

Pakistan Link

The Largest Circulated Pakistani-American Newspaper in North America

VOL. 23/26 - 19 Sha'ban 1434 H

Friday, June 28, 2013

US & Canada \$1.00

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Rano Usman's Craft Speaks for Itself



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Stunning Revelations in Swiss Letters Saga

Islamabad: The government's top lawyer made some startling revelations about the infamous Swiss case in the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The PPP-led government had written a letter to its lawyer in Geneva on November 22, last year, telling him to convey its stand to the Swiss authorities that the dormant graft cases against President Asif Ali Zardari should not be reopened, Attorney General Munir A Malik told a three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

The bench was hearing the case regarding the implementation of its ruling on the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). In its December 2009 judgment, the court had nullified the NRO and ordered the reopening of all cases dropped under the defunct law introduced by former military ruler Pervez LETTERS, P29

Dobbins Appreciates Pakistan's Role

Islamabad: Noting that the situation in Afghanistan had reached a crucial phase as the US proceeds with its drawdown, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stressed the need for Pakistan and the United States to remain closely engaged.

US envoy James Dobbins arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Nawaz and other senior officials on efforts to open peace talks with Afghan Taliban, the premier's office said. Dobbins, who flew in from Kabul, met Nawaz and briefed him on developments relating to Afghanistan, the office said in a statement. "The prime minister conveyed to Am-



Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif assured Mr Dobbins of Pakistan's full commitment to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process and enumerated various steps Pakistan had taken in this regard

bassador Dobbins that Pakistan had the highest stakes in the return of

peace and stability to Afghanistan," it said.

"He assured Mr Dobbins of Pakistan's full com-

mitment to an Afghan-led DOBBINS, P29

Govt. Outlines Course of Action for Musharraf's Trial

Islamabad: Submitting the government's reply on the course of action for the trial of Pervez Musharraf under Article 6 of the constitution, attorney general of Pakistan (AGP) on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has ordered THE constitution of a special investigative team of senior officers of the FIA to commence an inquiry and investigate the November 3, 2007 acts of the former military ruler.

In response to the court's June 24 order, AGP Munir A Malik on Wednesday submitted the federal government's response to specify the process and mechanism to be put in place to bring those people to justice who were found guilty of high treason. The government, through the AGP, has submitted, "Prime minister has directed the secretary interior to forthwith direct the TRIAL, P29

Supreme Court for Imposing "Energy Emergency"

Islamabad: The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that there was a need to impose energy emergency in the country to fulfill the electricity demands of the people. The court also observed that by using the fast track for the establishment of power projects the energy situation could improve.

The directions came by a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, Justice Ijaz Ahmed Chaudhry and Justice Gulzar Ahmed during the hearing of a suo motu case regarding prolonged power loadshedding in the country.

"There are always two approaches to deal with a matter. One is short-term and the other is long-term. We should go for the long-term power generation projects but in the meantime work should be accelerated on short-term projects," remarked the chief justice.

He further maintained that the nation had high hopes and the power distribution and EMERGENCY, P29

Joint Venture of Netsol Technologies & Saudi Arabia's Atheeb Group Recognized at Nasdaq Bell Ringing



His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Ahmad Abdulaziz Al Saud (second from right), NetSol's Co-founder, Chairman and CEO Najeeb Ghauri (third from right), and NetSol Technologies Co-founder Salim Ghauri (fourth from right), flanked by invited guests during a NASDAQ Stock Market Closing Bell Ceremony for NetSol Technologies, Inc. on April 23, 2013, celebrating the company's 15th anniversary as a publicly traded entity, and its joint venture with Saudi Arabia's Atheeb Group, where the prince serves as founder and chairman

New York: His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Ahmad Abdulaziz Al Saud was the guest of honor at The NASDAQ Stock Market Clos-

ing Bell Ceremony for NetSol Technologies, Inc. (Nasdaq: NTWK) this spring in New York City.

He was joined by NetSol's

Chairman and CEO, Najeeb Ghauri, to help celebrate the company's 15th anniversary as a publicly traded NETSOL, P29

Prominent Community Member to Serve More Than 12 Years in Prison

Los Angeles, CA: The CEO and co-owner of a Southern California investment company was sentenced this morning to 151 months in federal prison for enticing investors to put \$49 million into his bogus day-trading venture as part of a Ponzi scheme that caused more than \$30 million in losses, says an FBI press release dated June 24, 2013. It adds:

Syed Qaisar Madad, 66, of Diamond Bar, California, was sentenced by US District Judge Percy Anderson. At the conclusion of today's hearing, Judge Anderson remanded Madad into the custody of the US Marshals Service.

During the sentencing hearing, Judge Anderson said that Madad, who had emigrated to the United States in 1972, had squandered the "priceless treasure" of becoming a lawful resident of this country by not fulfilling his "obligation and responsibility to respect the rule of law."

Judge Anderson will hold a restitution hearing on August 12, 2013, to establish the amount Madad should repay his victims, a figure prosecutors MEMBER, P18

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Najam Sethi to Strive to Sort out PCB Crisis



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Faiz Ahmad Faiz on the Dream of Pakistan



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Bushra Ansari and Her Love for Theater



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PICO Hosts Annual *Daal, Saag & Lassi* Luncheon in Arizona



The theme this year was to enhance the understanding and knowledge about various political parties that are actively engaged in Pakistan

■ By Salim Jaffer

Pakistan Information & Cultural Organization (PICO) put up a splendid annual program to honor the work of the volunteers and the institutions that PICO works with - both Governmental and civic organizations.

This civil society gathering was studded with individuals for whom working beyond themselves is the way of life. PICO has registered an impressive 13,000 hours of community service since 2000 within greater Phoenix area. Over the years PICO has volunteered at the Phoenix Zoo, Paz de Cristo Community Center, PBD - KAET Channel 8, St. Vincent de Paul Society, City of Chandler, Habitat for Humanity, Parents Anonymous of Arizona, Phoenix Living History Museum, St. Mary's Food Bank, Masjid Jauharat-ul Islam, Asian Town Hall, Phoenix Art Museum, Labor's Community Service Agency, City of Glendale, Channel 8 KAET Poll, Boys and Girls club of the East Valley, Grand Canyon State Games, Al-Mahdi Foundation, AAAA Festivals, Intel ISEF, Cultural Cup Food Bank, Salvation Army,

Heard Museum, Gibert Global Village Festival, Arizona Special Olympics, City of Mesa, Phoenix Children Association, Hands on America, San Carlos Apache Reservation, Duet, Project C.U.R.E, Garden's of Tomorrow and the list goes on.....

The theme this year was to enhance the understanding and knowledge about various political parties that are actively engaged in Pakistan. Each table had a name of one of the political parties and the table hosts introduced the parties and their background to the guests at the table.

Each table had one couple or individual from the US government or civil society organization. The host of each table had a responsibility to escort the guest to the luncheon buffet and during the lunch conversation provide some basic information about the political system, the parties, and Pakistan.

PICO calls it a "Daal, Saag & Lassi Luncheon." This is a representative menu from the villages of Pakistan, coupled with yogurt drink and sweet deserts and tea (chai) indeed. Whilst Pakistanis do have an unlimited array of non-vegetarian cuisines this menu however is far from biryani,

ani, korma, nihari or anything close to them.

The event was graced by honorable Tasawar Khan, Consul General of Pakistan from Los Angeles; US Representative, 9th Congressional District, Arizona, Kyrsten Sinema; Honorable Secretary of State Ken Bennett; honorable Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney and Becky Montgomery.

The event started with a recitation from the Qur'an and its English translation. The emcee of the event was the General Secretary of PIC, Zarina S. Jaffer, who invited the president of PICO, Mr Omar Hameed, who welcomed the honorable guests, PICO volunteers and provided a brief report of activities this year. He also introduced the keynote speaker, honorable Tasawar Khan, Consul General of Pakistan.

"When Pakistanis ask me what can we do to help? I say to them, be the best American citizen there is, wherever you reside get engaged in the civil society, let the American people get a first-hand experience of the Pakistani community, its values and aspirations," said CG Tasawar Khan.

He praised the work of PICO

by saying that he knew of no other Pakistani organization that is so connected with the civil society and Government of State of Arizona. He praised the professional outlook of the office bearers of PICO. The individuals who head the organization are in their own right very dedicated contributors to the business and companies they work for in Arizona. There were good number of medical professionals, engineers, bankers, academia, business owners who are positive contributors to the state economy. This was the largest gathering of Pakistanis, he said, he has seen in the traditional Pakistani attire (Shalwar-Qameez) outside Pakistan.

"The work of PICO must be emulated by other Pakistani communities living in the US," Tasawar Khan remarked.

A breathtaking video presentation titled "Vibrant Pakistan" was shown following the keynote address, which was a production of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation PTDC. The video covered 2,500 B.C. years history of Pakistan to the present day. This video is available on YouTube for those people who missed it:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWY1THYakDg

watch?v=nWY1THYakDg

Other guests were the honorable Jim Lane, Mayor, City of Scottsdale, and his spouse JoAnne Lane, honorable Jerry Weiers, Mayor City of Glendale and his spouse Sandy Weiers; honorable Linda Kavanagh, Mayor Town of Fountain Hills; honorable John Kavanagh, State Representative District 8, Arizona; honorable Suzanne Klapp, Vice Mayor, City of Scottsdale and her spouse Tim Klapp, honorable Ben Cooper, Vice Mayor, Town of Gilbert; honorable Tony Rivero, Vice Mayor, City of Peoria; Mr. Doug Price, Special Agent In-Charge FBI, Mr. Gerald Richard, Assistant Phoenix Police Chief, Ms. Jane Bjornstad, Community Outreach Specialist FBI; Mr. Kurt Sharp, Assistant to Honorable John Lewis; Mayor, Town of Gilbert and his spouse Mrs. Sarah Sharp, Detective Chris Abril, Phoenix Police Liaison for the Muslim Community; Mr. Eddie Baldenegro, Chandler Chair of the Human Relations Commission, and his spouse Kimberly; Ms. Ruth Giese, Diversity and Neighborhood Outreach Administrator, City of Mesa, and Mr. Tim Oyen, Director Finance to Kyrsten Sinema ARIZONA, P29

Islamic Shura Council Chairman's Message Welcome Ramadan



Assalam 'Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatahu:

On behalf of myself, the Majlis and the General Body of the Islamic Shura Council, I join you in welcoming the blessed month of Ramadan. We thank Allah for giving us the opportunity and ability to accept Ramadan once more. We ask Allah to accept all our prayers and bless us to become better than we were before Ramadan, by His mercy and grace.

I am very pleased to share the following resources the Islamic Shura Council has developed for you, your family and your community:

1. Statement about the start and end of the month of Ramadan
2. Ramadan Planning Guide
3. Comprehensive plan for the month of Ramadan
4. Individual weekly planner
5. Other ideas for Ramadan
6. Your health in Ramadan
7. Where to buy best California dates
8. Sponsor a Welcome to Islam package for Muslim inmates
9. Invitation to share your Sadaqa/Zakat

Please consider the standardized Imsak and Salat al Fajr schedule. This is to make things easier for you and your local Masjid. On behalf of the Islamic Shura Council, I urge the Masajid to use the 15 degree method for calculating Imsak, Salat al Fajr and 'Isha timings, as follows:

- Imsak (beginning of the fast) should be observed 10 minutes before the 15 degree time, and
- Salat al Fajr should not be performed before the 15 degree time.
- Salat al-'Isha can also be performed immediately after 15 degree time.

We realize that in the past Masjid used various methods for calculating the Imsak and Fajr timings, causing much confusion. We hope this standardization will be helpful for everyone. This standardization process is a result of research, observations of Subh Sadiq (morning twilight) in this area by a team of Muslims and discussions with area Imams. It is also verified astronomically with Dr Khalid Shaikat of moonsighting.com and Dr Ahmed Salama of NASA.

Once again, I invite you to join me in welcoming the blessed month of Ramadan and also invite you and your family to prepare and plan to receive this blessed month with love and enthusiasm. Please visit our website www.ShuraCouncil.org to keep yourself abreast of community news and events and share any ideas that you may have to make everyone's Ramadan most spiritually enjoyable.

Jazakum Allahu Khayran.
Wassalam,

Dr Muzammil Siddiqi
Chairman

Salma Arastu, a Multi-talented Artist



Salma Arastu and her masterpieces

■ By Abdus Sattar Ghazali

Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC) believed that the aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance. For Roman philosopher, Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC), art is born of the observation and investigation of nature. For American painter and film maker Andy Warhol, everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it, meaning only an artist sees it. Hence Leonardo da Vinci described painting as poetry because like poetry painting is felt rather than seen. To borrow Pablo Picasso, "The artist is a receptacle for emotions that come from all over the place: from the sky, from the earth, from a scrap of paper, from a passing shape, from a spider's web."

It is often said that artists are born, not made. However, contemporary painter, Lunn Udell, disagrees by saying that a passion for art has to be there, but all other skills are acquired. No one is born knowing how to play the piano. This is perhaps true in the case of Berkeley-based Salma Arastu who has been painting for the last thirty plus years, since earning her degree in Fine Arts from Maharaja Sayajirao University in Baroda, India. Multi-talented Salma is also proficient in Arabic calligraphy, color painting, digital creation as well as metal sculptures.

"Through my art I have been able to transcend all physical and mental limitations to create images of transformation," she says. Quoting Picasso, Salma argues, "I paint objects as I think them, not as I see them," since an artist paints with his/her brains and not with his/her hands, in the words of Michelangelo. Perhaps, Salma takes cue from the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo de Rivera, who says, "I paint my own reality....I paint whatever passes through my head without any other consideration."

She was invited in June 2011 by the Westphalia University in Germany to present her paper on "Art Informed by Spirituality, Islamic Values and Concept of Beauty in Contemporary Culture." This was part of the University's annual International Symposium "God, the Beautiful, loves Beauty" - Post-Modern views on the Relation Between Religion and Art. Salma says in her efforts, she had tried to bring Eastern spirituality, and Western techniques of painting learned over the years. "Through the contrasting elements in my work, I yearn and search for unity and when that unity or balance is achieved, it brings about a tranquility and joy."

Born into the Sindhi and Hindu tradition, she later embraced Islam through her marriage. As a woman, a Muslim and a multi-cultural artist and a mother, she sees a unique opportunity to create harmony and world transformation through the expression of the Universal in her art.

Her works are inspired by Islamic values. She argues: "Allah is One, abstract, formless and beyond imagination and secondly God has created such diversity among humans and He commands them to live together in harmony and turn towards Him with praises to establish unity."

Through Lyrical Arabic Calligraphy Images, Salma says, she is trying to convey messages about the diversity, unity, love and compassion from the Holy Qur'an to the people of the world. "Allah wants us to live together and share together and thus I recreate these visions which show people in celebrations, visiting neighbors, and family reunions, celebration of life, glow of unity and the hope of the new earth."

Salma Arastu has won many awards for her art. Her works are represented in several galleries, including Artjaz Gallery in Philadelphia; Gmunder Gallery in Schwabisch, Germany; Art Heritage Gallery in New Delhi, India, Monsoon Galleries in Bethlehem, PA and Space on Spurgeon in Santa Ana, CA.

Her work is also included in more than hundred private collections in the US, Germany, India and the Middle East.

Besides participating in various major group shows, she has held more than thirty shows throughout the world, including the US, Germany, Kuwait, Iran and India.

About some of her achievements, Salma Arastu enumerated the following in her own words:

1. In 2008, the Alameda County commissioned me for three paintings which are now in the Collection of the County of Alameda.

2. In December 2008, my new book of art and poems in English was published by Half Full Press from Oakland California in their series of Emerging American Artists program. The book is titled *The Lyrical Line* and has more than 100 images of my works during the last 10 years. My paintings celebrate life. In this art book I have tried to trace with lines and color a trajectory of the human emotions that all of us feel, no matter where we are from and what our individual situations are.

3. In the summer of 2002, I won a six-week Artist-in-Residence Award. I

lived and worked in Swabisch Gumund, in southern Germany where I was hosted by a German family and exhibited my work as a goodwill ambassador for the sister city, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

4. I received first place in painting at North Eastern Regional Art Show at Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

In 2010, Salma Arastu's 3' tall aluminum sculpture "The Family" was selected to be in an international exhibition organized by Ekaterinburg Art Foundation in Russia. The project was initiated in Russia in 2005 under the name "In Family Unity - Unity of the Nation" by Ekaterinburg Art Foundation. The exhibition has been held in 25 Russian cities, including the Kremlin. The main goal of the exhibition is to unite the creative potential of sculptors and photographers from different countries in order to establish universal values and national peculiarities on the topic announced.

Salma Arastu's 8' tall sculpture "Dancing With The Stars" in steel and copper was installed at the port of San Diego in October 2010. Her 6' tall steel sculpture "Allah" was exhibited at the Sonoma Valley Art Museum from August 21 to November 7, 2010 in the exhibition titled "Visions of Paradise".

Not surprisingly, in November 2011, the Sufi Women Organization sponsored a luncheon in her honor to pay rich tribute to her universal spiritual message through her art work. Salma gave a riveting talk and presentation on Rumi, whose poetry has inspired her to create the most beautiful expressions of art. Salma displayed several of her Rumi-inspired paintings and also gave a power point presentation featuring both Rumi's poetry and pictures of her paintings. She described her artistic journey with great passion. It may be pointed out that the Sufi Women Organization, a forum for women of diverse cultural backgrounds, is a department of the International Association of Sufism, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the United Nations. Established in 1993, SWO's humanitarian goals include women's rights, education, and social equity.

Salma Arastu's unique greeting cards for Islamic occasions and Islamic calendars are popular in the US, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom. The month of Ramadan begins in North America on July 9, according to an announcement by the Islamic Society of North America. Salma Arastu has unveiled her new collection for this blessed month as well as the happy occasion of Eid al Fitr. Presently, she works in her studio located at 8th Street in Berkeley, California.

MEMBER FROM P1

believe should be approximately \$32.7 million.

Madad pleaded guilty in February 2013 to wire fraud and tax fraud, admitting in court that investors lost more than \$30 million when his scheme collapsed in March 2011.

Madad, a native of Pakistan, formed Technology for Telecommunication and Multimedia Inc. (TTM) in 1993, and by 2005, Madad was using the company to tout his alleged mastery



Qaisar Madad

as an investor. Friends, family, and professional colleagues of Madad—as well as associates of his wife, a medical doctor who operated a practice in Lynwood—entrusted their money to Madad, who promised to use a day-trading strategy that would generate consistent, substantial profits. However, over the course of a five-and-a-half-year scheme, Madad's investments resulted in losses of more than \$9 million.

Notwithstanding these significant losses, Madad sent victims monthly account statements that always showed gains in their TTM accounts. These detailed account statements falsely reassured victims that their investments were safe and increasing in value. Some victims gave Madad additional funds based solely on these fictitious account statements. In October 2009, for example, Madad reported that the value of all the investments being held by TTM was more than \$50 million—but TTM's assets at the time were only \$825,000, notwithstanding the fact that investors had deposited at least \$1.2 million during that month. The daily profit reported on the statements sent to investors was also false. Madad would simply decide on the amount of profit to be claimed for each day covered by the statement and then allocate the purported profit to all of the investors on a pro rata basis.

Madad also falsely promised investors that he would not take any fees or compensation for managing the invested funds. Madad admitted in court that he spent well over \$15 million of investors' money on personal expenses, including real estate, jewelry for his wife and daughters, vehicles, and cash disbursements to himself and family members. As detailed in the prosecutors' sentencing brief, these expenditures included the purchase of a 5.25-carat diamond ring and a \$180,000 sapphire and diamond necklace; a \$600,000 down payment on a house for his daughter; and approximately \$6 million to pay personal credit cards bills—including charges for numerous luxury items. Madad also used \$1.3 million of investor money to pay for improvements to his personal residence and an additional \$1 million of victim money to purchase an empty lot next door.

The investors were also reassured by Madad's prominence in his community, which he enhanced with interviews and profiles in media serving Pakistani-Americans. During these interviews, Madad touted his day-trading technique, which he claimed was always profitable. Madad used victims' money to make contributions to numerous charities in Pakistan, India, Egypt, and the United States. More than \$1 million donated to charity and US political figures was money that Madad misappropriated from victims. Many of the victim-investors were invited to fundraisers and other events that Madad hosted, including a dinner with former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf at Madad's home in Diamond Bar.

MEMBER, P29

Aligarh Muslim University Vice Chancellor Visits the San Francisco Bay Area



In promotion of the event it was stated, "Vice Chancellor Zameer Uddin Shah has affirmed his core mission of making AMU one of the top universities in India through pursuit of excellence in teaching and research"

■ By Ras H. Siddiqui

The Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association of Northern California (AMUAA) had the distinct pleasure of hosting a luncheon for Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Zameer Uddin Shah, the current Vice Chancellor of their Alma Mater on Saturday, June 22nd at the Chandni Restaurant in Newark, California. The Vice Chancellor was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Sabiha Shah at this occasion. Besides being the VC of one of the most famous universities in South Asia, some of Shah Sahib's other famous attributes are that he has been one of the most senior-level Muslim soldiers ever in the Indian Army (he reached the position of Deputy Chief of Army Staff) and that he is also the older brother of famous Bollywood actor Naseeruddin Shah.

For an introduction of the hosts in their own words, the "AMU Alumni Association of Northern California consisting of the alumni of Aligarh Muslim University and its friends and supporters of the Aligarh movement was founded in 1996 as a secular, non-partisan, non-political organization serving the educational, social, literacy and cultural needs of the community. It aims to keep alive Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's dream of ensuring equality for all and particularly the under-

privileged through education, by supporting AMU and its students in their academic efforts, and by organizing events to highlight AMU's role in creating a modern India."

In their promotion of the event it was stated that "Vice Chancellor Zameer Uddin Shah has affirmed his core mission of making AMU one of the top universities in India through pursuit of excellence in teaching and research." This goal also happens to be close to the hearts of many AMU alumni in the US particularly those in the San Francisco area who have excelled in many fields and would like to see their old university present even better opportunities for future generations of AMU students.

The proceedings began with some networking and a fine brunch buffet in the Mughlai tradition. Before the formalities I had a chance to interact with the VC. We discussed the contributions of Aligarh alumni as leaders in other countries in the region, his brother's efforts to boost the arts irrespective of borders and when I mentioned that I had visited my late father's former place of residence at AMU named Mumtaz House, he lamented that the current conditions of all the dormitories was not good and that he was seeking assistance in funding for their repair and upgrading. He also mentioned that he had invited the Aga Khan and Prince Charles to pay a visit to the campus.

The formal event stated in the Aligarh tradition with the recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Afzal Khan. Emcee for the afternoon and local AMU luminary Shaheer Khan next said that this was the first time that the organization had hosted an AMU Vice Chancellor and welcomed the community present, some of whom had come from as far away as Sacramento and Davis. He also reminded everyone present of the coming Eid Milan Party and Sir Syed Day on September 27th this year. He also thanked the donors who have supported the efforts of the Alumni Association and the Aligarh Education Endowment Fund. He then introduced the Vice Chancellor who came to the stage and received a plaque on behalf of the Association, presented by Nihal Khan. Mrs Shahla Khan also presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Sabiha Shah. That set the stage for the VC's speech.

Vice Chancellor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Zameer Uddin Shah spoke for about 50 minutes and used a PowerPoint presentation. It is just not possible to incorporate all that he said in this single report so a few chosen highlights will have to suffice here. He was commanding in his delivery and exuded confidence from the beginning of his speech to the very end.

He started off by thanking everyone for the honor and the won-

derful gift. He said that the job of being a Vice Chancellor was a thankless one. "It is the toughest I have held," he commented generating quite a few smiles in the audience, especially since he is a former military man. "I accepted the job as a mission," he added. "My mission was to pull AMU out of the trough in which it has descended," he said. He added that his mission (with Allah's help) was to make AMU a top university in India within two years. He said that he was going to Insha'Allah turn the University around so that its graduates can meet the new demands of both the market and the nation.

Shah Sahib said that he faced three immediate issues: Student indiscipline, intra-religious (not communal) and regional friction on campus, and lastly faculty infighting. He added that these problems were difficult but were not insurmountable. He said that he is looking to add more new and qualified faculty at AMU.

He said that he was a liberal Muslim and he wanted AMU to be a liberal-secular institution but primarily for the Muslims. "It is a secular institution, primarily for the Millat as Sir Syed wanted it, and we are going to keep it that way," he said. He added that the focus should remain on "modern-scientific education," something that unfortunately was not being provided. He said that AMU needs to move beyond the

blackboard and chalk era into the computer age. He added that the year 2020 will bring on the university centenary and the plan should be to make it a memorable one remembered all over the country since it is an institution of national importance. He also said that unfortunately the university had a setback on its minority character status and that he would focus on getting it restored.

The Vice Chancellor said that foreign dignitary visits to the campus have dried up mainly due to our own fault. "It was the fault of the students misbehaving and rebelling against visitors but they do not know what colossal damage they did to our reputation." He said that will have to change and that some important foreign dignitaries have already accepted his invitation to visit AMU when they visit India next.

Shah Sahib dwelled a great deal on the need to improve the facilities at AMU, especially the housing which is beginning to resemble a slum. He added that this was one of the main reasons why foreign students' numbers have declined dramatically. He stressed the modernizing of the existing facilities and the building of new ones on the campus, especially for female students. The restoration of the horse riding club and adding a golf course (the VC is an avid golfer) at AMU were already on the cards. He said that AMU should produce well-rounded graduates.

On entrance standards for AMU he said that all aspiring students should pass an entrance exam (not just for engineering and medical students). He also added that foreign languages, including Chinese and Hebrew, need to be taught on campus.

To conclude, Lt. Gen.(Retd.) Zameer Uddin Shah expressed pride in the Aligarh Muslim University alumni all over the world and hoped that they could assist him in his mission to build the campus infrastructure in whatever way they could. He added that he was also seeking the assistance from the Aga Khan Foundation for this effort. The VC took questions after his speech and was presented a book on the Taj Mahal by author-photographer Maqsood Ul Haque. The event concluded with a presentation of Aligarh focused poetry by Khalid Siddiqui titled "Green Day".

Helping Hand Organizes Charity Mushaira



■ Report and pictures by Anwar Khawaja

Helping Hand for Relief and Development organized a charity mushaira at the Momin Lodge, Torrance, on May 31, 2013 as part of its education support program. Two famous poets from Pakistan - Anwar Masood and Khalid Masood - were among the poets who presented their kalam and won spontaneous applause from the audience. Their humorous kalam provided bliss and merriment to the enraptured audience. Consul General Tasawar Khan was the chief guest and he lauded the great humanitarian and development work that Helping Hand is doing globally. Mr Ishrat Rehman, Director, Helping Hand, apprised the audience of the charity work being done by the organization.



WAR FROM P23

commit genocide?

(Murtaza Haider, PhD is the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs at the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University in Toronto. - Dawn)

INCIDENT FROM P26

travelling in the northern areas, tourists are not targeted and it is relatively safe to travel. But I will not say that anymore."

According to John Mock and Kimberley O'Neil, award-winning guidebook authors and consultants who have reconnoitered new trekking routes and crossed dozens of major passes and glaciers during the past 30 years in both Pakistan and Afghanistan—thereby logging more than 10,000 kilometers, 60 passes, and 50 glacier traverses—the Pakistani Tourism Division does not keep statistics on trekking fatalities.

They have stated: "A few such incidents occur each year and typically have one common element - the trekkers were alone and unaccompanied by a local guide or porter. Frequently, such trekkers literally disappeared - probably by falling into a crevasse. Two glaciers are particularly dangerous for unaccompanied trekkers - the Biafo Glacier (to Snow Lake) in Baltistan and the Passu Glacier (between Passu village and Patundas) in Gojal."

John Mock and Kimberley O'Neil, who have coauthored and contributed to numerous travel guidebooks for Lonely Planet Publications, and consulted on tourism development and promotion, ecotourism, protected area management and wildlife conservation for the Wildlife Conservation Society, Aga Khan Foundation (Afghanistan), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (Germany), the World Conservation Union (ICUN) and the Snow Leopard Conservancy, have further stated: "We advise all trekkers not to travel alone, even in open zones and even when not crossing glaciers. Other objective dangers, such as rockfall, high water on river crossings, and snow avalanche are always present throughout northern Pakistan." John and Kimberley have co-authored a book "Trekking in the Karakoram & Hindukush," which has been published by the Lonely Planet Publications in Australia.

ARIZONA FROM P17

This colorful event was not all serious talk about our work and responsibilities as the citizens of United States but also consisted of a heart-throbbing dance performance by Myrka's group that depicted music and dance of Pakistan from traditional Bhangra to hip hop style. A local Pakistani talent Mansoor Johar sang Kenny Rogers' famous song 'You decorated my life.' The music and dance performance was so moving that the invited guests could not resist showing some moves to the groove. The gala ended with numerous photo opportunities with the government officials.

NETSOL FROM P1

entity, and its joint venture with Saudi Arabia's Atheeb Group, where the prince serves as founder and chairman. This is the fourth time NetSol has been invited to participate in a NASDAQ bell ringing ceremony.

Atheeb NetSol, the joint venture between NetSol Technologies and the Atheeb Group that was launched in



NetSol Technologies, Inc. CEO Najeeb Ghauri (left), and His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Ahmad Abdulaziz Al Saud (right), founder and chairman, Saudi Arabia's Atheeb Group, at NASDAQ MarketSite in New York City on April 23, 2013

2010, focuses on medium- to large-scale IT projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council market, targeting key business sectors such as telecommunications, defense and finance. Atheeb NetSol recently signed agreements in the areas of cyber security, application development and consulting.

"We forged the joint venture on the strengths of our two companies as we focus our efforts on Saudi Arabia and other GCC nations," said Prince Abdulaziz Ahmad Abdulaziz Al Saud. "Demand for information technology services is growing in Saudi Arabia, placing Atheeb NetSol in a favorable position, leveraging our combined vast resources of unparalleled industry sector expertise and a highly educated talent pool."

According to the Saudi Arabia Information Technology Report, Saudi Arabia has the biggest IT market in the gulf region with a forecasted valuation of \$5.7 billion by 2016. The report also noted the country's stable political environment and investment in its technology and communications infrastructure are key factors for Saudi Arabia's economic growth opportunity.

As a Saudi businessman and member of the Saudi Royal Family, the prince is actively involved in both economic and philanthropic pursuits. While leading the Atheeb Group, a diversified investment conglomerate with stakes in telecommunications, contracting, defense, ports, shipping and other industries, his royal highness also continues his efforts as a worldwide humanitarian with close links to the World Health Organization.

Ed Knight, EVP and general counsel at NASDAQ OMX, opened the closing bell ceremony by welcoming his royal highness and NetSol's Chairman and CEO Najeeb Ghauri. "I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to members of the management team and all our distinguished guests to NASDAQ," added Knight. "We're excited that you all could join us - right here from the crossroads of the world - in Times Square New York as we get set to ring today's closing bell."

"It is an honor to preside over the closing bell together with his royal highness to celebrate this important milestone," said Ghauri moments before the bell ringing countdown. "Our joint venture, Atheeb NetSol, is an important part of our growth strategy and signifies our commitment to Saudi Arabia and GCC nations. We are optimistic about our joint venture's future and look forward to continued global growth as we expand into new markets including China, Thailand, and Indonesia."

NetSol Technologies' global expansion continues to positively impact the company's bottom line. Fiscal year 2012 was NetSol's best ever

and the company is on track for another record year. Its Q2 2013 was its strongest quarter in company history, generating record revenues while yielding strong net income and a very strong EBITDA.

Ghauri pointed out that the road to success didn't happen overnight, stating that NetSol started with only two employees and over the course of 15 years has grown to a staff of 1,100 worldwide with multiple offices around the globe.

"Our story is now a global one and has been for quite some time. Today, we are a worldwide provider of enterprise applications, with our proprietary leasing and asset finance software now managing more than \$100 billion in assets for 170 global businesses," added Ghauri. "The markets are responding to our success and we remain committed to growing our company as we focus on execution across the entire organization set at improving long-term shareholder value."

More information on the NASDAQ Stock Market Closing Bell Ceremony for NetSol Technologies as well as a replay video can be found by visiting <http://bit.ly/NASDAQNetSol>.

MEMBER FROM P18

Although Madad returned approximately \$17.7 million to investors, much of this was through Ponzi payments, meaning that the money came from funds entrusted to him by other investors, rather than from profits or interest he had earned.

"Nothing can account for defendant's criminal conduct other than arrogance and greed," prosecutors wrote in a sentencing brief.

Madad's scheme collapsed in March 2011 when one investor asked for his money back, and Madad was unable to return it. Madad claimed that the investor's money was in UBS accounts in Switzerland, which he attempted to corroborate with "account statements." However, these statements were fake, and prosecutors established at the sentencing hearing that Madad created them himself in an effort to cover-up his scheme. The significant sentence that Judge Anderson imposed today was partially based on the fact that Madad attempted to obstruct justice by giving these phoney UBS statements to the government in an effort to derail its investigation.

More than 40 victims attended the hearing this morning, with six of them addressing the court and explaining that their losses represented life savings that they had hoped to use to pay for their children's education and their own retirement. Madad was also sentenced today for his conviction on tax fraud charges for failing to report the income he generated from the Ponzi scheme. Madad admitted in court that he under-reported his income for tax year 2009 by approximately \$4.9 million on tax returns filed

with the Internal Revenue Service, and the government established that Madad had under-reported his income for tax years 2007-2008 and 2010 by an additional \$9.4 million.

Judge Anderson emphasized the deterrent effect of the sentence he imposed today. "The tax system and our system of justice rely on honesty and the good faith of the American public," the judge said. "The integrity of these systems rests on deterrence."

Prior to and following Madad's arrest in October 2012, pursuant to court-authorized warrants, the government seized a Mercedes-Benz C63, numerous pieces of diamond and other precious gemstone jewelry, and funds that were traceable to investor money. The government has also recovered the victim money donated to some of the charities. As part of his agreement with prosecutors, Madad has agreed to forfeit his Diamond Bar mansion, the Mercedes-Benz, 68 pieces of jewelry, and other luxury items, including silk and wool handmade Turkish carpets. Madad also agreed to pay the IRS approximately \$5 million in unpaid taxes for tax years 2006 through 2010.

The case against Madad is the result of an investigation by the FBI and IRS-Criminal Investigation.

LETTERS FROM P1

Musharraf.

The PPP government was reluctant to write a letter to the Swiss authorities seeking reopening of corruption cases against President Zardari. The reluctance cost the PPP one prime minister - Yousaf Raza Gilani - while its second premier - Raja Pervaiz Ashraf - narrowly escaped the wrath of the court after he agreed to write the Swiss letter in compliance with the court orders. Subsequently, the government wrote a letter to the Swiss authorities in consultation with the Supreme Court on November 5, 2012, seeking reopening of the cases against Zardari.

However, AG Munir Malik told the court on Wednesday that "after the November 5 letter ... requesting to withdraw the letter written by former attorney general Malik Abdul Qayyum for closing the [Swiss] cases, the government [also] wrote [another] letter on November 22 addressing advocate Dr Nicholas Jaanding, their lawyer in Geneva."

In another letter written without informing the Supreme Court, the government urged the Swiss authorities that the order of the closing the cases by former attorney general Malik Abdul Qayyum on May 25, 2008 had attained finality and under Swiss laws cannot be reopened, AG Munir Malik said.

To the surprise of the bench, AG Munir Malik said the decision of the Swiss authorities was conveyed to the Pakistan government on February 4, 2013 but it was made available on the records on June 14, 2013 and that too after the incumbent government asked its ambassador in Geneva about the proceedings.

The ambassador informed the government that the Swiss lawyer had also conveyed the decision of Pakistani authorities to the Swiss government that the steps taken on the injunctions of the Supreme Court were essentially politically-motivated and in the eyes of the Republic of Pakistan the criminal procedure had been closed and could not be reopened, according to AG Munir Malik.

The attorney general further said that it was on June 14, 2013 that the incumbent government learnt

that it could file an appeal against the decision of the Swiss authorities within 10 days.

"I received information about the refusal of Swiss authorities on the night of June 20, 2013 and was required to file [an] appeal by June 24. We have filed the appeal with the application to condone the few days delay," AG Munir Malik told the bench.

EMERGENCY FROM P1

generating institutions must come up to their expectations.

DOBBINS FROM P1

and Afghan-owned peace process and highlighted various steps Pakistan had taken in this regard," it said. Other Pakistani officials said the meetings of Dobbins, the US special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, will focus on "efforts to promote an Afghan-led reconciliation process." The US embassy in a statement said that Dobbins expressed "great appreciation" for the role Pakistan has played in supporting and helping advance the peace process, it said.

"Ambassador Dobbins reiterated the United States' commitment to working with the new democratically-elected government of Pakistan to build a strong, mutually beneficial bilateral relationship."

Speaking at the US embassy after talks with the Pakistan leadership during the day, including Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Army Chief Ashfaq Pervez Kayani, the ambassador said that Pakistan had expressed its commitment to continue its support and to use its influence in the Afghan peace process.

"I don't think anybody controls the Taliban, but I think Pakistan probably has the greatest influence."

Dobbins though clarified he believes Pakistan does not have a controlling influence on the Taliban, but does enjoy more influence than others.

The envoy also sought to allay Pakistan's apprehensions that it will be abandoned following the withdrawal of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan. "History doesn't necessarily repeat itself, and I think we have learnt some lessons too."

TRIAL FROM P1

director general FIA to constitute a special investigative team of senior officers to commence an inquiry and investigation in relation to the acts of General (retd) Pervez Musharraf of November 3, 2007 that may amount to high treason under Article 6 of the constitution and to finalize as expeditiously as possible the statement of case to be put up by the federal government before the special court to be constituted under the Criminal Law Amendment (Special Courts) Act, 1976."

The government stated that the law entrusts the investigation of the offence of high treason to the FIA. "However, in order to ensure expeditious completion of the inquiry and investigation, the prime minister is also considering the constitution of a commission to oversee and monitor the progress of the proceedings," it added. Giving the outlines of the process, the reply also said that on the completion of the investigation by the FIA, the federal government would file the requisite complaint under Section 5 of the Criminal Law Amendment (Special Courts) Act, 1976 and take steps to constitute a special court in accordance with Section 4 of the said Act for the trial of the offence.