



Khabr-o-Nazar

(NEWS & VIEWS)

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- 
- ◉ **Senator Feingold Observes Life, Development in Earthquake Hit Areas**
 - ◉ **U.S. and Pakistan Cooperate on Economic Development in the Border Areas**
 - ◉ **Libraries Are More Popular Than Ever**

Diplomatic Activities



U.S. Consul General Kay L. Anske visiting the historical Chawkandi tomb site. Guide Ali Dino briefs her about the historical artifact on one of the tombs.



U.S. Consulate Peshawar held a blood donation drive to benefit the Fatimid Foundation, which assists children with Thalassaemia, Leukaemia and Haemophilia. The donations from Consulate volunteers helped give 96 children blood transfusion that they require to stay alive.

Table Of Contents



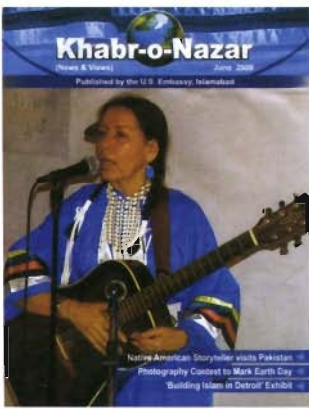
4	Letters to the Editor
5	Senator Feingold Observes Life, Development in Earthquake Hit Areas
8	Senator Casey Visits Karachi
9	Ambassador Patterson Reiterates U.S. Commitment to Security, Development in FATA
10	Strong IPR Protection For Innovative Economy
12	USAID Child Spacing Program Launched in Balochistan
13	Ambassador Patterson Addresses National Management College in Lahore
14	U.S. and Pakistan Cooperate on Economic Development in the Border Areas
16	Life in the West
18	“Libraries Are More Popular Than Ever”
19	Islamia University Bahawalpur Students Visit U.S. Embassy
20	Consul General Kay L. Anske Visits Quetta

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Cover
U.S. Senator Russ Feingold
visiting the students of the Dadar Girls
Middle School in the area affected by the
2005 earthquake. The school was
reconstructed with the assistance of USAID.



LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Informative Magazine

I have had the opportunity to read the May issue of "Khabr-o-Nazar." Through this letter, I want to congratulate you for publishing such an informative magazine. It definitely helps us to understand that how the United States is helping Pakistan in improving its various social sectors. I also want to be a regular reader of the magazine but I do not know the procedure for getting its subscription.

Advocate Gauhar Siddique, Lahore

Helpful

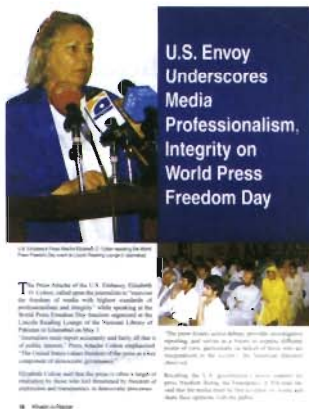
First of all I am very grateful to you for sending me "Khabr-o-Nazar" regularly. It is very helpful for students like myself who have an interest in knowing more about America. All the contents of the magazine are very attractive. I would, however, like to suggest increasing the number of pages and length of the articles.

Javed Akhtar Khaskheli, Badin

Good Reading Material

Thank you very much for sending "Khabr-o-Nazar" which provides good reading material about the United States. I would, however, like to suggest that some articles about the life and culture of the American society should also be included in the magazine. We also want to know about a typical village life in the U.S.

Atta Muhammad Sadda, Hala



Senator Feingold Observes Life, Development in Earthquake Hit Areas



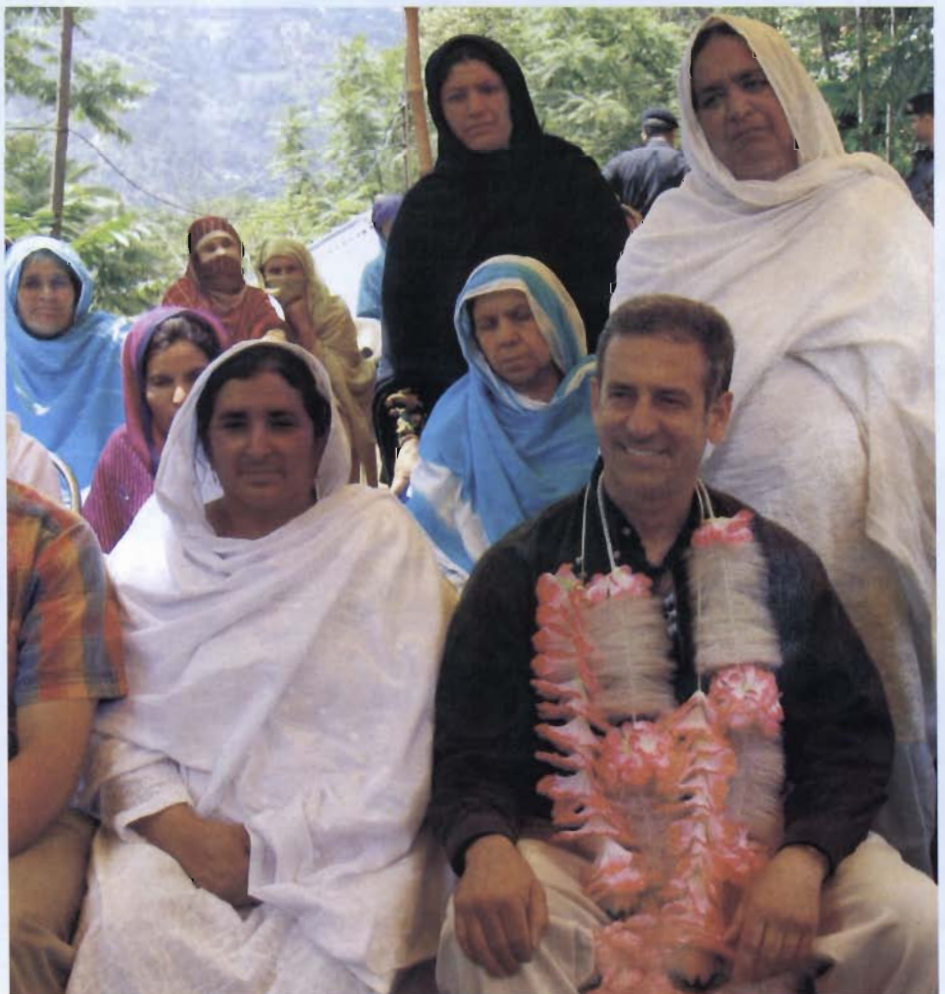
Senator Feingold discusses progress on the construction of the new Kana Mohri Girls Middle School with community members and school administrators.

United States Senator Russ Feingold visited several areas of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) to witness first-hand the life people are leading more than two-and-a-half years after the devastating 2005 earthquake.

“The people of the United States fully understand the suffering and hardship that the people of the earthquake-hit areas of Pakistan have endured,” Senator Feingold said while observing the current status of the development and rehabilitation work undertaken by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and its partners. “We are pleased to work together with the members of these communities to restore life to normal and help build an even better future.”

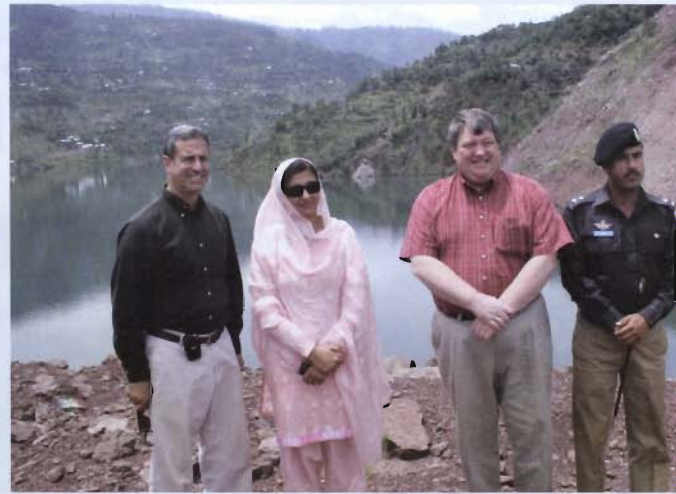


U.S. Senator Russ Feingold with the members of the Women's Dairy Association at the Kana Mohri Milk collection and retail point.





U.S. Senator Russ Feingold visiting the students of the Dadar Girls Middle School. The school was reconstructed with the assistance of USAID.



U.S. Senator Russ Feingold and U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Peter Bodde with Area Magistrate Ms. Tahzeeb-un-Nisa at Lake Lodhi Abad.

Senator Feingold Visits Ea



Senator Feingold and U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Peter Bodde visiting the Siran Valley Irrigation project.



Senator Feingold at the Kana Mohri Milk collection and retail point.



NWFP Governor Owais Ghani welcomes Senator Feingold at the Governor's residence in Peshawar.



U.S. Senator Russ Feingold with President Pervez Musharraf at the Presidential Camp Office in Rawalpindi.

In the morning the U.S. Senator visited the reconstructed Dadar Boys High School and the Dadar Girls Middle School and met with the staff and students.

In Siran Valley Senator Feingold visited a USAID-sponsored irrigation project and met members of the Water Association.

The irrigation project diverts river water into a previously uncultivated region of the valley and allows farming where it was previously impossible. The farmers are now reporting that they have increased crop yields.

U.S. Senator Feingold also visited the site of Lake Lodhi Abad which was created in the aftermath of the earthquake when a landslide encompassing the entire face of a mountain completely blocked the river below. The lake presents a striking image of the magnitude of the earthquake

The Senator from the State of Wisconsin, also known as the 'Dairy State,' visited the Kana Mohri Milk collection and retail point and met with members of the Women's Dairy Association.

"I am very impressed with the success of the Women's Dairy Association, not only in improving the lives of their families but contributing to the economic recovery of the entire community," the American Senator remarked.

Senator Feingold also visited the Kana Mohri Girls' Middle School to review the progress of the construction work.

thquake Hit Areas



where local milk producers demonstrated milk processing equipment.

Senator Casey Visits Karachi

Visiting U.S. Senator Robert Casey (Democrat-Pennsylvania) spent a busy day in Pakistan's largest port city of Karachi attending a series of meetings with the City Nazim, State Bank Governor, and business leaders. He also visited the International Container Security facility at Port Qasim, Karachi Stock Exchange and the Mohatta Palace.

“This port facility is a preventive tool in the global War on Terror that will make our borders safer and will also increase the economic efficiency of Pakistani exports,” Senator Casey said during his visit to the International Container Security project at Port Qasim.

In his luncheon meeting with the American Business Council members, the American Senator discussed the economic climate in the country with special reference to encouraging and promoting U.S. investment in Pakistan.

Karachi Mayor (Nazim) Mustafa Kamal also briefed Senator Casey and his delegation about the various developmental projects being currently carried out in the city by the district government. They also discussed the Mayor's recent visit to the United States on a State Department International Visitor Leadership Program.

The Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, in her separate meeting with Senator Casey briefed him about the recent measures the SBP has recently taken to improve the economy.

U.S. Consul General Kay L. Anske accompanied Senator Casey to the meetings.

The American Senator expressed his “deepest appreciation” for “Pakistan's proud and ancient culture and history,” during his visit to the Mohatta Palace Museum in the city.

“I am honored to visit Karachi, the cultural and economic capital of Pakistan,” Senator Casey said at the conclusion of his trip to Karachi. “In my meetings today with key financial and political leaders, I have been impressed with the city's vibrancy and its dynamic future.”



Visiting U.S. Senator Robert Casey being welcomed by the Collector Customs, Ms. Riffat Hassan, and other officials at the International Container Security facility at Port Qasim near Karachi.



U.S. Senator Robert Casey discusses district government development projects with Karachi Mayor (Nazim) Mustafa Kamal.



Ambassador Patterson Reiterates U. S. Commitment to Security, Development in FATA

“The United States has a multi-faceted and enduring relationship with Pakistan,” Ambassador Patterson said while speaking at the Levy-Training session, which is part of the U.S. assistance to Pakistan. “We are strongly committed to helping the people of Pakistan in our mutual fight against terrorism and to ensure that Pakistanis enjoy improved access to education, healthcare, and employment.”

The American Ambassador also visited the Peshawar University Lincoln Corner where she met with students and spoke about the U.S.-Pakistan relations.

The Vice Chancellor of Peshawar University Azmat Hayat Khan and Consulate Principal Officer Lynne Tracy were also present.

At the university the Ambassador noted the United States' strong commitment to supporting education in Pakistan. She said that a significant portion of the \$750 million U.S. support to Pakistan's FATA Development Plan will be devoted to building schools, training teachers and providing new learning opportunities for students.



Prof. Sehrai, Vice Chancellor Hazara University Dr. Ihsan Ali and Mr. Saleh Muhammad briefing Ambassador Patterson about local antiquities.



U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson speaks with students at the Lincoln Corner at University of Peshawar about U.S.-Pakistan relations. Vice Chancellor Azmat Hayat Khan and Public Affairs Officer Rya Miller were also present.

“The Peshawar Museum demonstrates the rich diversity of the NWFP and FATA's religious and cultural history,” Ambassador Patterson remarked during her visit to the Peshawar Museum with the Minister of Sports and Culture Syed Aqil Shah and Vice Chancellor of Hazara University Dr. Ihsan Ali

During her visit the Ambassador also met with the Governor of the NWFP, Owais Ahmad Ghani.

U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson stressed America's “long-term commitment to security and development” in the Northwest Frontier Province and the FATA during her visit to Peshawar recently.

Strong IPR Protection R

American and Pakistani participants stressed the importance of protecting intellectual property rights for the growth of Pakistani industry at a seminar co-sponsored by the U.S. Consulate and the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

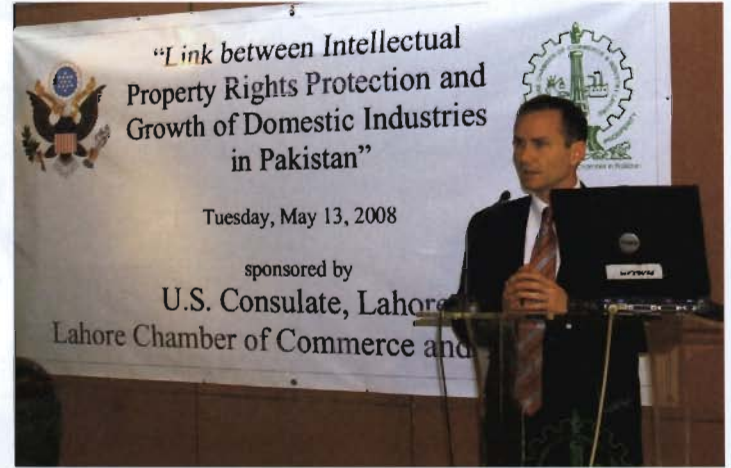
“An innovative economy requires strong intellectual property rights protections,” stated United States Embassy Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs Amy Holman in her welcome address. “Pakistan's innovative industries are doing well but could do better with additional protection.”

The American diplomat noted that intellectual property rights enforcement is necessary to protect Pakistan's rich cultural and artistic patrimony.

Economic growth and IPR protection 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. Countries that best protect intellectual property rights can attract more capital and provide more jobs for their people.

“Strengthening IPR mechanisms not only encourages foreign investment, but also allows domestic industries to grow,” said LCCI President Muhammad Ali Mian in his opening remarks. “Involving the public about the significance of protecting intellectual property through awareness campaigns can also help reduce piracy.”

The U.S. Regional Intellectual Property Attaché Dominic Keating also spoke at the event. Other speakers included: Hasan Irfan Khan, Attorney, United Trademark and Patent Services; Dr. Rizwan Basharat, Intellectual Property Organization; Sharmeen Ali Khan, Legal Counsel, Pfizer;



U.S. Regional Intellectual Property Attaché Dominic Keating speaks to members of the business community on the importance of intellectual property rights for economic development in the region.



or Innovative Economy

Muhammad Siddique, Pakistan Customs and Excise; Asif Ali Syed, Director Interpol and IPR, FIA; Mehboob Qadir Shah, Solicitor, Government of the Punjab; Shakil Abbasi, Registrar, Copyright Office; Ameena Saiyid, Managing Director, Oxford University Press; Moien Kamar, Advocate, United Trademarks and Patents Services; Muhammad Nisar Khan, Regional Investigator, International Federation of the Phonographic Industry; Arshad Mehmood, Director Programs, National Academy of Performing Arts; and LCCI Vice President Shafqat Saeed Piracha.

The seminar brought together government officials, students, academics, trade associations and members of the private sector to exchange views on protection of intellectual property rights and its importance to Pakistan's economy.

The seminar also discussed the economics of IPR, enforcement, government initiatives, copyright, and protection of Pakistan's cultural patrimony. Speakers made an impassioned plea for greater IPR protection, arguing that everybody has a role to play in ensuring that the creations of artists and innovators are not stolen.

The seminar successfully presented the economic benefits that Pakistan could derive from greater intellectual property protection and also highlighted the challenges still remaining. The seminar successfully presented the economic benefits that Pakistan could derive from greater intellectual property protection and also highlighted the challenges still remaining.



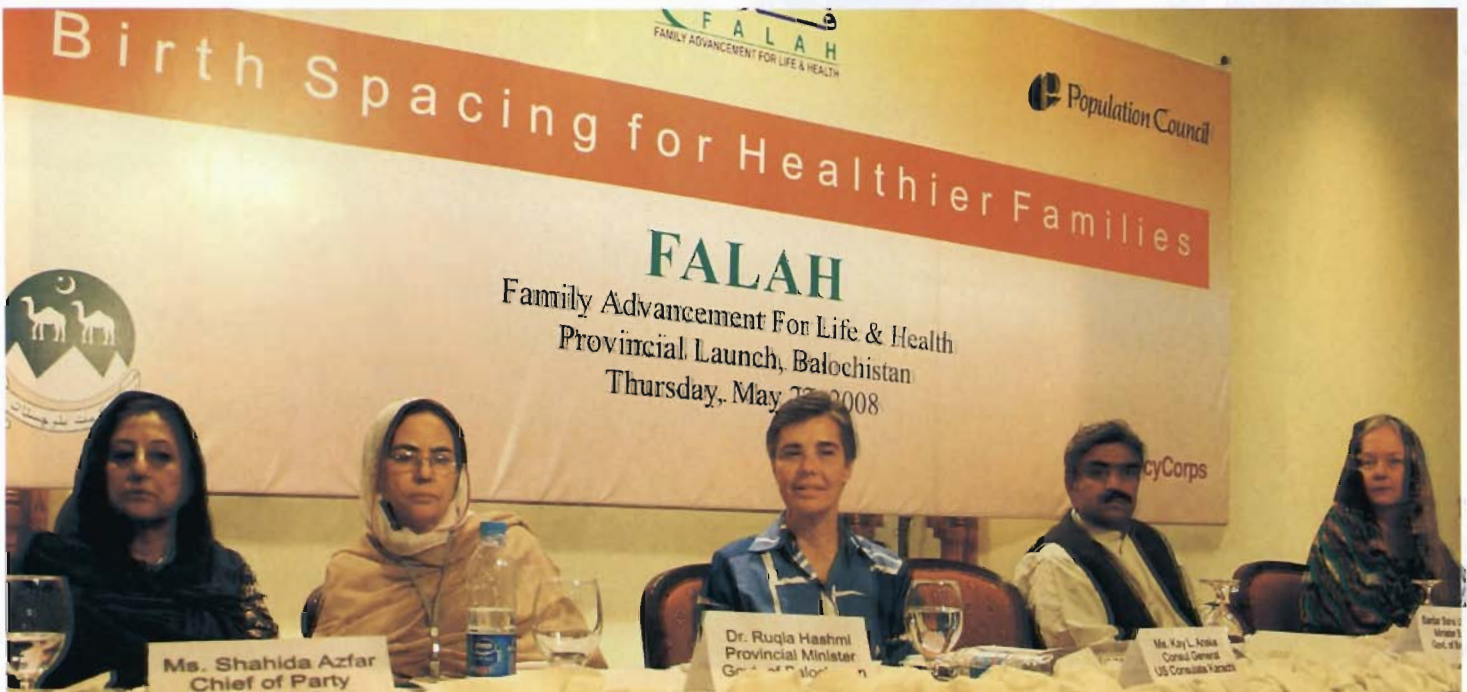
U.S. Embassy Counselor for Economic Affairs Amy Holman with participants of the IPR seminar held at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce.

USAID Birth Spacing Program Launched in Baluchistan

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Balochistan component of its five-year, \$60 million nationwide program on child spacing, called 'Family Advancement for Life and Health' (FALAH) in Quetta.

"The 2007 Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey Preliminary Report indicates that almost 50 percent of families who have one child want to wait for two or more years before having the next child," said Kay L. Anske, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Karachi. "FALAH will help them with spacing the birth of their children."

The FALAH program will be implemented by a consortium of organizations led by the U.S.-based Population Council. Incorporation of child spacing into family health programs will help reduce the high levels of maternal and infant illness and deaths that continue to affect Pakistan. Operating in 20 districts nationwide, the Balochistan component of FALAH includes six districts: Lasbela, Jaffarabad, Zhob, Turbat, Khuzdar and Turbet-Kech.



U.S. Consul General Kay L. Anske speaking at the launch of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) \$60 million Family Advancement for Life and Health (FALAH) project for Balochistan in Quetta.

Ambassador Patterson Addresses National Management College

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, lauded Prime Minister Gilani's "forward-looking 100-day agenda" while addressing senior bureaucrats at the National Management College in Lahore.

"The new government under Prime Minister Gilani has set forth a good strategy for continued growth and advancement," Ambassador Patterson remarked. "It is an ambitious program that offers dramatic improvements in the lives and prospects of people throughout the country, at all levels of society."

Speaking on "U.S. foreign policy formulation and implementation," the American Ambassador noted that accomplishing Prime Minister Gilani's agenda will require "political will and cooperation."

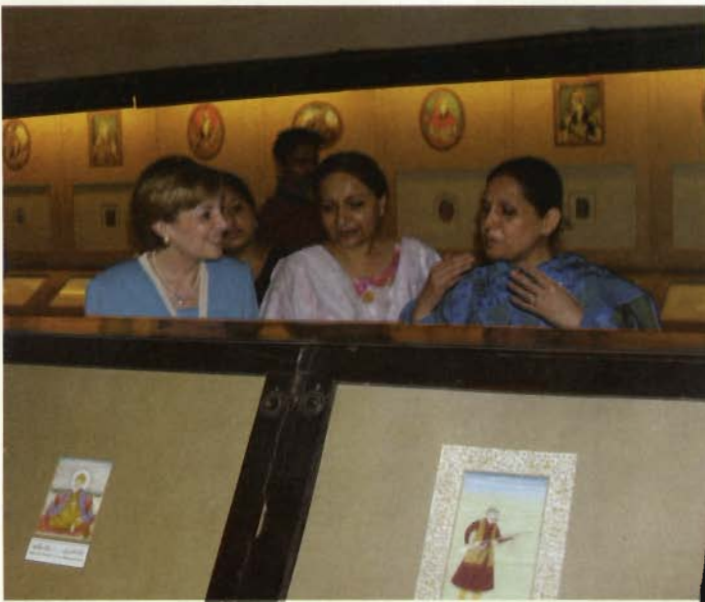
"The United States hopes to see all levels of the government of Pakistan working quickly and in a spirit of compromise to overcome the economic and law and order challenges that the average Pakistani faces," Ambassador Patterson remarked.

The American Ambassador said that as a long-term friend and ally "we are committed to helping Pakistan solve these problems."



"With dedication and good faith on both sides, we will continue to pursue those interests to the benefit of Americans and Pakistanis alike," Ambassador Patterson noted.

While in Lahore, the top American diplomat visited the Lahore Museum and also called on Punjab Governor Salman Taseer and Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif.



The Director of the Lahore Museum, Naheed Rizvi and Deputy Director Humera Alam briefing Ambassador Patterson about miniature painting.



U.S. Ambassador Patterson meeting with Punjab Governor Salman Taseer in Lahore.

U.S. And Pakistan Cooperate on Economic Development in the Border Areas



The first Reconstruction Opportunity Zone (ROZ) Forum took place in Peshawar in May to bring together representatives of the Government of Pakistan, the FATA Secretariat, FATA Development Authority, the U.S. Embassy, the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar, and the private sector. The purpose of the forum was to exchange information and begin a dialogue on how to plan for implementation of the ROZs after the U.S. Congress passes the legislation to establish them.

Participants in the forum also visited potential ROZ sites. Joint Secretary Jamshid Khan, Ministry of Commerce; Joint Secretary Muhammad Niaz Butt, Ministry of Industries; and Haseeb bin Aziz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented the Government of Pakistan. U.S. Embassy Economic Counselor Amy Holman, Deputy Counselor Mary Beth Goodman,



U.S. Embassy Deputy Counselor for Economic Affairs inspects a product sample at a marble factory in NWFP.



The Reconstruction Opportunity Zone Forum took place in Peshawar. Participants included U.S. Consulate Principal Officer Lynne Tracy, U.S. Embassy Economic Counselor Amy Holman, Joint Secretary Ministry of Privatization and Industries Muhammad Niaz Butt, and many other officials and local industry representatives.

U.S. Consulate Peshawar Principal Officer Lynne Tracey and Political-Economic Chief Michael Via also participated. Also attending were FATA Development Authority officials, local government officials, and local business leaders.

The group visited two promising ROZ sites near Peshawar and a pharmaceutical factory that draws the majority of its 200 female workforce from the FATA.

Local business people and Pakistan government officials were enthusiastic about the business potential and the employment opportunities for locals that the the ROZs could bring. Business leaders stated that a single additional textile factory, as one example, could create as many as 6,000 jobs through direct and indirect hiring in the first year of operation, with the number doubling in the second year. With statistics indicating that each Pakistani worker supports an average of six people, 6,000 new jobs could provide significant economic benefits to the region. Participants cited marble processing, medicines, vegetable processing, and gems as other possible industries interested in participation in the ROZs.

During his March 2006 visit to Pakistan, President George W. Bush announced that the United States would propose legislation to create ROZs. This measure, which is currently before the U.S. Congress, will permit duty-free treatment for 15 years for a defined list of goods exported to the United States from Pakistan's border regions and throughout Afghanistan. The goals of the ROZs are to stimulate trade and development, to create investment opportunities; to encourage greater cooperation and better trade relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan; to provide long-term legal employment opportunities for citizens of the border areas; and to broaden economic growth in Afghanistan and border regions of Pakistan by creating connections to the global economy.

In Pakistan, ROZs may be designated in the border region, including selected areas within the FATA and NWFP – including Peshawar, the earthquake-affected areas of Azad Jammu Kashmir, and 100 miles of Balochistan province measured from the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.



Life in the West



By Huma Khan

I am Huma Khan, from Islamabad. In 2006-2007, I got a magnificent opening to go to the United States. This scholarship not only helped me to share my outlook with others but also gave me a prospect to refine my thinking and leadership aptitudes.

My father is a businessman and my mother is a housewife. I have two sisters and a brother, and I am the oldest. Since I belong to a middle-class family, I did not think I would have a chance to go to the United States, but this exchange program fulfilled my dreams.

My exhilarating year started August 6, 2006. I was excited to be the first in my family to get a scholarship to study abroad, but questions flooded my mind. How will my host family be? Are people going to intimidate me because I am a Muslim and a Pakistani? I found that people in the United States are different, but here is what I witnessed about them: everybody was always in a good mood, giving smiles, passing kind remarks, and appreciating each other. All these acts won my heart and erased my misunderstandings.

I lived in Las Vegas, Nevada. My host family belonged to the Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). My host dad, James Williams, was a stage technician for a magician. My host mom, Polly Williams, was a part-time teacher. I had four host siblings named Andy, Emma, Noah, and Joey, ages 11, 9, 7, and 5. Since my host family were Mormons, they followed a certain diet, such as not drinking alcohol.

I thought people in the United States did not care about family values, but then I met my astonishing and indulgent host family. I felt that I was the luckiest person on earth because I was living with a family just like my own. It seemed to me that somehow I was related to this family and they knew all my needs.

My host parents asked me about my day at school every day, just like my parents asked me back home. My host mom did all the house chores by herself, as my mother does. My host dad gave extra care to his cars, just like my dad. Even the fights among siblings were as sweet as the fights I witnessed back home. For the first time I realized that families are the same everywhere.



Huma with fellow YES exchange students at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.



I attended Mojave High School, which has about 3,000 students. I was not sure how the students and teachers would treat me, but the whole school was eager to see me. Every student wanted to be my friend, and in a couple of days I was a luminary, whereas no one gave me importance back home. I felt special and was amazed to see how friendly Americans are. I found my studies easy. I was placed in 12th grade and I mostly had honors classes. Teachers were cooperative and were willing to help me solve every problem.

I did community service, which was not only work but training to develop my leadership skills and to meet new people. I went to my host siblings' school to help their teachers. I participated actively in my host family's church community service group.

I brought with me things that characterized my culture, like henna, clothes, decorative items, books, music, and currency. I shared my culture with the students from my school, my host mom's school, my host aunt's school, and church. I was dazed to see how fascinated people were to learn about me and my culture.

Besides studying and learning, I went ice-skating, sleigh riding, skiing, and snowboarding. Celebrating American festivals was exciting. I was amazed to see the fervor and zeal of Americans on Thanksgiving, Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and Mothers' Day. I was never left behind in any of the special occasions and was treated just like other family members. I had a fantastic experience of attending an American wedding of my host aunt. It was a fabulous event and a time to rejoice for the families of the bride and groom. I traveled to Washington, D.C., twice, Utah several times, Illinois, Arizona twice, Florida, California twice, New York, and New Jersey.

Every step I took in the United States changed me. I learned something new and interesting every day. The attitude that helped me most was willingness to learn and share as much information as I could. I decided not to waste a moment in the United States because it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. My country and my people need my help, and it would not have been fair to them if I had not put my efforts into learning something of value. I tried to be more proactive and more flexible, and finally these elements made me successful.



Pakistan Ambassador to the United States Mahmood Ali Durrani welcomes Huma in Washington, D.C.



Huma carving a pumpkin for Halloween

“Libraries Are More Popular Than Ever”

U.S. Department of State Regional Information Resource Officer Mary Nell Bryant, rejecting the popular notion that Internet had made libraries outdated and obsolete, noted that “libraries today are more popular in the U.S. than ever.”

Ms. Bryant was giving a lecture on 'Marketing Libraries: Using New Technologies' at the National Library of Pakistan in Islamabad.

“Along with Internet access, libraries have expanded their range of services,” Ms. Bryant said. “Public libraries offer movies, book clubs, art shows, concerts, lecture, meeting space, language classes, and even free help with doing taxes.” Ms. Bryant called upon the librarians “not to guard but promote” their collections by marketing their resources, services, and activities to the public.

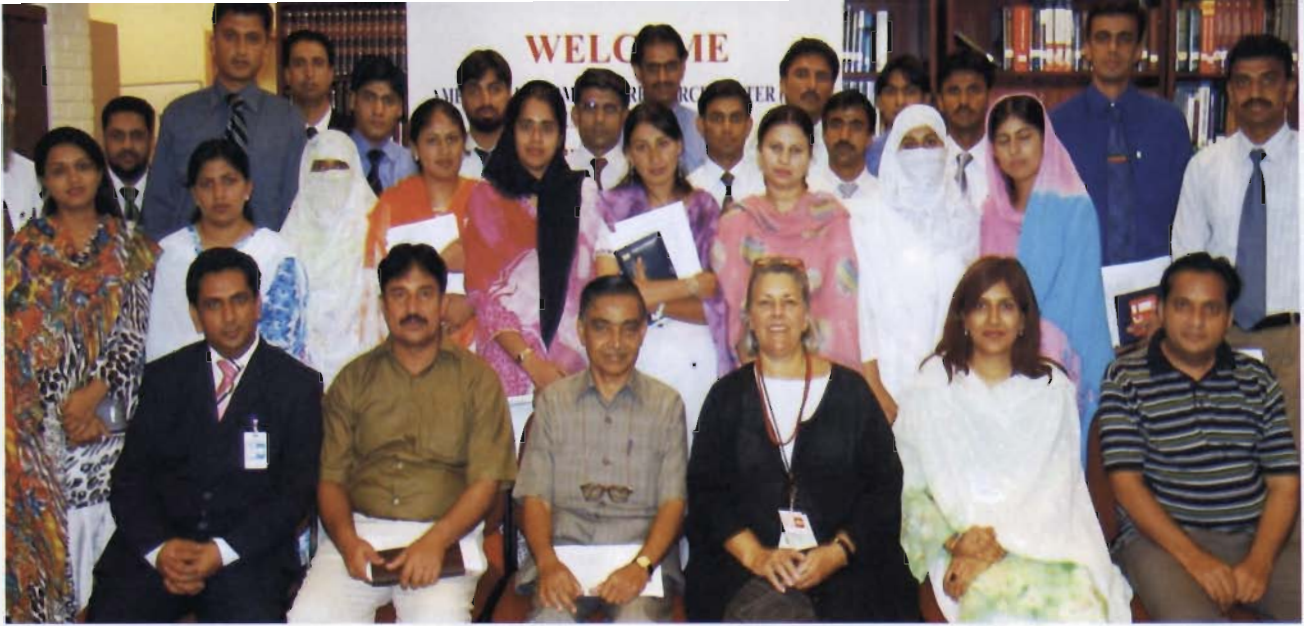


U.S. Department of State Regional Information Resource Officer Mary Nell Bryant speaking at the National Library of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion MNA Ahsan Iqbal underlined the important role of libraries by citing the experiences from his education in the United States. He called upon the information professionals in the Pakistani libraries to educate public and attract them to make use of libraries.

MNA Shakeela Rashid also spoke at the event and highlighted the importance of school libraries at the primary level.





Islamia University Bahawalpur Students Visit U.S. Embassy

United States Embassy Press Attaché Elizabeth O. Colton underlined the need for "reporting accurately and fairly all that is of public interest" while talking to a group of journalism students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur who visited the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

"Journalists must exercise the freedom of media with highest standards of professionalism and integrity," Press Attaché Colton told the students of Media Studies Department. "The United States values freedom of the press as a key component of democratic governance."

Noting that in today's world media and politics are completely interrelated, Dr. Colton said that the press is often a target of retaliation by those who feel threatened by freedom of expression and transparency in democratic processes.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman of the Department of Media Studies, Prof. M. Zahangir Kabir, thanked the U.S. Embassy for providing the students the opportunity to visit the American Information Resource Center and have a first-hand experience of the research and information facilities available there.



U.S. Embassy Press Attaché Elizabeth O. Colton addressing a group of students of the Media Studies Department, Islamia University of Bahawalpur.



U.S. Embassy Press Attaché Elizabeth O. Colton greeting Prof. M. Zahangir Kabir, Chairman, Department of Media Studies of Islamia University of Bahawalpur



Consul General Anske Visits Quetta

U.S. Consul General Kay Anske visiting the St. Joseph Convent Girls High School in Quetta. Sister Magdalene Bashir along with teaching staff welcomed the Consul General at the school premises.

The U.S. Consul General Karachi Kay L. Anske paid a three-day visit to Quetta from May 21- 23, 2008, and met with a variety of political and civil society figures and government officials during her stay in the provincial capital.

During her meeting with the women members of the Provincial Assembly, the Consul General discussed the role women parliamentarians of Balochistan are playing in the development of their respective constituencies and the emancipation of women of the rural areas of the province.

Consul General Anske called on Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Mohammed Aslam Raisani at the Chief Minister's Secretariat and discussed matters of mutual interest. She met with Inspector General of Police Saud Gohar, Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Zafrullah Zehri, Chief Secretary Nasir Mehmood Khosa, and Home Secretary Furqan Bahadur.

During her visit to the Balochistan Assembly Secretariat, Deputy Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly Mattiullah Agha briefed the Consul General. Ms. Anske also met with several political figures, including the General Secretary, Balochistan National Party Mengal (BNP-M), Habib Jalib Baloch; General Secretary of the National Party (NP), Mir Hasil Khan Bezenjo; and PML-Q's Rahila Durrani.

The Vice Chairperson of the Balochistan Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Surriya Ameer Uddin, offered the Consul General an assessment of the state of human rights in the province, with special emphasis on women's issues. Other civil society meetings included representatives of the Hazara community and a joint meeting with NGOs involved in local education programs in the province. Ms. Anske also paid a visit to St. Joseph Convent Girls' High School and met with the principal of the school.



U.S. Consul General Kay Anske at the USAID Launch Ceremony of the FALAH project in Quetta. Mr. Khan Mohammad Jamali, District Nazim Jaffer Abad, and Dr. Arif Noor, Acting Country Director, Mercy Corps, Pakistan are also pictured.