



Khabr-o-Nazar

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- ▶ **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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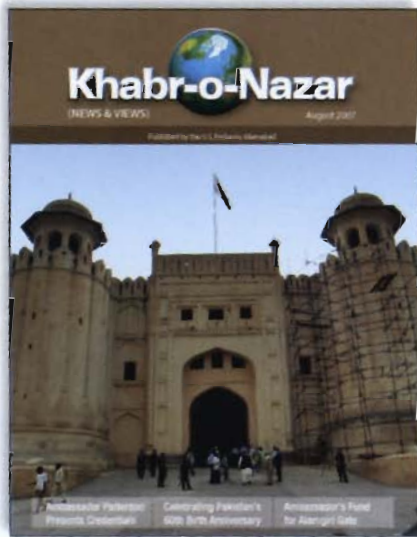
Front Cover

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**



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

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



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



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.



One of the trainers talking to the program participants



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

