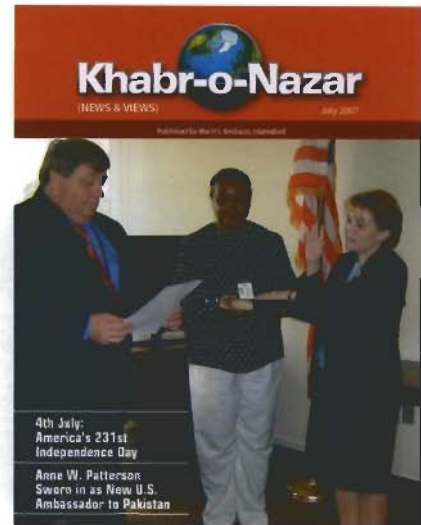
First of all I am grateful to you for sending me "Khabr-o-Nazar" regularly. It is very helpful for students like me who have an interest in knowing more about America. All the contents of the magazine are very attractive. I would, however, suggest increasing the number of pages and length of the articles.

Fazlullah  
Malakand

## **Really Great**

Thank you for sending me "Khabr-o-Nazar." It was really great to see U.S. efforts of friendship in helping Pakistan in the field of education.

Bilal Ahmed Qureshi  
Karachi



## **Proud of Our Friends**

It is my pleasure to write you to recount the good work U.S Embassy has done for the earthquake affected areas which caused great devastation and ruination of life and property in the Northern Areas of the country. The sincere and dedicated U.S. effort to perform relief work in the affected areas is on record. It was appreciated and commended by the Government of Pakistan at the highest level. The country is proud of our friends for their selfless services rendered in hour of need to the people who were stricken by the calamities of nature and unfortunately suffered heavily.

Agha Murtaza Hussain  
Via e-mail

## **KN Online**

Congratulation for this landmark.

Jassim Taqui  
Islamabad

# "Khabr-o-Nazar" Goes Online

The U.S. Embassy's monthly magazine, "Khabr-o-Nazar" (News & Views), is now available online.

The monthly magazine can be accessed on the embassy's website or readers can click on:

[http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/pakistan/khabr\\_o\\_nazar.html](http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/pakistan/khabr_o_nazar.html)



The new U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, presented her credentials to the President of Pakistan at a formal ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in the capital on July 31.

On her arrival at the palace, Aiwan-e-Sadr, the American ambassador was driven in a horse-drawn carriage to the dais where a trumpet sounded the fanfare before the military band played the national anthems of both the United States and Pakistan. She then inspected the honor guard of the Pakistani Army before she was escorted to present her credentials to President Pervez Musharraf.

"It's a great honor to serve in Pakistan," Ambassador Patterson remarked afterwards. "I look forward to working with Pakistanis to continue building our strong and important partnership."

Ambassador Anne W. Patterson was confirmed as the U.S. Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by the United States Senate on June 28, 2007. She took the oath of her office at a simple ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad on July 6.

Prior to her assignment to Pakistan, Ambassador Patterson served as the Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Ambassador Patterson also served as the Deputy Permanent Representative and Acting Permanent Representative at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations from 2004 to 2005.

A Career Minister in the Foreign Service of the United States, Ambassador Patterson has also served as the Deputy Inspector General of the Department of State from 2003 to 2004, Ambassador to Colombia from 2000 to 2003, and Ambassador to El Salvador from 1997 to 2000.

Ambassador Patterson was born in the U.S. state of Arkansas. She graduated from Wellesley College and attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina. She is married and has two sons.



# Ambassador Patterson Presents Credentials



U.S. Government  
Provides

Assistance for

# Flood Victims



Flood-affected locals of Jaffarabad receive USAID-funded emergency relief kits from Mercy Corps. (KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

To help recover from the effects of flooding and related damage caused by Cyclone Yemyin in Sindh and Balochistan, the United States government has authorized the release of emergency relief funds. The U.S. government will provide \$390,000 for emergency relief supplies for the affected families in the region. This emergency relief will help 11,000 households, or approximately 90,000 people, in the districts of Lasbela, Jaferabad, Naseerabad, Jhall Magsi and Bolan.

This U.S. emergency relief is provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the U.S. Ambassador's Emergency Fund. It will be delivered in Pakistan through the non-governmental organization, Mercy Corps.

The effects of Cyclone Yemyin have had a devastating impact in Sindh and Balochistan.

Meanwhile, humanitarian assistance efforts under the emergency relief initiative continue to bring relief to communities affected by Cyclone Yemyin that hit Balochistan and Sindh provinces early July.

"It was important for the U.S. to have made this grant to Mercy Corps soon after Cyclone Yemyin hit Pakistan to ease the suffering of those who had lost family members, property, and livelihoods and to provide some hope," said Anne Aarnes, USAID/Pakistan Mission Director.

More than 3,470 family kits containing food and non-food items

were distributed in Balochistan assisting 25,000 people. An estimated 7,530 additional kits will be distributed.

"This is, in many cases, the first assistance some remote communities have seen," said Dee Goluba, Operations Manager of Mercy Corps' Global Response Team. "This assistance along with other programs is providing tools and supplies that will help restore a sense of normalcy to the families," she added.

Family kits were designed with suggestions from the affected families in Balochistan. Each kit is valued at approximately \$30 and includes basic supplies such as rice, oil, daal, salt, spices, gram, gur, sugar, medicines, and water. The kits also contain basic hygiene items such as soap.

Meanwhile, relief workers have noted hundreds of communities still living on roadsides and in public spaces on higher ground. In some cases, rapid surveys have shown that some communities lost over 80 per cent of their livestock and crops to the flooding.

"They will need to rebuild their livelihoods from scratch, most probably by borrowing money and thus incurring debt," said Goluba, adding that her organization expected to move on from relief work and get involved in recovery efforts in the next few months

# U.S. Grant for Restoration of Alamgiri Gate Façade

Punjab Archeology Department Carrying Out Restoration Under the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation

Its image appears everywhere -- from coffee-table books on Pakistan, to postcards and souvenirs; and even on the reverse of that Rs. 50 note in your wallet. With its imposing pillars and arched gateway, Lahore Fort's Alamgiri Gate is one of the most recognizable images of the country. It is also a monument the U.S. government is helping to restore through the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation.

"The U.S. is honored to contribute to the restoration and conservation of this historic monument," Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate Lahore Bryan Hunt during his visit to review the project. He termed the Alamgiri Gate a "national symbol of Pakistan." Forming the main entrance to the Fort, the Alamgiri Gate was built in 1674 by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir.

Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen accompanied Mr. Hunt, where they received a detailed briefing by Director General Punjab Archeology Department Shahbaz Khan. Media representatives were also present.

A grant of \$31,834 has been made to the Archeology Department to restore the façade of the Alamgiri Gate, using architectural techniques and materials similar to the original.

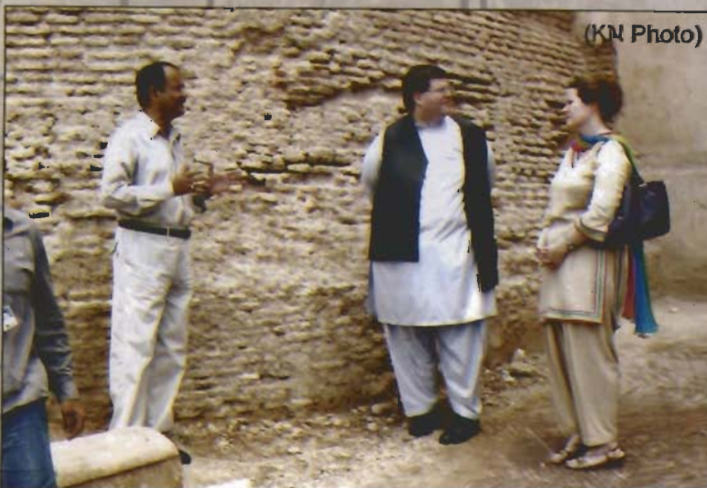
"The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation was created in 2001 as a sign of America's respect for other cultures and traditions; since then 379 grants have been made in 108 countries," said Mr. Hunt. He appreciated the Archeology Department for its

painstaking attention to detail in carrying out the restoration.

Ms. Eagen stated that the U.S. had funded the conservation of seven projects in Pakistan which included the Sirkap Site and Jinnah Wali Dehri in Taxila; Masjid Mahabat Khan and Gor Khutree, Peshawar; Maan Singh Hayeli, Rohtas Fort; and the bazaar of the Wazir Khan Mosque in Lahore.

Briefing the American diplomats, Mr Shahbaz Khan said, "The major tasks involved would be removing paint from the pillars, restoring the frescoes, replacement of wooden beams, dismantling of the decayed lime plaster." The wooden gate would also be treated with a special anti-termite chemical.

The project will be completed by March 2008 and documentation of pre- and post- conservation work will be done along the way.



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation is administered by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), through American Embassies and Consulates. Through a range of cultural preservation activities, ECA promotes cooperation with other countries to reduce the threat of pillage of irreplaceable cultural heritage and to develop long-term strategies for preserving cultural property.

## Ambassador Patterson Urges

# Stronger Bonds Among Women



US Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson has underlined the need for

creating stronger bonds between the women of Pakistan and the international community “to build bridges of understanding.”

She was speaking on “women in the workplace” at a networking event organized by the Federal Women’s Program at the U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission’s residence in Islamabad on July 24. Over sixty women representing a range of professional backgrounds gathered to network and socialize with other women in the Islamabad community.

“Women are natural networkers, who understand the importance of supporting one another. These bonds reinforce our common goals, values, and ideas: caring for our families, contributing towards our nations’ development, and growing our own leadership skills and careers,” Ambassador Patterson said.

The Ambassador said that in America, women are serving in greater numbers and at higher levels in the federal government than ever before. President Bush recognizes talented women and

senior federal government positions. Today, over 4000 American women are serving at the highest level of the U.S. government,” the American diplomat said.

Ambassador Patterson said that women make up less than twenty per cent of Pakistan’s formal workforce and that the national literacy rate for women is only thirty-two per cent. “I am eager to learn how we can help improve the welfare of women in Pakistan,” she remarked.

This is the third networking event sponsored by the US Embassy’s Federal Women’s Program (FWP). These events offer an informal way for professional women to get to know one another, build ties between countries, and to offer support and mentorship to women they may not have met otherwise.

The networking events also served as a venue to raise awareness of women’s development issues in Pakistan. Participants included foreign and local government officials, journalists, professors, NGO officers, as well as students, artists and entrepreneurs.

“The success and popularity of these networking events are a direct credit to the women who participate in them. The Federal Women’s Program will continue to host these professional and social opportunities because of the community’s overwhelming interest in them,” commented FWP co-coordinator, Carol Hanlon.

The Federal Women’s Program is a world-wide network founded in 1963 to promote career opportunities and advancement for



appointed the first female Secretary of the Interior, the first African-American woman to the position of Secretary of State, and the first Asian-American woman to a Cabinet position, she added.

“Less than 30 years ago, only about 100 women were serving in



American women employed by the federal government. Branches of this program exist everywhere, from small towns across the United States to U.S. Embassies around the world.



# President Bush at the Islamic Center Of Washington

Excerpts from the remarks delivered by President Bush at the Islamic Center of Washington on June 27, 2007

**THE PRESIDENT:** As the Imam mentioned, half a century has passed since one of our great leaders welcomed the Islamic Center into our nation's family of faith. Dedicating this site, President Dwight D. Eisenhower offered America's hand in friendship to Muslims around the world. He asked that together we commit ourselves "to peaceful progress of all men under one God."

Today we gather, with friendship and respect, to reaffirm that pledge - and to renew our determination to stand together in the pursuit of freedom and peace. We come to express our appreciation for a faith that has enriched civilization for centuries. We come in celebration of America's diversity of faith and our unity as free people. And we hold in our hearts the ancient wisdom of the great Muslim poet, Rumi: "The lamps are different, but the light is the same."

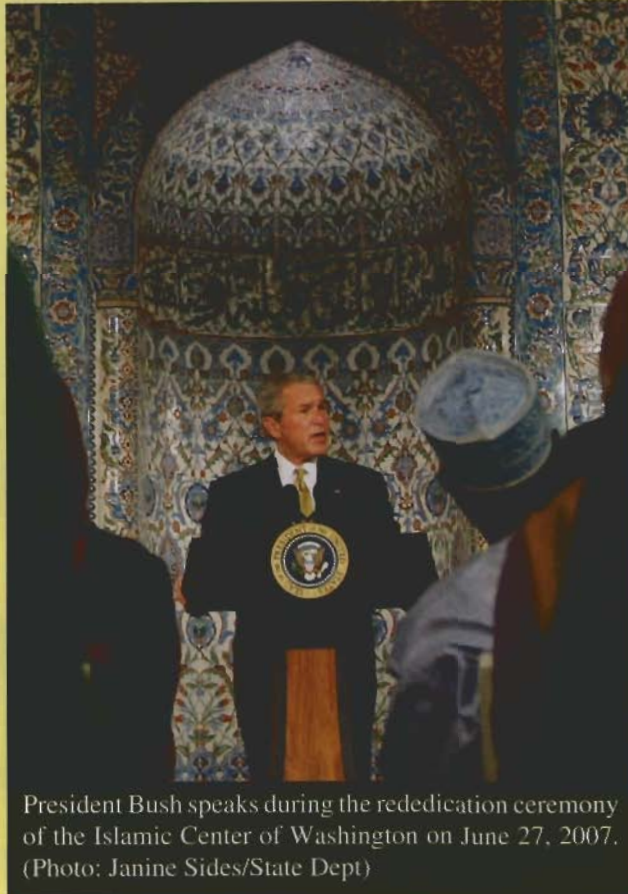
Moments like this dedication help clarify who Americans are as a people, and what we wish for the world. We live in a time when there are questions about America and her intentions. For those who seek a true understanding of our country, they need to look no farther than here. This Muslim center sits quietly down the road from a synagogue, a Lutheran church, a Catholic parish, a Greek Orthodox chapel, a Buddhist temple - each with faithful followers who practice their deeply held beliefs and live side by side in peace.

This is what freedom offers: societies where people can live and worship as they choose without intimidation, without suspicion, without a knock on the door from the secret police. The freedom of religion is the very first protection offered in America's Bill of Rights.

tives from Muslim states and will share with them America's views and values.

We have seen that friendship reflected in the outpouring of support Americans have extended to Muslim communities across the globe during times of war and natural disaster. Americans came to the aid of the victims of devastating earthquakes in Pakistan and Iran, and responded with urgency and compassion to the wreckage of the tsunami in Indonesia and Malaysia. Our country defended Muslims in Bosnia and Kosovo after the breakup of Yugoslavia. (Applause.) Today we are rallying the world to confront genocide in Sudan. Americans of all beliefs have undertaken these efforts out of compassion, conviction, and conscience.

So today, in this place of free worship, in the heart of a free nation, we say to those who yearn for freedom from Damascus to Tehran: You are not bound forever by your misery. You plead in silence no longer. The free world hears you. You are not alone. America offers you its hand in friendship. We work for the day when we can welcome you into the family of free nations. We pray that you and your children may one day know freedom in all things, including the freedom to love and to worship the Almighty God.



President Bush speaks during the rededication ceremony of the Islamic Center of Washington on June 27, 2007. (Photo: Janine Sides/State Dept)

It is a precious freedom. It is a basic compact under which people of faith agree not to impose their spiritual vision on others, and in return to practice their own beliefs as they see fit. This is the promise of our Constitution, and the calling of our conscience, and a source of our strength.

The freedom to worship is so central to America's character that we tend to take it personally when that freedom is denied to others. America has stood with Muslims seeking to freely practice their beliefs in places such as Burma and China.

To underscore America's respect for the Muslim faith here at home, I came to this Center six days after the 9/11 attacks to denounce incidents of prejudice against Muslim Americans. (Applause.) Today I am announcing a new initiative that will improve mutual understanding and cooperation between America and people in predominately Muslim countries. I will appoint a special envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Our special envoy will listen to and learn from representa-



President Bush, left, shakes hands with Dr. Abdullah Khauj, director of the Islamic Center of Washington, during a re-dedication ceremony at the center in Washington, Wednesday, June 27, 2007. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)



# Pre-Departure Orientation

Pakistani Educational Leadership Institute 2007  
Plymouth State University, New Hampshire, USA



Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate in Lahore, Bryan Hunt, with Pakistani educators traveling to the U.S. to attend a summer institute at the Plymouth State University (PSU), New Hampshire. (KN Photo)

## Pakistani Teachers

# To Attend Summer Institute At Plymouth State University

Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate in Lahore, Bryan Hunt, handed over air tickets to a group of Pakistani educators traveling to the U.S. to attend a summer institute at the Plymouth State University (PSU), New Hampshire. Funded by the U.S. State Department, the summer institute is a collaboration between PSU and Lahore-based NGO Idara-e-Taleem-o-Agahi (ITA).

Speaking at the pre-departure orientation on June 25, Mr. Bryan Hunt said, "The program exemplifies U.S. commitment to education in Pakistan – not only for students, but also educators and researchers. I congratulate the educators selected for the program and hope the summer institute enhances their professional skills."

Educators selected for the Pakistan Educational Leadership Institute (PELI) are drawn

from different areas of the country and represent training, teaching and research institutes. The educators work in Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and the earthquake-affected areas of Azad Kashmir.

The program was initiated in 2004 and since then 65 educators, including senior subject specialists at secondary level, have participated in the program. The categories covered under the program are English, Mathematics, Science and School Administration.

Plymouth State University has national, regional and state accreditation and is a recognized program in New Hampshire for teacher education. The purpose of the summer institute is to enhance knowledge and skills of selected educators and administrators in the area of research design and implementation.



(KN Photo)

# U.S. Delivers Two F-16 FIGHTERS

## TO PAKISTAN AIR FORCE



(KN Photo)

The United States government delivered two F-16 fighter aircraft on July 10, 2007 to the Pakistan Air Force at Mushaf airbase in Sargodha. U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson, Air Chief Marshall Tanvir, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, and Lt. General Gary L. North, Commander of the 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces were the senior officials participating in the hand-over ceremonies at PAF Base Mushaf.

These aircraft will join the Pakistan Air Force's current inventory of 34 F-16 fighters. Delivery of 24 more F-16 fighter aircraft from the U.S. Air Force is planned in the near future. These 26 aircraft are being provided by the United States to augment the 18 new F-16 aircraft purchased by the government of Pakistan in an agreement signed September 30, 2006.

The F-16 fighter is an important element of the combat capability of the Pakistan Air Force. The delivery of

F-16 fighter aircraft is also an important manifestation of the growing strategic partnership between the United States and Pakistan and our joint commitment to work together for regional security and stability.

Speaking at the ceremony handing over the F-16 fighters to the Pakistan Air Force, Ambassador Patterson said that the delivery of the F-16s "symbolizes the U.S. intent to remain engaged with Pakistan over the long term, just as we do with any other important ally and friend."

Ambassador Patterson also noted that "the U.S. commitment to assist Pakistan goes far beyond military assistance. For a nation to be strong and safe, it must be strong internally, in its democratic institutions, in its educational system, in its economy, and in its ability to provide for its people. The United States is committed to assisting in all of these areas."

# USAID-Funded Course For Epidemiologists Launched

A two-year course to train Pakistan's future field epidemiologists as part of the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) funded by USAID was inaugurated in Islamabad on July 2 by the USIAD Mission Director in Pakistan, Anne Aarnes.

"Trained and committed workers are the foundation in which all systems and institutions are built," said Ms. Aarnes in her address.

She expressed the hope that this cohort of epidemiologists, being developed through USAID assistance, will bring about a very positive change in the results produced by health departments because "they will be more efficient in detecting and responding to communicable diseases outbreaks."

Epidemiology, the study of factors affecting the health and illness of populations is essential for early disease detection and containment. The course, adapted from the U.S.-based Epidemic Intelligence Service program and taught by both foreign and Pakistani experts, will cover areas of epidemiology, statistics, surveillance, outbreak detection and response.

Ms. Aarnes stated that this initiative was part of a much larger set of health initiatives that USAID was supporting in Pakistan. Last year, USAID's support for Pakistan's health sector exceeded \$45 million and included a range of programs related to maternal and newborn health care, family planning, clean water and infectious disease prevention and control, she added.

Also present at the inauguration were the Director General Health, Maj. Gen. (retd.) Shahida Malik; Executive Director of National Institute of Health, Maj. Gen. (retd.) Masood Anwar; chief of Public Health Laboratories Division, Dr. Birjees Mazher Kazi; USAID Director for Health Mary E. Skarie; and FELTP Resident Advisor, Dr. Rana Jawad Asghar.

Launched in 2006, the three-year, \$5.7 million USAID-funded FELT program is being implemented by the U.S.-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ministry of Health/National Institute of Health in Punjab and NWFP through provincial and district health offices.

Support for FELTP is part of the \$1.5 billion in aid that the U.S. Government is providing to Pakistan over a five-year period to improve economic growth, education, health, governance and earthquake reconstruction.



USAID Pakistan Mission Director Anne Aarnes addressing the participants of the First Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program held at the National Institute of Health (NIH) on July 2. Also seen in the photograph (from left) are Executive Director of National Institute of Health (NIH) Major General (retd.) Masood Anwar and Director General Health, Major General (retd.) Shahida Mailk. (KN Photo)



American Pianist

# Mike del Ferro

Entertains Audiences in Pakistan



(KN Photo)

American pianist Mike del Ferro entertained an appreciative audience in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar during his visit to Pakistan from July 13-17, which was supported by the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section and sponsored by American Voices - a Texas-based not-for-profit organization that promotes accessibility to and understanding of American music and culture.

Since 1993, the musicians of American Voices have reached an audience of millions through concerts, workshops, master classes, festivals, radio and television broadcasts throughout Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

In Islamabad, the pianist performed at the National Library of Pakistan auditorium on July 13. U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, welcomed the guests and appreciated a "unique blend of the best our musical traditions have to offer."

"The United States and Pakistan both enjoy a rich cultural heritage and we value the artist and musicians who contribute to the enrichment of our lives," Ambassador Patterson said.

She said that Mike del Ferro, as one of the American Voices performing artists, has traveled around the world and teamed up with local musicians of diverse background, combining the flavor of traditional American jazz with local traditions wherever he goes.



**LAHORE:** On July 14, American pianist Mike del Ferro held three jazz concerts in Lahore which were arranged by the U.S. Consulate.

"It's a pleasure to welcome Mike del Ferro to Lahore again, after a gap of two years. I hope you all will enjoy the concert by this highly sought-after pianist and composer," stated Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate Bryan Hunt while welcoming guests at his residence.

"Mike's reputation has led to worldwide performances, recordings and tours with top musicians. He has also recorded dozens of albums in many different genres from Dixieland to Salsa and has arranged music for Dutch animator and Oscar winner Borge Ring," said Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen while addressing students and their families at the Alhamra Cultural Center.

Mike del Ferro found playing for the audience in Lahore "an experience of a lifetime" and said he would "love to come back to the city."

**KARACHI:** The American pianist Mike Del Ferro conducted an intensive two-hour music workshop at National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) in Karachi on July 16.





(KN Photo)

"It's a pleasure to welcome Mike Del Ferro to Karachi. I hope you all will enjoy the workshop by this highly sought-after pianist and composer," stated Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Consulate Karachi Karen Heimsoth while welcoming guests at NAPA.

Nafees Ahmed, Head of Music at NAPA and noted sitar

artist, welcomed the American pianist. Nafees Ahmed and Mike del Ferro fused traditional Pakistani classical music with jazz during the workshop. Other famous Pakistani artists including Zia Mohiuddin, Chairman NAPA Talat Hussain, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan, Arshad Mehmud, also attended the workshop.

Mike Del Ferro found playing for the students at NAPA "an enthralling experience" and said he would "love to come back to this fine academy." He said that NAPA "is doing a fantastic job keeping the music alive and the music is simply amazing".

Mike del Ferro also did a live performance with Aaroh, a well-known Pakistani band the same evening. Aaroh is known for their fusion of western rock music and eastern style of vocals.

**PESHAWAR:** Mike del Ferro performed at the U.S. Consulate's Principal Officer's Residence in Peshawar on July 18.

"We're extremely fortunate to welcome back Mike del Ferro to Peshawar. He's traveled a long way to share his musical talents with the people of Peshawar," stated Michael Abel, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate.



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

Six Pakistani High School Students

# Return from the U.S.

After Completing A Year of Study

The US Consulate's Public Affairs Officer Michael Abel lauded the six Pakistani high school students for "building new bridges by sharing Pakistani culture with a new generation of Americans," during their stay in the United States as Youth Exchange and Study (YES) students.

He was speaking at a reception, jointly organized by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate and the International Education Resource Network (iEARN), in Peshawar on July 12 to welcome these students who have recently returned after successfully completing a year of study in the U.S.

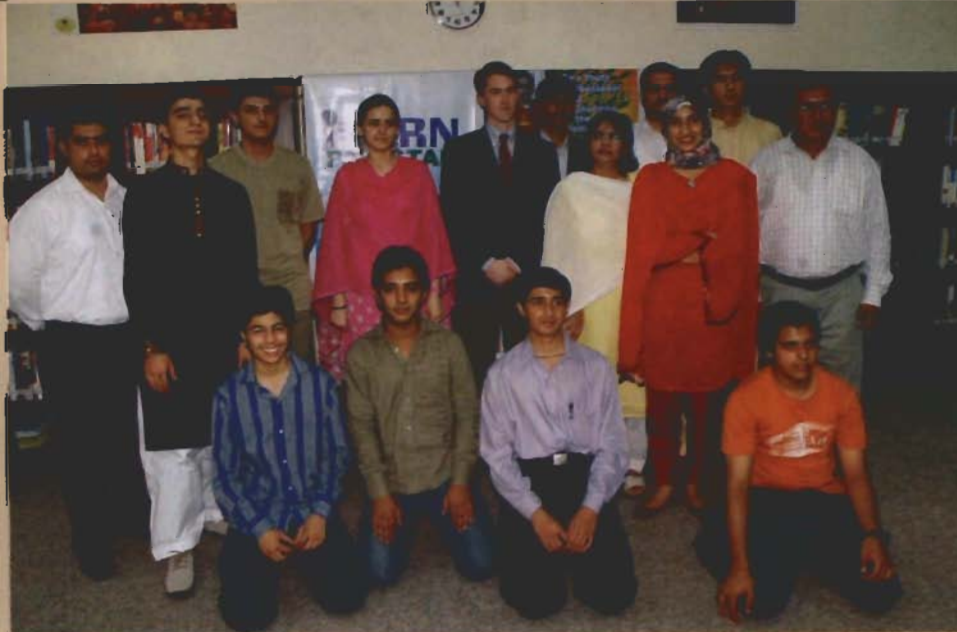
"We are extremely proud of these students, who have traveled long distances to experience American society firsthand," Mr. Abel said.

The YES program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, brings high school students from around the world to the United States for a year of study and interaction with their American peers. YES program participants live with an American host family and attend classes alongside American students for an academic year. They actively participate in sports, theatre, and community service projects alongside their American classmates and serve as cultural ambassadors by sharing Pakistani culture with everyday Americans.

During the 2007-2008 school year, 58 Pakistani students will participate in the YES program, including twelve from the NWFP and FATA. iEARN, an organization dedicated to increasing mutual respect and understanding through education, administers the program in Pakistan.



Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Consulate Peshawar, Mike Abel, with the Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) coordinators, U.S. Consulate Public Affairs Peshawar staff and YES students, who are about to leave Pakistan for United States. (KN Photo)





# Seeds of Peace Participants

## Leave for U.S.

*The program brings together children from various conflict regions around the world for six-weeks of activities designed to promote peacemaking*



U.S. Consulate Lahore's Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen briefing a group of students selected to attend a "Seeds of Peace" summer camp in Maine, USA from June 25 through July 17, 2007. (KN Photo)

At a pre-departure reception held in Lahore on June 21, U.S. Consulate Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen urged Pakistani students to "spread the message of peace." A total of nine children selected from five Lahore schools will attend a "Seeds of Peace" summer camp in Maine, USA from June 25 through July 17, 2007.

"Participation in the Seeds of Peace program will empower you to take the important step from interest to action; to commit yourselves to make a difference, to change something. Recognizing the value of our differences is the first step towards the resolution of conflict," she said.

In 2001, Seeds of Peace launched a pilot program for Indian and Pakistani teenagers from Mumbai and Lahore. Since then, over 100 Indian and Pakistani students have participated in the program, with another 20 from the two countries set to attend the camp this summer. Students are chosen through a competitive process involving recommendations, essays and interviews.

Talking with the students and their parents, Ms. Eagen hoped the children would "maintain the many friendships they form during the summer camp."

Ms. Narmeen Adeel, one of the participants, said that she was "excited at the prospect of meeting students from around the world," while Mr. Rana Mujtaba said "the summer camp would provide a wonderful opportunity to learn about other cultures and faiths."

Seeds of Peace is a New York-based non-governmental, non-political organization founded in 1993. The program 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.

At the Seeds of Peace camp in Maine, students work together to accomplish tasks and are encouraged to talk about the issues that divide their nations. They live together, share meals and engage in various summer camp activities, including playing sports, going through obstacle courses and creating art projects.

# U.S.

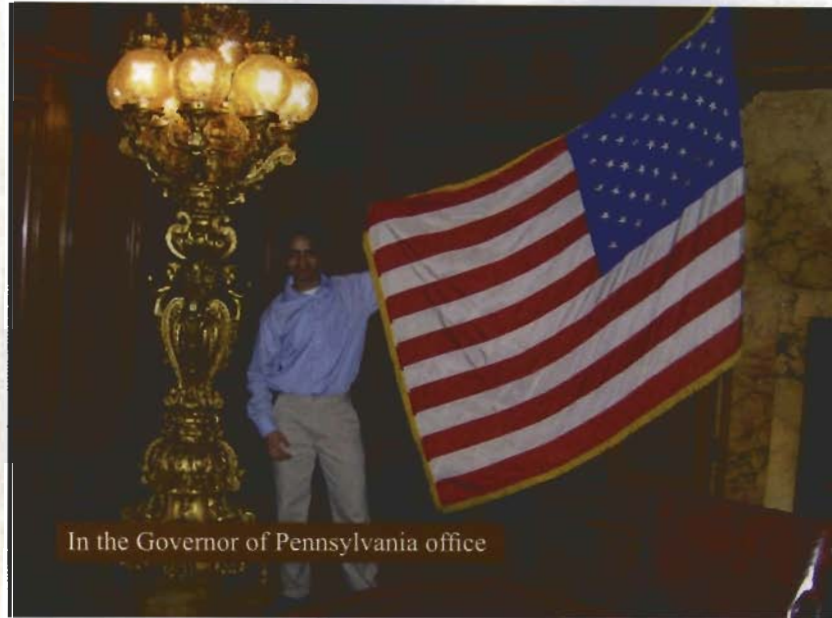
– where  
opinions  
of youth  
are heard  
& considered



By: Usama Khilji (YES exchange alumnus)

“Hope you had the time of your life” sang the lead singer of the popular American band, Green Day, on the music system. All of the twenty foreign exchange students coming from different parts of the world sat united by the feel of our hands in a circle around the conference room of the hotel, where we had successfully completed our four-day-long leadership conference. With our wet eyes, we sat there holding hands, while being directed by our coordinator to think about all the fun times and memories we have gathered, the friendships and bonds we have created, and the bridges we have built in a year long exchange program. This was one of the most thoughtful moments of my life as the atmosphere helped not only refresh my memories of the wonderful year I had spent in the United States of America but also about my life in Pakistan, as well as my background.

Although I belong to Nowshera in the North West Frontier Province, Islamabad is my home where I have been residing for a long time. My father is working as a consultant in Islamabad, while my mother is a professor of English. I live with them along with my elder brother, his wife and daughter, and my sister. We are really close as a family and I love my fam-



In the Governor of Pennsylvania office

ily a lot. I attend a High School in Islamabad, and I was in the middle of my O’levels when I left for the United States of America.

In the United States I was placed in the small settlement of Morrisdale, near the Pennsylvania State University, also known as the town of State College in Pennsylvania. It is an extremely beautiful place with lush green thick forests and lakes making a breath-taking view from any corner of the state. Initially I was placed with a single retired gentleman, but due to some problems, he could not continue to host me. Thus, I lived with my friend Patrick’s family for a while and with my friend Spencer’s family for the rest of my year there. At Patrick’s house, there was him, and his parents, while at Spencer’s house; there were his parents, and his older sister besides him. I have had a very interesting, fun-filled, and learning experience with all my host families, and they have always been exceptionally nice and understanding in every way.

It was really interesting to just sit and talk about politics and religion with my American friends, especially when they were

overwhelmed with excitement over the differences between our religions. One of my really best friends was Josh Johnson. We often used to visit each other and spend lots of time simply sharing our beliefs, our political views, and our opinions about other things in

general. It surely was a treat sitting with all my friends and talking about all these things.

Another wonderful thing about being a foreign exchange student was being heard. I came across scores of people for whom I was the only person from Pakistan they had ever met. Thus, for them, I

was Pakistan! With such a chance came a lot of responsibility to talk in the best diplomatic way so as to present a really nice picture of myself as well as my beliefs and my country. Also, as opposed to in Pakistan, the opinions of younger people like me are equally heard and considered, and it was wonderful to be heard and to express my feelings and views openly and freely.

One of my personal achievements was to get selected to go for the YES leadership conference in Boulder, Colorado. This was a wonderful leadership conference, also the first of its kind I had attended. During the two-day conference, we were taught the basics of leadership and teamwork through different physical exercises such as rope climbing, rope-walking etc. to test our physical and mental endurance, while coordinating with fellow team-mates, who were very interestingly from across the Middle East. The experience in Colorado enabled me to discover the hidden leadership talents in me.

On the whole, this one year exchange experience helped me know myself better, and made me a stronger and more communicative person. It has also taught me a lot of lessons about tolerance and unity since the United States of America is a very multi-cultural country. After interacting with foreign exchange students in all the different trips and activities throughout the year, I have learnt to accept differences, and to respect and tolerate all sorts of people, no matter who they are, respecting their individuality, and letting them live their life the way they want to.

The community service activities that YES students were required to do have made a very compassionate person. It has enabled me to learn that no matter who one is, one can bring about change and difference in the life of another person, or as a collective community. During my exchange year, I tried to engage in as many volunteer activities as I could. Some of the voluntary activities I did include helping out at the community fire hall; helping with funeral arrangements at the local church; decorating the school for prom; picking up garbage from along the highway; helping kids with home work and activities after school; and performing in the theater for senior citizens from the community old home.

The life in an American home and community is very fun-filled and interesting. Everyone at home contributes in the household chores and responsibilities. The society is quite family-oriented, as opposed to the image given in movies etc. Most families engage in a lot of fun activities after they are done with work and school, like



With Santa Claus on Christmas

camping, hiking, watching movies, playing games and sports, and traveling.

I made some of the best friends of my life in the United States because since I was alone, my friends were essentially my family, and they were the ones I could share my feeling with and have fun. We often used to visit each other, go to the movies, bowling, skating, or to eat out together. I was around people I had not known for more than a month or so. However, after a few months, I felt completely at home. Now that I am back, I thoroughly keep in touch with them, and miss all of them a lot.

After living in the U.S., I have learnt that the government of a country not always fully reflects the policies and opinions of the people. Also, I have come to believe that the people of America are extremely friendly and easy-going, and are very tolerant. I also learnt that people are quite family-oriented. Being an open-minded person myself, I did not hold many stereotypes about the American people before I left; rather I let myself know the people by interacting and experiencing the society myself.



At the YES Leadership Camp in Boulder, Colorado

The exchange program has set an international education week in November, giving exchange students a set date to make presentations about their respective countries. I made around thirty presentations on Pakistan and its culture, illustrating them with colorful pictures and interesting facts. While making the presentations, I wore traditional Pakistani attire, as well as let some people taste some Pakistani food.



# 14th of August, 2007

## Celebrating Pakistan's 60th Birth Anniversary

### 60 years of Pakistan-U.S.A. Relationship

- a photo gallery of landmark contacts between the two countries



1



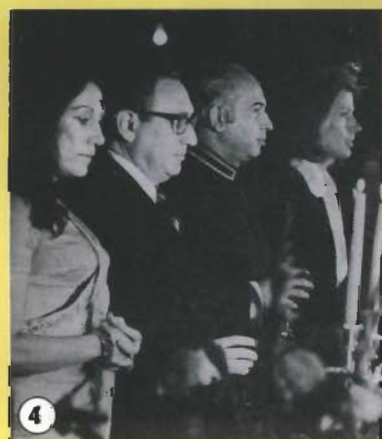
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4



5

1- Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan addressing a joint session of the U.S. Congress in Washington on 4 May 1950

2- Pakistan's first woman Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto addressing a joint session of the U.S. Congress on 2 June 1989

3- President Rafiq Tarar welcomes President Clinton in Islamabad on 25 March, 2000 (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

4- Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Begum Nusrat Bhutto during an official meeting

5- U.S. first lady Jacqueline Kennedy touches the head of a decorated sheep as a symbol of acceptance after receiving it as a gift in Peshawar on March 24, 1962. (AP Photo)

6- U.S. President Ronald Reagan is welcoming Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo at the White House. Photo also shows the then Chief Minister of Punjab Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif

7- Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, the widely traveled wife of President Kennedy, perches on camel in Karachi in this March 1962 photo. With her is her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, and holding the camel is Bashir Ahmad (AP Photo)

8- U.S. Vice President George Bush (senior) meeting with President Zia-ul-Haq. Photo also shows former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and former Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yaqoob Khan

9- President George W. Bush shaking hands with President General Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad on March 4, 2006 (AP Photo/B. K. Bar-gash)

10- Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan with U.S. president Harry Truman in Washington in May 1950

11- The U.S. Vice-President, Lyndon Johnson, chatting with the camel cart owner Bashir Ahmad in Karachi (now Sharea Faisal) in May of 1961