



Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

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- **Eight Cobra Helicopters for Pakistan Army**
- **State of The Union Address**
- **Interview with USAID Director**



A US Congressional delegation led by Speaker Ms. Nancy Pelosi called on President General Pervez Musharraf in Rawalpindi on Saturday January 27, 2007
(PID Photo)



President General Pervez Musharraf talking with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates in Rawalpindi on February 12, 2007
(PID Photo)

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Front Cover

U.S. Ambassador to
Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker
at the handing over
ceremony of eight
Cobra helicopters to the
Pakistan Army at
the Qasim Air Base.
(KN Photo)



Letters to the Editor

■ Input

Thanks for this sharing about the academic and intellectual input of U.S. Embassy towards the development of Pakistan's civil society. I am a regular subscriber of your magazine. In this issue I liked very much the Educational Reforms Report and the AIDS Day celebration report. I hope this magazine will continue to share good information.

Zulfiqar Ali Halepoto
Hyderabad

■ Improvement

I am a regular reader of Khabr-o-Nazar and I have noticed improvement in the magazine recently. It is giving us more information on current affairs and about the U.S. and its institutions, especially the role of USAID in Pakistan. U.S. contribution for earthquake victims is remarkable and praiseworthy. I hope that this atmosphere of goodwill between our two countries will be long lasting.

Humza Bilal
Islamabad

■ Recommended reading

I am a student of M. Phil Political Science at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. I am presently working on my thesis on "American interest and policies towards South Asia after 9/11" and my supervisor has recommended me to read "Khabr-o-Nazar."

Ghulam Mohammad
Bahawalpur

■ Very interesting

Today I read your magazine "Khabr-oNazar" and found it to be very interesting. Before going through it, I had meager knowledge about Pak-U.S. relationship. But now I have sufficient information about this since the magazine covers all aspects of our cordial relationship.

Nisarullah
Shangla (NWFP)

■ Thorough reader

I am a thorough reader of your magazine, "Khabr-o-Nazar," and value its efforts and news related to different dimensions of our little world. In the Nov./Dec. issue I found a joint statement of Pak-U.S. partnership in the Education Sector and found it very valuable for the teachers and students of Darul Uloom Jamia Rahmania, Dargai, Malakand Agency. The suggestions put forward by both the countries are very admirable but it needs to be extended to Pakistani Madressah as well where contemporary studies have recently started and want considerable improvement.

Attaur Rahman, Administrator
Jamia Rahmania Dargai, Malakand



TAP Photo/Larry Downing, Pool

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Excerpts on global War on Terrorism

For all of us in this room, there is no higher responsibility than to protect the people of this country from danger. Five years have come and gone since we saw the scenes and felt the sorrow that terrorists can cause. We have had time to take stock of our situation. We have added many critical protections to guard the homeland. We know with certainty that the horrors of that September morning were just a glimpse of what the terrorists intend for us – unless we stop them.

With the distance of time, we find ourselves debating the causes of conflict and the course we have followed. Such debates are essential when a great democracy faces great questions. Yet one question has surely been settled – that to win the war on terror we must take the fight to the enemy.

From the start, America and our allies have protected our people by staying on the offense. The enemy knows that the days of comfortable sanctuary, easy movement,

steady financing, and free flowing communications are long over. For the terrorists, life since Nine-Eleven has never been the same.

The war on terror we fight today is a generational struggle that will continue long after you and I have turned our duties over to others. That is why it is important to work together so our Nation can see this great effort through. Both parties and both branches should work in close consultation. And this is why I propose to establish a special advisory council on the war on terror, made up of leaders in Congress from both political parties. We will share ideas for how to position America to meet every challenge that confronts us. And we will show our enemies abroad that we are united in the goal of victory.

Americans can have confidence in the outcome of this struggle – because we are not in this struggle alone. We have a diplomatic strategy that is rallying the world to join in the fight against extremism.

USAID works closely with local partners



Mr. Jonathan Addleton joined as the new Mission Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for Pakistan in April 2006. Mr. Addleton joined USAID in 1985 as an assistant program officer in Pakistan. Since then, he has served as Program Officer in Yemen, South Africa, Central Asia, and Jordan. He has also served as Mission Director in Mongolia and Cambodia.

Prior to joining USAID, Addleton briefly worked for the World Bank, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the U.S. Information Agency.

*Receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism from Northwestern University, Addleton holds a Master of Arts and Doctorate Degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He has authored two books on Pakistan, *Some Far and Distant Place* (University of Georgia Press) and *Undermining the Center* (Oxford University Press), and is widely published in academic and professional journals.*

Mr. Addleton was born and raised in Murree, Pakistan. He and his wife have three children. He speaks fluent Urdu and Hindi. He is shortly leaving Pakistan after completing his tenure. In this interview, Mr. Addleton talks to Khabr-o-Nazar and shares his thoughts with the readers. Ed.

Q: You were brought up in Pakistan as you spent your early years in the gorgeous Murree Hills. How do you compare today's Murree with that of the 1960s?

Jonathan Addleton: Murree has definitely grown a lot. I was actually born in Murree in 1957, in a house called Rock Edge built on a cliff near Kashmir point. At that time, Murree was a small and rather sleepy town. Now, of course, Murree is much larger and visited by many more tourists, not just in summer but throughout the year. Still, the views toward the mountains remain wonderful. Parts of Pakistan are tremendously beautiful and local communities as well as the government need to work together to ensure that these places are maintained and remain beautiful.

Q: How do you look at the culture and civilization of Pakistan? It is a culturally rich country with diverse customs and traditions from the city of Karachi to the valley of Chitral and Khyber Pass. Which custom fascinated you most, and why?

Jonathan Addleton: While much of my childhood was spent at boarding school in Murree, my parents actually lived in Shikarpur in Upper Sindh, providing an opportunity to become familiar with that part of the country as well. As a child, I visited Moenjodaro often, instilling an early appreciation for the ancient roots of the Indus Valley civilization. Other places that I knew as a child such as Rohri and Sadhbello, an island in the Indus River near Sukkur, also reflect something of this ancient past.

I recall with special affection early encounters with some of the more out of the way places in Pakistan, including visits to the forts at Ranikot and Kot Diji; a wonderful trip into the Kirthar Mountains adjoining Balochistan; riding through the Khyber Pass on top of a bus; and climbing up Mount Murdah, the barren mountain that towers above Quetta. Of course, the northern areas of Pakistan hold a special attraction. From my perspective, both Chitral and the Hunza valley will always rank as some of the most beautiful places on earth. Beyond Pakistan's sheer physical beauty, the diversity of cultures is fascinating and represents one of the most attractive aspects of Pakistan as a country.

Q: You are well conversant in Urdu language. Have you ever got a chance to read Urdu literature, especially the poetry and short stories? If yes, how would compare it with the American Literature?

Jonathan Addleton: I have never formally studied Urdu literature. However, I have read Urdu poetry with interest over the years. Some of Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poems are especially moving and beautiful—he seems to have an appropriate line for almost every occasion. I actually met him on a couple of occasions while at

Chitral and Hunza valley are the most beautiful places on the earth

An interview with USAID Mission Director Jonathan Addleton

USAID Mission Director Jonathan Addleton addressing at a ceremony in an earthquake affected area of Muzaffarabad, AJK.



(KN Photo)

university in the United States during the early 1980s and attended one of his mushairas in Boston. The older Urdu poets are more challenging, especially when they rely heavily on more obscure Persian words. However, occasionally I come across a ghazal by the likes of Ghalib or Mir Taqi Mir that seems amazingly contemporary, underscoring the fact that some of our deepest emotions as well as our shared response to the gift of life have also been felt by those who lived in other cultures and continents and in other moments of time.

Q: Pakistan is rather a new country in human history and came into being in 1947. No one heard the name of Pakistan before. The United States of America is also a new world and discovered quite late. Being an American, how will you distinguish life in Pakistan and in the United States?

Jonathan Addleton: Although I have spent important parts of my life in Pakistan, my extended family is rooted in Middle Georgia in the American South, which has an interesting history and culture of its own. Here again, the similarities are sometimes surprising. For example, my father was one of thirteen brothers and sisters. He grew up during the 1930s as the son of a carpenter and tenant farmer in a rural setting that actually wasn't all that much different than what one might find in some parts of Pakistan today.

Other aspects of Southern culture also have certain affinities to Pakistan, including the importance attached to family and the role that religion plays in building a sense of community. As it happens, I also like Country music—and find that some of the themes emphasized in that music about life, faith, love and family resonate very much in a Pakistani context as well. As it happens, there are probably two CDs on my shelf that are listened to most often—one by Johnny Cash and the other by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

Q: USAID is providing financial assistance to a project to strengthen Legislative in Pakistan. As per the electoral laws of the country, all the members of the present national assembly and the four provincial assemblies are at least graduates and, as such, are aware of their responsibilities in the assemblies and to their constituencies. Do you still think that the already well-educated parliamentarians need more education on legislation process and governance?

Jonathan Addleton: International experience on legislative processes is always useful. In the US, members of Congress have opportunities to improve their understanding of issues that matter to the public all the time. We would like to share that experience with Pakistan. In fact, our own programs in the democracy arena have already been helpful in launching internships for young Pakistanis to work with national and provincial assemblies and assist parliamentarians as well as the committees on which they serve. Also, we are strengthening the ability of Pakistan's legislative branch to access internet and analyze a broad range of public policy matters.

Q: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing development assistance to improve education in Pakistan. Would you like to elaborate the initiatives and programs in progress in the backward and far flung areas of the country?

Jonathan Addleton: Basic education is the foundation on which all societies are built. The USAID program in Pakistan is working with national and provincial partners to strengthen teaching, improve quality and promote greater parental and community involvement in school management. For example, over the last three years USAID has helped train more than 50,000 teachers and supported more than 9,000 parent-teacher associations. Programs are directed entirely toward the public school system. Activities



The facsimile of the title of the two books written by USAID Director Jonathan Addleton

focus on several areas, including selected districts in Sind and Baluchistan. We are also building 65 schools in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and have provided scholarships for teachers working in those areas. Finally, USAID is working with the Ministry of Education to help strengthen public schools in rural and urban areas in and around Islamabad.

Q: Majority of Pakistanis in the rural areas as well as in small cities and towns have no access to healthcare facilities. Particularly, women and children are more vulnerable to contagious diseases. What is USAID doing to improve this situation in Pakistan?

Jonathan Addleton: Last year, USAID directed approximately \$45 million toward Pakistan's health sector. Here again, we work closely with partners at both the federal and provincial levels, with a particular focus on outreach to women and children in selected districts across all four provinces of Pakistan. For example, the Government of Pakistan has a plan to train 10,000 midwives. USAID will provide training for some 2,000 of these midwives, nearly 500 of which have already started their 18-month community midwifery courses. Working with the FATA Secretariat, we have also launched a new mother and child health initiative in that remote part of the country.

Q: Pakistan is a developing country with a booming economy; however, the benefits of the economic growth and development are not trickling down to the common man. What measures would you suggest that the Government of Pakistan should take to provide masses with basic necessities of life?

Jonathan Addleton: Economic growth should also mean more jobs. In an increasingly competitive economic world, a skilled labor force is essential. In that sense, there is a clear link between a country's ability to educate its children and the kind of society that those children will inherit when they grow up. With regard to economic growth, the USAID

program focuses on six sectors where Pakistan can and should be internationally competitive: dairy, horticulture, gems and jewelry, marble and granite, furniture and surgical instruments. This support is increasing Pakistan's exports—and creating more jobs within Pakistan. In addition, USAID has been instrumental in expanding micro finance in Pakistan, facilitating some \$45 million in loans to small and medium enterprises across the country.

Q: In the 1990s, the USAID closed down its operation somewhat abruptly in Pakistan. There are apprehensions that this may not happen again?

Jonathan Addleton: Annual funding levels are provided to USAID by our Congress. Back in the 1990s, the Pressler Amendment led to the closure of the USAID Mission in Islamabad, though USAID support for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in health and other areas continued throughout this period. As for the present, there is clear consensus within the new Congress that the relationship between Pakistan and the US is important and that economic and development concerns are an important part of our ongoing partnership.

Q: The USAID is doing a great deal for the people of Pakistan. But, some of the U.S. foreign policy elements are in contrast to the popular sentiments prevailing here. So, don't you think that all the good work being done by the USAID in Pakistan is also simultaneously being undone due to such policies?

Jonathan Addleton: I'm an aid worker, not a politician! However, looking back at the broad sweep of Pakistan's history over the past half century and more, I would say that the development partnership between the US and Pakistan has been both productive and important, even when disagreements about other issues have emerged from time to time. To take but one example, USAID during the late 1960s and early 1970s played a key role in bringing the Green Revolution to Pakistan. In those years, many skeptics believed Pakistan would never be able to feed itself. Now, Pakistan regularly meets its rice and wheat requirements and often exports these products as well.

More recently, the earthquake response demonstrated a deep humanitarian impulse that transcends politics. Part of the story was the prompt arrival of the US Chinook helicopters, paving the way for the largest helicopter air lift in history that saved countless lives. Part of the story was the immediate provision of prompt emergency relief across the region by USAID-funded NGOs. And the story is still continuing, with our \$200 million reconstruction program that over the next four years will rebuild 200 schools and 60 health facilities in earthquake-affected parts of both AJK and the NWFP. The theme for this work is "build back better" and the first USAID-funded school, opened by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz at Dadar in Mansehra district in October 2006, is a wonderful tribute to the ongoing development partnership between our two countries.



U.S. hands over first

P-3C Orion aircraft to Pakistan Navy



(KN Photo)

The first P-3C Orion reconnaissance aircraft was handed over to the Pakistan Navy on Jan 18 at Karachi. Acting U.S. Consul General in Karachi Kay Anske presented the documents of the aircraft to Commander Nadeem Qureshi of Pakistan Navy.

“The United States and Pakistan are strong allies in the war against terrorism and the Induction of P-3C aircraft in Pakistan Naval fleet is representation of this close relationship,” Kay Anske said. She expressed the hope that this new addition would benefit Pakistan in improving and increasing its defense capabilities.

Speaking on the occasion acting Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Mohammad Haroon referred to the strong relations between Pakistan and the U.S. and said that P-3C Orion aircraft, designed for reconnaissance, anti submarine and anti surface vessel operations was a real sign of sustained mutual cooperation. He claimed that induction of P-3C aircraft would add to the strength of Pakistan Navy and enhance its surveillance capabilities in the north of the Arabian Sea.

P-3C Orion is a four-engine highly maneuverable all weather aircraft primarily designed for reconnaissance. By virtue of its extraordinary weapon carrying capability P-3C is known as Airborne Destroyer.





A five-day "Survey of American History Course" arranged by the U.S. Consulate in Lahore concluded on December 1, 2006. More than 100 university-level students, mostly aspiring bureaucrats, attended the course at the Quaid-e-Azam Library. U.S. Consulate's Principal Officer Bryan Hunt distributed certificates to the participants at the concluding session.

The course took participants chronologically from the origins of the United States as a colony of the British Empire through the maturing of its democratic institutions, the Civil War, and its growth as a major power in the post-Second World War period. The series of lectures concluded with talks on U.S. diplomatic history and America's role in the world today with special focus on South Asia.

Noted Pakistani scholars Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi, Dr. Arefa Syeda Zehra and Prof. Sajjad Naseer delivered lectures highlighting various aspects of American history. American officers from the U.S. Consulate in Lahore who delivered lectures included Principal Officer Bryan Hunt, Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen, Political Officer Dr. Amanda Pilz and Regional Affairs Officer Bill Shingleton.

The course is designed to provide Pakistani students with a thorough overview of the history of the United States. The course has been arranged nearly every year since 1988.

American History Course Concludes in Lahore



The Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate Peshawar, Michael Abel, delivered a talk entitled "American Higher Education: Where Can You Go, What Can You Study, and How to Get In" at Peshawar University's Lincoln Corner on February 6.

Approximately 80 students and professors attended the informal talk. The talk described the different types of higher educational institutions in the U.S., the types of degrees granted, and offered concrete advice on how to find an appropriate school and build a competitive application.

Abel encouraged the students to use the University's Lincoln Corner and online resources to identify universities that would meet their needs and track down sources of financial aid. He remarked that "the United States has the largest bilateral Fulbright Program in the world right here in Pakistan, but so much more funding is available through the universities themselves."

During a lengthy question and answer session, students posed questions about standardized exams, visas, and life in the United States. Responding to a question about why the United States wants international students, Abel responded "the presence of international students makes classroom discussions and extracurricular activities richer for everyone. America welcomes students from Pakistan and all over the world."

Students interested in studying in the United States should visit the Education USA website at www.useducation.com.pk or one of Pakistan's three Lincoln Corners located at the University of Peshawar, the International Islamic University in Islamabad, or Rangon Wala Lincoln Corner Center in Karachi.

Talk on American Higher Education at Peshawar University



The Executive Director, United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan, Dr. Grace Clark, speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of former USEFP Executive Director Dr. Peter Dodd in Islamabad on January 15.

(KN Photo)

160

FULBRIGHT

Scholarships

for 2008 Announced

The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) announced on February 4 that it is now accepting applications for Fulbright advanced degree grants for 2008. As many as 160 scholarships for Master's and Ph.D. degrees will be awarded in Pakistan under the Fulbright program this year.

"The U.S. government is proud of the Fulbright Commission in Pakistan and the USEFP for its long record of strong integrity of selecting excellent candidates through open competition and its transparent administration," U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker said.

The Fulbright scholarship program in Pakistan, which is the largest of the 141 Fulbright programs in the world, funds tuition at an accredited university in the U.S., as well as required textbooks, airfare, a living stipend, and health insurance. The USEFP also assists with the visa process.

"The Fulbright program is the flagship program of all U.S.-government funded academic and exchange programs," the Executive Director of United States Education Foundation in Pakistan, Dr. Grace Clark said. "The goal of all the Fulbright programs is increasing the mutual understanding of the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries throughout the world," she added.

The reception was also attended by the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Peter Bodde (right).



Women, minorities and students from Balochistan, Sindh, NWFP, FATA and the Northern Areas are strongly encouraged to apply. People considering applying for Fulbright grants for degree programs should register to take the GRE and TOEFL tests immediately, as these are required for the application.

Students can apply for a Master's, Ph.D., or Master's leading to Ph.D. program. The Master's Program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Fulbright/USAID Master's Program funds up to two years of graduate study for a Master's degree in the United States. All disciplines are eligible, with the exception of clinical medical fields. About 100 Master's scholarships will be awarded. Applicants for the Master's program must have completed 16 years of formal education.

The Higher Education Commission of the Government of Pakistan and USAID fund the Fulbright/HEC/USAID Ph.D. Program. This program supports Ph.D. studies for up to four years with priority given to the pure and applied sciences, agriculture, health, economics, education and economic development. About 50 such scholarships will be awarded.

Up to another 10 scholarships for up to four years of study towards a Ph.D. will be awarded under the Fulbright Regular Student Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State. Priority fields for this program are arts, humanities, and social sciences. With the exception of clinical medical fields, all disciplines are eligible to apply for both of these Ph.D. programs. Applicants for Ph.D. programs must have completed 18 years of formal education.

The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan is a bi-national commission dedicated to improving mutual understanding of the people of Pakistan and the people of the United States of America through educational exchange opportunities. The Foundation's programs focus on higher educational experiences in the U.S. and Pakistan.

Persons with a dual U.S./Pakistan nationality or who have a spouse, parent, fiancé or child over 18 years of age who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident are ineligible. Employees of the Fulbright organization or the U.S. Department of State and their spouses, fiancés, siblings, dependents, children and parents are also ineligible. Also, employees of USAID and their spouses, fiancés, siblings, dependents, children and parents are ineligible for the USAID Master's as are both USAID and HEC employees and their spouses, fiancés, siblings, dependents for the HEC Ph.D. program.

More information about these programs as well as testing and advising services can be found on the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan website: www.usefpakistan.org or by writing to USEFP, P.O. Box 1128, Islamabad 44000.



Some of the Fulbright and Humphrey alumni.

“Americans are modern and conventional at the same time”



By Tayyaba Ikram

It is a great honor to pen down my experience regarding my visit to United States of America (USA) in International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Acquiring and disseminating knowledge has been a passion of my grand parents, parents and which has subsequently passed on to my own self. This first educational visit abroad has further groomed me in a more practical manner.

My dream of representing my country abroad came true when I reached Dulles Airport Washington on 3rd Oct 2005. The IVLP Program year 2005 was focusing on US Foreign Policy to be understood and analyzed in post 9/11 scenario. Among the group of 18 countries I was representing Pakistan. The program according to the tradition commenced from Washington DC. George Washington University Inn was my first destination. The organizers of the program were Meridian International. The drive with the Meridian Representative towards the Inn was refreshing and exciting. My first international exposure had begun.

■ Professional Interactions

The image in my mind concerning the political system of United States (US) is now clear like a crystal through meetings organized in Department of State, Department of Defense, Senate and House of Representatives. The structure and classification of these institutions itself speaks volumes of the heights which US gradually achieved as a Super Power of the World.

Department of State is the center where networking all across the world is established through Bureaus and Regions. The corridors of Pentagon transmit information about American military alliances, and incident of 9/11 in a stimulating manner. Although Pentagon Memorial is a depressing sight honoring the victims of 9/11 but the administrative set up is gigantic portraying military prowess of the country. The working at Capitol Hill on domestic and foreign issues reflects a whole system of systems. Exchange of views with representatives of renowned research organizations presented an in-depth analysis of the ongoing US policies around the world. The scholarly address followed by a discussion by Dr Francis Fukuyama in John Hopkins University was very much enlightening. In this way a very balanced picture about US foreign relations based on facts and figures was portrayed during the proceedings in the capital.

The role of United Nations (UN) and its various agencies working concerning US foreign policy was the basic agenda in the New York City. The seat of UN is surrounded by various missions to UN. It fully depicts a set up that how world's principal international organization is operating in different directions. The important venues were US mission to UN, UNAIDS, United States Council for International Business (USCIB), and UNA-USA. The Wall Street and the Bull projects the economic prowess of the country. The view of the demise of World Trade Centre (WTC) from World Financial Center is heart throbbing whose towers once symbolized economic might of USA. It is in fact World's most energetic and cosmopolitan city.

Indianapolis is located in the Midwest of USA and is an important state regarding agriculture, car racing and baseball. The official interaction here focused on the representatives of the Capitol in the State of Indiana. It was quite surprising to experience that all states of USA also have separate House of Representative and Senate and the State is headed by a Governor whereas this information was never revealed in the syllabus when I studied the constitution of USA in my country. Each State works out on its individual policies and then it is formally approved by the President. Meetings with representatives of Homeland Security and National Guards focused on the State activities during peace time and disaster situations especially focusing on hurricane Rita and Katrina. The trainings at Camp Atterbury showed full preparations of US soldiers to face all types of situations. The interaction with High School students and university students in a research organization presented the thoughts and ideas of upcoming generation of this country. It was important to note that the curriculum of students has been modified after 9/11 where more stress is given on foreign policy issues.

San Diego, California was our last destination. The topics discussed here in various meeting were on immigration impact on US foreign policy. The tourism and export related issues were also an essential part of the interaction with different representatives of various organizations.

■ US History and Culture

Apart from official interactions in Washington I explored Americans love for preserving their rich culture, history and tradition. The Washington Monument, Smithsonian museums and memorials of the Presidents are highly commendable places. Lincoln memorial and Jefferson memorial refresh the reminiscences of ideals of democracy and peace of both the great presidents which is unfortunately no more seen in the policies of USA today. The people of America are very much



(The writer, Tayyaba Ikram, attended the International Visitors Leadership Program under the Department of State in October, 2005)

balanced in being modern and conventional at the same time. The Library of Congress reflects the height of intellect in the forefathers of this great country especially Thomas Jefferson with whose contribution it was actually established.

New York depicts the true American culture in a vibrant and an exquisite style. The life style is highly modern and fast. One comes across highest professional forms of musical theaters like Broadway and others nearly in every block. The attractive and exuberant billboards all around the city reflect latest fashion and movies in the Hollywood. There is a variety of food chains around Times Square which adds more color and flavor in the surroundings.

One of the interesting experiences was to have dinner with a family in Indianapolis to be on familiar terms with living style of the Americans. The people here were more conventional. The sites were more traditional and this State was quiet and peaceful. It also gives an insight to the old customs of the US it has also preserved historical monuments in the city.

Americans are courteous and civilized in their cultural values. The gesture of organizing a farewell dinner instead of lunch to facilitate the Muslims including my own self is highly appreciative. This projected Americans respect for norms and traditions for other societies as well.

■ Entertainment

The bus travel from Washington to New York was also a unique experience. This journey made us discover the infrastructure of the US. New York the city of sky scrapers is rocking and dazzling all day and all night. It seems that you have entered a new world as soon as you enter in to the city. The city is a unique combination of newest and latest buildings and natural sites. In the heart of busiest city is the Central Park which is a source of relief and natural enjoyment. The sites including Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Manhattan Bridge and Hudson River are amazing.

On our way to San Diego we also had a transit flight to Chicago O'Hare Airport. It was true depiction of the exhilarating lifestyle of this State. San Diego is famous for tourism and trade activities in USA. It also borders with Mexico. It has La Jolla Beach, one of the greatest San Diego Zoo and Sea World. The interesting feature is that a trolley moves around the city for transportation. The scenery of the whole city is beautiful having high bridges, rivers and beaches proving all sorts of enjoyment to the tourists.

The American nation is to be truly appreciated for many things. Firstly, they are highly hospitable and friendly people. They are equally cooperative to their own people and their guests. Secondly, as a practicing Muslim they have facilitated me with the timing schedule of prayers and fasting as I visited USA in the month of Ramadan. I was always encouraged on keeping a balance between my religious practice and day to day affairs. It is

a melting pot of the world where people can practice their beliefs in an independent manner. Thirdly, I have found Americans very systematic and organized nation and I believe that this is a key feature in emergence as a super power. Their work and enjoyment has specific timings. This project itself reflects to much learning and traveling within just one month's time. Weekends are all time fun and recreation but followed by a very heavy schedule from Monday to Friday. Fourthly, they are practically considerate while shopping and carrying out day to day affairs. The conduct of the escorts also known as English Language Officers (ELOs) was highly impressive. Their focus of attention was always facilitating the whole group in best possible manner. This was possible by having balanced coordination with the organizers and also among themselves. Fifthly, they are equally straight forward in criticizing and appreciating others. Sixthly, the Americans, the most modern nation along with it advancement, have preserved their culture and history in an eye-catching and dynamic manner. The museums, parks and zoos have a whole world of its own enclosed in it. Seventhly, the American system practically is so complex because of being huge in size and dynamic in nature and I must appreciate that it is the strength of their people that they are progressing and maintaining their individual and collective identity. Eighthly, after viewing various memorials of the Presidents who have been forefathers of this country and its political system it is proved that the foundations of this country have been laid down by very high caliber leaders.

I have my own observation that young generation in USA has great concern about their impression in other countries. The students in a High School in Indianapolis and university students in research organization had queries regarding their impression in different parts of the world in post 9/11 scenario. It is to be seen that US being a forward looking country has to cater for these issues. The world over all is loosing a role model for democracy, human rights and civil liberties. This is detrimental for both USA and the world system collectively.

USA is super power and will continue to remain an important player in international politics. It is highly important and need of the time that Pakistan, which has also been important for USA since independence, needs to explore new and challenging avenues to strengthen the relationship in the 21st century. In the era of globalization inter dependence is an essential feature of maintaining diplomatic relations. Simultaneously misperceptions and insecurity are common challenges in today's world. The focus should be diverted from clash of civilizations to blending of civilizations. My first visit has been an enlightening experience.



(KN Photo)

U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Officer, James H. Williams, at the USAID/ESRA School Improvement Grants Award Ceremony in Islamabad. Federal Minister of State Ms. Anisa Zeb is also present on the occasion.



(KN Photo)

Photo Gallery

U.S. Embassy's Press Attache Elizabeth O. Colton addressing the newly-inducted under-training radio producers at the Pakistan Broadcasting Academy in Islamabad recently.



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

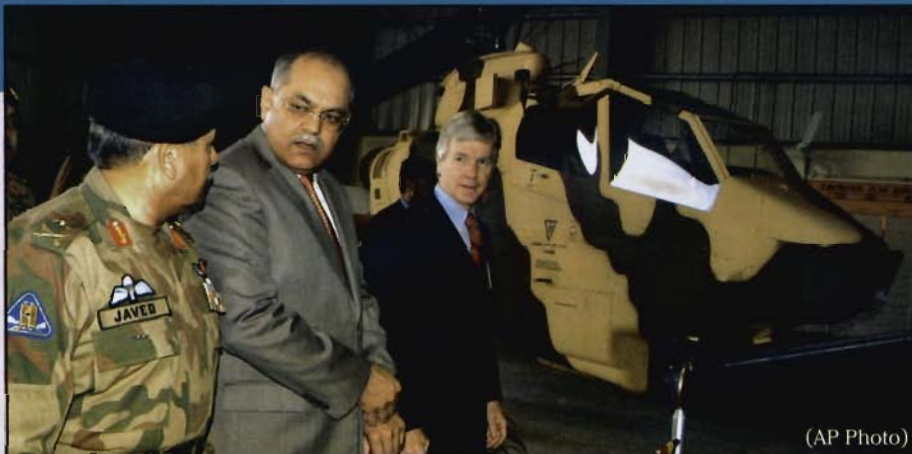


(KN Photo)

U.S. Delivers

8 Cobra Helicopters

to Pakistan Army



(AP Photo)

Crocker
Reaffirms
Long-term
and Strategic
U.S. Commitment
to Pakistan

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Ryan C. Crocker, handed over on February 2 eight night capable Cobra attack helicopters, AH1-F, to the Pakistan Army at the Qasim Airbase, near Islamabad. These helicopters are part of a \$ 50 million foreign military sales program that will provide the Pakistan Army with 20 refurbished helicopters.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Crocker recounted Pakistan's contribution to the War on Terror and reaffirmed a long-term and strategic U.S. commitment to Pakistan. "We understand and appreciate the very real sacrifices that Pakistan is making in the War on Terror. The majority of important al Qaeda arrests have occurred because of Pakistan's cooperation," the Ambassador remarked.

Ambassador Crocker said that Pakistan has posted 80,000 troops to the Afghan border and has killed more than 700 militants in anti-terror operations and has regrettably lost more than 400 brave Pakistanis in actions related to the War on Terror.

These completely refurbished Cobra AH1-F Attack helicopters will provide the Pakistan Army with a superior capability to conduct night operations. The Cobra is a modern and

versatile helicopter with a fully integrated weapon system, capable of delivering a variety of weapons. These eight Night Capable (C-NITE Equipped) cobras will augment Pakistan's current fleet of 19 Cobras previously acquired from the U.S.

The Ambassador said that these helicopters are important weapons in our common fight against terrorism. He said that the U.S. is also committed to Pakistan's security. The sale of F-16s to Pakistan late last year and the delivery of these Cobra helicopters demonstrate the long-term commitment of the United States to all aspects of our strategic partnership with Pakistan, he added.

Ambassador Crocker reiterated that because the governments of Pakistan and the United States have cooperated closely on counter-terrorism, the U.S. Administration opposed provision in legislation currently in the U.S. Congress that could restrict assistance to Pakistan based on a certification requirement. Such conditionality would be counterproductive to the strategic relationship between the United States and Pakistan, he added.



(KN Photo)

U.S. Diplomat Delivers Talk on Civil Rights Movement at Fatima Jinnah Women University

African Americans have made significant progress toward gaining their rightful place in America



(KN Photo)

U.S. Diplomat Lyngrid Smith Rawlings delivered a talk on February 15 at the Fatima Jinnah Women University in Rawalpindi on the "Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s: A Black Woman's Perspective, Then and Now." The lecture was held in connection with the U.S. commemoration of the "Black History Month."

"During the sixties, the Press was a vital part of portraying the horror of the Civil Rights struggle to the entire Nation because many of the sit-ins, boycotts, marches and other forms of protest were televised to the Nation to view on the nightly news," Rawlings noted. "Much progress has been made since the 60's. Since then, the struggle for equality and full recognition can be characterized as a time when African Americans and other minorities are moving towards a more just society."

Ms. Rawlings traced the African-American history from 1619 onwards and pointed out that the struggle for equal treatment was very destructive, disruptive and demeaning for the Black Americans' psyche and family structure. During the 1960's, the rate of economic, social, legislative and political progress was much more significant to the total community. During this period, many African Americans began to believe that the United States was willing to change in ways that there would be more freedom and justice for all citizens.

Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of Black American citizens who have had to overcome the most devastating obstacles -- slavery, degradation, injustice, hatred, prejudice, poverty -- as well as their contributions to the nation's cultural, economic, intellectual and political life. 2007 marks the 81st annual celebration of Negro History Week, which was instituted in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian.

“The struggle for freedom, justice and equality has been challenging. Each generation has had to continue the fight to full citizenship,” said the American diplomat Rawlings. “Each generation has had to rededicate itself to making the Nation and the world a better place for all. Today the struggle for African Americans is economic opportunities in our inner cities and rural areas, but we have made significant progress toward gaining our rightful place in America.”

On the occasion, an exhibit show was also put up at the Fatima Jinnah University by the American Embassy’s Public Affairs Section highlighting various aspect of the Civil Rights Movement.



KN Photo

Black History Month Honors

Stories of Determination and Triumph

African Americans' contributions to United States are highlighted each February

By Louise Fenner

Washington -- Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles -- slavery, prejudice, poverty -- as well as their contributions to the nation’s cultural and political life.

2007 marks the 81st annual celebration since Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian, instituted Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and the abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation’s bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Woodson, the son of former slaves in Virginia, realized that the struggles and achievements of Americans of African descent were being ignored or misrepresented. He founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which supports historical research, publishes a scholarly journal and sets the theme for Black History Month each year.

ASALH has its headquarters in Washington, where Woodson lived from 1915 until his death in 1950. His home is designated a national historic site.

The theme for 2007, “From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas,” takes its name from historian John Hope Franklin’s 1947 book *From Slavery to Freedom*, ASALH President John Fleming said in a telephone interview.

“Certainly, struggle has been an ongoing theme in our history from the very beginning,” said Fleming, who is vice president of museums for the Cincinnati Museum Center.

The 2007 Black Heritage stamp honors the first lady of song, Ella Fitzgerald. (USPS) He believes Black History Month should

focus on both positive and negative aspects of the black experience. “We were not slaves prior to being captured in Africa,” said Fleming, “and while slavery was part of our experience for 250 years, we have a hundred-and-some years in freedom that we also need to deal with. That’s not to diminish the slavery period, but it’s not just the most encompassing thing.”

Fleming said he has seen “substantial progress on many fronts,” noting that about 10 percent of congressional representatives are black as well as hundreds of mayors across the United States, and that more blacks are “moving into the middle class and various professions.” (See related article.)

“At the same time there are still major problems that have to be addressed, one being the permanent underclass in urban areas now -- we don’t seem to be able to break that cycle of poverty. And there are still some major rural pockets of poverty” such as in the Mississippi Delta, he continued.

“I’m glad to see the National African American Museum being developed on the Mall, which will tell a much broader story,” said Fleming. In 2003, President George W. Bush signed legislation to establish the new museum, which will be located on the National Mall near the Washington Monument. (See related article.)

“From talking with young people, black and white students, the lack of knowledge about African-American history is just appalling,” Fleming said. This applies to the general population, he said: “That’s why Carter G. Woodson came out with Negro History Week in the first place.”

“I think that African-American history gets more attention during February than during any other time of year,” he said, “and I think it’s an opportunity for us in the field to emphasize that it is something that should be studied throughout the year.” Each year, the U.S. president honors Black History Month, or African American History Month as it is also called, with a proclamation and a celebration at the White House. States and cities hold their own events around the country, and media feature topics related to black history.

“African Americans have been an integral part of America for generations, and our nation is stronger because of their contributions,” Bush said in this year’s proclamation, issued on January 26. “All Americans can be proud of the progress we have made, yet the work is not done.”

February

Pakistani American Doctors Contribute To U.S. Efforts TO DEVELOP HEALTH SECTOR IN PAKISTAN: Ambassador Crocker



Pakistani-American doctors briefing a group of journalists about the 27th Annual Winter Conference 2006 of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) in Islamabad.



(KN Photo)

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker has acknowledged the services rendered by the Pakistani American doctors in the United States and their contributions towards health sector in Pakistan.

He was speaking at the 27th Annual Winter Conference 2006 of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) at the Rawalpindi Medical College (RMC) on December 21. The Chief Guest, Chaudhry Pervez Ellahi, Chief Minister of Punjab also addressed the conference.

"Pakistani American doctors play an important role in the U.S. medical profession and contribute to U.S. efforts to develop the health sector in Pakistan," Ambassador Crocker remarked.

Representing a group of 10,500 physicians of Pakistani descent in the United States, the APPNA doctors attended this healthcare conference in Rawalpindi and also took part in a "Citizen Dialogue," developed by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Karen Hughes, narrating their experiences of what it is like to live in the United States.

In their pre-visit remarks, several doctors had expressed the hope to build a bridge between Pakistani and the American people. They said that they explain things about Pakistan and about Islam to Americans often. But they viewed this as a positive role and take it as a serious responsibility.

Several Pakistani-American doctors including Dr. Parvez Asmat, Dr. Farzad Najam and Dr. Abdul Rashid Piracha worked in Pakistan after the October 2005 earthquake, giving acute care to victims near Muzaffarabad. The doctors are also joined by Ray Mahmood and his wife Shaista, who together have raised money to help build schools and help children in Pakistan and other countries. President APPNA Dr. Abdul Rashid Piracha also spoke on the occasion.



پاکستانی نژاد امریکی ڈاکٹروں
کا ایک وفد اسلام آباد میں
صحافیوں کو ایسوسی ایشن آف فزیشنز
آف پاکستانی ڈیٹنٹ آف
نارتھ امریکا (APPNA)
کے زیر اہتمام 27 ویں سالانہ
سرمائی کانفرنس 2006ء سے
متعلق تفصیلات سے آگاہ
کر رہا ہے۔



پاکستانی نژاد امریکی ڈاکٹرز

پاکستان میں

شعبہ صحت

میں ترقی

کی امریکی کوششوں میں اپنا کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں:

سفیر رائن سی کروگر

پاکستان میں امریکہ کے سفیر رائن سی کروگر نے اس بات کا اعتراف کیا ہے کہ پاکستانی نژاد امریکی ڈاکٹر امریکہ میں خدمات سرانجام دینے کے ساتھ ساتھ پاکستان میں بھی صحت کے شعبہ میں اپنا کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں۔

امریکی سفیر رائن سی کروگر جمعرات 21 دسمبر 2006ء کو راولپنڈی میڈیکل کالج میں ایسوسی ایشن آف فزیشنز آف پاکستانی ڈیٹنٹ آف نارتھ امریکہ (اپنا) کے 27 ویں سالانہ سرمائی کانفرنس 2006ء میں اظہار خیال کر رہے تھے۔ مہمان خصوصی وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب چوہدری پرویز الہی نے بھی کانفرنس سے خطاب کیا۔

رائن سی کروگر نے کہا کہ پاکستانی نژاد امریکی ڈاکٹر امریکہ میں طب کے شعبہ میں اہم کردار ادا کرتے ہیں اور پاکستان میں صحت کے شعبہ میں امریکی کوششوں میں ہاتھ بٹاتے ہیں۔

ساڑھے دس ہزار پاکستانی نژاد امریکی ڈاکٹروں کی نمائندہ تنظیم "اپنا" کا ایک وفد راولپنڈی میں صحت عامہ کے موضوع پر ہونے والی ایک کانفرنس میں شرکت کر رہا ہے اور امریکی نائب وزیر خارجہ برائے پبلک سفارتکاری و امور عامہ کیرن ہیوز کے تیار کردہ ایک پروگرام "سٹیزن ڈائیلاگ" میں بھی حصہ لے رہا ہے جس میں یہ ڈاکٹرز امریکہ میں اپنی زندگی کے تجربات کے حوالے سے بات چیت کریں گے۔

اپنے دورہ سے قبل متعدد پاکستانی نژاد امریکی ڈاکٹروں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ وہ پاکستانی اور امریکی عوام کے درمیان ایک پل کا کردار ادا کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ اکثر اوقات امریکیوں کو پاکستان اور اسلام کے بارے میں آگاہ کرتے رہتے ہیں۔ تاہم وہ اسے ایک مثبت کردار کے طور پر دیکھتے ہیں اور ایک سنجیدہ ذمہ داری گردانتے ہیں۔

متعدد پاکستانی نژاد امریکی ڈاکٹروں نے جن میں ڈاکٹر پرویز عصمت، ڈاکٹر فرزدخم اور ڈاکٹر عبدالرشید پراچہ شامل ہیں پاکستان میں اکتوبر 2005ء کے زلزلہ کے بعد خدمات سرانجام دیں اور مظفر آباد کے قریب متاثرین زلزلہ کی انتہائی دیکھ بھال کی۔ ڈاکٹروں کے اس گروپ میں رے محمود اور ان کی اہلیہ شائستہ محمود بھی شامل ہیں جنہوں نے اسکولوں کی دوبارہ تعمیر اور پاکستان اور دوسرے ملکوں میں بچوں کی مدد کیلئے عطیات اکٹھے کئے۔ "اپنا" تنظیم کے صدر ڈاکٹر عبدالرشید پراچہ نے بھی اس موقع پر خطاب کیا۔