



Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

June 2007

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**New 'Lincoln Corner'
Set up at AJK University**



U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Susan Schwab meeting with Federal Minister for Commerce Humayun Akhtar Khan in Lahore on April 15. The meeting was held in the lead up to the Cairns Group meetings held in Lahore from April 16-18, 2007. (Photo: Akmal Bhatti)



U.S. Consulate Peshawar's Principal Officer Lynne Tracy planting a tree at the NWFP Agriculture University on April 23, 2007 to mark the Earth Day. (KN Photo)



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Raja Saeed Ahmed

Front Cover

Students of AJK University glancing through a book at the newly inaugurated Lincoln Corner on April 26, 2007



Letters to the editor

Sea change

I am in receipt of the latest issue of monthly "Khabr-o-Nazar" and I must say this journal of the Embassy has tremendously improved. The contents as well as production of the monthly have undergone a sea change. It has become closer to 'Newsweek' and 'Time.' I thought it appropriate to congratulate you for producing such a beautiful magazine.

Zahid Malik
Editor-in-Chief
Daily Pakistan Observer, Islamabad

Lucky

I was lucky to have a copy of "Khabr-o-Nazar" from my friend. The magazine introduced me to some very different aspects of the American policies especially with regards to the U.S.-Pakistan relations in terms of education, human resource development, welfare and many more. It also provided up-to-date information regarding U.S. policies on different issues of mutual interest.

Zafar Majeed
Gujrat



Nice news bulletin

This is the age of media and communication. Both of these play very important role in molding relationship between nations. Pakistan and the United States have a good relationship since long and the U.S. has been supporting Pakistan to help her become a moderate, stable and democratic Muslim state. "Khabr-o-Nazar" is a very nice news bulletin contributing a great deal to strengthen this relationship efficiently.

Noor ahmed Janjhi
Mithi

Useful for me

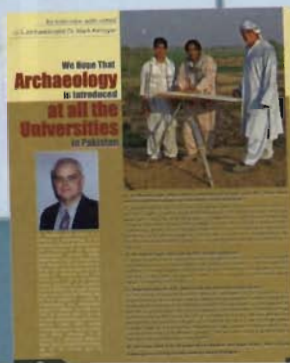
I am a journalist working in Sindhi language daily 'Awami Awaz.' "Khabr-o-Nazar" is very informative and useful for me. It is a multi-color and an excellent publication.

Zulfiqar Wahoocho
Karachi

Very informative

I read your magazine at the office of my friend and I found it very informative. I am a press reporter and write columns for Sindhi newspapers and magazines. So I would like to request you to kindly send me your magazine regularly.

Ameer Mandhro
Badin



Beautiful magazine

Thank you very much for sending me your beautiful magazine "Khabr-o-Nazar." I have gone through this and found it very informative. Looking forward to receive more issues of the magazine.

Professor Mumtaz Ahmad Khan
Chairman & Associate Dean
Faculty of Business Administration
Mohamaad Ali Jinnah University
Karachi

Profound thanks

This is to acknowledge with profound thanks the receipt of the monthly magazine "Khabr-o-Nazar." This magazine will be very useful for the researchers, scholars, faculty members and students of Pakistan Study Center.

Prof. Dr. Rafiq a. Sheikh
Director, Pakistan Study Center
University of Sindh, Jamshoro

Rest assured

This is to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed magazine "Khabr-o-Nazar." Rest assured it has a place in our school library and is read by staff and students alike.

Prof. Cecilia Jawed Sheikh
Principal, Public School
Sukkur

Very glad

First of all I am very much thankful to you for sending me very impressive and lovely magazine "Khabr-o-Nazar" on a regular basis.

The students, faculty and other staff members are very glad to get updated information and knowledge on various bilateral issues and activities between Pakistan and the U.S. through your quality publication.

Your April issue had wonderful contents especially the page titled "Visa Questions" very much interested me. It gave a lot of valuable information to everyone and also cleared so many apprehensions regarding American visa policy.

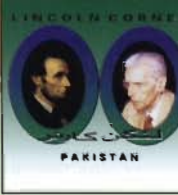
Niaz Ahmad Channer
Federal Government Boys Secondary School No. 8
Islamabad



'Lincoln Corner'

Inaugurated

At AJK University



(KN Photo)

the opening of Lincoln's Corner in Muzaffarabad is another step in promoting higher education in an important area.

"The Lincoln Corner in Azad Kashmir would be a wonderful gift of knowledge from the American people to the Kashmiris," the Prime Minister remarked.

The American diplomat added: "It is also an important sign of the very broad, strategic partnership between Pakistan and the United States. We are continuing to widen and deepen the ties that connect our two countries and our two people by formally opening this Lincoln Corner."

The U.S. Embassy's Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, James H. Williams, formally inaugurated on April 26 the U.S. Government-funded "Lincoln Corner" at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Muzaffarabad.

Lincoln Corner is a resource center that offers information on the United States, its culture, economy, politics, society, history, education and people. The Lincoln Corner at AJK University joins the three Lincoln Corners already established in Peshawar, Islamabad and Karachi and over 365 American Corners now established worldwide.

"Lincoln Corner is a functional and lasting symbol of the growing and dynamic relationship between the countries and the peoples of Pakistan and the United States," the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission of U.S. Embassy, James H. Williams, said in his remarks.

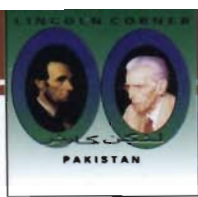
Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the American government has shown particular interest in promoting higher education in Pakistan and

He said that the event was postponed for over 18 months due to the tragic earthquake of October 2005 adding that he was impressed with the "great resilience and resolve in the face of tragedy" shown by the people of the earthquake affected areas.

"The Lincoln Corner at AJK University is an important symbol of the long-standing, dynamic partnership between the people of Muzaffarabad and the American people," Williams said.

James Williams said that over its 27 years history, the AJK University has built a well-earned reputation for academic excellence and service to the community and to the region.

"The AJK University has forged successful international educational partnerships with many countries, including the United States, and this 'Lincoln corner' is another significant continuation of that relationship," Williams emphasized. Muzaffarabad.



“...to build greater mutual understanding”

**Excerpts From
the Remarks of
Acting Deputy Chief of Mission,
U.S. Embassy Islamabad,
James H. Williams,
on the Inauguration of
Lincoln Corner
Muzaffarabad**

It's truly a pleasure to be with you today. It is a very special pleasure because this dedication ceremony has been postponed for so long. We were ready, quite literally, to open this Lincoln Corner at Azad Jammu Kashmir University in October, 2005. Then the tragedy of the earthquake struck. That natural disaster caused tens of thousands of human tragedies over the ensuing days and months. Among the tragedies was the destruction of much of the AJK University, including this Lincoln Corner.

But like so much of the earthquake zone, like so many of you and your students, like so many of the people who live in northern Pakistan, there was great resiliency and great resolve in the face of tragedy. In the last 18 months, you have rebuilt your lives. You have rebuilt your homes. You have rebuilt this University.

Over its 27 year history, the AJK University has built a well-earned reputation for academic excellence and service to the community and to the region. The AJK University has forged successful international educational partnerships with many countries, including the United States. This "Lincoln Corner" is, I hope, another significant continuation of that relationship.

The United States has partnered with the AJK University for over 20 years. This has included book donations, education programs, and a virtual classroom project. So AJK University is an ideal place for this facility. The Lincoln Corner at AJK University is an important symbol of the long-standing, dynamic partnership between the people of Muzaffarabad and the American people.

It is also an important sign of the very broad, strategic partnership between Pakistan and the United States. We have reached a new stage in that partnership. We are continuing to widen and deepen the ties that connect our

two countries and our two peoples by formally opening this Lincoln Corner.

The Lincoln Corner is a resource center that offers information on the United States, its culture, economy, politics, society, history, education, and people. The Lincoln Corner at AJK University joins over 365 American Corners now established worldwide.

In Pakistan, AJK University's Lincoln Corner joins Lincoln Corners at the University of Peshawar, the International Islamic University in Islamabad, and the Rangoon Wala Foundation Community Center in Karachi. We hope to open another Lincoln Corner at the University of the Punjab in Lahore before the end of the year.

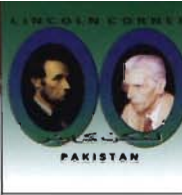
With a professional staff provided by the AJK University, the Lincoln Corner will be a rich resource for those seeking current, accurate information about the contemporary United States and American society. In addition to reference materials, there are books on American politics, economics, history, society and literature; magazines, videos, DVDs and software. There will be material on university study in the U.S. The Lincoln Corner also has five computer stations connected to the Internet for instant, world-wide information access.

The Lincoln Corner will serve as an information center similar to a public library reference service. It will be a place where regular programs, meetings, seminars, workshops and other events can be held. Our goal is not just to provide information. Our hope is that, with greater access to information, we will also help build greater mutual understanding. With the other Lincoln Corners in Pakistan, we hope this network will generate genuine dialogue about the United States; and that it will thereby foster greater mutual understanding between Pakistanis and Americans.



“Gift of knowledge”

Excerpts from Prime Minister
Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan's Speech



(KN Photo)

It gives me great pleasure to be here today to inaugurate Lincoln Corner at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. It is an important day for this University and for all those who are interested in learning. We are grateful to the Embassy of the US for making this possible.

The American Government has shown particular interest in promoting higher education in Pakistan and in assisting local governments in such projects. With this end in view the Embassy of the US has opened Lincoln's Corner in different Universities of Pakistan. The opening of Lincoln's Corner in Muzaffarabad is another step in promoting higher education in an important area.

Lincoln Corner serves many functions in providing up-to-date information to students and researchers in plugging gaps in information, in creating awareness among students, leading to a better under-

standing of American Culture and society. To me this is very important because the lack of awareness about different cultures is leading to a chaos.

Since the devastation caused by the earthquake in October 2005 America has played an even bigger role in the affected areas in relief and rehabilitation. The American doctors, engineers and pilots earned respect of the local inhabitants. Our government has also been grateful. I must here acknowledge the support of USAID in the moments of catastrophe. USAID has done tremendous job in Bagh in particular. And I would like if it could extend itself to Rawalakot, Sudhnoti, Muzaffarabad and other districts of AJ&K.

The setting up of the Lincoln Corner would be a tremendous contribution in the realm of knowledge in this part of the world. No one can deny the importance of higher education in today's world, for nations to develop. In the post-2005 earthquake scenario the importance of education in the region has become manifold.

Islam is the culture of knowledge and tolerance. This Center, in Azad Kashmir, would, thus, be a wonderful gift of knowledge from the American people to the Kashmiris, and one which would be greatly appreciated by Lincoln if he were alive today. It would also reflect an effort on the part of the Muslims of Kashmir, to affect a renaissance in their traditional values of tolerance and quest for knowledge.

(Excerpts from
remarks of
Dr. Manzoor Hussain Khan,
Vice Chancellor,
AJK University)



(KN Photo)

The history of cooperation between the U.S. Embassy and University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is old. The first Memorandum of Understanding regarding exchange of information and partnership was signed between the U.S. Embassy Islamabad and University of AJK about nine years back. During these nine years the university has received generous donations from the U.S. Embassy in shape of books, journals and electronic material. We have also jointly conducted many programs and workshops at Islamabad and Muzaffarabad. Another area of close cooperation between our two information based partners is through a number of workshops in American Centre for our faculty under the teachers training program of Higher Education Commission. We are also thankful to the U.S. Embassy for

“We Appreciate the U.S. Generosity”

establishing American Discovery Centers (ADCs) at four education institutions in Muzaffarabad in coordination with the University. Most of these ADCs were damaged in the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005 and it is expected that program at these ADCs will be revived soon.

This latest partnership program in shape of establishment of Lincoln corner is timely and will be equally useful for our faculty, students and community for getting information for their academic and research pursuits. No doubt, we will continue benefiting from the leading role of U.S. in the field of information and knowledge management and appreciate the generosity with which the U.S. has traditionally shared this knowledge with other developing countries to facilitate broadening of their democratic culture.



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

What is a Lincoln Corner ?

Lincoln Corners is a partnership between the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy and the host institution. Besides providing access to current and reliable information about the U.S., a Lincoln Corner serves as an information outpost similar to a public library reference service. The multi-media resources, book and periodical collections are open and accessible to the public. Associated reading or meeting rooms are available to host program events and activities (i.e. films, speaker programs, workshops, meetings, and exhibits).

Lincoln Corner is the first place to visit for general information about the United States. Lincoln Corner serves as reference library, information center, and programming platform for anyone with an interest in learning more about the U.S. At present Lincoln Corners are located in Karachi, Peshawar, Islamabad and Muzaffarabad and one is likely to be set up in Lahore shortly.

The first Lincoln Corner was opened on April 20, 2006 at the University of Peshawar, Peshawar. The second corner opened on June 5, 2006 at the International Islamic University, Islamabad and the corner in Karachi was inaugurated on June 12, 2006 at the Rangoonwalla Community Center. A corner at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was opened on April 26, 2007, and there are plans to open a Lincoln Corner in Lahore soon. Each corner costs approximately US \$50,000

The fundamental function of the Lincoln Corner is to make information about the U.S. available to foreign publics at large. Each Corner has a collection of books in English about the U.S. The book collection may include reference titles, works of fiction, English language books and government publications. Lincoln Corner also provides access to U.S. information through supervised Internet access, audio and video products, DVDs, and CD-ROMs. Each corner is staffed by bilingual professional librarians. Access to Lincoln Corner collection is free and open to all interested individuals.

Each corner costs approximately US \$50,000

Lincoln Corners in Pakistan



Lincoln Corner Peshawar

Located in the central library of University of Peshawar, the first ever Lincoln Corner of Pakistan was opened to public in February 2006. The Corner was formally inaugurated by former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Ryan Crocker, and the then Governor Khalilur Rehman in May 2006. With more than 6000 visitors and 70 programs in its first year, the Lincoln Corner Peshawar has already become a hub of activities for the students, academia, and people from all walks of life. People view the LC as a platform where they can directly interact with the American diplomats.



Lincoln Corner Islamabad

The Lincoln Corner Islamabad is second in Pakistan and the first in capital that opened to the public at the Central Library of the International Islamic University on June 5, 2006. In one year the Lincoln Corner (LC) Islamabad has proved itself as a dynamic resource center and a good program platform not only for the IIU community but also for the youth and other communities of the twin cities. Ever since the opening of this corner, thousands of individuals have been able to get access to latest books, popular magazines, educational DVDs, online resources and have attended programs like seminars, video shows, webchats, online research sessions, American speaker programs, discussions and exhibitions.

In fact the LC Islamabad has been promoting friendship between the United States and Pakistan through multimedia resources, English language materials, information about studying in the U.S., cultural activities, and lectures on topics of interest to the people of twin cities.



Lincoln Corner Karachi

Lincoln Corner Karachi, located in the library of Rangoonwala Community Center in Dhoraji Colony area, was opened to public on June 12, 2006. This facility is unique as it caters to a wide cross-section of people from all strata of society including students, teachers, academia and professionals who come to Lincoln Corner daily for their particular studies and research. An important feature of the Karachi Lincoln Corner is that visitors can engage in various other activities in the community center apart from benefiting from the Corner. The Corner features documentaries and movies, discussion sessions, and special programs.

Lincoln Corner Karachi features resources about the United States and offers a public information service. The Corner is staffed by bilingual Pakistani librarians who are available during regular library hours 0900-1700 to assist visitors with specific information about the U.S.



Lincoln Corner Lahore

A Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Lincoln Corner at the University of Punjab was signed on March 21, 2007. U.S. Consulate Lahore's Principal Officer Bryan Hunt and Vice Chancellor Lt. General (retired) Arshad Mahmood signed the MoU. The Corner, to be established within the Punjab University's Central Library, is expected to open by July 2007. "Partnership between the Consulate and the Punjab University would enhance strong ties between our two peoples," said Bryan Hunt.

The Corner, named in honor of the 16th President of the United States, "will both symbolize and serve the deepening partnership between our two countries," noted Mr. Hunt.

With professional staff provided by the University, the Lincoln Corner will serve as an information outpost similar to a public library reference service, as well as a place where regular programs, seminars, workshops and other events of mutual interest can be organized.



May 3:
World Press Freedom Day

Freedom of **Press** is basic to American Democracy

The U.S. Embassy Islamabad marked the World Press Freedom Day on May 3 with an informal get together with senior journalists of the city where American diplomats highlighted the “U.S. commitment and support to a free media.”

“Freedom of the press is basic to American democracy, and the U.S. works to protect and promote press freedom at home and around the world,” Dr. Elizabeth O. Colton, the acting Public Affairs Officer and the Press Attaché of the U.S. Embassy said while talking to senior journalists.

She pointed out that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has stated that “there is no more important pillar of democracy than a free and active press.” As part of President George W. Bush’s Freedom Agenda, the United States views freedom of the press as a key component of democracy, she added.

An independent and active press is an “important pillar of democracy” remarked U.S. Consulate’s Principal Officer Bryan Hunt while speaking to students and faculty at the Punjab University’s Institute of Communication Studies (ICS) on the World Press Freedom Day.

“On World Press Freedom day, we recognize the important contributions of a free press and honor the sacrifices made by journalists around the world to report the truth. We vigorously promote freedom of expression as a core component of our diplomacy and our assistance programs,” said Mr. Hunt.

The U.S. supports free press through programs and exchanges such as the Edward R. Murrow Journalism Program for foreign journalists, Mr. Hunt pointed out. “Independent media empowers people, exposes corruption, encourages transparency and promotes participation in the political process. Without it, society as a whole suffers,” he remarked.

Speaking on how corporate influence can affect reporting, Dr. Mugheesuddin Sheikh commented that “business pressures as reflected in advertisement revenue can sometimes be an impediment to press freedom,” but noted that “separating commercialism from the media industry was neither feasible nor realistic.”



(KN Photo)

“The United States works bilaterally and multilaterally in many ways to support press freedom worldwide,” Dr. Colton added. Dr. Colton emphasized that the State Department provides professional development and exchange programs for journalists, editors and media managers from around the world, such as the Edward R. Murrow Journalism Fellowships.

The United States is a founding member and is the fourth largest donor of UNESCO’s International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC) that promotes media independence in developing countries.



(KN Photo)

Launch Of International Container Security Project

to Speed Flow of Goods From Pakistan to U.S.:

Charge d'Affaires Bodde



(KN Photo)

The U.S. Charge d'Affaires, Peter W. Bodde, emphasized that the establishment of the International Container Security at Port Qasim will speed the flow of goods from Pakistan and the Central Asian region into the United States while increasing the security of the United States.

"This facility is both a preventive tool in the global War on Terror that will make our borders safer and will also increase the economic efficiency of Pakistani exports," the American diplomat said while speaking at the inauguration of the International Container Security project (IC3), performed by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz at the Port Qasim near Karachi on April 30.

Various government officials including Sindh Governor Dr. Ishrat-ul-Ibad Khan, Chief Minister Arbab Rahim, and Federal

Ministers for Commerce and Ports & Shipping were also present on the occasion.

Charge d'Affaires Bodde said that this project highlighted the strong and shared commitment of both the U.S. and Pakistan governments. "As a joint effort with the Government of Pakistan, this facility will test the feasibility of using integrated scanning technology to inspect every container bound for the U.S."

"Port Qasim is one of only three locations in the world selected for this testing phase, reflecting the close cooperation between our two countries," Peter Bodde said.

The senior U.S. diplomat said that the testing phase at Port Qasim will help the U.S. Government determine whether scanning hundred per cent of containers bound for the U.S. is technologically and economically feasible. "It will also increase the security of the international supply chain for shippers utilizing Port Qasim," he added.

The Secure Freight Initiative, a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Department of State, is a comprehensive model for global supply chain security – it enhances security while keeping legitimate trade flowing. It leverages information, host country government and trade partnerships, plus the latest technology to validate the security of goods in maritime shipping containers and reduce the risk of terrorism.



(KN Photo)

GEO TV correspondent Ali Imran interviewing Charge d'Affaires Bodde

4th Annual Fulbright Alumni Conference



The Executive Director, USEFP, Dr. Grace Clark, addressing the fourth annual Fulbright Alumni Conference while U.S. Charge d'Affaires Bodde looks on.

The U.S. Charge d'Affaires, Peter W. Bodde, declared the Fulbright Program around the world and especially in Pakistan “as a vital and honored part of U.S. foreign policy” while speaking at the fourth annual Fulbright Alumni Conference which concluded at the Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad on April 28.

“In just four years our bilateral Fulbright program with Pakistan has grown from a \$2 million-a-year program to one of over \$30 million a year – now the largest in the world,” the American diplomat emphasized. “More than 200 Pakistanis are currently studying in the U.S. under this program.”

Mr. Bodde said that during the coming academic semester American scholars will also begin to return as Fulbright Scholars to Pakistan to teach and conduct research at Pakistani universities and other institutions of higher education.

“It is vitally important that scholars, educators, and researchers from our two nations as well as in the wider region participate in such scholarly exchanges and engage regularly and learn from one another,” the U.S. Charge d'Affaires said.

About 100 Fulbright alumni from across Pakistan, and most of

the more than 200 Fulbright grantees who will be proceeding to the United States on scholarships in the fall, attended the two-day conference, organized by the United States Educational Foundation-Pakistan (USEFP). The conference centered around the theme “dialogue between cultures.” Scholars from the United States, who are currently in-residence academics in other South Asian countries, also attended the conference.

“The Fulbright program is the flagship program of all U.S.-government funded academic and exchange programs,” Dr. Grace Clark, Executive Director of USEFP, said. “The goal of all the Fulbright programs is to increase mutual understanding of the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries throughout the world.”

Earlier in the conference, the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, James H. Williams, delivered a talk on the importance of cultural diplomacy in the U.S.-Pakistan strategic partnership.

USEFP is one of 51 “Fulbright Commissions” located throughout the world. Since the conception of USEFP in 1951, the Foundation has sent about 1465 Pakistani Grantees under various programs to the U.S and 821 U.S Grantees have come to Pakistan.

The USEFP 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.



U.S. Charge d'Affaires Bodde with Fulbright scholars.



Interfaith Conference

at U.S. Consulate Lahore

Welcoming guests at a conference “Celebrating Interfaith Harmony Through Dialogue” U.S. Consulate Principal Officer Bryan Hunt stressed that “today more than ever we all need to make a conscious effort to promote tolerance.” The conference, which was organized at the Consulate on April 23 by the Pakistan Ulema and Mashaikh Council, included members of the Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Parsi faiths, and started with recitation from the Holy Quran.

“America is a land of many faiths and we welcome the rich diversity these faiths bring to our nation. We need to strive for interfaith harmony to strengthen appreciation of the values and norms common to the world’s religions and cultures. I truly appreciate the initiative taken today to promote inter-religious harmony,” remarked Principal Officer Bryan Hunt.

Allama Muhammad Zubair Abid, President Ulema and Mashaikh Council, highlighted in his remarks that Islam is a religion that preaches peace and tolerance. He concluded by thanking the Consulate for hosting the conference.

Other guest speakers included: Punjab Minister for Religious Affairs Sahibzada Saeedul Hasan; Shakir Ali Rizvi; Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha; Bishop of Lahore Alexander John Malik; Bishan Singh, Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee; and Dr. Manohar Chand. More than 50 representatives of various faiths attended the conference.

USAID Donates

Avian Influenza Protective Gear to Pakistan



Photo shows (from left) Dr. Qadeer Ahsan (USAID Pakistan), Dr. Jaleel Kamran, Dr. Birjees Kazi (National Institute of Health), Jonathan Addleton (Mission Director USAID), General Masood Anwar (NIH) and Dr. R. H. Usmani (Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock). (KN Photo)

The USAID Mission Director to Pakistan, Mr. Jonathan Addleton on May 1 handed over \$65,000 worth personal protective equipment along with decontamination and laboratory specimen collection kits to the Pakistani health officials to help Pakistan cope with outbreaks of bird flu.

“These 4500 kits will protect the workers culling birds potentially infected with bird flu and those surveying for possible human infections,” Jonathan Addleton said.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, the donation was received by Dr. R.H. Usmani, Animal Husbandry Commissioner of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MINFAL) and Gen. (R), Masood Anwar, Executive Director, National Institute for Health, Islamabad.

The protective gear, comprising suits, respirators, goggles and gloves, will benefit the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MINFAL) and the National Institute for Health to

store at the provincial level in readiness for the next outbreaks. The protective kits will be distributed to people who come in direct contact with poultry or people potentially infected with the Avian Influenza virus.

The USAID Mission Director appreciated the development of the Integrated National Plan for Combating Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Influenza by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock.

“We should keep in mind that this year in Pakistan, there have been 23 outbreaks of H5N1 in birds that have been documented and reported to international bodies. These outbreaks have received much less press than last year, thus limiting the negative effects on the poultry industry,” Jonathan Addleton observed.

“The most recent cases serve to remind us that both MINFAL and Ministry of Health’s National Institute of Health are working diligently to

contain bird flu in Pakistan,” the senior American diplomat said. “Both Ministries must remain vigilant to detect and contain the virus but also need to educate the citizens of this nation, particularly at the village level – so that they too may play an active role in prevention, early-warning and control of the virus,” Mr. Addleton emphasized.

Through a USAID training program in December 2006, ten Pakistani officials were identified as master trainers who will train others on the correct use of personal protective equipment and decontamination kits and on the correct method for gathering samples and preparing them for shipment to laboratories.

Pakistan was one of the first of 22 countries worldwide in which USAID delivered this training program and equipment. The gear will limit the risk of animal-to-animal and animal-to-human infection during outbreak response activities such as disposing of infected poultry and decontaminating poultry raising areas.

AES Charitable Clinic Serving 45,000 Residents of South Punjab

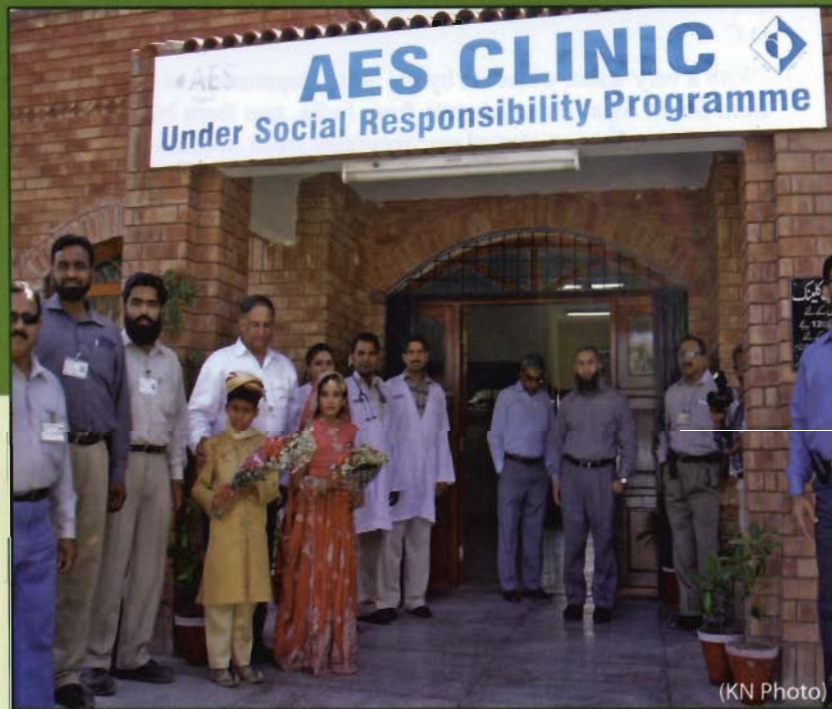
Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate Lahore Bryan Hunt visited on April 24 a health clinic established and run by AES Lal Pir (Pvt.) Ltd., Muzaffargarh, and said he was pleased that it had provided “free health services to over 45,000 residents of South Punjab since its inception.” Consulate Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen accompanied him.

“AES’ generous donation of 10 school buildings, its tree-plantation efforts, and provision of free eye treatment to local patients serve as outstanding examples of how American private-sector businesses are supporting local Punjabi communities,” Hunt said.

AES Lal Pir (Pvt.) Ltd., Mahmud Kot, established the charitable clinic in 2003 as part of its Social Responsibility Program. Headquartered in the U.S., AES Corporation is one of the world’s leading power companies, generating and distributing electric power in 26 countries including Pakistan.

“This clinic serves the basic health requirements of a community comprising around 100 villages,” said Naveed Ismail, President and CEO AES Lal Pir/Pak Gen while briefing Mr. Hunt about the charitable works undertaken by AES. In addition, AES has electrified 24 villages in the vicinity; erected five bridges; built 24 kilometers of farm-to-market roads; and donated a building to the Punjab Government for Vocational Training Institute.

“We have repaired and enhanced facilities in 21 additional schools and sponsored hundreds of students by paying for their schooling and school supplies. In addition, we have arranged seven Free Eye Camps which has resulted in 946 successful eye operations,” he said.



(KN Photo)



(KN Photo)

America's strength

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Visiting the United States of America is always an obsession for every Pakistani particularly in the academia. From the moment I received a letter from the US consulate in Karachi about my final confirmation and departure plans, I had been undergoing endless excitement until I landed at Dallas International airport Washington D.C.

With a very warm welcome by the State Department to six educators from South Asia (including two from India, two from Nepal and one from Sri Lanka) we started our meetings from Monday the 26th of February. Thematically the project focused on the structure and function of American universities but we were also availing, rather exploring, the opportunities to work together with these leading international universities of USA. We visited more than 10 international institutions in three big cities, beginning from Washington D.C to, North Carolina to Miami Florida. We visited six universities and many other international resource centers.

Definitely there is a lot to write about but very difficult to put glorious moments in small words. It is not only the American culture,



Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Mashori along with South Asian delegation and State department officials in Washington DC, U.S.A.



(Photo by author)

With Mr. Joshua Kreiser after presenting him a traditional Ajrak.

education and politics but the civil society, the every day life from the campus to a very caring home hospitality that leaves lasting impressions on my mind. I don't know how to translate my ideas. Let me, then take down for the readers, the best that struck me and to my context.

People do question or speculate about the strength of today's America, same do I.I have seen it now. And blatantly speaking, it lies in their love for deep rooted learning, in their educational standards,

their commitment to their duty, their honesty, sincerity, their system of check and balance and, more interestingly in their strong faith to work as a nation. They always feel more than a moral obligation to do some thing not for their own sake but for the sake of nation. The spirit of a national thinking which is not new but as old as America impressed me very much. The role of America's founding fathers, George Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, and many others who not only contributed by their revolutionary economic policies but by giving away all their wealth in establishing universities and learning centers with a belief to give awareness to the people of America of about their rights and duties. I can not forget Dr. Jeremy. D. Mayer's talk at George Mason University about America's political culture, the powers of the president, and the autonomy of the states in America in deciding and shaping the lives of their own people. No hegemony but a variety with great respect for freedom in every domain is the essence of their life.

Although united, all the states in America maintain their entity and freedom. The universities in these states truly demonstrate the needs and objectives of their national and socio-economical life. Our visit to the research triangle in North Carolina was highly inspiring as there existed three great research centers of America. Although our meetings were scheduled with administrative officials however, we could access to the innovative class room practices in North Carolina State University. The Faculty center for teaching and learning at the university was another fascinating place to visit. I was not only inspired by their dynamic goals and pursuit for best practices to make faculty

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teaching more and more effective but also by their strong commitment to reach out to the faculty across America through their video conferencing facilities. Their growing concerns to look for more innovative means and methodologies are worth mentioning. Despite enjoying the fruits of technology, they are exploring more possibilities to serve the humanity in a better way.

Our third and last stay was in Miami Florida. Every visit was so for the best but I cannot stop saying Miami was the best. Not only due to its lively climate and cultural diversity but a lovely nature of the people of Miami - unforgettable in many ways. Annette Alvarez the local program officer was really a nice person to meet. She tried her best to get us round the city and to the places that we individually wanted to visit.

Our first visit was to the Miami Dade college (a community college). There we had probably the best, the warmest welcome by Dr. Smith and Dr. Levering. This meeting at MDC really demonstrated true spirit of the people of Miami that they were not only



Mr. Mashori and other group members with Dr. Daniel J. Green, the Vice President, and his team at the Meredith College in Raleigh N. Carolina.



Mr. Mashori with Dr. Nana Rinehart, Vice President of International Student Exchange Program, and her staff in Washington D.C. (Photo by Author)

competitive administrators, academics but also lovely human beings. Love in their words and deeds was worth seeing. This community College is the largest state run institution in the U.S. I was greatly impressed by the sincere efforts of the college in imparting not only formal education but running a variety of vocational training programs.

Our last, but not the least, visit was to the University of Miami which is the largest private research university in the southeastern America. In this visit I learnt a lot about their student enrolment policies and their curriculum in making the university a great research center in America. After the scheduled meeting we had little time to pursue our individual interests, so I visited their Department of English which had, more interestingly, a computerized English Language Laboratory with a very good variety of programs being offered to students with great diversity.

Finally, I would say that seeing is believing. From Washington. D.C. to Miami we visited many institutions, people, professionals and students. And I have no hesitation in saying that that it is their national thinking, their love for education, their sense of being a responsible society and their unwavering faith in freedom on the basis of equality and fraternity that are the guiding principles towards their march to become a stronger nation.

USAID-Funded Project For

Better Health Outcomes Launched In Mansehra

A project to improve health outcomes in Mansehra District following the tragic earthquake of October 2005 was launched on April 24 by the PRIDE Project (Primary health care Revitalization, Integration and Decentralization in Earthquake affected areas) as an initiative of USAID's efforts to "build back better" in Mansehra (NWFP) and Bagh Districts (Azad Kashmir).

Governor NWFP, Lt. General (Rtd.) Ali Muhammad Jan Orakzai was the chief guest on the occasion. Also present were U.S. Embassy's Chargé de Affairs, Peter Bodde, USAID Pakistan Mission Director, Jonathan Addleton, USAID Reconstruction Officer, Robert Macleod, PRIDE Director, Bruce Rasmussen, Minister for Health, NWFP, and Mansehra District Nazim.

In his remarks delivered to a gathering of over 300 people, Mr. Bodde commended PRIDE for its work in establishing healthcare systems in Mansehra and Bagh. "Effective development isn't just about money," he said. "It's also about integrating lessons learned and applying them to program design. In that regard, I'm particularly proud of what USAID and PRIDE are doing."

Explaining PRIDE's objective to create a revitalized health system at the district level, Project Director, Bruce Rasmussen, said there had been a remarkably effective emergency response to the earthquake. "However," he added, "we should not lose sight of the fact that basic health indicators related to disease and death of children and mothers remain unacceptably high in Pakistan—mostly due to factors that are preventable."

PRIDE is working in close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including policy makers, district-level managers, health professionals and non-governmental organizations—many of whom were represented in the launch event.

While much of the focus and public attention in the earthquake-affected areas has been on building new schools and health facilities, USAID is partnering with the Government of Pakistan to help ensure that what happens in those schools and health facilities is also improved.

U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) \$200 million Earthquake Reconstruction Program over the next four years includes building hundreds of schools and health facilities, as well as supporting better quality health and education services and improved economic activities.



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American Film Festival at Alhamra Arts Center

U.S. Consulate's Principal Officer Bryan Hunt inaugurated an American Film Festival "Raj in the Eyes of Hollywood" at the Alhamra Arts Center on April 19 with the screening of the classic "The Man Who Would Be King" by famed American director John Huston. The three-day festival is being organized in collaboration with the Lahore Arts Council.

"For many Americans, films about the British Raj are the only window through which they can view the colonial era in South Asian history. These movies brought to audiences not only enduring images of an exotic land, but also the compelling issues people faced during that period. I hope the audience in Lahore would enjoy this cinematic journey to the past," Mr. Hunt said.

In her introductory remarks earlier, Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen said, "It is a pleasure to hold the film festival at the Alhamra Art Center, an institution with an impressive history in promoting the arts in Lahore. The festival is among the many programs the U.S. Consulate and the Arts Council have co-sponsored over the decades."

Films being screened in the festival include "Gunga Din", "The Rains Came", "Kim" and "Wee Willie Winkie." The festival will conclude on April 21, 2007.

Dadar School Girls Visit American Embassy



(Photo KN)

Headmistress of Dadar Girls Middle School Shabana Kausar along with U.S. Charge d' Affaires Peter Bodde and USAID Mission Director Jonathan Addleton. (KN Photo)



(Photo KN)

Over one hundred students and six teachers from the Government Girls' Middle School in Dadar, a village in district Mansehra, that was devastated by the 2005 earthquake, had a fun day in Islamabad -- courtesy of the US Embassy.

"We are very happy to welcome all of you here," Mr. Peter Bodde, U.S. Charge d' Affaires said while greeting the girls at the U.S. Embassy on May 10. He said that when Congresswoman Nita Lowey recently visited the school, she was most impressed by the student's interest in their education.

"We appreciate your commitment to education and wish you the best in your studies," the senior American diplomat remarked.

On arrival at the U.S. Embassy the girls were given badges as 'Junior Ambassadors' and served lunch.

"You have impressed many people over the past year and now I hope you will have good memories of this trip to Islamabad," Mr. Jonathan Addleton, USAID Pakistan's departing Director, said while talking to the students and their teachers

Speaking in Urdu, Mr. Addleton said: "One year ago, I made my first visit to Dadar and the signs of the earthquake were still very visible. At that time, I made a promise on

behalf of USAID that we would rebuild both the middle school for the girls and the high school for the boys. I am glad that those projects are now complete."

"I am glad to return the hospitality that the girls and teachers had shown to groups of Americans who had visited Dadar over the past year to see their school, which was rebuilt by the US Agency for International Development (USAID)," Jonathan Addleton said.

During their USAID-sponsored trip to Islamabad, the group also visited the Rawal Lake prior to their arrival at the Embassy.