

# Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

October 2007

Published by the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad



**New \$750m Agreement for FATA Development  
International Literacy Day  
U.S. Congress Passes Ramadan Bill**



# Activities of the American Consulates

## Karachi Consulate:

Consul General Kay Anske visited the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Photo shows (from left) Ms. Zeenat Saeed Ahmad, Senior Vice President Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Begum Salma Ahmad, President WCCI (centre, presenting flowers to the Consul General). Others seen in the picture are: Fouzia Mehtab, Yasmeen Hasnain and Azra Ashfaq, all members of the executive committee of WCCI.



## Lahore Consulate:

Principal Officer Bryan Hunt and Political Officer Antone Greubel offer prayers at the shrine of Hazrat Khawaja Farid at Kot Mithan Sharif in Rajanpur District, on September 12.



## Peshawar Consulate:

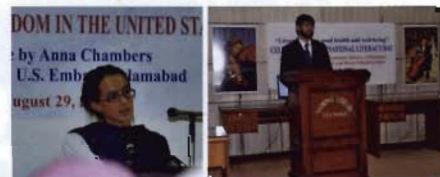
U.S. Congressmen visited Frontier Corps Commander at Qila Bala Hisar Headquarters on September 11.





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*Front Cover*

Ambassador Anne W. Patterson joins visiting members of the United States Congress, Representatives Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA), Todd Platts (R-PA), Brian Higgins (D-NY), and staff of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad on September 11 to commemorate the lives lost to terrorist attacks and events that occurred on September 11, 2001. A moment of silence was observed and members of the mission read passages from the Quran and the Bible in English, Urdu and Arabic.



Keen Interest

The Federal Minister (for Information and Broadcasting) has gone through your magazine with keen interest and has expressed his appreciation to the editorial contents, reading material and pictorial presentation of "Khabr-o-Nazar." The Federal Minister has further expressed his opinion that the magazine will play a vital role in strengthening the existing ties of friendship between the people of the two countries.

Qamar Bashir
Director, Minister's Office
Islamabad

English and Urdu

I like your magazine very much. In fact, I have never read such a magazine before. The most interesting thing which I observed in the magazine is that you have the same contents in both

Correct Spelling

I am on the mailing list of "Khabr-o-Nazar." I studied in the U.S. where I did my MBA and PhD from Wharton School of Pennsylvania. I would like to point out that the correct spelling of the title should be "Khabar-o-Nazar." There is a vowel 'a' between 'b' and 'r.' If you like you may seek confirmation of my opinion from experts of the Urdu language.

Dr. Mohammad Uzair
Dean, Greenwich University
Karachi

Deeply Impressed

I thank you for your magazine "Khabr-o-Nazar." I am deeply impressed by its layout. Each time, it has something new for us which we do not find in any other magazine. I wish it more success and richness.

Zaheer A. Saleemi
Faisalabad

Profound Gratitude

I find no words to express my profound gratitude and many thanks for sending me "Khabr-o-Nazar." It is very informative and I went through it in one go. The U.S. efforts for helping earthquake victims are great. Being a retired hunter, I would request you to provide information about wild animals found in U.S. and the famous jungle hunters.

Riaz Mohammad Khan Warsi
Karachi

Great to know

I read your amazing and informative article of the restoration of Lahore Fort's Alamgiri Gate. I highly appreciate your article on conservation and preservation of the old structures in Lahore Fort project. Since I am an architect and have keen interest in old/historic buildings and monuments, it was great to know that the U.S. is contributing in the restoration of the Fort which is a historic landmark. I once again congratulate you for the impressive and informative article.

Muhammed Imran Malik
Lahore

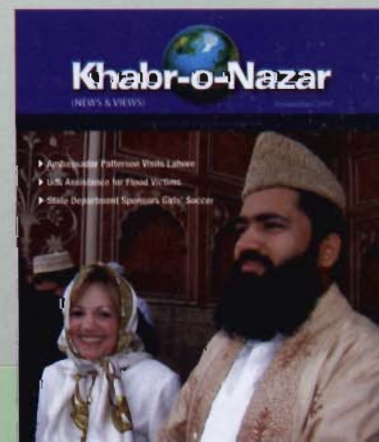
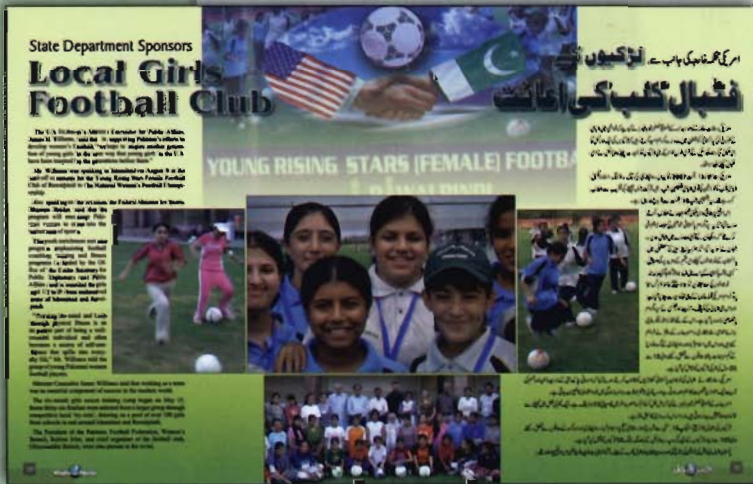
English and Urdu. I hope you will keep on giving your readers useful information about the U.S. and update them on the state of relations between Pakistan and the U.S.

Mirza Asadullah Beg
Sargodha

We Appreciate

Thank you very much for sending "Khabr-o-Nazar" regularly. I hope that the U.S. government will continue to work for the betterment of the people of Pakistan. We really appreciate the manner in which you people are helping us.

Chaman Masih
Lahore





# U.S.-Pakistan Relationship Represents Long-Term Commitments to Progress, Peace:

Ambassador Patterson



The broad-based relationship between the United States and Pakistan represents “a series of long-term commitments to progress and peace,” U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson told new Pakistani diplomats.

“We cannot talk about democracy, or education, or economic growth, as a one-time event. These are processes that will yield results over time,” the Ambassador said in a speech on “The Human Dimension of Diplomacy” at the Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad on September 5.

Ambassador Patterson observed that all nations base their foreign policy on national interests. “For us, the U.S.-Pakistan long-term relationship means a reduced terrorist threat and a strong, democratic, prosperous Pakistan. I believe this relationship will also yield substantial benefits for your country: more two-way trade, more U.S. investment, and stronger people-to-people contacts – to name just a few,” she said.

“Development depends on good, accountable governance, and economic policies that unleash private sector growth. Pakistan has made tremendous strides in these areas,” the Ambassador remarked. “At every opportunity, I tell my fellow Americans about your economic progress, as there is still too little appreciation for these facts outside of Pakistan.”

As for Pakistan’s domestic politics, the Ambassador emphasized that “the United States does not support particular can-

didates or parties in your electoral process. We support free, fair, and transparent elections that reflect the choices of the Pakistani people. We support the efforts of your government, of your political parties, of your civil society, and indeed of ordinary citizens to continue building a democratic and prosperous Pakistan. For our part, the United States is committed to helping solidify the basis for long-term peace, stability, and development in this region. This is the foundation for a partnership that serves both countries well.”

Ambassador Patterson discussed U.S. investments in Pakistan’s human development, particularly in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas with projects to support the Government of Pakistan’s FATA development plans. The Government of the United States has implemented a five-year, \$750 million assistance program in the FATA. One of the main areas of the program is expanding access to education.



Photo shows the Ambassador speaking with students of the Academy after her lecture.

“The educational programs the United States is supporting in the FATA offer a good example of how our shared priorities have a direct impact on people’s lives and their future prospects,” she said. “Broader access to education and comprehensive study programs will build the foundation for Pakistan to become more competitive in the global economy. We believe that through support for education, we can help reduce poverty, and give young people the means to become productive citizens.”



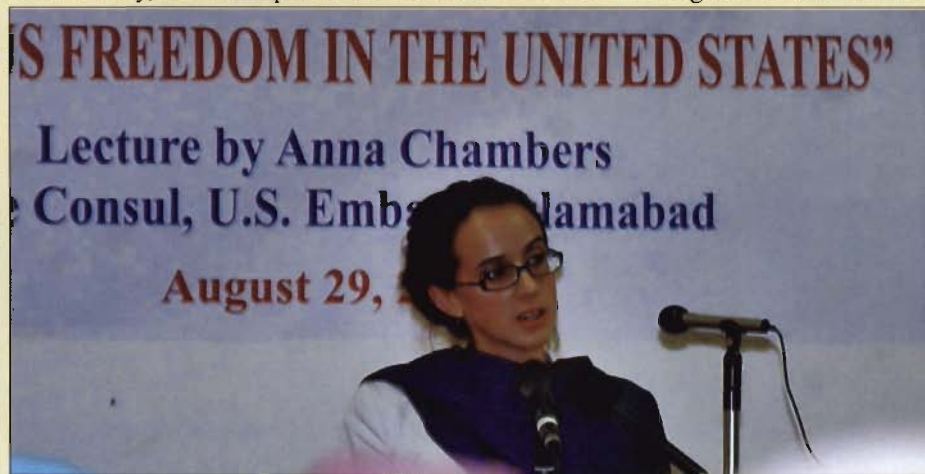


# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM The Core of American Life

Religious freedom has always been at the core of American life and public policy, U.S. Embassy's Vice Consul Anna Chambers said while delivering a lecture on "Religious freedom in the U.S." at the International Islamic University's Lincoln Corner in Islamabad on August 29.

"The reason is the American passion for religious liberty – not the promotion of a particular religion – but the conviction that every human being has, by virtue of his or her existence, the inviolable right to seek religious truth and to practice religion," she said.

Ms. Chambers said that American society and American courts, especially in the 20th century, have interpreted the first tenet of the Bill of Rights to mean that the



government should take a neutral role towards religion. "The law in this case says that the government is not permitted to impose religion on anyone."

Underlining the need for an interfaith dialogue, the American diplomat said that people from different religious backgrounds can achieve a better understanding of one another's beliefs and cultural traditions .

"America is the most religiously diverse country in the world," Ms. Chambers pointed out. The religious landscape of America has "changed radically" in the past thirty years, "but most of us have not yet begun to see the dimensions and scope of that change."

"There are now mosques and churches side by side in some of the oldest communities in America," she said.

Vice Consul Anna Chambers said that Muslims in the United States believe that the principles of Islam and the obligations of U.S. citizenship are entirely compatible and adherents of other faiths in America also feel strongly that they can be both Americans and Christians, Americans and Jews, Americans and Hindus, and Americans and Buddhists.

"Any immigrant coming to our country can practice his religion without restriction," she said.

Ms. Chambers pointed out that at both the university and secondary level both, students are welcome to form groups based on their religious beliefs. The Muslim Student Association in the U.S. and Canada encourages and supports Muslim activities on university campuses across the continent and frequently comments on current affairs in national and international politics. Hillel is a Jewish organization, present on hundreds of campuses that coordinates similar cultural activities for Jews in American schools. Campus Crusade, Intervarsity, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes do similar things for Christian students.

In honor of the occasion, U.S. Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs, Kay Webb Mayfield, presented a collection of books and DVDs on comparative religion to the International Islamic University.





U.S., Pakistan  
Sign New  
\$750 Million  
Agreement for  
**FATA**  
Development

Senior representatives of the United States and Pakistan on September 30 signed a new agreement for the American people's assistance to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) development amounting to \$750 million over the next five years. The United States is providing \$105 million this year for the FATA program.

"The United States Government on behalf of the American people understands the importance of delivering resources quickly and effectively to bring essential services to the people of the FATA," U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Pakistan Mission Director, Anne Aarnes, said after signing the bilateral agreement with the Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, M. Akram Malik.

The USAID Director said that it is part of a long-term commitment by the United States to assist the Government of Pakistan in addressing the acute development needs of the people of this important region of Pakistan.

"We commend the Government of Pakistan in establishing the Sustainable Development Plan for the FATA," USAID's Aarnes said. "We have crafted our assistance activities to directly support this plan, and we look forward to working together closely with FATA officials in its implementation."

The new agreement will be used to support programs in capacity building, livelihoods, agriculture, micro and small and medium enterprises, health, education and infrastructure development in the FATA.

"The United States is dedicating substantial resources to meet the needs of Pakistani people, and to build services and institutions over the long run," Ambassador Anne W. Patterson said earlier this week. "The Government's program will improve health, education, infrastructure, agriculture, governance, and economic dynamism in the Tribal Areas."



# U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue

## Deputy Secretary Negroponte's Statement at the Joint Press Conference



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte meeting with President General Pervez Musharraf

I am extremely pleased to be here in Pakistan again. Your country is both a close friend and a long-standing reliable ally of the United States. Today's second round of the US-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue has been very useful. The continuing discussion between our two countries highlights the commitment both our nations have made to a wide-ranging, substantive, and long-term bilateral relationship.

Our relationship with Pakistan and the Pakistani people is very important. Pakistan has long been a strong US ally, but now more than ever, Pakistan stands as an important and pivotal nation in the world. Pakistan is a large, moderate Muslim nation with a diverse population in a very critical region. It serves as the gateway, the crossroads, to both Central and South Asia. Pakistan's continued progress and development are vital not only for its own people, but also for the stability of the region, the United States, and the rest of the world.

We welcome Pakistan's leadership as a voice of moderation and reason in the Islamic world. Your nation remains a valuable ally in the war on terror. The United States recognizes the tremendous sacrifices



# gue

the people of Pakistan have made in this struggle. We stand with all of those Pakistanis who have been wounded or who have lost loved ones, and we hold a special place of honor for those who sacrificed their lives in protecting not only Pakistanis but also the entire world from acts of terrorism. Facing these challenges strengthens our mutual resolve against terrorism and extremism. Pakistan's efforts against extremism are a matter of record. We welcome and look forward to working with Pakistan in the new three-pronged strategy in the Tribal areas. Promoting security, dialogue, and development is a truly visionary approach. This holistic solution is a comprehensive and positive path towards resolving the issues in the Tribal Areas. The United States recognizes this. We have pledged \$750 million to support Pakistan's plan.

The United States continues to stand in partnership with Pakistanis as they build on their nation's many strengths. Our relationship with the Pakistani people goes far beyond security and counterterrorism. Our long-term programs, such as USAID's 5-year \$100 million Education Assistance Program, seek to ensure Pakistan's own efforts to build a democratically and economically vibrant country. Pakistanis are working to improve their nation in many other areas, including health, energy, technology, and democracy.

Our continued Strategic Dialogue and our long-term assistance programs in Pakistan exemplify the forward-looking, broad and deep nature of our bilateral relationship.

The United States appreciates and fully understands Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan. Results from the recent peace jirga were very promising. We appreciate your nation's constructive role.

We realize there are many challenges ahead: be it fighting terrorism, expanding literacy, or spreading economic prosperity. We came here today to face those challenges head-on in our continued Strategic Dialogue. The only way to achieve long-lasting peace, stability, and development is by thinking strategically and by exchanging ideas through frank and regular discussions. By doing this, the United States and Pakistan actively reaffirm our broad-based bilateral relationship. We will continue to meet regularly. We will seek further opportunities to enhance this dialogue.

At this critical juncture in history, Pakistan has the opportunity to forge ahead as a vibrant, moderate, successful, and democratic Muslim nation. We stand ready to assist you whenever you may call upon us.



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte called on Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in Islamabad



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte shaking hands with Minister for Interior Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao in Islamabad



*An independent and responsible media is critical to healthy democracies. Fielding questions from around the globe during this hour-long USINFO "Webchat" held on September 5, Elizabeth Colton, the Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, and a former professor of mass communications, discusses the relationship between government and the media and good journalistic practices. Elizabeth O. Colton - an Emmy Award-winning producer for ABC News overseas, was also Newsweek's Cairo Bureau Chief, National Public Radio's Diplomatic Correspondent in Washington, ABC Radio's Mideast Correspondent, NBC Radio's Correspondent during the Desert Storm War, and executive editor of ten Virginia newspapers., Excerpts from the webchat.:*

*Elizabeth O. Colton Discusses*

## **Independent and Responsible Media**

**Q: Is journalism more challenging in developing societies? (From Bangladesh)**

Elizabeth Colton: Journalism is challenging in all societies, in different ways in different countries. What is especially important in developing countries, where there might not be as long a tradition of journalism, is to encourage professionalism among new journalists -- to offer training in best practices of fair and accurate and balanced reporting at the beginning and to encourage these traits in all the media.

**Q: Don't you think it is mandatory to control media in general and specially in special circumstances like war against terrorism? (From Karachi)**

Elizabeth Colton: As an American who believes in our own First Amendment to our Constitution -- that there shall be no law abridging (or limiting or preventing) freedom of the press, I do not believe there should be state control of the news media. At the same time, journalists must work to show they are responsible -- meaning that they report fairly and accurately all sides of issues. Our own First Amendment protects the freedom of the press, even though there are many working at all times to limit it.

**Q: What should be an ideal relationship between government and the media? (From Monrovia)**

Elizabeth Colton: I am of the position that the relationship between a government and the media must be based on first the recognition of each other's responsibility and obligation and an absolute adherence on the part of the media and government to their respective responsibility and obligations i.e. access to public information must be granted unhindered to the media by the government. The media must maintain a critical stance of the government at all times; a media with a less critical stance run the risk of being used as a PR or propaganda medium.

**Q: Do you feel that the practice of embedding journalists in combat situations leads to more accurate reporting or is the objectivity lost? (From Germany)**

Elizabeth Colton: There are various viewpoints on "embedding" journalists in combat situations. From my own experience, I believe that it is important to cover from all sides - - that the "embedding" offers a unique view that can be quite valuable in presenting to readers and viewers. At the same time, I believe it is important for reporters to cover as broadly and widely as possible in any situation -- war and peace, and their news organizations should present as wide and deep a view as possible.

**Q: Media coverage often moves faster than formal governmental communication. At times media's message shapes policy and it also**

**often influences public opinion, which in turn influence policy. Given these circumstances, what does it mean to be responsible? (From Georgia)**

Elizabeth Colton: The speed of our world, with the internet and all now, unfortunately pushes the news business towards irresponsible reporting at times. A good journalist, however, will always check and re-check his story, seek out confirmation with a number of sources before running with it. Sometimes, of course, this might mean that the story does not go out until days. This may seem frustrating to the reporter and his/her news organization, but in the end a fully-sourced, accurate story will show readers/viewers that this news org is responsible, thus credible and the one to be watched/read/listened to in future.

**Q: Should journalists accept financial rewards? (From Nigeria)**

Elizabeth Colton: This is a big challenge in many parts of the world -- the low pay for journalists and then their turning to financial rewards from sources. Journalists' unions are one way of pushing media owners to pay their staff better. At the same time, reporters should have the courage to say no to offers of financial incentives from other sources.

**Q: Can you name two or three big challenges faced by the media today in your country? (From Islamabad)**

A: In my country there are a number of challenges facing the media today. A key one is to strive for more independence -- from all interests -- and thus more responsibility. Another is not to succumb to the pressure to get any story out without checking and taking time to be certain it's fair and accurate. This challenge faces American journalism just as much as anywhere else in the world. Another challenge facing the media is to continue to promote high professional standards of journalism -- training both in schools and on the job. As elsewhere in the world, many reporters are given great responsibility before they might have learned professional responsibilities of fairness, accuracy, balance, concern for seeking "the truth" of all that is of public interest.

**Q: What do you think of the Pakistani media? (From Karachi)**

Elizabeth Colton: First, I want to say that I am a great admirer of the Pakistani news media. I read at least nine English newspapers every day and get translations of many Urdu papers and watch TV and listen to the radio. In fact, I really enjoy all the press/media in Pakistan and applaud all for the great strides made every day towards more independent and responsible media.

For full transcript please visit

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>





# International Literacy Day

## at Lincoln Reading Lounge



American Vice Consul, Hormazd J. Kanga, observed that societies cannot progress without the participation of everyone and the “true impact of this participation is when the participants are well-informed and educated.”

He was speaking at the Lincoln Reading Lounge of the National Library of Pakistan on the topic of “Literacy-The Key to Good Health and Well-Being” on September 8 to mark International Literacy Day.

“The benefit of literacy and education to the individual person is clear; it is the best way to improve one’s situation in life, the key to getting a better job, to increase one’s standard of living and to have more access to health care,” the American diplomat told the gathering comprising librarians, parents, school children, public officials and academics.

The Director General of the National Library of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Nazir, also spoke about the role of the National Library and the service offered there.

“Literacy has been recognized as basic human right – something all human beings are entitled to, something everyone deserves,” said the United States Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs, Kay Webb Mayfield, while highlighting the importance of literacy and

the key role of education in U.S.-Pakistan cooperation.

Highlighting the role of libraries in the spread of education and literacy, Mr. Kanga noted that libraries are really a place to think “outside the context of our daily lives and (about) whatever the news of the day happens to be.”

He said that he was pleased to learn that Pakistanis are interested in libraries. “There have been library conferences held recently, and it has been mentioned that people here see the need for children’s libraries, especially here in the capital. It is a wonderful thing to promote life-long literacy and participation in society.”

Vice Consul Kanga described how literacy is critical to the success of both the United States and Pakistan as modern societies. “The most successful societies are the ones where there is the participation and perspective of all the people within the community,” he noted.

On the occasion, the U.S. Embassy’s Information Resource Center staff demonstrated on-line literacy resources to the audience. The program also featured a series of skits, songs, and speeches by students of the Roots School System on the significance of literacy.



# “Pakistan is one of the pillars of a

An Interview With U.S. Foreign Policy Expert  
**Walter Russell Mead**

Mr. Walter Russell Mead is Henry Kissinger Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Washington D.C. A renowned scholar of U.S. foreign policy, Mr. Mead recently visited Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Karachi where he spoke to a variety of groups, met with scholars and journalists and delivered lectures at universities. Here, he speaks with Khabr-o-Nazar on perceptions about religion in policy-making, Pak-U.S. relations and Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as a role model. Excerpts from the interview:

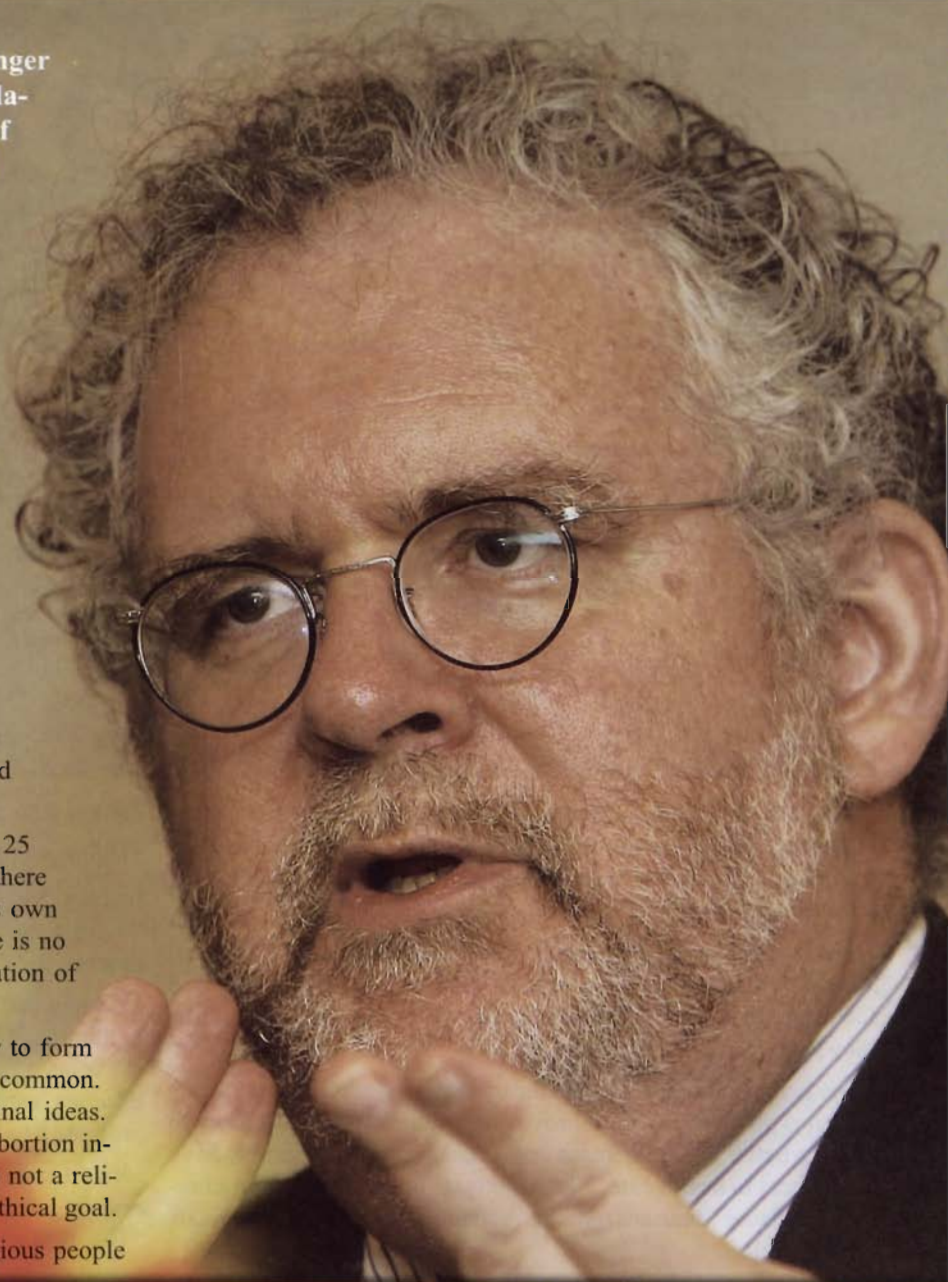
*How important a factor is religion in foreign policy formulation?*

That's always a difficult question, particularly in the case of the U.S. because the U.S. is a country of great religious and political diversity. About 90 percent of Americans would tell a pollster that they're Christian and then the remainder is divided among Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, small religious groups and people of no religion.

But then that Christian majority is divided; about 25 percent is Roman Catholic, among the Protestants there are countless denominations, each of which has its own traditions and even its own political views. So there is no single religious viewpoint that dominates the formation of American foreign policy.

What happens is that different religious groups try to form coalitions based around the things that they have in common. These are usually at the core, rather than the doctrinal ideas. In domestic politics, for instance, the opposition to abortion includes some Catholics and some Protestants but it's not a religious movement; it's a political movement with an ethical goal.

In foreign policy, for example, you see many religious people supporting greater assistance to Africa in particular, and greater help in fighting HIV-AIDS. For many, the religious conviction that one should help the poor plays a major role in their political activism. But is that religious? Well, some people who are not religious also care out of a kind of human compassion.





# n emerging Asia”

***In addition to Pakistan’s independence, 2007 also marks 60 years of Pak-U.S. ties. How do you see the future of bilateral relations?***

I would predict at this point that the next 60 years would be more positive. We’ve had some very good moments in the last 60 years. But in the Cold War, South Asia was not the major focus of policy for the U.S. But then, with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Americans who hadn’t been thinking of Pakistan at all would suddenly start thinking about it. But in the future, the Middle East and Asia will be more important than in the past for American foreign policy and Europe will be less important.

This means that the U.S. is likely to be thinking about Pakistan much more. Sometimes that is going to mean things like the (U.S.) Congress will pass some law that’s very unpopular in Pakistan. When you think more, it doesn’t always mean that you act wisely.

But it is true that the U.S. will now begin to think strategically about its relations with Pakistan and for the longer term. I think that the relationship may have a steadier quality too; even though we will continue to have disagreements as the two countries will see things in different perspectives.

***Do you think Pakistan’s location – in a region where South Asia, Central Asia and the Gulf converge – plays a role in its significance?***

From the U.S. point of view, I can think of two leading roles. One, in the rise of this new stable and prosperous Asia, Pakistan has a key role. It is one of the most significant Asian countries and it’s in a very strategic region geographically. Pakistan is one of the pillars of an emerging Asia.

Pakistan’s strategic importance is even greater because of its unique role in the world of Islam. Pakistan is the second largest Islamic country in the world, Indonesia being the only one that’s larger. Pakistan also has a special place in Islamic history as it is a kind of bridge between the Arab world where Islam began, and the majority of Muslims who live outside the Arab world.

Mr. Jinnah is a role-model for Muslims not only in Pakistan but on the broader world scale, because if you look at Mr. Jinnah, you realize there was no one who was better able to understand the international system of the day or the British systems of law and finance.

So he was competent in the world of modernity, more competent than the British, but he never allowed that to separate him from his own roots and identity or his connection with his history and his people. This remains a very important model for Muslims today in the world, as young people all over the world ask ‘how can I participate in the global society and adapt to global norms without losing my own identity and my values, how can I bridge that?’

Well, Mr. Jinnah bridged that gap and I think his vision is for Pakistan to be that kind of bridge in the world. If Pakistan can fulfill this

aspect of his vision then the cultural, political and historical importance of Pakistan in the world will be unparalleled.

***How important is the role of think-tanks in foreign policy formulation?***

Well, we’re not as important as we wish we were! Sometimes, at the Council on Foreign Relations, we sit around and complain that these politicians just don’t listen.

***But sometimes they do?***

Yes sometimes they do. Let me talk about the CFR; our by-laws say that we will not take government money so we refuse money from the U.S Government. We are funded by the donations of our members, we go to many different foundations to get money. For this reason we’re seen as independent and people listen to what we have to say. But again, they don’t always do what we think they should do.





# U.S. Diplomat Opens Exhibit and

# American Film Festival in Faisalabad

U.S. Consulate Lahore Public Affairs Officer Kathleen Eagen said that she was "honored to showcase American culture in Faisalabad" as she inaugurated an exhibit of American artists and an American film festival in Faisalabad on August 21.

"As Pakistan celebrates its 60th birth anniversary and looks towards the future, it is interesting to watch classic American movies that capture the colonial era in South Asia," she remarked at the Faisalabad Arts Council, venue for the film festival "Raj in the Eyes of Hollywood."

Inaugurating an exhibit at the Faisalabad Art Gallery earlier, Ms. Eagen said that the work displayed "reflects the great imaginative variety" of the contemporary American art scene. Titled "Art on the Edge," the exhibit represents works by 17 up and coming American artists displaying a range of mediums, styles, traditions and technologies.

"Those who view this sampling of art will experience some of the American nation's fundamental values -- innovation, diversity, freedom, individualism, competitive excellence -- in ways that go well beyond words," she stressed.

Films screened at the festival included "The Man Who Would be King," "Gunga Din", "The Rains Came", "Kim" and "Wee Willie Winkie." The festival and the exhibit concluded on August 23, 2007.

During her visit to Faisalabad, Ms. Eagen also participated in a discussion at the Mass Communication Department of Government College University.







The Aga Khan University Examination Board distributed awards at the Aga Khan University Auditorium on September 13, 2007 to the highest achieving candidates of their first Secondary School Examination Certificate examination, as part of an United States Agency for International Development Agency- funded program

“Examination plays an important role in any education system,” said Ms. Kay L. Anske, U.S. Consul General Karachi, in her remarks. “USAID is supporting the Aga Khan University Examination Board to help change the examination approach in Pakistan that was based on rote memorization to one that promotes creative thinking.”

Also present at the event were Senator Roshan Barucha and the President of Aga Khan University, Firoz Rasool.

Approximately, 1,700 candidates from 60 schools participated in the first SSC Composite Examination that was held in May 2007. Of these, 78% participants passed the examination.

Initiated in 2003 with a \$4.5 million assistance provided by USAID, the Aga Khan University Examination Board has introduced an alternative examination model based on creative thinking as opposed to the older rote memorization methods.

Support for this program 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, economic growth, governance and for earthquake reconstruction.



## USAID- sponsored Secondary School Achievers Recognized





# Women Shape Policy & Economy Through Business

By Lubna Farooq

I recently participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program entitled “Women as Business and Economic Leaders”. In my group there were four participants from Pakistan, two from India, and others from Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. We were eleven participants in all from South Asia, all having different business backgrounds. It was a wonderful group and we all clicked instantly, gained a lot of knowledge, traveled together, got a lot of exposure and had loads of fun.

The most interesting part of the Washington D.C program was our networking breakfast with the Women’s Business Centre of Northern Virginia, and visit to the American University campus. We learned about business organizations such as the National Women’s Business Council, the National Association of Women Business Owners and the Small Business Administration among many, and their role in safeguarding rights and facilitating small businesses for women and minorities; how they shape international trade, policy, and legislation through advocacy, lobbying, public education, equal opportunities rights etc., so as to propel them towards economic, social and political spheres of power

worldwide.

It was amazing and heartening to know how the women’s movement and struggle started, how they achieved a lot in such a short span of time. How they have come a long way and have formed a huge network of associations and NGOs to help each other, have their own businesses flourish, and their voices heard where policy making and laws pertaining to them are concerned. It was also sad in a way that when one compares the situation and opportunities of the women there, with those of the ones back in our societies, one feels that we are far away from achieving those standards. One wonders when will affirmative action, equal opportunity, free speech and expression and other luxuries come our way.

The interesting part of the Los Angeles visit was our meeting with the president of a non-profit organization called WIT [Women in International Trade]. This organization addresses issues such as trade policy, legislation and other trade related issues. Our visit to the American Finance House LARIBA, gave us an insight into Shari’ah-compliant banking and financing in the US, and then onto SAN [South Asian Network] to examine how they act as an agent



# IVLP Alumna Visits USA

of change in order to empower the South Asian communities. We also visited the Pasadena Enterprise Center to learn about small business development, and of course we took a tour to the Universal Studios, which was the highlight of our LA visit, along with the warm and comfortable home hospitality extended to us.

In Austin, Texas we had an inspirational experience in meeting with Tamara Chapman, who in spite of having impaired vision, was conducting her own business very successfully. She hired, trained and supervised numerous people with some degree of blindness, and focused on achieving the employment goals of employees with disabilities, which led her to winning the entrepreneurship award 2006. Our luncheon with the Texas Women's Chamber of Commerce was an excellent experience and opportunity of networking, and our visit to the IMAX Theatre where we watched the movie, Harry Potter III, in 3D, was an experience out of this world.

Our visit to Maine included a stop at the Capital Building in Augusta, where we toured the State House of Representatives. While passing by the State Governor's office, the Governor himself came out to meet us in the hallway. It was not part of the program but was a true treat for us. The accessibility of those that govern is one of the corner stones of democracy. Later in the tour we discovered that one of the elected state representatives worked as a janitor by profession....I mean how cool are those people!!! Our visit to the Maine Community College was very interesting as we learned how academia and industry interlink and support each other.

Our New York visit was too short for a city so vibrant and diverse. New York is known as the "city that never sleeps". Of course you could not discover all of New York even if the entire 3 weeks were dedicated to it alone. We did manage to visit Times Square and saw a Broadway show. This, of course, was just a drop in the ocean, considering the cultural variety and mosaic New York has

to offer. The highlight here was our meeting with Ms. Nancy Berry who has been the President and CEO of Women's World Bank for 16 years. She is also Advisor to Harvard Business School, has won numerous awards and was just named one of America's Best 20 Leaders by U.S. News and World Report.

All the participants handed out books and pamphlets on our respective cultures and people throughout the program, as well as small traditional souvenirs from our respective countries. Our tour had come to an end, which was sad in a way when we thought of the Herculean tasks ahead of us in order to reach the position the American woman has achieved, but nonetheless we were offered all kinds of help for guidance and linkages where ever we went.

I have learned a lot from this valuable program and have come back an enriched person; enriched with new ideas and a better understanding of the American people, culture, and government; the essence of "individualism" and the philosophy of "the pursuit of happiness"; the decentralized nature of the decision making process; the importance of freedom of speech, rule of law and human rights; the role played by civil society, associations and NGOs towards shaping policy; the role of the private sector in shaping the public or government sector: the private sector being the driver, and the government sector being the steering wheel of the nation.

The empowerment of women, minorities and other underprivileged groups in not just a bunch of laws that are written, rather it is a package deal of attitudes and values backed by those laws. The most interesting fact was the role of women in shaping the economy, how women own nearly 40% of small and medium enterprises (SME). SMEs are the backbone of every society. I look forward to seeing the effect they will have over future policies, governance, and the economy. It looks like a very bright future is in store for American women, and the United States. It's because America understands the true worth of a woman and grants her respect, because they know.... WOMEN ARE THE FUTURE.





# USTDA Supports Integrated Coal Mining, Power Generation Projects in Pakistan



The United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has awarded an U.S \$810,000 grant to Habibullah Energy Limited (HEL) to address critical power shortage and promote energy security in Pakistan under the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue.

The grant will partially fund the early investment analysis on a proposed 150 megawatt power plant and develop a detailed plan to ensure the reliable supply of coal for the plant from the Lakhra coalfields in Pakistan.

The grant document was signed in Arlington, Virginia, on September 12 by USTDA Acting Director Leocadia I. Zak and Managing Director of HEL Saeed Khan Peracha. The Economic Minister of the Embassy of Pakistan, Abdul Wajid Rana; Foreign Affairs Officer of the U.S. Department of Energy, Tom Cutler; and Executive Director of the U.S.-Pakistan Business Council, Esperanza Gomez Jelalian, were also present on the occasion.

Bilateral cooperation in the energy sector was identified as a priority area under the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue with coal and renewable energy development specifically recognized as key areas for cooperative efforts. The proposed 150 megawatt integrated coal mining and power project is a major private sector initiative that will help alleviate Pakistan's power generation shortfall, and advance the development of untapped coal resources.





U.S. DEA  
Administrator  
Declares  
**Pakistan**  
'Vital Anti-Drug Ally'

The Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Karen P. Tandy, on September 28, described Pakistan as “a success story in the global war on drugs” and observed that Pakistan is “America’s vital ally on anti-drug efforts.”

“The U.S. DEA and Pakistan stand shoulder-to-shoulder, and we are proud of our friendship with Pakistani law enforcement,” she told a gathering of anti-narcotics and law enforcement officials in Islamabad. “We are eager to build on our outstanding friendship with Pakistan and Pakistani law enforcement for the good of both of our nations.”

In introducing the DEA Administrator, the American Ambassador, Anne W. Patterson, noted that in her previous posting as Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, she worked closely with Administrator Tandy.

“I saw first-hand the outstanding work of the DEA under her leadership,” the U.S. Ambassador remarked. “Within the United States and around the world, the DEA has a strong record of success in dismantling drug trafficking organizations and bringing drug traffickers to justice.”

The DEA Administrator said that, according to UN estimates, the world drug trade generates 320 billion U.S. dollars and is the “single most profitable sector of transnational criminality.”

“To address this global drug threat, DEA works with enforcement agencies worldwide. In fact, we have a larger international presence than any other U.S. federal law enforcement agency,” DEA’s Tandy added.

Explaining the “sinister connection between drugs and terrorism,” Ms. Tandy said that the “monster of the Afghan opium trade” threatens not only Pakistan but the entire world.

“I have just come from Afghanistan, and I can tell you that we are having success in the vital attack on the Afghan opium trade,” the U.S. DEA Administrator added. “Together with our Afghan counterparts and Coalition forces, we are successfully identifying, disrupting, and dismantling high-level Afghan trafficking organizations, their leaders, their infrastructure, and their illicit assets.”

Assuring U.S. support to Pakistan in counter-narcotics efforts, she noted that “like the United States, Pakistan has been hard-hit by the problem of drug abuse.”

“We are here to work with you to keep the opium threat from flooding your nation with the misery of addiction, and to eliminate the very real threat of drug-funded terrorism,” she concluded.





# U.S. Congress Passes

# Ramadan Bill

This is HISTORIC for American- Muslims and Muslims around the world. This is the first time in history that the United States Congress will commemorate and recognize the month of Ramadan as the Islamic holy month. Following is the text of the bill



## **110th CONGRESS**

1st Session - H. RES. 635

Recognizing the commencement of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and commending Muslims in the United States and throughout the world for their faith.

## **IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

September 5, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. KEITH ELLISON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

## **RESOLUTION**

Recognizing the commencement of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and commending Muslims in the United States and throughout the world for their faith.

Whereas since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, threats and incidents of violence have been directed at law-abiding, patriotic Americans of African, Arab, and South Asian descent, particularly members of the Islamic faith;

Whereas, on September 14, 2001, the House of Representatives passed a concurrent resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia in the wake of the terrorist attacks;

Whereas it is estimated that there are approximately 1,500,000,000 Muslims worldwide;

Whereas Ramadan is the holy month of fasting and spiritual re-



newal for Muslims worldwide, and is the 9th month of the Muslim calendar year; and

Whereas the observance of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan commences at dusk on September 13, 2007, and continues for one lunar month: Now, therefore, be it

## **Resolved, That--**

(1) during this time of conflict, in order to demonstrate solidarity with and support for members of the community of Islam in the

United States and throughout the world, the House of Representatives recognizes the Islamic faith as one of the great religions of the world; and

(2) in observance of and out of respect for the commencement of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, the House of Representatives acknowledges the onset of Ramadan and expresses its deepest respect to Muslims in the United States and throughout the world on this significant occasion.

The Congress passed the resolution unanimously 376-0 on October 2, 2007.







# امریکی کانگریس نے رمضان بل کی منظوری دے دی

ہر گاہ کہ رمضان المبارک مسلمانوں کیلئے روزے رکھنے اور روحانی تجدید کا مہینہ ہے اور یہ اسلامی تقویم کا نواں مہینہ ہے۔ اور

ہر گاہ کہ اسلامی ماہ مقدس رمضان المبارک کا آغاز 13 ستمبر 2007ء کی صبح ہوا اور یہ پورے ایک قمری مہینہ تک چلے گا۔ اب، اس لئے یہ عزم کیا جاتا ہے کہ

- (1) اس پرفتن دور میں، امریکہ میں اور دنیا بھر میں اسلام کے پیروکاروں سے بیکجہتی کا اظہار کرنے کیلئے ایوان نمائندگان اسلامی عقیدہ کو دنیا کے عظیم مذاہب میں سے ایک تصور کرتی ہے۔ اور
- (2) ماہ رمضان کے آغاز کے احترام میں جو کہ صوم اور روحانی تجدید کا مقدس مہینہ ہے ایوان نمائندگان رمضان کے پرعزم آغاز کو تسلیم کرتی ہے اور امریکہ اور دنیا بھر کے مسلمانوں سے اس اہم موقع پر گہری عقیدت کا اظہار کرتا ہے۔

کانگریس نے 2 اکتوبر 2007ء کو قرارداد متفقہ طور پر 376-0 سے منظور کی۔

امریکی مسلمانوں اور دنیا بھر کے مسلمانوں کیلئے یہ ایک تاریخی موقع ہے۔ تاریخ میں پہلی مرتبہ امریکی کانگریس رمضان المبارک کو ایک اسلامی مقدس مہینہ کے طور پر منانے گی اور امریکی کانگریس کی قرارداد کا متن درج ذیل ہے۔

محترمہ ایڈمی برنٹس آف ٹیکساس (اپنی جانب سے، نیویارک کے جناب میکس، اور جناب کیتھ ایلیس کی جانب سے) یہ قرارداد پیش کی جاتی ہے جسے خارجہ امور کی کمیٹی کو بھیجا گیا ہے۔

## قرارداد

رمضان المبارک کے آغاز پر جو اسلامی مقدس مہینہ ہے جس میں روزے رکھے جاتے ہیں اور روحانی تجدید کی جاتی ہے امریکہ میں رہائش پذیر مسلمانوں اور دنیا بھر کے مسلمانوں کو ان کے عقیدہ کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہیں۔

ہر گاہ کہ 11 ستمبر 2001ء کو امریکہ پر دہشت گردوں کے حملوں سے اب تک افریقی، عرب اور جنوب ایشیائی نژاد قانون پسند اور محبت وطن امریکی، خصوصاً مسلم عقیدہ کے حامل ارکان کو دھمکیاں دی گئی ہیں اور انہیں تشدد آمیز واقعات سے دوچار ہونا پڑا ہے۔

ہر گاہ کہ 14 ستمبر 2001ء کو ایوان نمائندگان نے ایک متفقہ قرارداد منظور کی تھی جس میں عرب نژاد امریکیوں، امریکی مسلمانوں اور جنوب ایشیائی مسلمانوں کو دہشت گردی کے حملوں کے حوالے سے تعصب اور تشدد کا نشانہ بنانے کی مذمت کی گئی تھی۔

ہر گاہ کہ ایک اندازہ کے مطابق دنیا بھر میں مسلمانوں کی تعداد ڈیڑھ ارب ہے۔

