

Khabr-o-Nazar

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* U.S. Presidential Elections 2008

* Telemedicine: Public-Private Partnership

* U.S. Provides \$8.4 million Grant in Food Aid to Pakistan



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Richard Boucher, meeting with Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani in Islamabad. U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson is also present on the occasion. (APP Photo)



Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher meeting with PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad. (APP Photo)

Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher In Islamabad



Assistant Secretary Boucher and Prime Minister's Adviser on Interior Rehman Malik exchanging views during their meeting in Islamabad. (PID Photo)



U.S. Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher shaking hands with National Security Adviser Mehmood Ali Durrani. (PID Photo)



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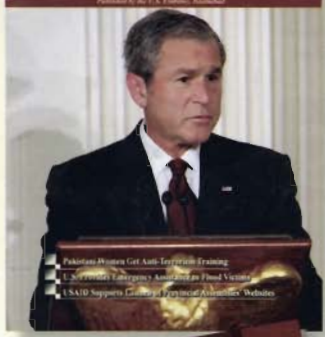
U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson and World Food Program Country Director Wolfgang Herbinger handing over a token wheat bag to Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture, and Livestock Nazir Mohammad Gondal in Islamabad on September 18 as an official acknowledgment of a grant to World Food Program (WFP) from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide support for a "Food Security Relief Program in Pakistan."

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Letters to the Editor

Accessible

This is to express our appreciation for "Khbr-o-Nazar" which is easily accessible to our students and teachers in our school library. I would appreciate if you publish articles on a typical day in the life of an average American.

Professor Cecilia Jawed Shaikh
Principal, Public School Sukkur

Useful

"Khbr-o-Nazar" is an informative and useful magazine which keeps us up-to-date. The recent visit of U.S. Senator Feingold to the earthquake affected areas to review the reconstruction programs shows the affection and mutual understanding between the people of Pakistan and the United States. Being a democratic and philanthropic country, American aid to under-developed countries to stabilize their economy and its efforts to eradicate terrorism from the world is highly appreciated.

Muhammad Himayat N. Hasan
Deputy District Officer, Karachi

Quite Comprehensive

I went through your magazine and found it quite comprehensive. I do appreciate your efforts and congratulate your entire team for publishing such a quality magazine. I expect that "Khbr-o-Nazar" will further the cause of promoting good relations between Pakistan and the United States.

Salahuddin
Member, National Assembly, Islamabad



The Presidents Meet

President George W. Bush shakes hands with President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan during their meeting Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, at The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. Said President Bush, "Pakistan is an ally, and I look forward to deepening our relationship... Your words have been very strong about Pakistan's sovereign right and sovereign duty to protect your country, and the United States wants to help." (White House photo by Eric Draper)

How the Electoral College Functions?



More than 100 million voters are likely to cast ballots in nationwide U.S. elections November 4. But only 538 men and women will elect the next president of the United States, and those elections will take place in 50 state capitals and in Washington, D.C., December 15. This indirect election system, called the Electoral College and devised in 1787 by the framers of the Constitution, puzzles Americans and non-Americans alike. It reflects the federal governing system of allocating powers not only to a national government and to the people but also to the states.

The Constitutional Basis
Excerpt from Article II, Section 1

“The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and

Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.”

- The Electoral College is not a place. It is a process that began as part of the original design of the U.S. Constitution. The Electoral College was established by the Founding Fathers of the United States as a compromise between election of the

president by Congress and election by direct popular vote. The people of the United States vote for electors, who then vote for the president. The National Archives is the federal government agency that oversees the process.

- Each state is allocated a number of electors equal to the number of its U.S. senators (always two) plus the number of its U.S. representatives, which is based on the census of population conducted every 10 years. Currently,



Democratic presidential hopefuls Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., left, laughs with Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., before the start of a presidential forum hosted by the AFL-CIO at Soldier Field in Chicago, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

the populous state of California has 55 electors, while a state with fewer residents, such as North Dakota, might have only three or four.

- The Electoral College now consists of 538 electors (one for each of 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 senators, plus 3 for the District of Columbia, the national capital, Washington). A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the president and vice president.

- The U.S. Constitution contains very few provisions relating to the qualifications of electors. Article II provides that no member of Congress "or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States" shall be appointed an elector.

- The process for selecting electors varies state by state. Generally, state

political party leaders nominate electors at their state party conventions or by a vote of the state party's central committee. Electors are often selected to recognize their service and dedication to their political party. They may be state-elected officials, party leaders, or persons who have an affiliation with the presidential candidate.

Presidential electors take the oath of office in December 2000 at the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston.

Presidential electors take the oath of office in December 2000 at the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston. • The voters in each state choose the electors pledged to a presidential candidate on the day of the general election -- the Tuesday after the first Monday in November (November 4 in 2008). The electors' names may or may not appear on the ballot below the name of the candidates running

for president, depending on the procedure in each state.

- The electors in each state meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December (December 15 in 2008) to select the president and vice president of the United States.

- No constitutional provision or federal law requires electors to vote in accordance with the popular vote in their state. But some state laws provide that so-called faithless electors be subject to fines or be disqualified for casting an invalid vote and be replaced by a substitute elector. The U.S. Supreme Court has not specifically ruled on the question of whether pledges and penalties for failure to vote as pledged may be enforced under the Constitution. No elector has ever been prosecuted for failing to vote as pledged.



In this Aug. 29, 2008 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, left, smiles as his choice for his vice presidential running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, pumps her fist as she is introduced to supporters at a campaign rally in Dayton, Ohio. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia, File)

- Today it is rare for electors to disregard the popular vote by casting their electoral vote for someone other than their party's candidate.
 - The Electoral College vote totals determine the president and vice president, not the statistical plurality or majority a candidate may have in the nationwide popular vote totals. Four times in U.S. history -- 1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000 -- the candidate who collected the most popular votes nationwide failed to win the majority of electoral votes.
 - In 2008, 48 out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia award electoral votes on a winner-take-all basis. For example, all 55 of California's electoral votes go to the winner of that state's popular vote, even if the margin of victory is only 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent. Only two states, Nebraska and Maine, do not follow the winner-take-all rule. In those states, there could be a split of electoral votes among candidates through a proportional allocation of votes.
 - Congress meets in joint session in January of the year following the presidential election to count the electoral votes.
 - If no presidential candidate wins a majority of electoral votes, the 12th Amendment to the Constitution provides for the presidential election to be decided by the House of Representatives. The House would select the president by majority vote, choosing from the three candidates who received the greatest number of electoral votes. The vote would be taken by state, with each state delegation having one vote. If no vice presidential candidate wins a majority of electoral votes, the Senate would select the vice president by majority vote, with each senator choosing from the two candidates who received the greatest number of electoral votes.
 - The House has selected the president twice, in 1800 and 1824. The Senate has selected the vice president once, in 1836.
- Since the first U.S. presidential election in 1788, the Electoral College system has delivered "the people's choice" in 51 of 55 contests, but on four occasions the Electoral College gave controversial results. Three of these elections, 1876, 1888, and 2000, produced a president and vice president who won a majority of the electoral vote but fewer popular votes than their principal opponents. In 1824, there was no Electoral College majority, and the House of Representatives elected the president.

Source: The National Archives



Students and faculty at the Alabama Southern Community College listening to Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain (not in the picture) during a "Time for Action" campaign stop, Monday, April 21, 2008 in Thomasville, Ala. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

“Youthquake” Expected

Young Americans are changing face of politics, news media

Washington — It is a historic presidential election, no matter what the outcome: Either an African American or a woman will be elected to one of the United States’ top two elected positions for the first time. But 18- to 29-year-olds also will be making history, as they turn out to vote in numbers projected to set new records.

Youth voting and increased youth engagement in the 2008 election process were the topic of a forum in Washington. It was sponsored by American University and held on October 14. Panelists discussed “Youthquake ’08: How Millennials are Shaking Up the Media, Mavericks, and History-Makers This Election.”

Moderator Jane Hall, a professor at the university, asked the crowd: “How many of you plan to vote? How many

think your vote will matter?” The audience, mostly students, responded with loud cheers and clapping.

Panelists talked for an hour about new media and political participation, but they were most emphatic about voting. “Voting is the main power we have in a democracy,” said James Kotecki, video blogger for the Politico Web site.

Heather Smith, executive director of Rock the Vote, also spoke about the strength of a vote. “It gives power to leverage for change we want in our lives,” Smith said. Rock the Vote is a national organization dedicated to getting young people involved politically.

“I’ve got a feeling election officials and politicians are going to hear you pretty loud,” said Cornell Belcher, a

Democratic pollster.

Election officials, candidates and the public already have gotten a preview of a more youthful Election Day. The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University put turnout in 2008 primary elections among 18- to 29-year-olds at double the national average in 2004. In some places, primary turnout was triple that of the last presidential election.

The increased turnout among young voters “really changed the face of the electorate in the primary process,” Belcher said.

According to Rock the Vote, the millennial generation (those born between 1980 and 2000) numbers 44 million, the largest generation in history. They constitute more than

one-fifth of the American electorate. Researchers and the news media expect a surge in youth voting in November.

Young voters frequently turn to new media and new technology to get and share information about candidates and issues. "It's cool to talk about politics," Smith said.

Young voters can bring the discussion to the Web through videos, podcasts and other applications. Kotecki got his start as an undergraduate at Georgetown University preparing two-minute video commentaries in his dorm room on the use of YouTube in the presidential campaign.

Kotecki landed the first dorm-room interview with then-candidate Ron Paul, a Republican from Texas. "You don't have to use mainstream media

to push the envelope and take risks," Kotecki said.

Emily Freifeld makes a living in new media. As a multimedia producer on the politics desk at washingtonpost.com, she is thinking constantly about how to build a package, integrating video, sound, pictures and text around the latest political news. She said there is a hunger for the "story behind a story" — what the reporter sees and hears but does not always have space to talk about in traditional news outlets.

Rock the Vote also uses new media and technology to reach out to young voters. The organization recently partnered with ChaCha, a mobile answers service, to provide answers about voting and polling via text message.

POST-PARTISANSHIP

Kotecki said party politics are not a top concern for young voters. "Our generation has been steeped in a very partisan political environment," he said, terming the condition "post-partisanship."

Others had a different take.

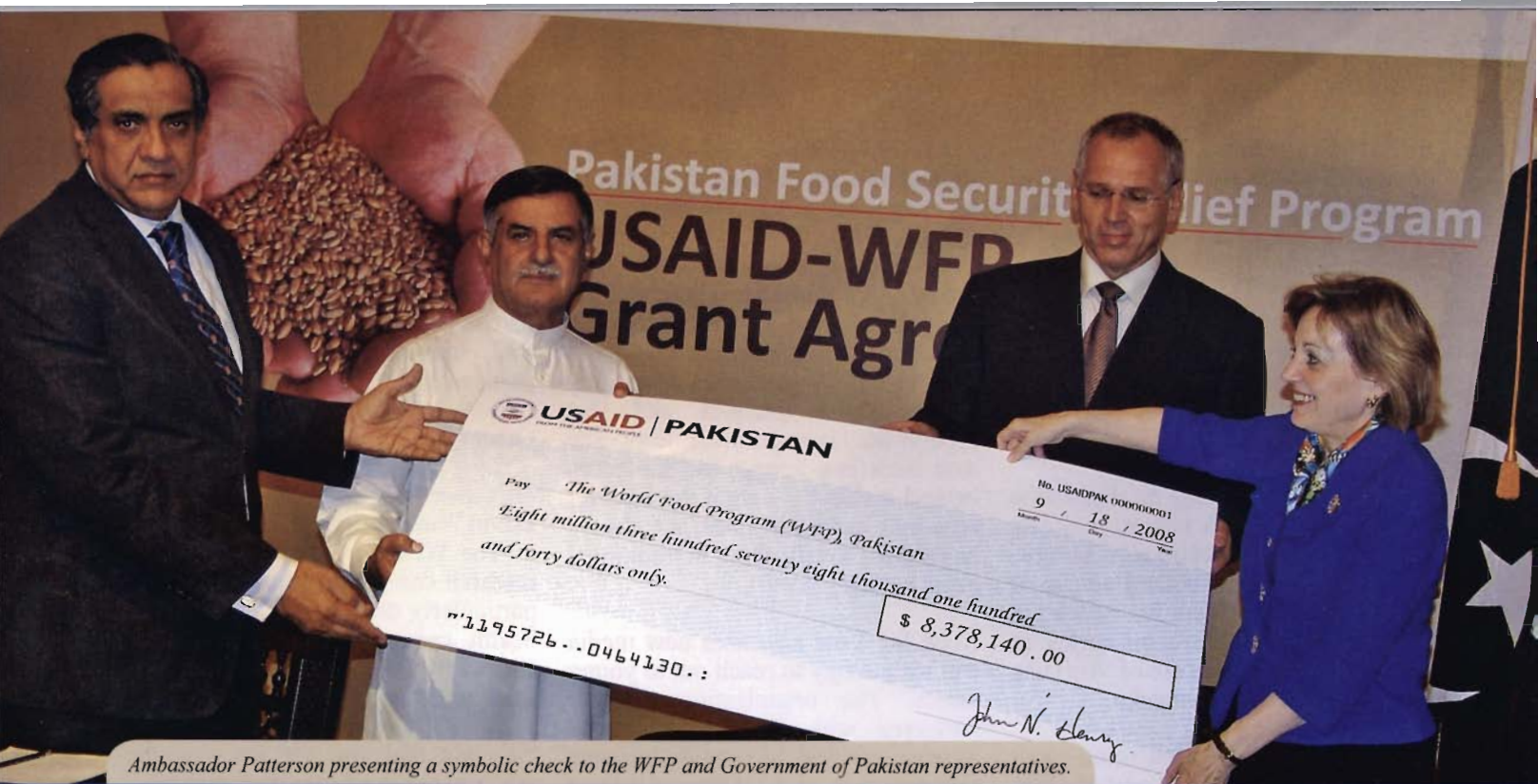
"It's about engaging the group," said David Winston, president and founder of The Winston Group, a marketing research company. Young voters are particularly dedicated to causes, like health care and education reform, and want to elect the person that they think will support their goal.

"It's not that you are for someone who's about saving the environment," Belcher said. "You want to save the environment."

in 2008 U.S. Election



Supporters for Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., cheer as Obama speaks during a campaign rally at the University of Maryland Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, in College Park, Md. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)



Ambassador Patterson presenting a symbolic check to the WFP and Government of Pakistan representatives.

Food Crisis in Pakistan U.S. Provides \$8.4 mil



The United States of America, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations World Food Program in Pakistan, signed an agreement valued at \$8.4 million to help ease Pakistan's food crisis. U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson speaking at the launching ceremony on September 18 in Islamabad said that "this program will benefit thousands of Pakistanis" who are affected by the rising price of basic food items.

"I am particularly pleased that many of those who will benefit from this food aid are Pakistani school children."

Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Nazar Muhammad Gondal represented the Government of Pakistan during the official announcement ceremony.

The United States will grant this sum to the World Food Program (WFP) and other UN agencies to provide approximately 11,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat to over



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson signs the Certificate of Commemoration while USAID Pakistan Mission Director Anne Aarnes and Federal Minister Nazar Mohammad Gondal look on.

as an incentive to the families to keep their children in school during what is traditionally an economically difficult period for poor Pakistani families.

The distribution of the wheat is tied to the WFP/UNESCO School Food Program. Under this program, families that keep their children enrolled in school receive four liters of edible oil. WFP and UNESCO will add the wheat distribution to this program. On "School Days" parents will go to the selected schools, receive training in basic health practices, the effective use of the food rations, and are encouraged to keep their children enrolled in school. This food aid will benefit 238,500 households and 265,000 boy and girl students in NWFP and Balochistan.

1.6 Billion Grant in Food Aid

1,600,000 Pakistanis, including students in 3200 schools.

WFP began distributing the food aid in 12 districts of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Baluchistan. Residents in these areas have been identified by WFP as being among the most vulnerable, as a result of the sharp increases in food prices this past year.

WFP Country Director in Pakistan Wolfgang Herbinger thanked the U.S. for its support and partnership in protecting scores of Pakistani school children and families suffering from this sudden hike in food prices worldwide."

The WFP, UNESCO, GOP and the provincial education departments and schools will work together to organize special "School Days" involving parents, teachers, and students. Food staples, including 50-kilogram bags of wheat, will be distributed to families three times, between now and the beginning of the next wheat harvest in March and April of 2009. These "take home" rations will serve



American Diplomat Presents



Consul General Kay L. Anske cheering up a child admitted at the NICH.

Toys to Children at NICH



U.S. Consul General Kay L. Anske presenting toys to a relative of the child admitted at the NICH in Karachi.

U.S. Consul General in Karachi Kay L. Anske presented toys to children admitted at the National Institute of Child Health, Jinnah Post Graduate Medical University and Hospital on October 11 and emphasized that “it is through care, love, affection, and fun that we nurture these young minds.”

The American Women’s Club and the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi donated the toys and organized the distribution to share Eid festivities with 250 hospitalized children.

Appreciating the services at the children’s hospital, the U.S. Consul General said that she was pleased to spend some time with the children here.

U.S. Consulate Lahore Shares Ramadan Spirit with Children



Following three consecutive days of presentations for children, Public Affairs Officer Traci Mell headed off to Shadawal, an underprivileged area of Lahore, where the Consulate gifted flour bags, oil, and sugar for 150 needy families.

“Islam is a source of profound strength and guidance for millions of Muslims across Pakistan and throughout the world,” stated PAO Mell. “I am honored to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan with the Seeds of Peace students and the

U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt presenting Ramadan gifts to a student of Jamia Maqsoodia in Lahore on September 25. Also seen in the picture are Public Affairs Officer Traci Mell and the Madressah Administrator.

The young boys at Lahore’s Jamia Maqsoodia were all smiles as they received gift bags containing school supplies, juices, crisps and candy – a Ramadan gift from the U.S. Consulate. For many, it was the first time they had met an American, let alone hear one speak in Urdu.

“The holy month of Ramadan is a time of fasting, prayer and service. It brings with it the spirit of sharing; and what could be better than sharing joy with children,” remarked U.S. Consulate Principal Officer Bryan Hunt as he handed out gift bags to the children.

In addition to hosting a series of Iftar-dinners for a cross-section of Lahorites, the U.S. Consulate this year presented Ramadan gifts to more than 650 children at the Darul Shafqat boys’ and girls’ orphanages, SOS Village and Jamia Maqsoodia. Children at SOS Village also included survivors of the October 2005 earthquake.

“I hope the children enjoy these gifts,” remarked Mr. Hunt, and it was evident that they did based on the number of smiles and giggles from the children as they opened their gift bags.

Pakistani community.”

The U.S. Consulate received a helping hand from Pakistani alumni of the Seeds of Peace program, who organized the event. Seeds of Peace is a New York-based non-governmental, non-political organization founded in 1993.

The program brings together children from various conflict regions for six weeks of activities designed to promote peacemaking and conflict resolution skills.

Joint Statement

United States-Pakistan Strategic Partnership

Statement follows third round of United States-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue

Following is the text of a joint statement issued by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte and Pakistan Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi following the third round of the United States-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, held September 29, 2008, at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. The United States-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue was last held in Islamabad, Pakistan, in September 2007.

Deputy Secretary Negroponte and Foreign Minister Qureshi reaffirmed their commitments to a wide-ranging, substantive, and long-term strategic partnership between the United States and Pakistan, which is based on shared values and a common effort to promote the enduring peace, security, stability, freedom, and prosperity of Pakistan and of the region. Both sides exchanged views on ways to deepen their bilateral cooperation and to make the Strategic Dialogue more effective and productive.

The United States and Pakistan both strongly condemned the terrorist attack at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, on 20 September. Both Deputy Secretary Negroponte and Foreign Minister Qureshi offered their condolences to the families of all of those lost in the vicious attack. They acknowledged that terrorism and

violent extremism pose a common threat to Pakistan, the United States, and the international community.

The United States affirmed its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity. The United States is dedicated to providing Pakistan with the training and equipment it needs to fight terrorism, including support to enhance Pakistan's counterinsurgency and counterterrorism capabilities and increased cooperation with Pakistani security forces. Both sides renewed their intention to work together to combat the threat of terrorism and violent extremism by expanding security cooperation, and to work together to develop and modernize the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Pakistan expressed its appreciation for the \$4 million the U.S. has committed for flood relief and for humanitarian

assistance to those displaced by fighting in Bajaur.

During the Strategic Dialogue, the two sides discussed regional and international issues of common interest. The U.S. expressed support for continued dialogue and improved relations between Pakistan and its neighbors. The U.S. expressed support for the resumption of the Jirga process with Afghanistan and for Pakistan's commitment to hold the next Regional Economic Cooperation Conference meeting in Islamabad later this year.

The Pakistani Government expressed its appreciation for the new Friends of Pakistan initiative, which will help Pakistan face its challenges in the years ahead.

Building on the August 2008 bilateral Economic Dialogue, both sides reaffirmed their commitment



Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi shaking hands with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte on the occasion of the Strategic Dialogue held between the two countries at the Department of State on September 29, 2008.

Both sides renewed their intention to work together to combat the threat of terrorism and violent extremism by expanding security cooperation, and to work together to develop and modernize the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

to increased bilateral economic cooperation. Pakistan outlined its economic stabilization measures and reforms to foster economic growth and opportunity. The U.S. expressed support for Pakistan's plan to stabilize its economy and welcomed Pakistan's commitment to implement comprehensive reform measures.

The U.S. expressed its determination to continue efforts to promote Reconstruction Opportunity Zones legislation, currently pending in Congress. The establishment of such zones would improve stability and security by stimulating jobs, infrastructure and legitimate economic alternatives in underdeveloped areas.

The two sides emphasized the need for improved regional cooperation and integration in the energy sector. They reaffirmed their commitment

to address Pakistan's growing energy needs by expanding technical assistance and promoting investment in Pakistan's energy sector.

Cooperation in education and science and technology were reviewed, and both parties resolved to make best their efforts to hold Energy and Education Dialogues by the end of the year.

In keeping with the commitment made by President Bush and Prime Minister Gilani during their July meeting in Washington, the delegations began discussions focused on agricultural cooperation that would help Pakistan strengthen its agricultural sector and enhance its food security.

The two sides committed to work together to realize their long-term vision of the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Partnership.

Pak-U.S. Alumni Association Set Up

The Pak-U.S. Alumni Association was formed at a meeting in Islamabad on September 8-9 to provide a platform for the various exchange participants to promote mutual understanding.

The goal of the U.S. State Department in sponsoring international exchanges is to increase mutual understanding between Americans and the people and institutions in the host country. Following the exchange experience, the aim is to continue the dialogue with returned exchange participants to build on the relationship.

Alumni from various exchange programs to the United States had expressed their desire to share their experiences and expertise with their fellow countrymen and relevant institutions through forming an alumni association. The U.S. Embassy's

Public Affairs Section with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of State was able to support the establishment of this association.

Twenty-seven founding members from Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Quetta and Jamshoro participated in the meeting aimed at drawing up the constitution and by-laws of the association.

Welcoming the alumni, the U.S. Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs, Gonzalo Gallegos, highlighted the broad spectrum of professional expertise represented by the group and the significance of their first-hand experience of the U.S. and expressed his appreciation of their dedication to developing better understanding between the people of the United States and Pakistan.

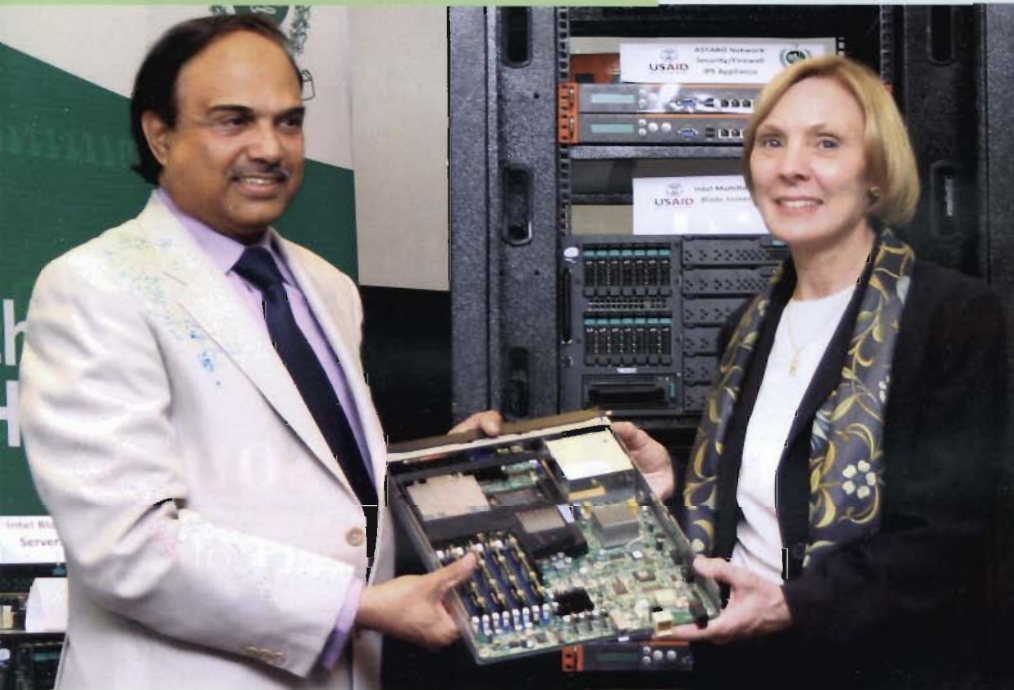
Constance Colding Jones, Cultural Affairs Officer, encouraged the alumni to formulate ideas and mechanisms for initiating the establishment of a nationwide network of alumni.

Mr. Majid Bashir who was unanimously elected as the Acting President of the Association in his keynote address emphasized the significance of alumni networking.

Dr. Iqbal Raza, President of the Humphrey Alumni Association in Pakistan, Dr. Grace Clark, Executive Director, U.S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan, and Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, President of the Fulbright Association of Pakistan also attended the meeting.



Pakistan's Computerized Electoral Rolls System Completed



USAID Pakistan Mission Director Anne Aarnes presenting computer hardware to Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan Kanwar Dilshad for the computerization of electoral rolls (File Photo July 22, 2008).

The United States Government, through the Agency for International Development (USAID), today marked the completion of the installation of Pakistan's Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) with a signing ceremony at the Election Commission of Pakistan in Islamabad on September 9.

In 2006, the ECP, with the support of the U.S. Government, contracted a consortium of leading local companies to execute a Computerized Electoral Roll System for Pakistan. Approximately \$9 million was provided for the project which had two phases. Phase one, included establishing logistics, data

entry systems, printing and distribution of the Draft and Final Electoral Rolls for the February 2008 general elections. This phase was completed in late 2007. The second phase consisted of the procurement and installation of a suite of software applications to be used for the ongoing management of the Election Commission's voter registration database and its electoral rolls.

The Election Commission has been working to deploy CERS at all five of its locations - Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta. The final deployment, at the Provincial Election Commission's office in Quetta, was completed on Thursday, September 4, 2008.

The CERS project was implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. The Certificate of Acceptance signed at today's ceremony is a significant milestone in the development of a state-of-the-art electoral system for Pakistan and will contribute greatly to free and fair elections for the country.

Since 2002, the U.S. Government, on behalf of the American people, has provided more than \$2 billion to Pakistan to improve economic growth, education, health and governance, and to assist with earthquake reconstruction.

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, addressed senior bureaucrats at the National Management College, Lahore, on September 30 and emphasized that the United States Government “hopes to intensify its engagement” with Pakistan’s new democratic government.

“The United States will work with Pakistan to assist in areas essential to both countries:



Ambassador Patterson speaking at the National Management College in Lahore.

U.S. to Work with Pakistan for Stability, Security, Development: Amb. Patterson

Addresses Senior Bureaucrats at the National Management College



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson meeting with Punjab Governor Salman Taseer in Lahore.



Ambassador Anne W. Patterson and U.S. Consulate Lahore Principal Officer Bryan Hunt meeting with Punjab Governor Salman Taseer in Lahore.

development, stability, and security,” Ambassador Patterson remarked after being received by NMC Principal, Lt Gen. (Retired) Javed Hasan and faculty during her visit to Lahore. “The Friends of

Pakistan are here to help this country build the future it envisions.”

The National Management College, earlier called Pakistan Administrative Staff College, was

established in Lahore in 1960 with financial assistance from the Ford Foundation and technical support from Syracuse University, U.S., and the Administrative Staff College Henley, UK.

“The cooperation programs we have initiated over the last seven years support our shared interest in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity,” stressed the senior U.S. diplomat. “With dedication and good faith on both sides, we will continue to pursue those interests to the benefit of Pakistanis and Americans alike.”

While in Lahore, Ambassador Patterson also visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called on Punjab Governor Salman Taseer, and attended an Iftar hosted by Principal Officer Bryan Hunt at his residence for alumni of various U.S. exchange programs.



Ambassador Patterson addressing the members of the Lahore Chambers of Commerce and Industry.



Dr. Jeff Holloway, second left, performs a gastric banding operation, while surgeons from across the state watch the procedure via a video feed Sept. 24, 2004, at the Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Neb. By being able to train doctors in rural areas by video feed, telehealth can help keep doctors in those areas and address doctor shortages. Aiding Dr. Holloway is licensed practical nurse Joyce Stockert, center. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

U.S. Forms Telemedicine Public-Private Partnership to Improve Healthcare in Pakistan

The United States has formed a telemedicine public-private partnership in Pakistan, demonstrating the transformative power of high speed connectivity in improving social services in remote areas.

“Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world – a nation of 173 million people,” said internationally recognized telemedicine expert and surgeon, Dr. Asif Zafar. “The goal of this project is to highlight technology’s ability to overcome a significant healthcare imbalance – more than 75 percent of the population lives in rural areas but only 22 percent of the doctors work there.”

Telemedicine enables healthcare providers to deliver high quality medical services for patients in remote locations – services that would otherwise be lacking or absent. The public-private partnership is using telemedicine to help broaden and strengthen technical capabilities

supporting the “hub,” Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi, with the “spoke” in District Attock.

Other partners include IBM, Wateen Telecom, Motorola, Medweb, USAID, the U.S. Department of Defense Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Center, Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi, District Headquarters Hospital in Attock, and the Government of Pakistan. In addition, the system can access and engage the help of medical experts working at some of the most elite medical institutions in Pakistan and around the world.

Besides assembling this public-private partnership, the U.S. Government contributed \$220,000 to purchase state-of-the-art telemedicine equipment and services to operate the project. The equipment combines an Internet-access portal including interactive collaboration tools such as secure email, voice and video

conferencing on a secure telemedicine network with advanced medical peripheral devices such as portable ultrasound, digital cameras, EKG, stethoscope and X-ray machines.

The Pakistan telemedicine project has already provided expanded medical care to hundreds of patients – pre-operative planning and follow-up; cardiac assessment; ophthalmology, dermatology, radiology, infectious disease, and perinatal evaluations; and medical triage for traumas and acute illness.

“The U.S. Department of State, through the Pakistan Telemedicine Project, is demonstrating the transformative power of telecommunications technology under the U.S. Government’s Digital Freedom Initiative, which seeks to encourage the spread of technology to the developing world,” said Ferial Saeed, Deputy U.S. Coordinator & Office Director for International Communications & Information Policy.