



Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

November 2007

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- ★ Ambassador Patterson Visits Karachi, Lahore, & Peshawar
- ★ U.S. Neutrality on Outcome of Elections Emphasized
- ★ Scholarships for FATA Students



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson meeting with the Punjab Chief Minister, Chaudhry Pervaiz Ellahi, in Lahore on October 1



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson meeting with the NWFP Governor, Ali Jan Mohammad Orakzai, in Peshawar on October 2



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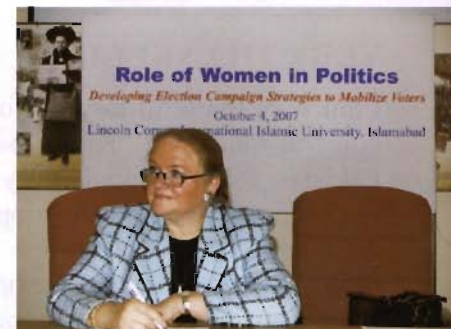


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Front cover;

U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson being escorted by the cadets of Pakistan Navy in Karachi on Oct. 23 towards the tomb of Father of Pakistan Nation Mohammad Ali Jinnah where she laid a floral wreath and paid homage to his leadership.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BRIDGE

I really liked the web-chat of U.S. Press Attaché Elizabeth O. Colton. It would have been much better if it was a bit more detailed. The most important thing that we always come to know through the courtesy of “Khabr-o-Nazar” is the U.S. government's interest in the development of Pakistan (especially our Federally Administered Tribal Areas). This magazine is serving as a bridge between the people of the U.S. and Pakistan. All my best wishes are with you.

Zaki-ur-Rehman
Peshawar

CORRECT SPELLING

In response to the statement of Dr. Muhammad Uzair from Karachi in the October issue of “Khabr-o-Nazar” wherein the spellings of “Khabr-o-Nazar” is objected to. I am of the opinion that the spelling already in practice is correct. No doubt, the word “Khabar” is correct but when it will be written in combination with “Nazar” then the letter 'b' and 'r' in the word “Khabar” will be read combined like a single word, i.e. “Khabr-o-Nazar.” Hence the spelling of “Khabr-o-Nazar” is more than correct.

S. Mubarak Shah Tirmazi
Mansehra

HIGHEST STANDARDS

Thank you very much for sending us the U.S. Embassy's monthly magazine, “Khabr-o-Nazar.” The contents and quality of the magazine mark highest standards of professionalism and good editorial control.

Sohail Ali Khan
Director, Public Relation
President's Secretariat (Aiwan-e-Sadr)

GOOD EXAMPLE

Ambassador Patterson's visit to the historical Badshahi Mosque and a girl's Madressah in Lahore (September issue) is a very good example of friendship between Pakistan and the U.S.

Ch. Dilawar Hussain
Multan



VERY THANKFUL

I am very thankful to your for sending me very colorful magazine “Khabr-o-Nazar.” The U.S.-Pakistan relationship is very necessary for the long-term peace and development of Pakistan. Articles in the October issue are quite informative particularly the one titled “Religious freedom: the core of American life.” Another article that I appreciate is “Women shape policy and economy through business” by Lubna Farooq.

Ali Nawaz Kalhoro
Khairpur Mirs

FABULOUS MAGAZINE

“Khabr-o-Nazar” is a fabulous and informative magazine. Your magazine is contributing to bring the people of Pakistan and the United States closer.

Nauman Yawar
Lahore

Ambassador Patterson Pays Homage to Founder of Pakistan **Jinnah**



Ambassador Patterson laying a floral wreath at the tomb of Muhammad Ali Jinnah

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, visited the mausoleum of the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in Karachi on October 23 and described him as a “man of strong conviction and great professional acumen.”

“There is an air of peace and serenity here,” Ambassador Patterson remarked after laying a floral wreath at the tomb of Jinnah during her first visit to the provincial metropolis. “I find it refreshing that even though Karachi is one of the largest megapolises in the world with teeming millions, the Mazar is still visible from miles around.”

While in the city, the top American diplomat also met with the President of the American Business Council, Iqbal Bengali, and members of the Executive Committee and discussed matters pertaining to American investments and commercial interests in Pakistan.



Ambassador being briefed by the Mausoleum officials about the Mazar

Ambassador Patterson later called on the Sindh Governor, Dr. Ishrat-ul-Ibad Khan. The U.S. Consul General, Kay L. Anske, was also present on the occasion.

Photo Gallery

Ambassador Anne W. Patterson's meetings in Karachi



The U.S. Ambassador, Anne W. Patterson, meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Jang Group of Publications, Mir Shakil-ur-Rehman, in Karachi. Also seen in the picture are Editorial Director, Ghazi Salahuddin, and Group Editor, Daily Jang, Mehmood Sham.



Ambassador Anne Patterson and U.S. Consul General Kay L. Anske with the Editor of daily Dawn, Abbas Nasir. Also seen (from left) are Azhar Abbas, Director News, Dawn News TV, and Arifa Noor, Editor of monthly Herald.



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson meeting with former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the 'Bilawal House' in Karachi.



During her visit to the office of AAJ television network, Ambassador Patterson with the Director News Masoom Usmani.



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson with the Chief Executive Officer of daily Business Recorder and Aaj TV Network Wamiq Zuberi.

The President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Shahid Shamsi, presenting a memento to Ambassador Anne. W. Patterson during her visit to the Chamber. Consul General Kay L. Anske is also seen on the left.



Ambassador Patterson Applauds KCCI Efforts for Better Investment Climate in Pakistan

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson expressed her appreciation of the role of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) “in promoting a better investment climate” and declared it “an important player in Pakistan's economy.”

“While challenges remain, the work of groups like KCCI helps sustain our partnership and improve Pakistan's economy,” Ambassador Patterson said while addressing the Executive Committee members of the KCCI in Karachi on October 24.

The top American diplomat said that the United States supported economic development in Pakistan and trade with Pakistan.

“We are currently Pakistan's largest trade and economic partner. Pakistan is an important ally and we are committed to a long-term economic, strategic, and commercial relationship,” Ambassador Patterson remarked. “One example of this commitment is our push to create Reconstruction Opportunity Zones in Pakistan. We believe this initiative will promote stable growth in Pakistan and help create jobs.”

She said that the United States and Pakistan “have been working together on this initiative” because we have a shared goal in increasing economic development in the country.

Earlier, KCCI President Shamim Ahmed Shamsi presented his welcome remarks and introduced the Ambassador to the Executive Committee's members.



Ambassador Patterson with the members of the Executive Committee of KCCI.

Ambassador Patterson Emphasizes U.S. Neutrality on Outcome of Elections



Ambassador Patterson addressing senior bureaucrats at National Management College in Lahore

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, addressed senior bureaucrats at the National Management College in Lahore (NMC) on October 25 and emphasized the U.S. government is “absolutely neutral” on the outcome of upcoming Pakistani elections.

“The United States and others in the international community are supporting an environment in which a free and fair election can take place,” Ambassador Patterson remarked after being received by NMC Principal, Lt Gen. (Retired) Javed Hasan and faculty during her visit to Lahore. “But let me be clear that our focus is on the election process; the outcome is up to the people of Pakistan.”

The National Management College, previously called Pakistan Administrative Staff College, was established in Lahore in 1960 with financial assistance from the Ford Foundation and technical support from Syracuse University in the United States., and the Administrative Staff College Henley, in the United Kingdom.

The American Ambassador went on to explain that the United States will sponsor a number of projects “to ensure that the voting process is credible and transparent.”

“The United States is investing more than \$28 million to support programs that include updating of voter registration lists, mobilization of voters, political party development, and voter education,” stressed the senior U.S. diplomat. “Our observation mission will bring 14 long-term observers before the elections in fact they will arrive next week.”

Ambassador Patterson also visited Lahore Fort's Alamgiri Gate earlier in the day. A \$31,834 grant under the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation will help restore the façade of the Alamgiri Gate, using techniques and materials similar to the original.

While in Lahore, the top American diplomat also called on the Punjab Chief Minister, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi. Principal Officer of U.S. Consulate Lahore, Bryan D. Hunt was also present on the occasion.

Ambassador Patterson Visits

Alamgiri Gate

Calls for Preserving Cultural Heritage



The Director General, Punjab Archeology Department, Shahbaz Khan, briefing Ambassador Patterson about the restoration work during her visit to the Lahore Fort's Alamgiri Gate.

The U.S. Ambassador, Anne W. Patterson, stressed the need to “guard the treasures of the past” during her visit to Lahore Fort's Alamgiri Gate on October 25.

“Since its construction in 1674, the Alamgiri Gate of the Lahore Fort has projected an image of power and grandeur. The cultural significance of the Fort is unmistakable,” Ambassador Patterson remarked.

The Director General, Punjab Archeology Department, Shahbaz Khan, gave a briefing on the Alamgiri Gate project to the senior American diplomat.

“Through such cultural projects, we build a better understanding between our two countries that will enhance and increase our own legacy to future generations,” the American Ambassador noted.

A \$31,834 grant under the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation will help restore the façade of the Alamgiri Gate, using architectural techniques and materials similar to the original.

“The U.S. assistance reflects the values that the people of the United States share with the people of Pakistan in preserving Pakistan's cultural heritage,” Ambassador Patterson remarked.

The chief American envoy expressed her appreciation to the Punjab Archeology Department for “protecting a cultural legacy that is significant not just for Pakistan, but for the world.”



Ambassador Patterson, Principal Officer of U.S. Consulate Bryan Hunt and the Director General of Punjab Archeology Department Shahbaz Khan during their visit to Lahore Fort's Alamgiri Gate.

GRANT FOR PRESERVATION OF PASHTO MANUSCRIPTS

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, announced a grant of \$45,270 from the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation for the restoration and conservation of valuable historic Pashto manuscripts at the University of Peshawar's Pashto Academy.

"The goal of the program is to honor the importance of cultural patrimony. Promoting cultural respect and understanding is at the very heart of our relationships with Pakistan and other countries," Ambassador Patterson said while speaking at the grant-signing ceremony at the Area Studies Center in Peshawar on October 1.

Peshawar University Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Muhammad Javed Khan, expressed his appreciation to the Ambassador for the grant. The Pashto Academy Director, Dr. Salma Shaheen, signed the grant on behalf of the academy.

"We hope that our support for preserving these artifacts will help draw more attention to Pakistan's cultural treasures," Ambassador Patterson noted. "We also hope our support encourages local communities to become more involved in safeguarding the symbols of their cultural heritage, such as these historic Pashto manuscripts."

The senior American diplomat reiterated the United States Government's commitment to helping preserve the cultural heritage of the Northwest Frontier Province.

The manuscripts, many of which date to the 17th and 18th centuries, are among the best surviving examples of Pashto poetry and literature and an important part of Pakistan's cultural heritage. The restoration of these manuscripts is part of an effort to strengthen the Pashto Academy's role as a center of research and learning for Pashto scholars and to encourage the study and use of the written Pashto language.

The State Department's "Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation," was created by the U.S. Congress in 2001 as a sign of American respect for other cultures and traditions. The fund supports projects around the world in preserving museum collections, ancient and historic sites, and traditional forms of expression.

Since its inception, the Ambassador's Fund has awarded grants in NWFP totaling nearly \$110,000 to help establish a Quranic gallery at Peshawar Museum, restore the Mohabat Khan Mosque, and the Gor Khuttree Complex in Peshawar, and now to restore manuscripts at the Pashto Academy.



Ambassador Anne. W. Patterson talking to Dr. Raj Wali Khattak, senior professor at Pashto Academy.





U.S. Transfers

25 COMBAT HELICOPTERS

To Pakistan Army Aviation Wing

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, paid rich tribute to the “courage and professionalism” of Pakistan Army aviation personnel and declared them “an asset to Pakistan Army Aviation and to our combined effort to fight extremism and bring peace and stability to the region.”

Speaking at the formalizing ceremony of the final acceptance and transfer of 25 Bell-412 helicopters to Pakistan Army at the Qasim Airbase, near Rawalpindi, on October 22, Ambassador Patterson said that the day marked a new chapter in Pakistan Army's aviation history.

“This event demonstrates the continued commitment of the United States to cooperation with Pakistan,” Ambassador Patterson said. “Our military assistance programs are for the long term. They are the foundation for cooperation and engagement, and a way to strengthen our bonds as partners and allies.”

In 2004, Pakistan and the U.S. embarked on a long-term \$235million project to help



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson and General Helmly with senior officers from Pakistan Military and Bell

build Pakistan's army aviation capability. During the first phase of the project, Pakistan leased the helicopters while the U.S. provided resources, funding, training, and support to help Pakistan establish a strong and reliable helicopter fleet.

“Today we celebrate the beginning of Phase-II. The Pakistan Army now takes ownership of these helicopters,” the senior American diplomat noted. “The U.S. will continue to provide support and training as Pakistan establishes a helicopter force capable of enhancing combat operations, providing security, and engaging in medical evacuations and humanitarian relief throughout the region.”

“The American and Pakistani armed forces have a long and rich history of cooperation,” Ambassador Patterson emphasized. “This relationship is represented by more than five billion dollars in military programs over the last six years.”



Defense Secretary Kamran Rasool presenting Ambassador Patterson a symbol check in return for the helicopters



Musical Concert in Memory of

Daniel Pearl

The U.S. Consul General in Karachi, Kay L. Anske, opened the fifth musical concert held in Karachi on November 1 in memory of slain American journalist Daniel Pearl and underscored the “ability of music to bridge differences among people.”

“Daniel Pearl left friends the world over wherever he had gone in search of truth to fulfill his professional obligations,” said Consul General Kay L. Anske. “Pearl was a talented musician and joined bands wherever he went.” The late American journalist Pearl was kidnapped and beheaded in Karachi in 2002 while researching a story.

“Besides being a promising journalist working for the Wall Street Journal, Danny was a gifted musician of cello and violin of some excellence,” the senior American diplomat recalled.

Popular folk singer Shazia Khuskh and her pulsating group entertained the over 300 plus audience of youth and other music lovers with her own style of folk music fused with current musical trends.

“Pearl believed that cultural differences can be bridged through music and that music is a language that knows no boundaries. He was a great fan of Jazz, classical, folk and blues music.”

U.S. Consul General Kay L. Anske mingles with the jubilant crowd during the concert



Noted folk singer Shazia Khuskh performing at the fifth Daniel Pearl memorial musical concert organized by the U.S. Consulate Karachi at a local hotel

In the spirit of Daniel Pearl's love for music and commitment to dialogue with different cultures and traditions, the Daniel Pearl Foundation launched the first Daniel Pearl World Music days on October 10, 2002, which would have been Danny's 39th birthday.

U.S. GRANTS \$50,000 FOR

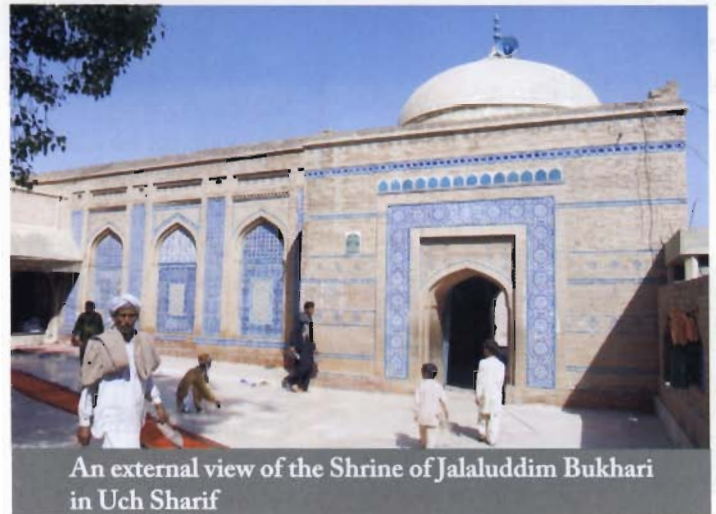
Uch Sharif Shrine Conservation

U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt emphasized the importance of preserving “shared global heritage” as he announced a \$50,000 grant on October 19, under the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. The purpose of the grant is to conserve the shrine of Hazrat Jalalud Din Bukhari at the historic city of Uch, a small town located 75 kilometers from Bahawalpur in the Punjab province.

“The exceptional architecture of this 15th century shrine needs to be conserved, not only for the thousands of devotees who visit every year at the time of the Urs, but for future generations,” stressed the senior U.S. diplomat.

The Provincial Minister for Auqaf and Religious Affairs, Pir Syed Saeedul Hasan Gillani, the Shrine Caretaker Makhdoom Syed Sultan Jahanian Bukhari and members of the Bahawalpur district administration, were also present at the ceremony. The grant papers were signed earlier by American and Pakistani officials.

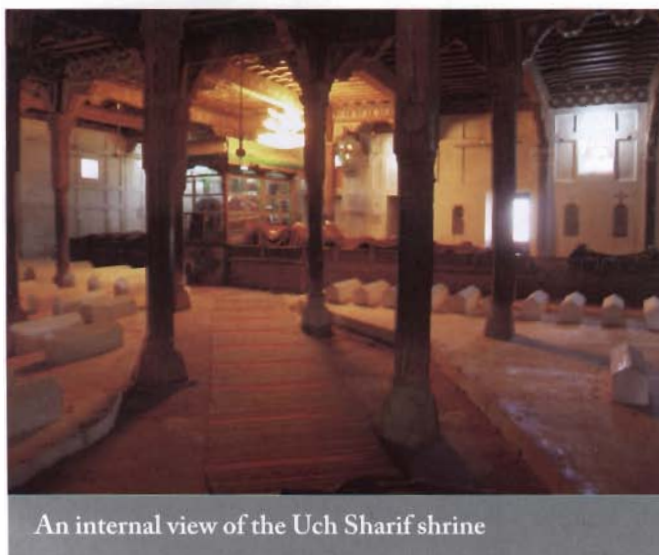
“The grant serves as a symbol of America's respect for other cultures and traditions,” Mr. Hunt stated. “The project, likely to be completed by September 2008, includes major repair work including replacement of all wooden columns, beams and tile flooring.”



An external view of the Shrine of Jalaluddin Bukhari in Uch Sharif

Uch commands great reverence as a city of renowned Sufi saints. The domed brick-built shrine is decorated with glazed blue tiles in floral and geometric designs. The structure, including four other similar monuments forming a compound, is on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

In addition to the Uch Sharif shrine, the U.S. Embassy under the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation has funded the conservation of a number of other projects in Pakistan. These include the Sirkap site and Jinnan Wali Dehri in Taxila; Masjid Mahabat Khan and Gor Khuttree in Peshawar; Pashto Manuscripts preservation at the University of Peshawar; Maan Singh Haveli, Rohtas Fort in Jhelum; and the bazaar of the Wazir Khan Mosque in Lahore.



An internal view of the Uch Sharif shrine



The shrine caretaker Makhdoom Syed Sultan Jahanian speaking at the ceremony while Principal Officer Bryan Hunt can also be seen in the picture

USAID-Funded Website for Senate Defense Committee Launched



Senator Nisar A. Memon, Chairman of the Senate's Standing Committee on Defense and Defense Production, speaking at the launching ceremony of the committee's official website.

The United States Agency for International Development Acting Mission Director for Pakistan, Edward Birgells together with Senator Nisar A. Memon formally launched the website of the Senate Standing Committee on Defense and Defense Production in Islamabad on October 9. The

website is as part of a joint project between USAID and the committee under USAID's Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project (PLSP).

"The launch of this website today is a demonstration of our combined efforts to provide Pakistani citizens with access to greater knowledge and information about their representative and legislative bodies," Mr. Birgells said.

The new website of the committee (www.senatedefencecommittee.pk) provides a full array of information such as member data, committee reports, news releases and news articles about the activities of the committee. Additionally, it provides an e-mail portal allowing citizens to directly query the committee, thus encouraging more public input into its deliberations.

"We believe that sustained use of new information tools, such as this website, will play a critical role in increasing public understanding of and interest in the political process, thereby promoting transparent and participatory governance and fostering democracy in

Pakistan," Mr. Birgells said.

PLSP is also working with two other Senate Committees the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs, and the Standing Committee on Education, Higher Education, Science and Technology to develop their websites. These three sites were designed as templates which can be used by other committees as well.

"The update of this website by USAID's Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project will help bring the work of the committee closer to the people we represent," said Senator Memon in his remarks. "This easily navigable website will enable people to have a better understanding of the work we do and the importance of being fully informed."

Funded by the USAID and implemented by DAI, the \$7.8 million PLSP is partnering with Pakistan's national and provincial legislatures to strengthen parliamentary institutions and processes.

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



USAID's Acting Mission Director for Pakistan, Edward Birgells, with Senator Nisar A. Memon, at the launching ceremony of the committee's official website.



YES Students Participate in Secretary Rice's Iftaar Dinner

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice invited two Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program participants from Pakistan to an Iftaar dinner October 5 at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

C. Miller Crouch, the Department of State's Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), gave an overview of ECA's work and noted that the YES program enjoys great support in the U.S. Congress. He traced the history of YES since its inception in 2002, modeled on the longtime the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program.

At the Iftaar, the YES participants shared their experience of the program and their time in Washington.

Nazia Akhtar, from Hunza, discussed the culture and food she had encountered, history she is learning, U.S. geography, and the activities in which youth engage. She also spoke approvingly of her experiences with free speech and freedom of religious expression, noting that it is "wonderful to be here" and practice her Islamic faith.

As a student in the U.S. state of Tennessee, she has found "a huge difference" from Pakistan, where "you pay a lot to go to school. Here (in the United States), the government pays... it is good for the students." She has been educating her fellow students about Pakistan for example, proudly explaining to them the significance of Defense Day on September 6. Her classmates want to know if Pakistan has computers, McDonald's, and television. Nazia said she is adjusting well to the United States, and has a goal of speaking English with a Tennessee accent.

Rafay Kazmi, from Karachi, said the purpose of the exchange program is to bridge the cultural gaps and clear up misperceptions. He said that although all peoples have positive and negative aspects, he has noticed positive

aspects of the United States that include the kindness of the people, respect for religious and civil liberties, widespread tolerance, and patience.

Rafai talked about a fundamental difference in outlook. In Pakistan, self-reliance and doing things for oneself are prized values; in America, he was impressed that people will help one another. "This shows that you cover each other's weaknesses. In Pakistan, our strength is self-reliance. In the U.S., it is your unity," he said.

He also discussed his time in school and his conversation with U.S. students about differences in schools, geography, people, and language.

Both students talked about how they have come to appreciate their homeland more since they came to America. They told stories about wearing their traditional dress to school and sharing their languages. Nazia commented, "I write [my classmates'] names in Urdu, and they think it's art!" They also talked about the difficulties of observing Ramadan, and teaching their classmates that there is a greater purpose based in patience, control, and tolerance that underlies the observance of the month of fasting.

The YES host mothers also talked about the appreciation of the program. One mother said her young son now performs traditional Pakistani dance around the house, without really understanding the meaning behind the movements. The host mothers praised their students "for being easy-going and for accepting their hosts as real families." One mother who had hosted students for 10 years summed up all their opinions and their reasons for serving host families when she said, "It is the only way we are even going to make a difference."

USAID Funded Scholarships to FATA Students

The Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Asia Near East Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Mark S. Ward, awarded scholarships to 22 university students from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Peshawar on October 29. The scholarships were presented during a ceremony to mark the signing of agreements between Khushhali Bank and the University of Peshawar and the City University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar.

“Through this program, USAID is working to extend quality education to students from underdeveloped and marginalized areas of Sindh, Balochistan and the FATA,” said Mr. Ward. “The students who are receiving scholarships will now have the opportunity to build and expand upon the region's entrepreneurial spirit.”

Launched in 2005, the USAID-funded Khushhali Bank Scholarship Program covers the costs of tuition and examination fees, course-related materials, and books, and boarding and lodging expenses.



USAID's Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Asia Near East Bureau, Mark S. Ward; the President Khushhali Bank, Ghalib Nishtar; and the Vice Chancellor of City University of Science and Information Technology, Asrar Khattak, join FATA students for a group photograph as a scholarship distribution ceremony.

Khushhali Bank has already awarded 66 scholarships to students studying in several universities across Pakistan, 30 of who are from the FATA. The program also offers paid internships and employment to some students upon successful completion of their degrees.

Also present at the occasion were the President of Khushhali Bank, Ghalib Nishtar; the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, Dr. Muhammad Javed Khan; and the President of the City University of Science and Information Technology, Mr. Muhammad Sabur Sethi.

Support for Khushhali Bank is part of the \$1.5 billion in aid the United States is providing to Pakistan through USAID over five years to improve economic growth, education, health, and governance, and for earthquake reconstruction.



A student returns after receiving his scholarship documents from USAID's Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Asia Near East Bureau, Mark S. Ward.



Pakistani Teachers Visit Appalachian State University

From biology lectures to the North Carolina Symphony, a group of Pakistani biology teachers has learned American teaching techniques with a touch of Southern hospitality. In a project funded by the U.S. Department of State, 15 Pakistani secondary school biology teachers traveled to Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina in July and August, 2007 for a six-week training program. Interviewed and selected by the U.S Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP), the program gave them the chance to develop science and educational technology skills and strengthen English proficiency. The Fulbright Biology Teacher Exchange Program is unique, and its goal is to improve Pakistani education and strengthen American-Pakistani relations.

“We learned about new methods which are used for teaching biology,” said participating teacher Shaheena Parveen. She and her colleagues learned five different methods in teaching biology -- technology-based learning, inquiry-based learning, activity-based learning, field-based learning, and laboratory studies.

Saadia Hadiat, a teacher from Sahiwal explained that in most classrooms, teachers usually just present the topic and explain it through lectures. “But in this program, we have mostly been using inquiry-based methods and technology is incorporated in these

methods,” she says adding that technology doesn't usually find its way into classrooms in Pakistan. Inquiry-based teaching centers on hands-on activities and problem solving rather than rote memorization.

What Shazia Naz found interesting was how teachers use common things to make their presentation interesting so that the students learn more effectively. “In our public schools, we only use a blackboard and chalk. If I am to use the flora and fauna available in our school grounds, my students will be much more interested than if I just draw a leaf on the blackboard.” Naz added that using natural resources around them is inexpensive and the materials are readily available. The teachers also shadowed American teachers at pre-school year meetings, interacted with members of the local school board and parent-teacher organizations, and team-taught with science teachers.

Although the group of Pakistani teachers was fluent in English, they attended English as a Second Language classes to familiarize themselves with American pronunciation and style. They interacted with graduate students and in-service teachers taking summer courses. Shaheena Parveen was surprised to learn that “phonetics between American and British English are different.”

USAID's

Education Pro

Success in Earthquake Areas Celebrated



A group photograph of AJK Prim Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan and the U.S Deputy Chief of Mission Peter Bodde with the students

The Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) and residents of the earthquake-affected areas of Mansehra and Bagh celebrated the first year achievements of the United States Agency for International Development's RISE education sector program. The Revitalizing, Innovating and Strengthening Education (RISE) project works to rebuild and improve educational infrastructure and deliver high-quality education to children in the Mansehra and Bagh Districts.

“U.S. support for education is an investment in the future of Pakistan and education is always an investment that yields great

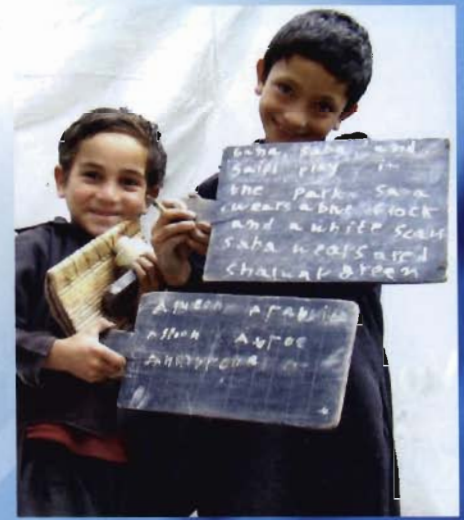


AJK Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan with the U.S Deputy Chief of Mission Peter Bodde



A student addressing the function

gram -Affected



Students proudly show their work

returns,” Peter W. Bodde,

Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad said at a one year anniversary commemoration ceremony of the project in Islamabad on October 25. “In the past year, RISE has completed two schools, with 30 more designed or under construction in Mansehra and Bagh.”

USAID's \$13 million RISE project is an integral part of the U.S. government's reconstruction efforts in the earthquake-affected areas. The project also helps communities in these districts to improve the quality of classroom instruction by training teachers and mobilizing parent-teacher committees to participate in school reconstruction and maintenance.

“USAID is carrying out a four-year \$200 million Earthquake Reconstruction Program to rebuild schools and hospitals, expand education and health services and improve economic well-being,” Mr. Bodde noted.

Mr. Bodde thanked the education authorities of NWFP and AJK, and expressed appreciation for the “good working relationship with ERRA” in the early successes of the project. Later in the ceremony teachers, education administration officials and community members received certificates and awards for their cooperation with the project.



Teachers in Mansehra learn new techniques



Education brings back hope for a brighter future



Parents, teachers and school administrators work together



Women's Participation in Political, Economic Spheres Urged

American Speaker Ann Stone Meets With Cross Section of Civil Society Groups During her 2-Week Visit to Pakistan

Noted American political consultant and entrepreneur, Ann Stone, underlined the need of "full-fledged women's participation in the political and economic spheres of the country," during her two-week visit to Pakistan in October.

"Women can play a more prominent and constructive role in national politics and economy. They should be encouraged to come forward to have a greater role in politics," she told a cross section of women groups in Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi.

She outlined "five distinctive attributes" of women in politics as compared to men. She noted that women are generally more ethical than their male counterparts; women bring different and important perspective to legislation; women make good managers of public spending; women-owned businesses have a major role in strengthening the economy; and women are known to be a greater advocate for peace than men.

"I want women to understand politics. It really is a game in a way, a serious game but there can be lot of fun," Stone, who has been in politics since age 12, said while speaking at length how to train and prepare women for contesting elections. "Women see politics as dirty men's business but it's something that impacts your life. If you do not want other people to always control what happens to you, you have to understand politics."

As a political and business consultant, she has appeared regularly on U.S. news programs as a commentator. She is also a prominent advocate for women's empowerment and laments the fact that women's participation in politics even in the U.S. was not adequate with women holding "just 19 and 20 per cent shares in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives respectively.

Her Islamabad program included a round-table



discussion with 5 organizations involved in the Free and Fair Elections Network (FAFEN) at the Asia Foundation on 'Voter Education and Mobilization' and a workshop on the "Role of Women in Politics," co-hosted by PAIMAN at the Lincoln Corner in the International Islamic University. She also underscored the importance of the difference women could make by voting and participating in the legislative process.

In Lahore, she visited a girls madrasa - Iqra Madeena-tul-Ilm and discussed the importance of women's participation in public life. She also held a workshop on "Election Campaign Management" for women campaign managers, councilors and women parliamentarians.

In Peshawar, Ms. Stone visited the Sarhad Womens Chamber of Commerce and participated in a roundtable discussion on "Women as Economic and Political Leaders in the 21st Century."

In her meetings with women entrepreneurs and journalists in Karachi, Stone presented different strategies for women to make their contribution to society felt and to make their votes count in the socio-political mainstream of Pakistan.

While in the country Ann Stone was also interviewed by several television channels and newspapers.



سیاسی اور سماجی

میدانوں میں خواتین کے کردار کی اہمیت

ممتاز امریکی سیاسی مشیر اور کاروباری شخصیت این ڈبلیو سٹون نے اکتوبر میں پاکستان کے ایک ہفتہ کے دورہ کے دوران ملک کے سیاسی و معاشی میدانوں میں خواتین کی مکمل شمولیت کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے۔



اسلام آباد میں صحافیوں کے ایک گروپ سے باتیں کر رہی ہیں۔

اسلام آباد، پشاور، لاہور اور کراچی میں مختلف شعبوں سے تعلق رکھنے والی خواتین کے گروپوں سے باتیں کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ خواتین کو ملی سیاست اور معیشت میں زیادہ نمایاں اور تعمیری کردار ادا کر سکتی ہیں۔ ان کی سیاست میں حصہ لینے کیلئے زیادہ سے زیادہ حوصلہ افزائی کی جانی چاہئے۔

اسلام آباد کے دورہ کے دوران انہوں نے ایشیا فاؤنڈیشن میں رائے دہندگان کی تعلیم

اور ان کو متحرک کرنے کے موضوع پر ایک گول میز مذاکرہ سے خطاب کیا اور بین الاقوامی اسلامی یونیورسٹی اسلام آباد میں واقع لنکن کارنز میں سیاست میں خواتین کے کردار ایک ورکشاپ میں اظہار خیال کیا۔ انہوں نے اس بات کی اہمیت پر زور دیا کہ خواتین ووٹنگ اور قانون سازی کے عمل میں شرکت کر کے کس طرح تبدیلی لاسکتی ہیں۔

لاہور میں انہوں نے لڑکیوں کے ایک مدرسہ اقرامہ مڈیٹھ العلوم کا دورہ کیا اور وہاں روزمرہ زندگی میں خواتین کی شرکت کی اہمیت پر بات چیت کی۔ انہوں نے انتخابی مہم چلانے والی خواتین، کونسلرز اور خواتین ارکان اسمبلی کیلئے انتخابی مہم کے انتظام کے موضوع پر ایک ورکشاپ کی بھی نگرانی کی۔

پشاور میں این سٹون نے سرحد و بہمن چیئرمین آف کامرس کا بھی دورہ کیا اور اکیسویں صدی میں خواتین بطور معاشی اور سیاسی رہنما کے موضوع پر ایک گول میز مباحثہ میں حصہ لیا۔ شرکاء سے باتیں کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ انہوں نے اپنی زندگی میں جو کچھ کیا ہے وہ صرف دو باتیں ہیں۔ اول، آزادی اور سماجی انصاف کیلئے اٹھ کھڑا ہونا اور دوم، عورتوں کی مدد کرنا۔

امریکی مقرر این سٹون نے کراچی کے دورہ کے دوران کاروباری خواتین اور صحافیوں سے علیحدہ علیحدہ ملاقاتیں کیں اور انہیں پاکستان کے سیاسی و سماجی دھارے میں خواتین کے ووٹ کی اہمیت سے آگاہ کیا۔

انہوں نے سیاست میں مردوں کے مقابلہ میں خواتین کے کردار کے پانچ اہم مثبت اثرات بیان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ عورتیں مردوں کی بہ نسبت زیادہ بااخلاق ہوتی ہیں۔ قانون سازی کو ایک دوسرے نقطہ نظر سے دیکھ سکتی ہیں۔ سرکاری اخراجات کو زیادہ بہتر طور پر چلا سکتی ہیں۔ معیشت کو مستحکم کرنے میں ان کا بڑا کردار ہے اور مرد حضرات کے مقابلہ میں اس کی بڑی داعی ہوتی ہیں۔

این سٹون نے، جو 12 سال کی عمر سے سیاست میں ہیں، کہا کہ میں چاہتی ہوں کہ خواتین سیاست کو سمجھیں۔ یہ ایک طرح کا کھیل ہے، ایک سنجیدہ کھیل لیکن اس میں مزہ آتا ہے۔ خواتین کو انتخابات میں حصہ لینے کی رہنمائی کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ عورتیں سیاست کو گندے لوگوں کا کام سمجھتی ہیں، لیکن یہ کام ان کی زندگی پر اثر انداز ہوتا ہے۔ اگر آپ نہیں چاہتیں کہ جو کچھ آپ کے ساتھ ہوتا ہے، دوسرے لوگ ہمیشہ اُس پر قدرت نہ حاصل کریں تو آپ کو سیاست سمجھنا ہوگی۔

این سٹون خواتین کو بااختیار بنانے کی زبردست علمبردار ہیں اور مشیر اور خیر گالی کے سفیر کی حیثیت سے کئی ملکوں میں کام کر چکی ہیں۔ انہوں نے انکشاف کیا کہ بیشتر ملکوں میں سیاست میں خواتین کی شمولیت حتیٰ کہ امریکہ میں بھی کچھ زیادہ نہیں ہے اور امریکی سینیٹ اور ایوان نمائندگان میں ان کی نمائندگی بالترتیب 19 اور 20 فی صد ہے۔



شہید ذوالفقار علی بھٹو انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف ٹیکنالوجی کراچی میں



پشاور میں خطاب

