



# Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

September 2007

Published by the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad

- ▶ **Ambassador Patterson Visits Lahore**
- ▶ **U.S. Assistance for Flood Victims**
- ▶ **State Department Sponsors Girls' Soccer**





# Pakistani Students Depart for the U.S.

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy organized a farewell event for the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program participants for the year 2007-08 in Islamabad on August 1. The event was attended by forty participants of the program and their parents and teachers from around the country. About fifty young students from local schools were also present. The YES program provides scholarships to students aged 15 to 17 years to spend one academic year in the United States.

The program is intended to expand communication between the people of the U.S. and partner countries in the interest of promoting mutual understanding and respect.

Students live with host families, attend high school, engage in activities to learn about American society and values, acquire leadership skills and help educate Americans about their countries and cultures. Alumni and new participants of the program discussed their expectations and experiences of living with American families in this unique opportunity before going to the U.S.







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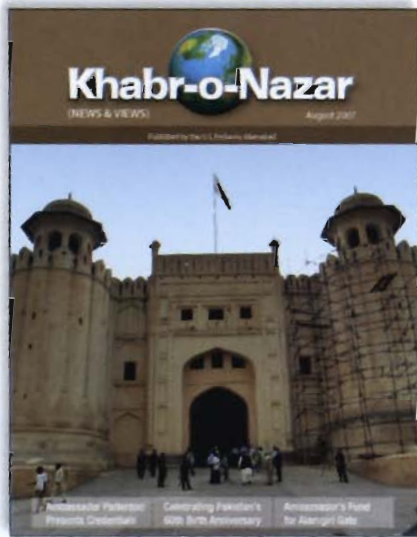
U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson with the Imam Abdul Khabeer Azad during her visit to the historical Badshahi Mosque in Lahore on August 1.

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# Letters to the **editor**



## Amazing Magazine

Khabr-o-Nazar is a beautiful, informative, and amazing magazine for us. I have been reading it regularly. This magazine has been contributing a great deal in strengthening friendship between Pakistan and the U.S. My father, mother, brothers, and uncle also found this magazine very interesting. Congratulations to you and all of your staff.

**Sardar Amir Tassidq**  
Trar Khal, Azad Kashmir

## Evolution of Khabr-o-Nazar

I am a working journalist for the last 27 years. As a regular visitor of yesteryears' American Center, I have keenly monitored the evolution of Khabr-o-Nazar from a difficult-to-hold tabloid to a well-produced magazine, which got better recently, more than ever. I deem that, instead of replicating the same in English and Urdu, more pictures can be used (as practiced, for a while, earlier).

**M. M. Alam**  
Karachi

## Unbiased

Khabr-o-Nazar is an unbiased magazine that presents the true picture of the United States as a democratic and secular country. It is a country where all people enjoy equal rights and dignity. I am proud of Pak-U.S. friendship.

**Obaidullah Sasoly**  
Chaghi



## Masterpiece

The center spread of the August issue was a real masterpiece, to say the least. Those rare historic photographs took the readers down the memory lane of the evolution of the various facets of Pak-U.S. relationship. I, myself, have been witness to the country's recent history but a couple of photographs including that of Jacqueline Kennedy had escaped my otherwise sharp eyes at that time (1962).

**Syed Ali**  
Sialkot

## "Khabr-o-Nazar" Goes Online

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

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

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

خبر و نظر



Khabr-o-Nazar



# Ambassador Patterson Visits Lahore

- Highlights Respect For Islam
- Terms Interfaith Dialogue Critical
- Meets Governor & Chief Minister
- Visits Badshahi Mosque



U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson visited a girls madrassa, Jamia Raheemia Taleem-ul Quran in Lahore on August 2, where she encouraged interfaith dialogue. (Standing left to right) Maulana Zubair Abid, Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema and Mushaikh Council; Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah; Ambassador Patterson, Mr. David Patterson; and Maulana Qari Abdul Hayee Abid.



## U.S. Ambassador in Lahore



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson meeting with the Punjab Chief Minister, Pervaiz Illahi, in Lahore on August 1

Punjab Chief Minister, Pervaiz Elahi, presenting a gift to Ambassador Anne W. Patterson



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson meeting with the Punjab Governor, Lt. Gen. (retd) Khalid Maqbool Siddiqi, in Lahore on August 1



U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson stressed that the "United States has great respect for Islam and its ideals of justice, tolerance, and peace" during her visit to the historic Badshahi Mosque in Lahore on August 1.

"Islam is the second largest religion in the United States and I look forward to working closely with Islamic leaders in Pakistan during my time here. Dialogue with religious leaders from all faiths is critical," stated Ambassador Patterson after she was received at the mosque by Imam and Khateeb Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad.

Ambassador Patterson inaugurated the Punjab Assembly's new Parliamentary Resource Center on the second day of her visit to Lahore on August 2. "Strong, vibrant institutions are essential for democracy in Pakistan" she said, and



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson with students of a girls madrassa, Jamia Raheemia Taleem-ul Quran. Ambassador Patterson is accompanied by Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah; Advocate Shakir Rizvi; Mr. David Patterson; Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate Bryan Hunt and Maulana Zubair Abid, Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema and Mushaikh Council.



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson inaugurating the new Parliamentary Resource Center at the Punjab Assembly in Lahore on August 2



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson with the teachers and students of Jamia Raheemia Taleem-ul Quran

further that "the Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Program demonstrated the U.S. commitment to assist the people of Pakistan in building such institutions."

Ambassador Patterson congratulated the multi-party steering committee and the Provincial Assembly Secretariat for their "strong interest in and support of" the project. The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and members of the Punjab Legislative Strengthening Program Steering Committee were also present at the event.

The Ambassador visited the girls madrassa, Jamia Raheemia Taleem-ul Quran, where she encouraged inter-faith dialogue. Maulana Zubair Abid, head of the madrassa and Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema and Mushaikh Council greeted the Ambassador Patterson on her arrival.

On her first visit to the provincial capital, Ambassador Patterson called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and Governor Lt. Gen (retired) Khalid Maqbool. She also met with religious leaders representing different faiths and schools of thought.







U.S. Charge d'Affaires Peter Bodde awarding a certificate to a training participant. The Director General of FIA, Mr. Tariq Pervaiz (right) is also seen in the picture.

Economic Counsellor Amavy Holman and a broadcast industry representative being interviewed by PTV

# U.S. Embassy's IPR & Cyber Investigation Training Program

"Intellectual property rights protection drives the growth of Pakistan's advanced manufacturing as well as its local software, biotechnology, and cultural industries," the U.S. Charge d'Affaires Peter Bodde said in Islamabad on August 18

The U.S. envoy was speaking at the closing session of the week-long IPR Law Enforcement and Cyber Investigation training organized by the U.S. Embassy for law enforcement professionals from Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), the provincial police, the Ministry of Interior, and representatives from the higher education and legal professions.

"This IPR law enforcement training exemplifies the collaboration between the governments of Pakistan and the U.S. to create a better climate for economic growth, innovation, and safety," Charge d'Affaires Peter Bodde said. "There is so much more that Pakistan can do to enhance its IPR regime and reap the full benefits of legitimate industries that are competitive worldwide," he added.

The purpose of the training was to provide law enforcement officials with the knowledge and techniques to investigate and prosecute Intellectual Property Rights related crimes. The focus was on the FIA's new IPR Crimes Unit which received training from the Department of Justice, Microsoft, and the recording and motion picture industries.

Mr. Bodde said that economic growth and protecting IPR go hand-in-hand. "The World Economic Forum reports that the 20 countries

with the best intellectual property protection were all in the top 27 for growth and competitiveness. Conversely, the 20 countries with the weakest intellectual property regimes were in the bottom 36 for growth and competitiveness.

"In Pakistan, piracy levels in cable television, music, and software are over ninety per cent. This costs the government more than sixty billion rupees in tax revenues. These uncollected taxes could fund education and infrastructure projects that would benefit the people of Pakistan" he continued.

"Protection of intellectual property rights is not just important for Pakistan's economic growth and development. It is also essential for your singers, writers, and movie producers to thrive," concluded Mr. Bodde.

Also present at the event was the Director General of the FIA, Mr. Tariq Pervaiz. He noted that "this is a new dimension of cooperation between FIA and the United States." IPR crimes "deprive the owner of legitimate profit, defraud the government of its rightful revenues and cause serious and irreparable damage to public health and safety. This training program could not have been offered at a better time," he added

With this training, law enforcement officials will be able to better investigate IPR crimes, especially related to the internet and optical disk piracy. The training presented best practices for evaluating evidence and bringing IPR cases to court.



# USAID Provides Additional \$1.6 Million for Flood Victims in Balochistan

Furthering its commitment towards humanitarian assistance in the flood-affected regions of Pakistan, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) have provided a grant of \$1.6 million to bring emergency relief to communities affected by Cyclone Yemyin that hit Balochistan and Sindh provinces in late June.

“USAID’s objective for disaster assistance is to preserve life, minimize suffering, foster self-sufficiency and enhance recovery,” said USAID/Pakistan Mission Director Anne Aarnes. “Our increased assistance demonstrates the American people’s support for the Pakistani families who have endured this disaster, and we will continue to monitor their needs.”

The \$1.6 million grant has been provided to non-governmental organizations, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and American Refugee Committee (ARC), to provide emergency shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene in the flood-affected areas of Balochistan.

“The USAID support will enable us to adopt an integrated approach for addressing unmet needs for dignified and appropriate shelter, potable water close to settlement areas, and sanitation options that can help reduce the risk of disease outbreak,” said Alex Causton, CRS Head of Programming in Pakistan.

Through its emergency recovery program, CRS is helping 2,500 households (estimated 21,000 individuals) in Kech District by giv-



Potable water being provided to the flood victims by USAID in Kech District of Balochistan on August 13, 2007.

ing them basic relief supplies including cooking utensils, plastic sheeting, hygiene kits and water filtration systems, and providing them cash for work.

Similarly, ARC will address the essential shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene needs of 12,000 affected families in the Districts of Kharan and Noshki, as part of its community-driven and economic enhancing approach.

The \$1.6 million assistance package is in addition to \$390,000 provided in early July that provided relief to over 11,000 households in the Balochistan districts of Bolan, Lasbela, Jhal Magsi, Jaffarabad and Naseerabad.



# U.S. To Continue Support For Pakistan's Education Sector

The new USAID Mission Director for Pakistan, Anne Aarnes, has re-affirmed that the United States will continue its "partnership with the government in supporting the worthwhile task of raising the quality of education in Pakistan." She was speaking at the 4th Inter-Provincial conference hosted by the USAID-funded Education Sector Reforms Assistance (ESRA) program at the Academy for Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM) in Islamabad on June 21.

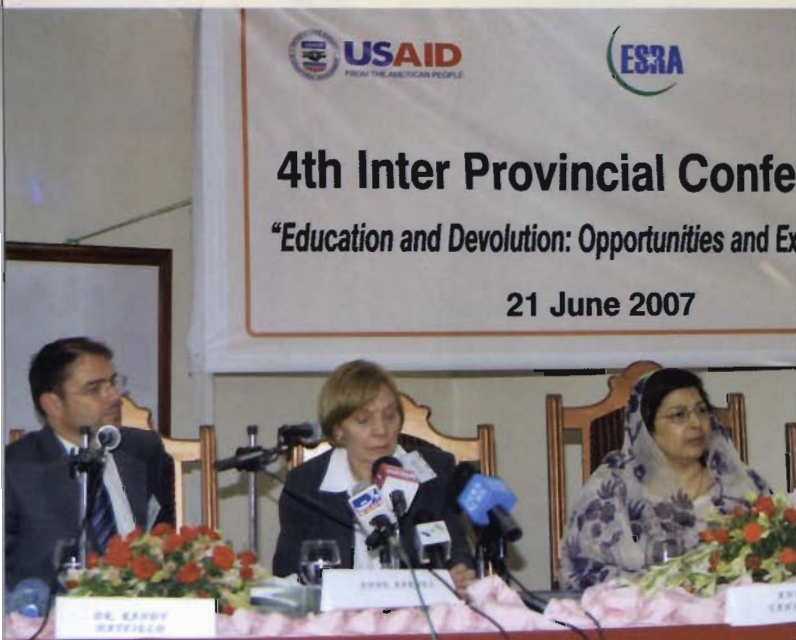
Director Aarnes expressed pleasure over the fact that USAID-funded education programs "have reached some very marginalized districts, communities and schools and most importantly, children."

Minister of State for Education, Anisa Zeb Tahirkhaili, who chaired the first session of the conference, said that "the overall objective of ESRA is to strengthen education within the devolved local government system adding that the program has been working in two provinces and across twelve remote districts of the country.

Sindh Minister for Education Hameeda Khoro also participated and chaired the concluding session of the conference. Education Sector Reform Assistance (ESRA) is a \$ 83 million program that supports the Government of Pakistan's Education Sector Reforms (ESR) initiative objectives.



(From left to right) Deputy Director of UNESCO Pakistan, Ms. Soo Choi, Country Representative of UNESCO Pakistan Mr. Jorge Sequeira, Director General of the Federal Directorate of Education Brig. (R) Maqsud ul Hassan, USAID Education Office Director in Pakistan Dr. Randy L. Hatfield, and Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University Dr. Mahmood H. Butt.



USAID Education Director Dr. Randy Hatfield, USAID Mission Director Anne Aarnes Minister of State for Education Ms. Anisa Zeb Tahirkhaili at the 4th Inter-Provincial conference on "Education and Devolution," hosted by the USAID-funded Education Sector Reforms Assistance (ESRA) program in Islamabad on June 21.

The Ministry of Education and UNESCO held a meeting in Islamabad on June 13 on teacher accreditation and certification as part of a USAID-funded "Strengthening Teacher Education in Pakistan" project.

The Minister of State for Education, Anisa Zeb Tahirkhaili while presiding over the meeting said that teachers are central to quality education. Without ensuring a mechanism for quality of teachers' own education, we cannot expect much, she added

She also stressed the need to develop a comprehensive policy framework and to establish a national body for teacher accreditation and certification.

About 50 participants from government, universities, and donors attended the meeting that discussed issues and steps to establish a system of teacher accreditation and certification in the country.

"USAID sees this initiative as a strategic move to further support the Ministry of Education in the monumental task of raising standards of teacher education and professional development in Pakistan," said Dr. Randy Hatfield, USAID's Education Director.

The USAID project "Strengthening Teacher Education in Pakistan" is aiming to revamp country's teacher education system in terms of policy, organization, functional and institutional responsibilities, content, and delivery at the school level.



# USAID Supports New Dairy Training Center in Lahore



U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission Prof. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, Governor of Punjab Lt. Gen. (r) Khalid Maqbool, and Vice Chancellor UVAS, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, at the inauguration of the Dairy Training and Development Center in Lahore .

As part of the United States Agency for International Development-funded Pakistan Initiative for Strategy Development and Competitiveness (PISDAC) project, Governor of Punjab, Lt. Gen. (ret.) Khalid Maqbool and Principal Officer U.S. Consulate Lahore, Bryan Hunt, inaugurated the Dairy Training & Development Centre at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) on August 3 in Lahore.

“The United States is proud to be a catalyst and a partner in the growth of Pakistan’s dairy sector,” said U.S. Consulate Lahore

Principal Officer, Bryan Hunt in his remarks. “We hope that the Center will produce educated and trained future leaders for this industry.”

“The establishment of such centers and institutes augurs well for Pakistan’s dairy sector and its development,” said Lt. Gen. Khalid Maqbool, during his address.

Also present on the occasion were Executive Director, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof. S. Sohail H. Naqvi; Vice Chancellor UVAS, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nawaz; Dean UVAS, Prof. Dr. Talat Naser Pasha; PISDAC Director Warren Weinstein; officials from UVAS, SMEDA, PTC+ Netherlands, HEC, Livestock & Dairy Development Department, National Rural Support Program, Department of Animal Products Technology, Dairy Pakistan; and representatives of the milk processing industry.

“Livestock is an important sub-sector of the agricultural economy of Pakistan and such centers not only help develop the sector but also add value to it,” said Vice Chancellor UVAS Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, adding, “the Dairy Training and Development Centre will help in research and training as well as develop formal partnerships across the dairy sector.”

The center will establish a modern dairy processing plant for research and training purposes for students, veterinarians, dairy industry personnel and farmers. It will help develop a formal partnership between academia and the dairy sector to ensure that DTDC is supported and meets the future needs of the dairy sector and other stakeholders in the dairy industry.

Pakistan’s dairy sector has received significant public and private sector investment since the formation of the Dairy Strategic Working Group (SWOG) by the PISDAC project. Support for SWOG and PISDAC is part of the \$1.5 billion in aid that the U.S. Government is providing to Pakistan over five years to improve economic growth, education, health, governance and earthquake reconstruction.



U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt speaking at the launching ceremony



# Accountability in Government & Business Protects All Citizens

By Nafees Rahim



The author visits the United States Capitol

*Nafees Rahim is the Deputy Director of the Auditor General of Pakistan, Peshawar Office. She participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) entitled "Accountability in Government and Business" from April 16 to May 5, 2007. The objective of the IVLP program is to develop and strengthen professional and personal ties between Pakistani and American professionals and their institutions.*



The author observing the New York City skyline

I am grateful for the excellent arrangements made by the U.S. Department of State and our trip organizers in the six cities that we visited. I was deeply touched by the respect and hospitality extended to my fellow participants and me during our visit. In fact their good attitude has made me a better Pakistani!

The International Visitors program provided me with an opportunity to witness the American values of liberty, equality and justice in practice. Mr. William L. Lee, Director of International Economic and Tourism Development, city of San Francisco, repeatedly stressed how much they valued individual liberty and basic human rights in San Francisco due to which they have developed a culture of tolerance in such a multi racial society. Though it is very difficult to develop harmony and peace among citizens belonging to various regions, cultures and religions but I must say that American beauty lies in such an achievement. People enjoy equal economic opportunities, a sense of security, and a culture of tolerance, equality and liberty. For instance the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a public sector department specifically assigned with the duty to check job discrimination by private and public government employers, was a really interesting place to visit. It is a commendable effort on the part of the U.S. government to protect the rights of its citizens irrespective of race, color and religion. It was pleasant to see that even the staff of the department we met was from different religious and cultural backgrounds, which contribute towards good policy making.

The accountability process in a country is based on the principle of protection and provisions of rights of its citizens. This principle, however, is seldom followed by governments of most developing countries. The judiciary is the supreme accountability body of any country that ensures its citizens their basic rights, yet it is equally important to keep this institution free of corruption. In New Orleans, two public sector organizations are doing a really interesting job in this regard. First, the Louisiana Attorney's Disciplinary board that checks lawyer misconduct; and second, the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana that is responsible for judges' conduct. Similarly it was exciting to meet the people working for the Organized Crime Strike Force Unit, District Attorney's Office, New Orleans, whose major achievement was the prosecution and conviction of former Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards. Efficient law enforcement agencies are, undoubtedly, as important as an honest judiciary.

On the first day of our visit, we were asked as to what we expected from this program. I pointed out that the role of NGOs and private watchdog organizations in the accountability process seemed interesting area to me since the civil society/non profit watchdog organizations are almost absent in Pakistan. I believe that the process of accountability is incomplete without the presence of non-profit NGOs which can provide free and fair information to the people and can strive/lobby for their rights. I witnessed a vibrant civil society and independent nonprofit organizations in almost every state in the U.S. that are doing a commendable job.



# Pakistan's Success is Important to Us: Boucher

Excerpt of remarks to the press by Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A. Boucher  
August 16, 2007 Islamabad, Pakistan

This, I think, is my tenth trip to Pakistan since I started in this job 18 months ago, and it's a good occasion to visit. It's been so far a very interesting visit. I was able to congratulate the President, the Foreign Minister, and the Foreign Secretary, and other people I've met with on the 60th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence. It truly is an historic anniversary, and the nation has come a long way and achieved a lot in those 60 years, and I think we all need to remember that.

It was also an interesting moment to come because the jirgas had just concluded among people from both sides of the border in Pakistan and Afghanistan. President Karzai, as you know, participated in that, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and, of course, President Musharraf went there just the other day. We think this was quite a success.

I'm also taking a little bit of time to look at the situation of the victims of the floods in Pakistan, the people that have been hurt by the tremendous rains and flooding in this country. I'm meeting with some of my own people to make sure that we are helping wherever we can. The United States has so far provided about \$2 million worth of assistance to the victims of the floods, and we'll continue to do that support.

I also came to talk with the Foreign Ministry -- with the Foreign Minister and the Foreign Secretary -- about [the] Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Pakistan. As you know, Deputy Secretary Negroponte, when he was here a couple of months ago, announced that he would be coming back for the Strategic Dialogue. We're going to do that in early September. Deputy Secretary Negroponte will come back, and we'll have our teams and the Pakistani teams sit down and talk about the very important issues in our relationship: the work that we do together to improve education in Pakistan, the work that we do together to provide economic opportunity to the people to Pakistan, the work that we do together to develop science and technology, the work that we do together to make sure that Pakistan's energy needs are met. Those are the four big areas, in what I think is, you all know, the United States' relationship with Pakistan.

I met with some people from the political parties and a number of election experts to talk about the upcoming elections. We looked to understand the outlook for the elections and different opinions and ideas that are around about how to ensure that those elections are free and fair. We certainly want to see the voters of Pakistan are given a credible choice and make sure that their choices, their votes, are counted in proper fashion.



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher meeting with Federal Minister for Interior Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao in Islamabad on August 16.

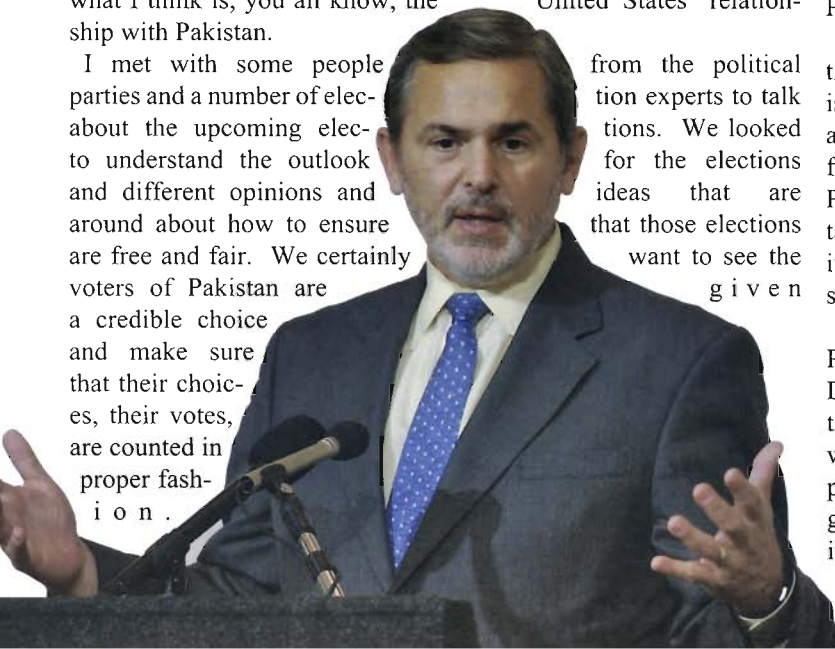
We want to see all the voters of Pakistan get a chance to make their choices and have those choices respected. So we know the President, the government, the election commissioner, others are pledged to a free and fair election. And we have a variety of groups and experts in programs here to try to help Pakistan achieve that goal.

I have also taken some time to look at the situation in the border areas, particularly the recent fighting in Tribal Areas of Pakistan and the threat to Pakistan as posed by violent extremists, whether it's from the direct attacks and horrible suicide bombings against government personnel and innocent civilians or the attempts to impose Taliban-type practices and rule on people in the Tribal Areas as well as other parts of Pakistan.

We've also talked about the development of those areas, giving the people in the Tribal Areas a kind of infrastructure they need: the roads, the electricity, the education systems, as well as economic opportunity that they need, and the education, health care for their children so that they can develop into prosperous participants in Pakistani society and in international trade.

In addition, we looked at the overall situation here. We have, I think, a continuing engagement between the United States and Pakistan that's very broad. It's very strategic for both our countries, and it's very fundamental for both our countries. It has to do with fundamental issues of safety and livelihood, opportunity and hope. Pakistan's success as a modern, prosperous nation -- that's important to us, and we put our money behind it, our experience behind it, and our effort behind that to help Pakistanis achieve that kind of success.

We have a very active dialogue between the United States and Pakistan because we are partners. In addition to my visits and the Deputy Secretary's visits, you are familiar with the phone calls from the Secretary of State and from the President. We have a relationship with Pakistan where when something's happening we pick up the phone or we come out and we talk, and we try to understand what's going on from the people directly involved in those things. I think it's a very healthy and positive relationship.





# Providing Information



*Mary Nell Bryant is Information Resource Officer for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia. For the last two years, she has been the State Department's Coordinator for the American Corners program worldwide. She has also served in Central America, Brazil, the Caribbean, East Asia, and Belgrade. A native of Miami, Florida, she is married to Lt. General Richard Kelly, USMC retired. On a recent trip to Lahore, she talked with "Khabr-o-Nazar" about Lincoln Corners, the role of libraries in the U.S., and about visiting the city again after 31 years. Here are excerpts of the interview:*

## **What is the concept behind Lincoln Corners?**

The concept of the Lincoln Corner is to build an American style reading room within a local library. We've done that both in Afghanistan and in Pakistan primarily with universities, but also with community centers. We have four each in Afghanistan and in Pakistan; with one more expected to open in Lahore soon. We're very pleased to have found good partner institutions. Libraries are very important institutions in the U.S. You'd be interested to know that there are about 35,000 McDonalds around the world and about 115,000 libraries in the U.S. and that includes university libraries, public libraries, company libraries, and school libraries. Virtually every community in the U.S. has its library. They are very prominent institutions and they have been since the start of the country in the early 1800s. They're seen as very important institutions when it comes to developing and maintaining democracy in the U.S.

## **What's the purpose of the Information Resource Centers?**

It's a combination of things: providing information on the U.S. and Americans as well as to serve as forums where Americans can interact with local people and discuss issues of common interest. So it's very much a partnership. It's not a way to advertise America; it's really a way to come to understanding with other people through discussions, talks, seminars. In fact I spoke at the Lincoln Corner in Peshawar recently on "U.S. Presidential Elections" to a wonderful group of students. Although the topic was America, the discussion leads to a dialogue on elections and politics here. It was very interesting and I'm looking forward to go there again.

This kind of people-to-people interaction is very important. That's the way American libraries operate. Libraries in the U.S. are not only places where books are kept. They are places where

there are discussions, speakers, different programs to educate people, to provide platform for people to share their ideas; to assist people in getting to know their local government. For instance, a local government may do a program on how to use its services. The library will have different reading groups, say, for teaching English free of cost to immigrants, or sessions to help immigrants get acquainted with the community and institutions. Libraries are no longer book repositories alone. If you look at the web page of a public library, you'll see an amazing list of services and activities for all the different levels, adults, senior people, reading groups for children. They'll often also help people to fill out income tax forms.

## **How are libraries in the U.S. financed?**

The bulk of their money comes from state, county, or local government. They have a lot of volunteers. They form groups called "Friends of the Library" which raise money for special projects, then there are book sales where older editions are sold to raise money. The Federal government also supports libraries, but not directly. Initially and even now, some libraries especially in the rural areas could not afford the internet services. So the Federal government passed legislation enabling certain libraries to qualify for reduced rates for telephone used for internet access. The idea being that everybody in the U.S. should have free access to the internet through libraries.

## **How are Lincoln Corners different from the libraries or IRCs that exist within U.S. consulates and embassies worldwide?**

The IRCs in the embassies and consulates generally have access to more databases purchased from Washington and are staffed by employees of the U.S. State Department, whereas the staff at the Lincoln Corner is an employee of the library or institution where it



# & Promoting Dialogue

exists. The IRCs serve separate audiences, usually government institutions; they also respond to press queries, whereas the Lincoln Corner is for the general public and university students.

## ***Do Lincoln Corners have a membership fee?***

No, they're free. We want them to be as much like American libraries as they can be. There's also no charge for internet access. Another thing is that like in American libraries, the books would all be out in the open, something we call open shelving. I've seen open shelving in Pakistani libraries as well, which makes me very happy. For me, the fun is to walk along the shelves and find an interesting book, a book you were not looking for. That's the joy of browsing. We want Lincoln Corners to be like that, where you can walk along and discover something interesting.

## ***Is Lincoln Corner a lending or reference library?***

Some operate as lending libraries, some do not. It all depends on how the institution where the Lincoln Corner is set-up works out a system. I personally feel that books should be lent out, especially works of fiction, or biographies. I am in favor of the books going out if a system can be developed to get them back. Except, of course, reference books, which do not go out at all.

## ***How important do you think these corners are for Pakistan and Afghanistan?***

I think they serve a very important purpose; that is getting people face to face and talking; seeing each other's viewpoints. So in their own little way, the Corners are providing a forum for people to talk and understand each other – Pakistanis, Americans, Afghans. That is particularly something nice about libraries -- that they are peaceful, tranquil places where people talk with each other on the basis

biggest impact can be seen in the rates of usage worldwide. There's great demand from local institutions to open them; more demand than we have funds to support.

## ***How much the average Lincoln Corner cost?***

The average cost of setting up a Corner is fifty thousand dollars. The running costs, however, vary.

## ***Has the internet had an impact on libraries and reading habits worldwide?***

Oh yes, it's had a tremendous impact in the U.S. You know, whenever a new technology is introduced, people are quick to say, "Oh, that's the end of the old technology." I remember when computers were introduced, people said that's the end of the paper industry. Don't we use more paper than ever before? When video was introduced people said it was the end of the movie industry. Wrong. Near Virginia, where I live, we have movie theater complexes that show 12 movies at a time. It's the same with internet and libraries. Libraries have made it easy for people to access their resources online from home. For example, I use my library card to access my local library online. I can look at e-books, search databases, find out whether a book that I want is checked out, or put it on hold so it's available for me when I physically visit the library. So, in many ways, internet has brought the library closer to people. So the opposite is actually true: there's been a real renaissance of libraries.

## ***Did you get a chance to do any sightseeing in Lahore?***

Unfortunately, not much. But I had dinner at Cuckoo's restaurant where we had a lovely view of the Badshahi Mosque and the Lahore Fort. It was absolutely beautiful at night. I'm hoping to do a lot more sightseeing on my next trip to Lahore. I didn't get a



Ms. Mary Nell Bryant, Information Resource Officer (IRO), Department of State, addressing a seminar on "New Information Networks: Challenges and Opportunities" at the Information Resource Center (IRC) of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad on August 1

of knowledge.

## ***What has the feedback been on Lincoln Corners?***

Oh we've had lots of excellent feedback. The most important feedback is that people fill them up, they read books, they talk, use the internet. They have classes, training sessions and I think the

chance to see the Shalimar Gardens, which I first saw when I was back-packing through Pakistan in 1976. But it's nice to come back and see all the changes. Back in 1976, I stayed for a week in Lahore, three weeks altogether in Pakistan. But this time I did get a chance to visit the Punjab University where the Lincoln Corner is being set up. I feel it's going to be a very nice place.



# INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP ECONOMIC GROWTH



USAID-funded Competitiveness Support Fund (CSF) and Pakistan Business Council (PBC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to identify public policy initiatives to improve competitiveness of Pakistani businesses. Witnessed by Consul General, U.S. Consulate Karachi, Kay Anske (center), the MoU was signed by CEO CSF, Arthur Bayhan (right), and Chairman PBC, Razaq Dawood (left) in Karachi on August 20.

## U.S and Pakistan Join Forces to Improve Investment Climate

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) sponsored Competitiveness Support Fund (CSF) and Pakistan Business Council (PBC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Karachi on August 20 to identify public policy initiatives to improve the competitiveness of Pakistani businesses.

Witnessed by the Consul General of the U.S. Consulate General Karachi, Kay L. Anske, the MoU was signed by the chief executive officer of CSF, Arthur Bayhan, and the Chairman of the PBC, Razaq Dawood.

“This partnership will ensure that Pakistan is better poised not only to understand the needs of the global market, but also meet them head on with a highly skilled and well-trained workforce,” said Ms. Anske. According to the MoU, CSF and PBC will under-

take joint initiatives in engaging the government, research institutes, academia and the private sector in developing evidence-based advice on changes to legislation relating to public policy initiatives.

The PBC will work with the CSF in achieving its objective of creating a more competitive economy by providing input into policy decisions, working to improve regulatory and administrative frameworks and enhancing public-private partnerships within the Pakistan. CSF is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Finance and USAID.

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



USTDA Awards grants to

# Pakistan's Power Sector

The United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) signed two grants with Pakistan on August 27, 2007 that are part of a \$1.4 million package supporting President George W. Bush's commitment to Pakistan's economic development under the U.S.-Pakistan Energy Discussions framework.

"These grants are concrete expressions of our commitment to Pakistan's economic development under the U.S.-Pakistan Energy Discussions framework," the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson said in her remarks in Islamabad on the occasion.

The first grant of \$325,000 to the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) will assist Pakistan in developing new electric power supplies through a detailed evaluation of a five to ten megawatt waste-to-energy power plant near Karachi. The second agreement grants \$263,000 to Pakistan's National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). The funds will support a review of renewable energy projects and recommending tariff-setting procedures, and changes to the legal framework of the renewable energy sector. Additional agreements for the remaining

amount will be signed in Washington, D.C. later this year.

Ambassador Patterson signed both grant agreements on behalf of the USTDA, with the Chairman of Alternative Energy Development Board, Air Marshal (Retd) Shahid Hamid and NEPRA Chairman, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Saeed uz Zafar (H.I) M., respectively.

"Pakistan's electricity market is expected to grow at about 7.5 to 10 per cent per year over the next 15 years as the country's robust economy expands. We applaud the Government of Pakistan's decision to use indigenous renewable energy sources such as water, wind, municipal solid waste, and other renewable sources," the Ambassador said.

Implementation of these power projects will assist Pakistan in meeting the growing demand for power and will enhance the nation's energy security.

These grants support the renewable energy priorities of the U.S.-Pakistan Energy Discussions, which President Bush and President Musharraf launched during President Bush's visit to Pakistan in March 2006.



Ambassador Patterson (center) signs grant agreements in the presence of (from left to right) AEDB Chairman, Air Marshal (Retd) Shahid Hamid; Energy Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mukhtar Ahmed; Secretary of AEDB, Brig. Dr. Nasim A. Khan; and NEPRA Chairman, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Saeed uz Zafar (H.I) M.



# Pakistani American Doctors Strive to Improve Healthcare

*The image of Pakistan and Islam has been damaged in the aftermath of 9/11. Is there anything that Pakistani-American doctors are doing to repair this damage?*

Our Association initiated discussions with the members of the U.S. Congress, and we are also making contacts with local newspapers and TV channels. We are exchanging ideas with the Rotary and Lions Clubs. We are presenting our case to the American people that 99 percent of Pakistanis are peace-loving people. In fact, it is a small group that is involved in extremism. But unfortunately, misconceptions have gained strength there.

*How are Muslims faring in the United States? Are they facing any obstacles in performing their religious rituals?*

No, they don't feel threatened in the U.S. I live in a small town and we have built a mosque and Muslims assemble there for Friday prayers. We also arrange lectures and recite the Holy Koran there. As private citizens, we have never experienced actions being taken against us. I, nor my children, have ever felt any discrimination or prejudice in the city where we live.

*Does the local administration in any way intimidate or threaten the Muslim community of your area?*

There is no Muslim-specific law in the U.S. As far as the Patriot Act is concerned, it applies to all. Both Muslims and non-Muslims are equally affected by this piece of legislation. My advice to all the Pakistani-Americans has been to take part more actively in local politics and visit their congressmen which will definitely earn them goodwill among the local community.

*As the President of APPNA, would you like to tell us about your association and its activities?*

Today we are working on three or four projects in Pakistan. APPNA has set up a rehabilitation center at the Rawalpindi General Hospital to provide artificial limbs to the earthquake victims who lost their organs in that catastrophe. We are also rebuilding a school in

that area. In addition to that, we have established a Basic Health Unit (BHU) in Abbottabad. Our Association is also busy in reconstruction of a school in the area of Kathai, and another school in Mansehra with the cooperation of the Citizen Foundation. Moreover, we are providing financial assistance to different individuals and groups on small scale. We have provided assistance and wheelchairs to disabled people.

*You have proposed setting up a training institute in Pakistan. Are you and other APPNA members going to offer services to train a students?*

When I came to Pakistan, I discussed this plan in detail with the Pakistani authorities. When this institute will start working, we would affiliate it with an American organization, so that Pakistani students could get a chance to come to the United States for training. Similarly, we have established a prosthetic institute and have sent our experts to assist the institute in making artificial limbs.

*Is there anything else you would you like to convey to our magazine readers?*

I want to dispel the perception that those Pakistanis who had



*Dr. Abdul Rashid Piracha is the outgoing President of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA). Born in Chaman, Balochistan, Dr. Piracha migrated to the United States in 1966 after earning his MBBS degree from Nishtar Medical College in 1964. With a membership of over 12,000 medical practitioners, APPNA is also striving to improve the healthcare situation in Pakistan. After immediately dispatching 100 doctors to Pakistan in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2005, the association continues to work on health and development projects in the country. APPNA has so far donated two million dollars in cash and over five million dollars worth of equipment for the earthquake victims. During his recent visit to Islamabad, "Khabr-o-Nazar" took the opportunity to have a discussion with Dr. Abdul Rashid Piracha.*

left the country earlier have forgotten their homeland or the well-being of their fellow countrymen. The reality is contrary to this. There are about 12,000 Pakistani doctors in the United States. Whenever they come to know that Pakistan needs their assistance or their services, 99 percent of them are ready to offer instant help. I visit Pakistan every year and I am amazed with the vast talent of this country. God has bestowed this country with so many brains, and talent is present in every field of life, whether it is medicine, engineering, or business etc. Therefore, I wish that Pakistan will make progress and become a prosperous country like the U.S. and other western countries.





Federal Minister for Privatization and Investment, Zahid Hamid, and Minister of State for Finance, and Chairman of the USAID-funded Competitiveness Support Fund (CSF) Omar Ayub Khan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support economic reform process for improving Pakistan's investment climate and enhancing its economic competitiveness in Islamabad on August 16. The U.S. Embassy's Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Amy E. Holman, also signed the MoU document as a witness.

# Improving Pakistan's Investment Climate: MoU Signed

The USAID-funded Competitiveness Support Fund (CSF) and the Board of Investment signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 16 in Islamabad. The purpose of the MoU is to support structured economic reform processes for improving Pakistan's investment climate and enhancing its economic competitiveness.

Witnessed by U.S. Embassy Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Amy E. Holman, the MoU was signed by Federal Minister for Privatization and Investment, Zahid Hamid, and Minister of State for Finance and Chairman of the Competitiveness Support Fund (CSF), Omar Ayub Khan.

"Competitiveness is the key to long-term economic growth," said Amy Holman while speaking on the occasion. "We are pleased to see that the Government of Pakistan's policies of de-regulation, liberalization, and privatization are working and providing concrete results."

USAID's funding for economic growth initiatives will exceed \$73 million, out of which Thursday's agreement reaffirmed U.S. commitment of \$12 million to continue generat-

ing economic success and reducing poverty in Pakistan.

According to the MoU, BOI and CSF will undertake joint initiatives to support the creation of a Foreign Investors Council of Pakistan (FIC) as a forum for policy dialogue between the Government of Pakistan and the Foreign Investor Community with a view to strengthening Pakistan in competing for international investment, promoting it as a preferred investment location and enhancing its industrial competitiveness.

CSF is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Finance and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). It supports Pakistan's goal to have a competitive economy by providing input into policy decisions, working to improve regulatory and administrative frameworks, and enhancing public-private partnerships within the country.

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



# State Department Sponsors Local Girls Football Club

The U.S. Embassy's Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, James H. Williams, said that in supporting Pakistan's efforts to develop women's football, "we hope to inspire another generation of young girls in the same way that young girls in the U.S. have been inspired by the generations before them."

Mr. Williams was speaking in Islamabad on August 9 at the send-off ceremony for the Young Rising Stars Female Football Club of Rawalpindi to the National Women's Football Championship.

Also speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister for Sports, Shamim Haider, said that the program will encourage Pakistani women to enter into the mainstream of sports.

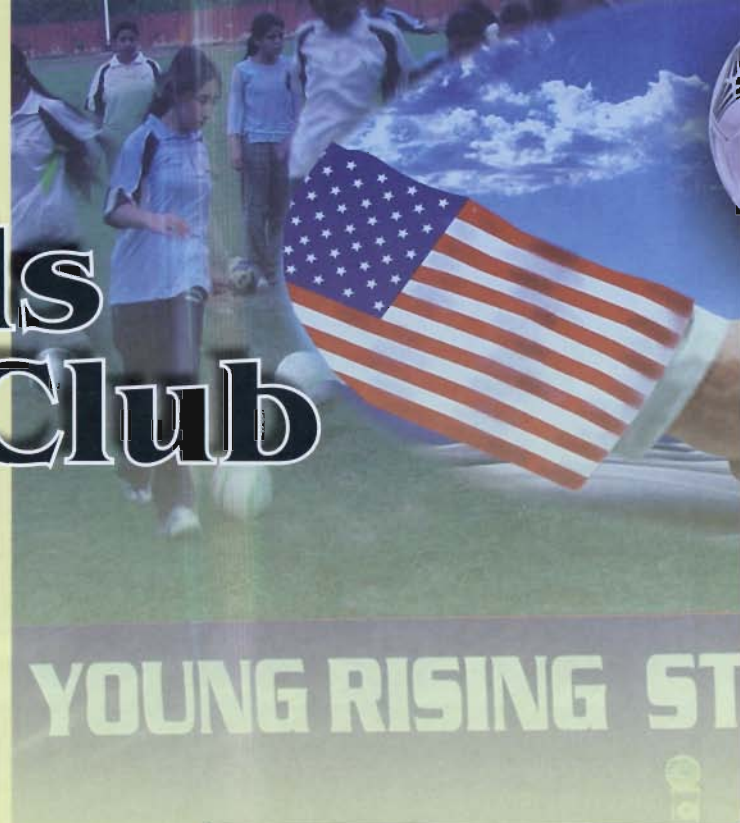
This youth enrichment summer program emphasizing football coaching, training and fitness programs is funded by the Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs and is intended for girls aged 12 to 20 from underserved areas of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

"Training the mind and body through physical fitness is an important part of being a well-rounded individual and often becomes a source of self-confidence that spills into everyday life," Mr. Williams told the group of young Pakistani women football players.

Minister Counselor James Williams said that working as a team was an essential component of success in the modern world.

The six-month girls soccer training camp began on May 15. Some thirty-six finalists were selected from a larger group through competitive local 'try-outs', drawing on a pool of over 100 girls from schools in and around Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

The President of the Pakistan Football Federation, Women's Branch, Rubina Irfan, and chief organizer of the football club, Ghayasuddin Baloch, were also present at the event.







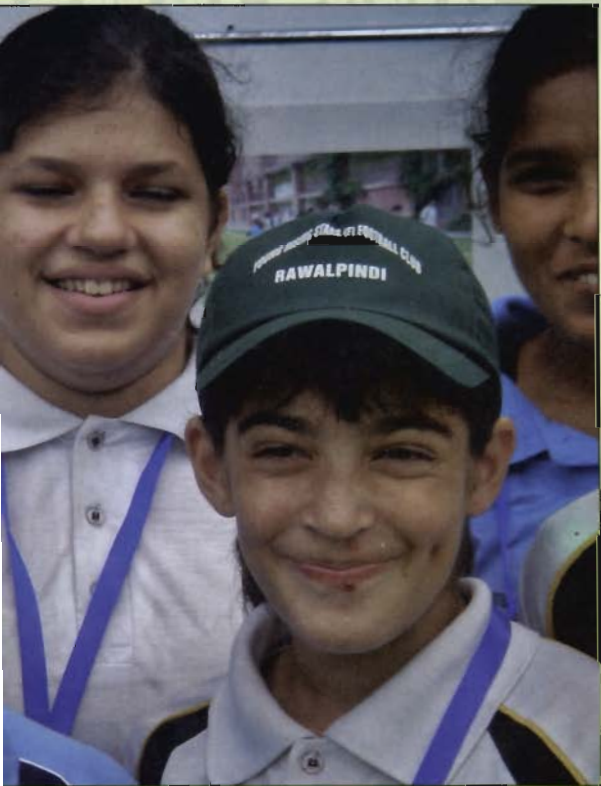
امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کی جانب سے لڑکیوں کے

# فٹبال کلب کی اعانت

امریکی سفارت خانہ کے امور عامہ کے منسٹر قونسلر جیمز ولیمز نے کہا ہے کہ خواتین میں فٹبال کے فروغ کی پاکستانی کوششوں میں مدد دے کر ہم امید کرتے ہیں کہ لڑکیوں کی ایک اور نسل کو اس کھیل کی راہ دکھائیں گے جس طرح امریکہ میں لڑکیوں کو ان سے پہلے والی نسل نے اس کھیل کیلئے ابھارا تھا۔

امریکی سفارتکار 9 اگست 2007ء کو یہاں راولپنڈی کی یگ رائزنگ اسٹارز فیملی فٹبال کلب کو خواتین کی قومی فٹبال چیمپیئن شپ میں شرکت میں بھیجنے کی تقریب سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ یہ چیمپیئن شپ 16 اگست سے شروع ہو رہی ہے۔

WOMEN'S (FEMALE) FOOTBALL  
RAWALPINDI



اس موقع پر وفاقی وزیر کھیل شمیم حیدر نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ پروگرام پاکستانی خواتین کی حوصلہ افزائی کرے گا کہ وہ کھیلوں کے قومی دھارے میں شامل ہوں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ مستقبل میں پاکستان کے نوجوانوں کیلئے اس قسم کے مزید پروگرام پیش کریں تاکہ پاکستان کے بارے میں مثبت تاثر کو اجاگر کیا جائے۔ نوجوانوں کی صلاحیتوں کو جلا بخشنے کا موسم گرما کا پروگرام امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کے مالی تعاون سے چلایا گیا ہے اور اس میں فٹبال کی کوچنگ، تربیت اور فٹنس کے پروگرام پر خصوصی زور دیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے لئے فنڈز انڈریسکریٹری برائے عوامی سفارتکاری و امور عامہ کے دفتر نے فراہم کئے ہیں اور اس میں اسلام آباد اور راولپنڈی کے گرد و نواح کے کم مراعات یافتہ علاقوں سے تعلق رکھنے والی 12 سے 20 سال کی عمر کی لڑکیوں کو شامل کیا گیا ہے۔

امریکی سفارتکار نے فٹبال کی نوجوان پاکستانی کھلاڑیوں کو مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ جسمانی چابکدستی کے ذریعہ ذہن اور جسم کی تربیت ایک متوازن شخصیت کا اہم حصہ ہوتی ہے اور یہ خوبی بیشتر اوقات روزمرہ زندگی میں خود اعتمادی کا منبع بن جاتی ہے۔

امور عامہ کے منسٹر قونسلر جیمز ولیمز نے کہا کہ مل جل کر کام کرنا عصر حاضر میں کامیابی کا جزو لا ینفک ہے۔ ایک ٹیم کی شکل میں کھیلنے سے قائدانہ صلاحیتیں بیدار ہوتی ہیں اور احساس ذمہ داری کا سبق ملتا ہے۔

لڑکیوں کی فٹبال کا تربیتی سمر کیمپ 15 مئی سے شروع ہوا۔ مقامی سطح پر اسلام آباد، راولپنڈی اور اورگرد کے علاقوں سے تعلق رکھنے والی 100 سے زیادہ لڑکیوں کے ایک گروپ سے ٹرائل کے بعد لگ بھگ 36 لڑکیوں کو منتخب کیا گیا ہے۔

پاکستان فٹبال فیڈریشن کی خواتین کی شاخ کی صدر روبیہ عرفان اور فٹبال کلب کے چیف آرگنائزریٹ الدین بلوچ بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔

