

Community Link

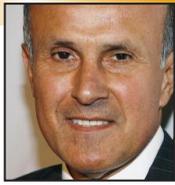
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An Unprecedented Jewish/Muslim Dialogue

■ By Nancy R. Goodman, PhD and Batya Monder, MSW, BCD

An unprecedented Jewish/Muslim dialogue took place on May 5, 2007 at a conference on Fear and Trauma: Ruptured Souls; Ruptured Cultures. Two speakers, one Jewish the other Muslim, were addressing the large subject of Fear and Trauma from the perspective of their own backgrounds and their very meaningful contributions to the understanding of these profoundly disturbing subjects.

A psychoanalyst and scholar of the Holocaust, Dori Laub, MD and a scholar of contemporary Islam, Akbar Ahmed, PhD presented papers and entered into dialogue inviting participation from an esteemed audience of psychoanalysts, mental health professionals, academics, and leaders of organizations interested in Islam and the Holocaust.

The conference on Fear and Trauma allowed for the suffering of the Holocaust and the suffering in the world of Islam to be discussed together for the first time.

The New York Freudian Society, Washington, DC Program and the School of International Service of American University in Washington, DC collaborated in bringing together

knowledge of trauma from psychoanalytic study of Holocaust survivors and the contemporary conflicts between Islam and the West.

Dr. Nancy Goodman, the moderator of the program, opened the conference with comments about the importance of hearing from two scholars who have been courageous witnesses to the truths of unspeakable traumas: the destruction of the Nazi era and the terror facing us today in the contemporary conflicts within the world of Islam and between Islam and the West.

Dr. Dori Laub and Dr. Akbar Ahmed created a double narrative as they spoke from extensive knowledge of their fields of interest and from their personal experiences as children.

Dr. Laub, a child survivor of the Holocaust, spent the better part of his professional life working with victims of massive trauma and writing about therapeutic work with severe trauma. Dr. Ahmed, a child on one of the trains during the mayhem of the Pakistani partition, and holder of the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at the School of International Service at American University, is a prolific writer on the world of Islam and a creator of interfaith dialogue. Both

scholars have the tenacity to know, study, and teach about ruptures of soul and culture. They are each dedicated to creating ways to hear about the unspeakable and to facilitate creation of narrative as individuals and groups learn to listen to each other.

Psychoanalytic commentaries further enriched understanding

beautifully with the topic of Fear and Trauma. Each commentary included exquisitely sensitive work with traumatized patients.

Dr. Dori Laub presented a paper on "Knowing the Unknowable of the Holocaust". He spoke eloquently about the place of testimony as an alternative to dramatic fragmenta-



■ Dr. Akbar Ahmed (second from right) and participants in the dialogue

of how narratives and dialogues develop out of terrifying experience and were presented by Paula Ellman, PhD, Arlene Kramer Richards, EdD and Robert Rovner, PhD. The three clinical papers focused on otherness in one form or another and meshed

tion. Only in the creation of testimony could the knowing take place. "Testimony," said Dr. Laub, "can only emerge in the presence of a passionate listener."

He presented examples of the incapacity of mothers to have any

memory of what happened to their children when the events involving their deaths were too horrifying. Massive psychic trauma lacks a beginning, middle and end. It weaves its way into the memories of several generations as is internalized by the children of those who were victims. Many survivors were unable to speak because of their inner speechlessness, having split off their traumatic experiences both emotionally and cognitively. Dr. Laub noted that a good object is essential for survival. Survivors don't know what they know till they give testimony. Dr. Laub spoke of the urgency he experienced to co-found the Holocaust Video Archives Project at Yale University in 1979 as a living memorial for testimonies of survivors.

Dr. Akbar Ahmed presented a paper on "Creating Dialogue when Cultures Rupture". Akbar Ahmed began his talk by noting the uniqueness of the Holocaust which has no parallel in the Muslim world and the importance of a Jewish-Muslim dialogue. He stressed the need for a narrative about Muslim history and the urgency for the West to understand what is happening in Muslim society. The enormity of unrest was underscored by his remarking that of all the refugees in the world today, 80% are Muslims. He went on to say that in Iraq alone four million refugees have been created by our involvement there.

■ DIALOGUE, P28



■ Cmdr. Muhammad Muzzafar F. Khan

First Muslim to Command an Aviation Squadron in US Navy

■ By Lt. Nathan Christensen

Cmdr. Muhammad Muzzafar F. Khan relieved Cmdr. Timothy Langdon as Commanding Officer of Sea Control Squadron (VS) 31 during a ceremony held at sea aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) May 13. Khan is the first Muslim to take command of an operational aviation squadron in the US Navy. The "Topcats" of VS-31 are assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9, embarked aboard Stennis, and currently de-

ployed to the US 5th Fleet area of operations (AOO).

"I am absolutely thrilled and honored to be placed in that position of stewardship," said Khan. "It's an honor and a tremendous feeling."

As a child in Pakistan, Khan grew up around aviation. His father served in the Pakistani Air Force for 21 years and then flew commercial airplanes for 24 years. "As far back as I can remember, I've always wanted to be a

pilot," he said. "There is a Naval Aviation Museum poster with a little boy holding a toy airplane and looking up at the sky. That little boy was me."

Some 40 years later, Khan does not just have ambitions to be a jet pilot; he is one. Not only does Khan fly jet airplanes almost daily near his native Pakistan, but also, he now commands an aviation squadron responsible for six aircraft and over 200 personnel.

■ FIRST MUSLIM, P28

Faakhir Joins Battle against Smoking in Pakistan

■ Pakistan Link Report

In a high-profile event to mark the World No Tobacco Day in Islamabad recently, leading pop artist Faakhir was appointed Ambassador for Tobacco Control in Pakistan. An MoU was signed in this regard between the Federal Minister for Health, Mohammad Nasir Khan and Faakhir. The World Health Organization chief in Pakistan was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Health Minister said a role model like Faakhir had the ability to inspire youth to lead a healthy lifestyle. He said it was his firm belief that Faakhir being a well-known celebrity would be highly successful in dissuading our youth from tobacco use.

Faakhir in his remarks said he was convinced that he could play a positive role in preventing the youth

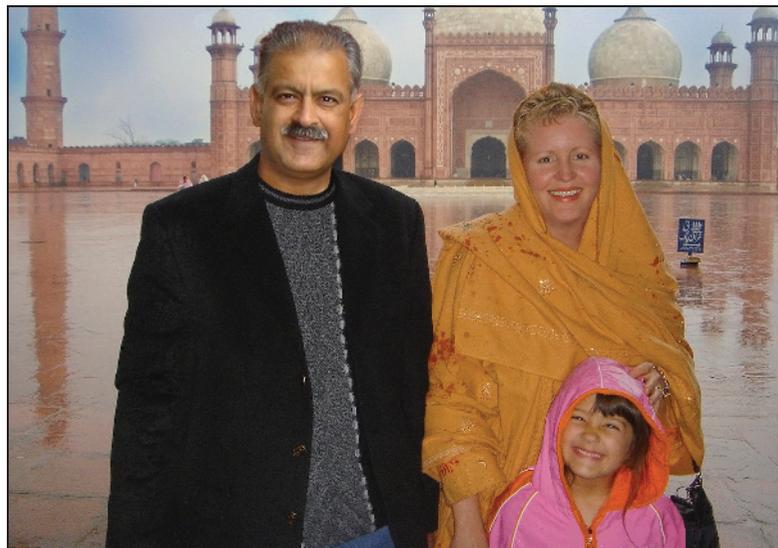


■ Federal Minister for Health, Mohammad Nasir Khan with Faakhir after the signing of the MoU

of Pakistan from falling victim to the machinations of the tobacco industry. "Music is a driver of emotions, and it works if you strike the right chord", Faakhir said, before he announced that he will release a song called 'J'IAJ JA' to initiate a campaign against smoking and drugs and also create awareness about healthy lifestyle!

It was also announced during the event that the Ministry of Health is clamping stricter restrictions on tobacco advertisement in Pakistan as part of a renewed initiative to secure 100 percent smoke-free environments. The Ministry will also discourage the setting up of designated smoking areas.

www.PakistanLink.com



■ The Mansuris in the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore (March 2007)

Newport Beach, CA: Well-known industrialist and community activist Arif Zaffar Mansuri has acquired PL Publications, LLC, the publisher of Pakistan Link. He assumed the office of President and Managing Editor on May 14, 2007.

An active member of several Pakistani-American and mainstream American associations, Mansuri enjoys immense popularity in the community. He has been instrumental in organizing many community events and fundraisers and is highly regarded for his patronage of learning and scholarship.

Mansuri regards Pakistan Link as a national heritage that he has come to share, not own, with fellow Pakistanis. "I am thankful to God that He has given me the opportunity to serve my dear country, Pakistan, and the Pakistanis residing in North America. I feel honored to be the current caretaker of this precious heritage.

"I admire the Pakistani-American media, including the many newspapers, magazines, radio, TV and the Internet. However, very few of these

have a direct focus on the mainstream American community and its policymakers, think tanks and interfaith groups. Pakistan Link is among those who have traditionally served this crucial role, and it is my dream to have it serve as an even stronger link in the future between the Pakistani-American community and the mainstream American community."

Mansuri urges the community to support Pakistan Link by submitting feature articles, opinion pieces and poetry, taking subscriptions and placing advertisements. He also warmly welcomes suggestions, critiques and letters to the editor.

■ MANSURI FROM P1

Prominent community members have welcomed Mansuri's taking over of Pakistan Link and have greeted him with many congratulatory messages. Literary circles, too, have expressed optimism that Link's already well-respected literary standing will reach even higher levels; for years, Mansuri has been associated with the Urdu Writers Society and has figured prominently in other lit-

eter fame.

In addition to various publications, Imam headed the graphics and arts departments of several advertising firms in Pakistan such as Sachi & Sachi and Ogilvy & Mather. He also designed the advertisement and promotional campaigns of major international brands such as Nestle, Pepsi, Brooke Bond and the City Bank.

Imam is an excellent poet and is known in literary circles as one of the best poets in North America.

Says Imam, "Working on the Pakistan Link design was one of my most challenging assignments. Creating the design that takes many months in less than four weeks was quite an uphill task. I am however pleased that the final outcome is of international standards. Pakistan Link is a prestigious and premier newspaper of the Pakistani-American community. My desire was to produce a design which is truly representative of our great community."

We hope that you too would like this new look of the paper! Please favor us with your comments at Editor@PakistanLink.com



This issue of Pakistan Link has a new masthead and a layout that conforms to the latest graphic techniques. Famous designer and graphic artist, Arif Imam, designed the masthead and the layout.

Mr. Imam was commissioned by the new management to improve the look of the newspaper and to introduce the latest layout style and graphics. The task turned out to be truly daunting as the amount of time at the disposal of the artist was too short. Imam however lived up to his reputation and imparted a well-balanced modern and unique look to the paper.

Imam has played an important role in the design and layout of several newspapers and publications. He was a key member of the team that launched The News International, Jung Group's leading English newspaper. He was also responsible for the design and layout of the popular business daily, the Financial Post. Among the various magazines that he has designed are 'Politics and Business' published by Altaf Gohar, 'TV Times' and 'Women's Own' published by Riaz Ahmed Mansuri of the Crick-

■ Pakistan Link Report

Newport Beach, CA: In 1991, an enterprising family named Rehman saw the pressing need in the growing Pakistani community for a newspaper of its own that would connect not only the two countries, but Pakistanis across America as well. Faiz Rehman became the editor of the fledgling Pakistan Link with the enthusiastic support of his father, the noted Urdu poet Abdul Rehman Siddiqi.

The task of launching the news-

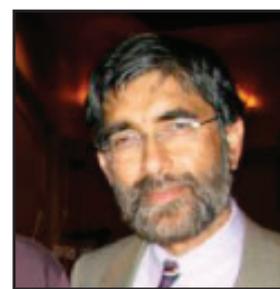
paper was daunting, but the family showed extraordinary zeal in surmounting start-up obstacles and the paper began to flourish.



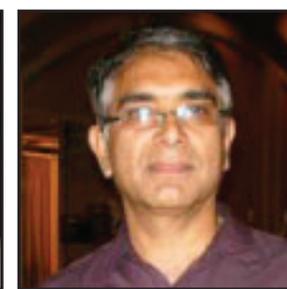
Faiz Rehman



Abdul Rehman Siddiqi



Safi Qureshey



Wasi Qureshey

paper was daunting, but the family showed extraordinary zeal in surmounting start-up obstacles and the paper began to flourish.

Under the leadership of the Editor-in-Chief, Faiz Rehman and the strong support of his father and brothers, the paper began to serve as a forum for the Pakistan-American community. Subscribers multiplied, pages went up and the readership soared.

■ LINK FROM P1

Blissfully, the community had found an effective platform to air its views on, first and foremost, politics. Among other things, one of Rehman's motivating factors in founding the paper was to draw more attention to the role that Pakistani troops had played in the first Gulf War.

Urdu poetry and literature has long been a vibrant part of the Pakistani cultural scene and it became a popular feature of the paper. In addition to Pakistan Link in English, Urdu Link came to serve as a great stimulant for the promotion of Urdu in North America. With Abdul Rehman Siddiqi as the Editor, Urdu Link gained immense support and popularity among the literary circles in North America, Pakistan and India.

Enter the IT Star

It was a measure of the penetration of Pakistan Link across the nation that only nine years later, the paper attracted the notice of none other than Safi Qureshey, the well-known and extremely successful IT entrepreneur who founded AST. Under the chairmanship of Safi Qureshey, AST had become a Fortune 500 company with over 6,000 employees in more than 100 countries and annual revenues in excess of \$2.6 billion. The IT celebrity, who was once described by Newsweek magazine as the Pakistani giving a run to Microsoft, added many pluses to the paper, including financial stability. A full-fledged office was established in Karachi, Pakistan, which resulted in further content improvement of the paper.

Qureshey's already-established, high-profile success in the IT world was also instrumental in introducing the paper to the higher echelons of Washington and Islamabad. Both President Musharraf and Prime Min-

ister Shaukat Aziz are admittedly aware of Link's role in furnishing Pakistan's perspective on various issues to policymakers in Washington.

Indisputably, it was Wasi's vast

experience in the Army, SUPARCO and computer organizations like Auditoramp which helped in establishing a base in Pakistan, automating the publication, and reducing the unnecessary overheads which enabled it to survive through the recession and post-9/11 period.

Due to Wasi's sustained strivings and the painstaking efforts of his devoted lieutenants - the late Riaz Ansari, a truly lovable person who despite failing health put his heart in the challenging task, and Mahboob Akhtar, et al. - there were vivid indications of the growing influence of the paper.

The University of California, Berkeley, decided to microfilm the issues of Link, and the national airline of Pakistan, PIA, carried copies of the paper on its trans-Atlantic flights. The number of contributors multiplied and the website registered record traffic as think tanks, policymakers and interfaith groups began to increasingly pore the contents of Link.

Meanwhile, Urdu Link, under the stewardship of Shabbir Ghori, also gained immense popularity. Ghori's background as a journalist and his enterprise and industry, along with his role in facilitating the transition from solely a literary to a popular newspaper, did not go unnoticed. His efforts were duly applauded by the growing readership.

Link's Influence Grows

A report of the 'New America Media', the largest national collaboration of ethnic news organizations, has testified to this welcome trend: "Pakistani Americans aren't the only ones who read Pakistan Link. It also attracts university professors, leading experts on Pakistan and Southeast Asia and young people. (Editor Akhtar) Faruqui...says he runs into professors from UCLA and once, even the Los Angeles County Police Chief, who say they enjoy and admire his paper. 'These are heartwarming things for an editor to hear', says Faruqui. 'I am sometimes surprised at the response. People all over the US read us avidly'. This is proven, not only by the geographical diversity of their subscribers, but the many letters they receive from all over the country".

More recently, Akram Shaheedi, Minister (Press) at the Embassy of

Pakistan in Washington, concurred with the New America Media report: "It is in my knowledge that the editorials and the news analysis published in Pakistan Link are accorded serious consideration at the policy levels of the USA Administration. The weekly is known for its pro-Pakistan stance and the community owns it with pride because the end product is quite impressive as compared to the other similar publications of the community".

A Man with Goals

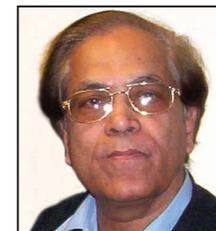
May 14, 2007 marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Pakistan Link with Arif Mansuri assuming charge of President and Managing Editor of the paper. He comes with a sound academic background - two Masters degrees from American universities and many professional attainments to his credit. His priorities and goals are well-defined. The mission of the paper, clearly spelled out by him, is to:

- Promote the positive image of Pakistan in North America.

- Influence the policy and policymakers at all levels of the governments of the United States and Pakistan, for strengthening the Pakistan-US ties and betterment of Pakistanis all around the globe.

- Deliver news and information of interest to the Pakistani-American community, effectively and efficiently, using the print and Internet-based newspaper.

- Link the Pakistani-American community by providing a platform to discuss issues that impact their everyday life in the US. Also to forge links between the Pakistani-American community and the host community.



Mansuri also plans to create a nationwide directory of Pakistani-American businesses and individuals to bring the community together through the widely accessed website of Pakistan Link.

Under Mansuri's stewardship, Pakistan Link is poised to break new ground and to be a greater source of strength for the community.

Faruqui Continues as Editor

Akhtar Mahmud Faruqui, Editor of Pakistan Link, will continue to edit the newspaper after the change in ownership.

Before joining Pakistan Link, Faruqui served as Assistant Editor of Dawn, a leading Pakistani daily newspaper based in Karachi, and earlier, as Principal Public Relations Officer of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commis-

Miss Asia USA 2007 Fashion Show

■ Pakistan Link Report

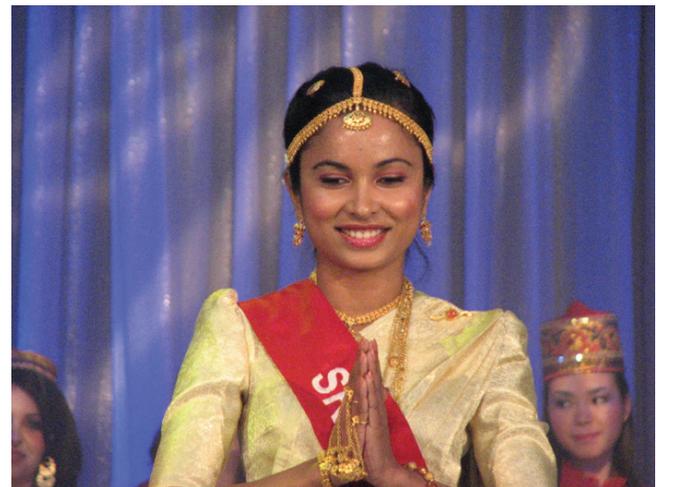
A Miss Asia USA 2007 fashion show was organized at the Hollywood Celebrity Center on June 3, 2007.

The show displayed the rich ethnic diversity of 58 countries that are considered part of the Asian continent. Thirty-five participants dressed up elegantly demonstrated the beauty and culture of the area. Miss Ayesha Khan represented Pakistan.

The show was presented by Virgelia Productions.

Around 400 people attended the show. Present among the audience were Miss Asia USA 2007, Miss Asia USA 2006, and Miss Asia USA 2005.

All proceeds from the event were donated to CHF International and Cure Autism.



■ Pictures by Naushad Sarwar

A Look Back at OPEN as Forum 2007 Tests Exuberance

■ By Ras H. Siddiqui

“OPEN Forum 2007: Rational Exuberance,” on June 16, 2007 brings the Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America (OPEN) - Silicon Valley chapter to another important milestone since its inaugural event.

Pakistan Link has been covering this organization since Tuesday, November 13, 2001 with a report from the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto, where the topic of discussion and the focus (so eloquently opened and closed by the first OPEN-SV President Asim Abdullah) was “Entrepreneurship in the Post Dotcom Era”. Moderated by Arif Janjua, the presentation by a panel of experts, Ammar Hannafi, Asad Jamal, Faysal Sohail and Zia Chisti was enlightening. We had concluded in reporting on that event that the only challenge left now is to ensure the continuity of this momentum. It now appears that OPEN Silicon Valley has certainly met that goal.

OPEN Forum 2007 is the fourth annual conference which will be held at the SAP Campus in Palo Alto on June 16. The first forum proved to be very significant. Over the years since 2004 when Idris Kothari, then President of OPEN, introduced former California Governor Jerry Brown at afternoon and closed the forum behind the amazing keynote of Mr Hatim Tyabji (who said, “If somebody tells you that it can’t be done, prove them wrong”) this organization has continued to gain in stature.

In 2005, Zia Yusuf, then President of OPEN, kicked off the day with quotes from Dwight Eisenhower, George S. Patton and even Napoleon Bonaparte whose “A leaders is a dealer in hope” attracted much attention.

OPEN Forum 2005 focused on “The Art of Leadership” as a number of true leaders gathered there from the world of business, high-technology and sports. The number of women in attendance still may have been small but their contribution grew to be significant enough to be mentioned here. With over five keynote speeches, two panels, a fireside chat and four workshops, plus other sessions, along with tea and lunch, the day gave everyone an ample opportunity to network and to learn the ropes about setting up businesses that can attract the attention of Venture Capitalists (VC’s) and/or Angel Investors willing to back innovation and ideas. And to top it all, as one added the presence of Pakistani cricket legend, Imran Khan to this mix, the day attracted its share of local, national and even worldwide attention (CNN was there).

Open Forum 2006 focused on “The Rising Tide” of optimism in Silicon Valley and was addressed by General Pervez Musharraf via teleconference. Also addressing the gathering were Dr Ishrat Husain, the former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, and Asad Jamal, founder and Chairman of ePlanet Ventures). Talks by President Musharraf and Dr. Ishrat Husain did reflect the rising optimism of some people in Pakistan and even here in California’s Silicon Valley, where the “Rising Tide” could possibly have been just a stir. But we concluded with the hope that at least the tsunami years were behind us.

It is with this short historical look back that Pakistan Link welcomes OPEN Forum 2007 and shares in its “Rational Exuberance” theme. This newspaper has remained a part of the Pakistani-American community for over 15 years and continues to support Boston origin OPEN whose chapter here on the West Coast is inspiring community members to become business and technology leaders.

(OPEN-Silicon Valley promotes entrepreneurship within the Pakistani-American community by providing guidance, mentoring, and networking opportunities to its members in order to facilitate their success.)



■ Hatim Tyabji’s keynote address at OPEN 2004



■ President Musharraf via Teleconference at OPEN 2006



■ Dr Ishrat Husain addresses OPEN 2005



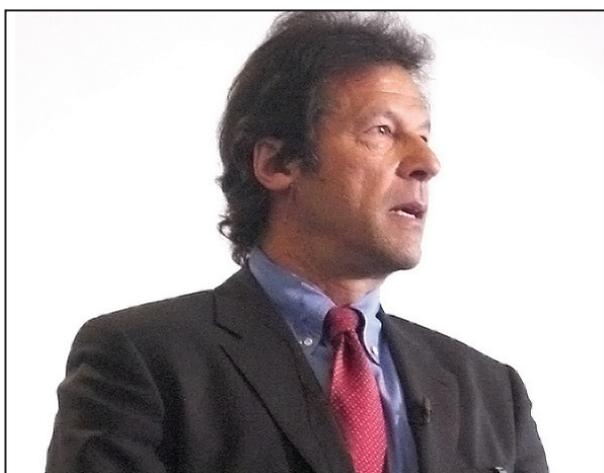
■ Pak Minister Awais Leghari: Keynote Speaker at OPEN 05



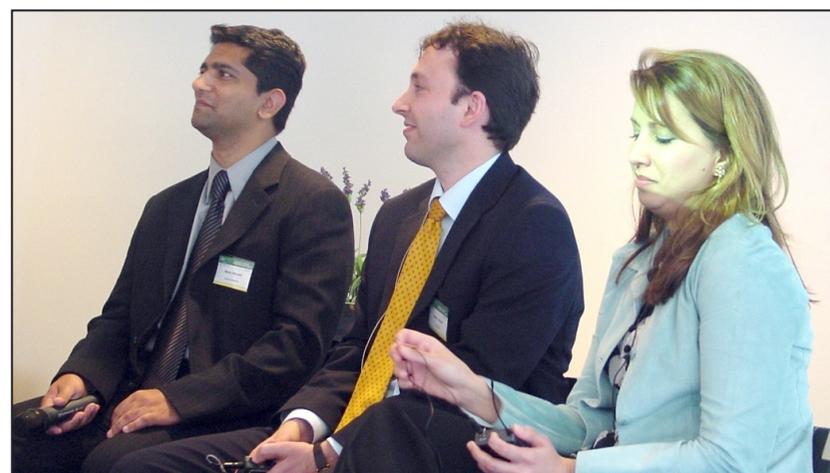
■ OPEN Forum 2005



■ Attendees at OPEN Forum 2004



■ Imran Khan at OPEN Forum 2005



■ Monis Rahman, Babar Ahmed and Hina Chaudhry at OPEN 05

OPEN Silicon Valley: An Organization on the March

■ By Zunaira Durrani

In 1998, six Pakistani entrepreneurs in Boston found themselves in conversation about their daytime pursuits frequently. Linking the Pakistani professional community in the United States with the entrepreneurial environment around the group became an ambition. Following twelve months of informal meetings, the group of six founded the Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America, or OPEN.

From Boston, OPEN went coast to coast as the ambition snowballed into a full-fledged organization with a charter. Volunteers, who to this date are the pulse of OPEN, enrolled and encouraged likeminded colleagues to get onboard. OPEN found itself filling a void for bright young Pakistani minds in business, technology, telecom and other sectors vying for a piece of the entrepreneurial action.

With chapters in Houston, New England, New York, Washington DC, and Silicon Valley, OPEN will be heading East with a new addition: Dubai. OPEN is working with institutions locally and globally to offer Pakistanis a path to innovation and success. A recent \$50,000 contribution to the MIT Entrepreneurship Center has brought it one strategic step closer to forging lifetime ties and knowledge exchange between Pakistan and the US.

On June 16, 2007, OPEN Silicon Valley will hold its fourth annual Forum in Palo Alto, CA. Here, Silicon Valley chapter president Umair Khan talks about the opportunities in store.

Q: How did OPEN Silicon Valley evolve?

Umair: Back in early 2001, the journey for OPEN Silicon Valley began when friends from Boston and MIT approached Salman Akhtar and me about OPEN. They were narrating their positive experience, saying that they needed East Coast to West Coast transference and presence. We got together a group of charter members

and Open Silicon Valley was formed in June 2001.

Q: Does OPEN work with other organizations targeting Pakistani-American working professionals?

Umair: Our focus is the Paki-

strength from voluntary participation. Certainly, looking at the last six years, how much or how little OPEN has achieved depends on your perspective. It has achieved a sense of stability and regularity, which is difficult

All I can say is that OPEN's potential pales its achievements, and it is this potential that drives us all. The great thing about potential is you will never succeed in achieving it, but you will achieve far more than what's

speaking for the first time at the OPEN Forum. Since then, the dialogue has been maintained.

In terms of presence in Pakistan, we have started to think of OPEN as standing for Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs, and not just for Entrepreneurs in North America. We will be opening foreign chapters starting with one in Dubai. Likewise, we are talking to people in Pakistan. TiE Pakistan exists and it is a very good organization. We are working with the right people in Pakistan to put together a bridge between Silicon Valley Pakistanis and US Pakistanis.

The business community in Pakistan is aware of OPEN and it makes sense for OPEN to have an office there. Whether it's a liaison office or a full-fledged chapter, that remains to be seen.

Q: Who are the hot shots to watch out for at the upcoming OPEN Forum?

Umair: We have an eclectic lineup. One of the big attractions is Syed Babar Ali, the founder of LUMS who is extremely well respected in the Pakistani business and education circles. Then Sophia Qureshi of Al Jazeera is one to watch, as part of a theme on alternative paths to success. We also have Monis Rahman who created Naseeb Networks. He is a fantastic story of a Silicon Valley resident repatriating to Pakistan and then creating this whole world online. Another one is a Pakistani named Khalid Saiduddin who is a runner up to the 100K MIT business plan competition -- the first time for a Pakistani to reach that high up in the competition. His company is called SaafWater, a social entrepreneurship project addressing the number one need of Pakistan fulfilled by this young student. He will be part of this entrepreneurial idol with two other companies pitching to VCs who, like Simon Cowell, will shred them to pieces (humanely, of course) and we'll see who survives. No entrepreneurs will be harmed in the process!



■ OPEN Silicon Valley chapter members and volunteers enjoy working and playing cricket together. Picture taken at a recent match held in Gilroy

stani American business community, particularly the entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs within that community. The broader community benefits and the Pakistanis back home benefit in the broader perspective. But the focus has been narrow compared to other Pakistani-American organizations. We work with several other groups for instance IOPWE which is focused on women. Their demographic is part and parcel of our demographic. Then there are other organizations that are working for the betterment of the Pakistani community and Pakistan. We, true to our name, are open to partnering with people and organizations that want well for the Pakistani community.

Q: What are the opportunity areas OPEN is eyeing in the future?

Umair: The interesting thing is that OPEN continues to draw its

to achieve in a decade of existence. Some of the highlights are events like the OPEN Forum which have gained in stature.

I see the strategic initiative we have launched with the MIT Entrepreneurship Center as a major milestone in OPEN growing up. OPEN has sponsored the MIT Entrepreneurship Center by giving \$50,000 and becoming a lifetime sponsor. In this way, we are engaging the Center within the Sloan School to work towards improving entrepreneurs within the Pakistani-American community and within Pakistan. As a direct result of that, the Head of the Entrepreneurship Department at MIT has traveled to Pakistan twice to have day-long workshops on entrepreneurship, venture capital, CEO summits -- all of that in Karachi. This is the first time that an MIT professor is teaching there.

possible. That's true of me or you as a person, that's true of OPEN as an organization, and of Pakistan as a country.

Q: What is the nature of OPEN's relationship with the government and the business sector in Pakistan?

Umair: OPEN is apolitical and a secular professional organization. The relationship with the Pakistani government is an open dialogue on all issues of business and commerce. So whenever there is an opportunity to engage the government on business-related matters whether its through our events, annual forum or in private meetings, OPEN charter membership takes the opportunity to hear what the government has to say and the government in turn listens to what we have to say to them. And that dialogue has always been positive starting in 2004 when we had Minister of IT Awais Leghari

■ DIALOGUE FROM P19

We lament the approximately 3000 American deaths but do not register the far greater number of Iraqi fatalities, estimated by the British to be 655,000 and by the Iraqis to be 1.5 million.

Akbar Ahmed provided more details about his own history. In 1947 there was madness in North India. With the creation of Pakistan, 15 million people were displaced and two million people died. Hindus went to India and Muslims to Pakistan. The intense intimacy of these peoples was converted into violence overnight. He also spoke about the rising tide of Anti-Semitism and the mistaken belief throughout the Muslim world that Israel is behind 9/11. He closed with the plea for Christians and Jews to help Muslims tell their stories and for the repeated need for dialogue between Muslim and Jew.

As they spoke together about the incomprehensible terror they have each witnessed in their work and in their lives, exquisite need for conversation and knowing the narrative of the other was evidenced.

■ FIRST MUSLIM FROM P 19

Khan came to the United States from Pakistan in 1981 to live with his aunt in Texas. His goal was to learn to fly, as well as earn a degree from North Texas State. Although Khan said life was good in Pakistan, he made the decision to stay here in the United States during college and become an American citizen, a decision he does not regret. "I am 100 percent American. I bleed red, white and blue," said Khan.

He not only remained in the United States and became an American citizen, but decided to become a naval aviator Khan's decision, however, did not please everyone in his family at first, he said. "My father initially was opposed to the idea of me joining the US Navy because I am the oldest son. My father wanted me to return home and follow in his footsteps and fly with the airlines for him. So, when I told him I was joining the Navy, he wasn't initially happy."

Since then, his father and him have grown very close over the years, sharing the common bond and passion for aviation.

Khan's younger brother even followed his example joining the navy as a P-3 pilot, and is currently stationed in Whidbey Island, Wash.

In 2004, Khan was selected to enter the command-at-sea pipeline and became VS-31's executive officer shortly thereafter. Khan was competing for one of two spots against 32 candidates, he said. "The fact that I was selected for command after Sept. 11 is a good indication that the Navy is an equal opportunity organization and that we don't discriminate on race, religion or color," said Khan. While many Americans may not have known much about Islam prior to Sept. 11, the terrorist attacks in New York City changed that completely.

"After Sept. 11, pretty much the entire American nation knew about Islam and the image they had is not the right one," said Khan. I read an article, which I believe to be true, that Islam was basically hijacked. "The Islamic teachings were turned around or taken out of context so that they could be used for political gain and to incite violent behavior. Suicide and killing innocent people is strictly forbidden

in Islam."

Khan is flying missions over Afghanistan as part of CVW-9 to bring stability and security to the region and help defeat the Taliban who incite extremism. CVW-9, assigned to the USS John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group, entered the US 5th Fleet area of operations (AOO) Feb.19 to conduct Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in regional waters, as well as to provide support for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops on the ground there participating in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

"As far as the mission is concerned, I hope and wish the same things I wish for my fellow Americans; I hope there's peace, I hope there's stability, I hope for all people in the region that they can go to the market as freely as I can and let their children play on the street or get a job and be able to provide for their family," said Khan, as he flies missions in support of ISAF, which is comprised of more than 35,000 troops, with contributions from 37 nations.

"That is what my hope is -- that in the end there will be stability and everyone will be able to enjoy the same

freedoms that I enjoy in the United States."

Khan said that while flying missions over Afghanistan from Stennis, he flies over Pakistan and catches a glimpse of his native country. "It is awesome to look down to be able to see Pakistan knowing I lived 18 years of my life there."

After 20 successful years in the Navy, today marks the pinnacle of his career as he assumes command at sea. However, Khan has no intention of retiring anytime soon.

"I have completed 20 years and I absolutely love the Navy. I'm still having a lot of fun and I don't see myself getting out anytime soon," he said. "I love it, I enjoy it and I feel extremely honored and privileged to be an American and serving in the United States Navy. Knowing what I know now, I would not change anything about my decision to join the Navy."

Asked what he hopes to achieve down the road in terms of his career, Khan smiled. "The sky is the limit," he said, suggesting a desire to become the first Muslim admiral in US Navy history.

Sheriff Baca Meets Pakistan Advisory Council

■ Pakistan Link Report

Sheriff of the County of Los Angeles, Leroy D. Baca, invited the Sheriff's Pakistan Advisory Council to his headquarters for a meeting. Despite his busy schedule he spent considerable time with the members of the Council and had meaningful discussions with them.

Sheriff Baca is the most well-known sheriff in the country and his support to the Pakistani-American community is unwavering. He has lead a delegation of Sheriffs and security officials from Alabama, New Jersey and California to Pakistan. On that trip he visited many parts of Pakistan and held meetings with President Musharaf and other high officials of the Pakistani Government.

The Advisory Council serves an

important role by promoting and encouraging communications between the Sheriff's Office and the members of the Pakistani-American community. In this capacity the Advisory Council provides civilian review of proposed and ongoing departmental programs. The Sheriff relies on this as part of the input to adjust his efforts in serving the County. It also serves as a conduit between the department and citizens, bringing community concerns to the Sheriff's attention and helping to work towards solutions.

As always, Sheriff Baca expressed great interest in receiving input from the members of the Advisory Council. A lively discussion ensued with interaction between Sheriff Baca and the Advisory Council Members regarding various topics of mutual interest.

Waqar Ali Khan, the Chairman of the Advisory Council stated that



■ Members of Pakistan Advisory Council with Sheriff Baca

one of the goals of the Council is to educate the members and the community on the extensive range of services available to County residents through the Sheriff's Office. He anticipates that these services will be better

utilized by the community members as a result of the educational efforts of the Advisory Council.

Members of the Advisory Council thanked Sheriff Baca for his support of Pakistan and the Pakistani-

American community.

In recognition of the dedication and efforts of the members of the Advisory Council, Sheriff Baca presented certificate awards to each member.

Pakistan Link at APPNA and OPEN Events

■ Pakistan Link Report

Pakistan Link will fully participate in the upcoming Annual Business Conference of the Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America (OPEN) and the Annual Summer Meeting of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) by putting up a stall and covering the two important events.

This year the OPEN Silicon Valley's 4th Annual Business Conference: OPEN Forum 2007 will be held on June 16 in Palo Alto, California. The Annual Summer Meeting of APPNA will be held in Orlando, Florida from June 26 to July 1. The Silicon Valley Chapter of OPEN was launched in 2001. OPEN is a voluntary, not-for profit association dedicated to the promotion of entrepreneurship within the Pakistani-American community. Established in Boston in 1998, OPEN has chapters in Boston, New York, Silicon Valley, and Washington DC.

APPNA is a non-political, not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering scientific development and education in the field of medicine and to delivering better health care, irrespective of race, color, creed, or gender. APPNA saves lives and relieves suffering through its participation in medical relief and other charitable activities both at home and abroad. Established in 1976, APPNA is one of leading ethnic medical societies in the US. Being a community newspaper, Pakistan Link strongly believes in supporting the community organizations and participating in their programs.

Come visit Pakistan Link at our booth at the OPEN and APPNA meetings! We sincerely strive to serve you better and we expect the community to know us more. Together we can set out to attain our collective goals.

A Glittering, Spacious Restaurant Is Inaugurated in Pomona

■ Pakistan Link Report

The inauguration ceremony of Shalimar Restaurant in Pomona on May 26 was a lively event enjoyed evenly by the invitees and the hosts. Attended by the community's leading lights and prominent figures, the ceremony was held in the spacious hall of the restaurant, by far the most commodious and roomy among the Pakistani restaurants in the Greater Los Angeles area. The décor too is appealing. Everything appeared spick-and-span. The food served was delicious and enjoyed by all and sundry.

The arrangements were so perfect that Mrs. Tabatai, wife of the late Brigadier Tabatabai who was well-known in literary circles, announced that Shalimar would be the venue of the next mushaira to be held in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Ashraf Ali, President of the Pakistani-American Arts Council, was the emcee of the evening and enlivened the proceedings with his well-meaning remarks. Mr. Ali suggested that a meeting of community members should be held



■ Above: Spacious banquet hall of Shalimar. Below: Glimpses of the inauguration ceremony

at Shalimar every month to take advantage of its décor, food and the management's hospitality.

The setting had a striking Pakistani touch. The owners have imported a container full of handicraft from Pakistan that seemed to lend a familiar look to the setting. Quite a

few invitees were surprised to see a motor rickshaw at the entrance with the message "Maan ki dua, Pappo yar tang na kar."

The restaurant is owned by two brothers - Rashid Siddiqui and Amir Siddiqui - who have been involved in community affairs for several years

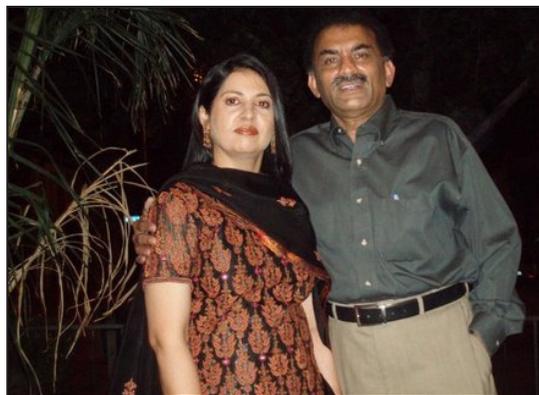
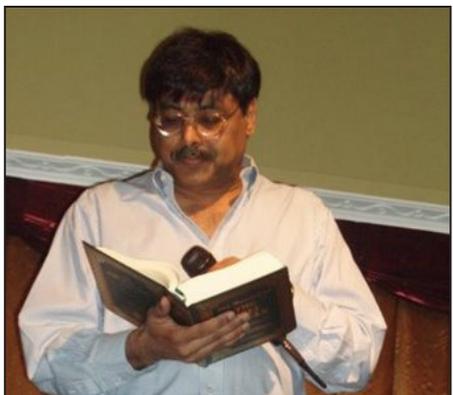
now.

Rashid used to arrange shows sometime back. Their father, late Qasim Siddiqui, was also a prominent community member and is still remembered for his services. The two brothers have the active support of their wives -Roohi Siddiqui and Mrs Amir - in the laudable undertaking of running the Shalimar Restaurant.

A singular feature of the evening was the respect shown to the seniors. The mother of Rashid and Amir, Mrs Qasim Siddiqui, was escorted to the dais with great propriety and show of affection by her sons and bahoos. She prayed for the success of the restaurant as any loving Pakistani mother would do.

The management has hired Chinese and Pakistani chefs who prepare dishes. Besides Pakistanis, the restaurant has a good number of regular non-Pakistani clients who enjoy the delicious halal food and relax in the ideal surroundings.

For good food in a tasteful setting Shalimar should be an ideal choice for everyone.



Message from Minister (Press) Akram Shaheedi

Pakistan Link is doing good job for the Pakistani community in particular by presenting credible reporting and the thought provoking news analysis to them of the developments taking place in Pakistan and in this country. Pakistani community and the host community hold the paper in high esteem because the quality of service the weekly is providing to them on a regular basis.

Pakistan Link also provides the platform to the Pakistani scholars, writers, reputable professionals and CEOs to convey their ideas and sentiments about various issues facing the community as a whole. It keeps the members of the community fully informed about the problems and also

how best they can cope with the situation under the circumstances. The enviable number of hits of Weekly's website and the subscription speak in volume of the interest of the people all across America.

I am sure the weekly will continue its march of making significant impact on the wider segment of the society under the leadership of Mr. Arif Mansuri, Managing Editor and Mr. Akhtar Mahmud Faruqi, Editor. I have no doubt in my mind that the Weekly will make all of us proud by reaching out to the populace of the United States and the overseas countries in the future. I extend my heartiest best wishes to the whole team for their resounding success.



Link Booth Attracts Community Members in Fremont

■ Pakistan Link Report



Pakistan Link recently set up a booth at an event held to pay tributes to the creative genius of well-known poet and writer Irfan Murtaza and to accord recognition to his new books - Chanda and Tasweraen. The event was organized by the Karachi University Alumni Association of Northern California and held in Fremont,

California. It was well attended by the lovers of Urdu from the local community as well as from far away places.

Pakistan Link representative, Nikhat Khan, who manned the booth reported that the attendees of the event converged at the booth in large numbers. They were happy to see the Link at the event and were curious to know about the new policies of the newspaper after the recent change in ownership. A large number of subscriptions were sold at the event.

Khan said, "This was a very busy and hectic event for us. People kept on coming to our booth non-stop. We were exhausted but thrilled to see such a response".

Pakistan Link is one of the oldest and most liked Pakistani-American newspaper, and enjoys a strong following in the community. Such demonstration of respect and patronage inspire the staff of Pakistan Link to work hard for the community!

Nur Ali Finishes Second in Texas

AI Team Pakistan driver Nur Ali continued his summer race program at a Star Mazda race in Texas. The Karachi-born driver raced to a fantastic second place finish in front of a crowd of family, friends and sponsors who gathered to show their support.

After seven long months of a grueling travel schedule, culminating in the final A1GP World Cup of Motorsport Race at Brands Hatch in

the UK, Nur Ali was finally back at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, to race his #42 Star Formula Mazda Regional race car in the Sunburn Grand Prix.

Saturday dawned cloudy, with a light but steady drizzle. The weekend's format included both a qualifying race on each day. During the morning qualifying session, a total of 31 racecars took to the track from four different racing classes.

■ By Mohammad Ashraf Chaudhry
Pittsburgh, CA

G. K Chesterton once said, "My country, right or wrong" is like saying 'My mother, drunk or sober', which, in simple words means that

blind love and reverence is a dangerous proposition. Till recently, it was pronounced loud and clear that the judiciary and the armed forces of the country were above criticism.

Now, both are in triple-trouble: one, they are horn-locked against each other; second, both are under

Pakistan Consul General's Message

It is my pleasure to felicitate the weekly Pakistan Link under the new Management. Pakistan Link is a well known weekly for its valuable services to the Pakistani-American community in shape of news, reportages and commentaries. The regular columns, write ups and contributions by prolific writers are its distinction.

In this age of globalization media plays a significant role in creating awareness and helping develop public opinion. I believe

the Pakistan Link would continue providing quality coverage of news, objective analysis and economic developments around the globe especially in Pakistan. In addition, Pakistan Link will also play its due role in portraying and promoting the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Pakistan.

The vibrant Pakistani-American community is a source of strength for us in the Consulate General. Pakistan Link with its community based news coverage shall prove to be a real link in

further cementing the existing bonds between the Pakistani-American community and their motherland Pakistan.

The golden principles - Faith, Unity, Discipline - enunciated by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Founder of Pakistan, it is my hope, shall serve as the guiding principles of the Weekly.

I extend my best wishes and pray for the continued success of Pakistan Link under the new Management.

Pakistan Paindabad
Syed Ibne Abbas
Consul General of Pakistan
Los Angeles, California



LA Consulate congratulates Pakistan Link's new management



Group picture of LA Consulate officers and staff. Sitting (R to L): Zahoor Ellahi, Accountant; Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Commercial Consular; K.K.Ahsan wagan, Consul; Muhamad Javed, personal assistant to CG and Muhammad Iqbal, Consular attache. Standing (R to L): Nadya Veljee, Ms Shamim Zaveri, Ms Ashraf Nanjee, Faisal Ilyas, Shahid Ali, Muhammad Sharief, and Zahir uddin Baber.

Pakistan Link Invites Reader Participation

Pakistan Link has announced two new features, 'Life on Campus' and 'Mehfil-E-Tarah'. Plans are being made for several other new features to be launched soon in the Pakistan Link.

'Life on Campus', will provide an opportunity for students to discuss issues of particular interest to their lives. A topic will be announced every month and the selected articles from the submissions will be printed in the first issue of the following month.

The topic for Life on Campus for the next month is "The Generation Gap - Does it Exist?" Articles discussing the differences or similarities between the older and the younger generation of Pakistani-Americans and the impact of these on our family dynamics are welcome.

To participate, please write an opinion up to 150 words and e-mail to Editor@PakistanLink.com.* A photo of yourself is welcome but optional.

For the 'Mehfil-E-Tarah', a misra-e-tarah will be announced every month and the Urdu poets will be invited to submit poems using the given misra. Selected poems will be printed in the first issue of the following month.

The misra-e-tarah for the next month is from Jigar Murad Abadi's shair:

شاید انہیں بھی اس کی خبر ہونے لگے
در پردہ نظر جو نظر دیکھتا ہوں میں

To participate, please send your ghazals to Editor@PakistanLink.com along with your photo (optional).

"We are introducing these new features to bring even more reader participation in the paper", Editor Akhtar Faruqi said. "These are additions to the paper that I look forward to reading myself!"

*Note: All submissions should be brief, and may be edited. They become the property of Pakistan Link and may be republished in any format. Please include your full name, mailing address and daytime phone number (your number will not be published).

the microscopic scrutiny of a disillusioned people; both have deep fissures within their own columns. Both are engaged in a self-destructive game of affixing the blame. Those who once held them in their highest esteem, now appear so ready to pelt stones at them.

Hazrat Umer's standing orders were that 'armies of occupation' were to be held aloof from the established urban centers as much as possible. He was much distressed once when he saw the softness and paleness spread wide on the faces of the troops that he had sent to conquer Iraq, and

that was quartered in old Ctesiphon. He immediately ordered that 'camps be placed in the open near the desert.' And as we now know, later these camps grew into camp-cities in each of the newly won provinces, namely, Basra in lower Iraq, Kufah in central Iraq, Jabiyah in Syria, Ramlah in Pal-