

The Kaghan Flame

A Quarterly Newsletter of The Kaghan Memorial Trust

Spring 2009

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Team Associated Group (Orange)

1. Ahmad Zubair
2. Sufi Mohammad Haris
3. Usman Haye
4. Malik Asif Tiwana

Team Pakistan State Oil (Yellow)

1. Omer Asjad Malhi
2. Taimur Ali Malik
3. Agha Murtaza Ali Khan
4. Shah Qublai Alam

Umpires

Azhar Ali
Naveed M. Sheikh

Commentator

Hassan Ali Farrukh

Chief Guest

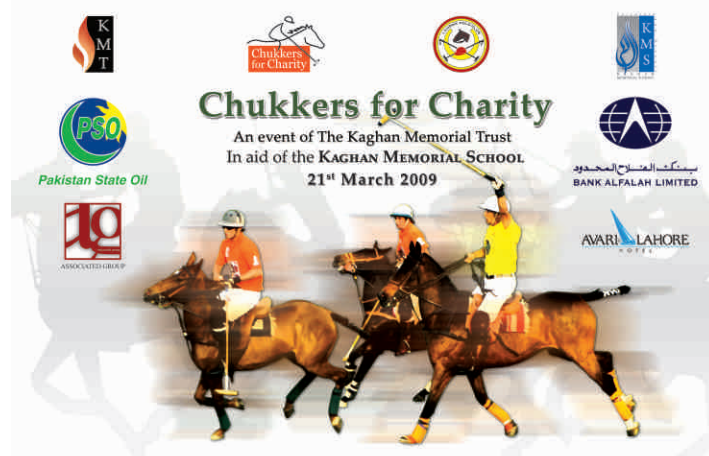
Abdul Qadir Khan Mamdot
President Lahore Polo Club

Chukkers for Charity Exhibition Polo Match 2009

On March 22nd, 2009, Team Associated Group and Team Pakistan State Oil battled it out over four chukkers for the Bank Alfalah Trophy in the Chukkers for Charity Exhibition Polo Match organised by the Lahore Polo Club in aid of the Kaghan Memorial School.

The match, initially scheduled for Saturday, March 21st, was put into question when a heavy rainstorm lashed Lahore the previous night. Upon an inspection of the pitch on Saturday morning, it was decided to delay the match until Sunday. While most polo grounds would take several days to be ready for play after such heavy rainfall, the match at the Lahore Polo Club suffered little delay due to the specially designed new pitch of their main Aibak Ground that allows for rapid runoff of surface water. By Sunday morning, the ground had been deemed fit for play and the rescheduled match was staged that afternoon.

Team Pakistan State Oil took an early lead stacking up 3 goals in the first chukker. In the second chukker, Team Associated Group found their feet and tallied 5 goals in quick succession. Play continued thick and fast into the third chukker with both Team



Associated Group and Team Pakistan State Oil scoring goals. Nevertheless, it was Team Associated Group that led the field. Once their opponents had scored 8 goals, Team Pakistan State Oil made a concerted effort to catch up in the final chukker but unfortunately it was a little too late. The final score was Team Associated Group, 9 and Team Pakistan State Oil, 7.

At the end of play, chief guest Mr. Abdul Qadir Khan Mamdot, the President of the Lahore Polo Club, awarded the Bank Alfalah sponsored trophies and souvenirs to the players, umpires, and sponsors. This was followed by tea and refreshments for the guests and players.

Special thanks are in order for the sponsors, Bank Alfalah, Pakistan State Oil, Associated Group and Avari Hotel Lahore,

and for the Lahore Polo Club and each of the players who donated their time and effort for this hard-fought and entertaining exhibition match.

The Lahore Polo Club President and its Secretary General, Mr. Irfan Ali Hyder have both been tremendous supporters of the Trust over the past year. We need to mention that Mr. Hyder continued lending us invaluable support in the days leading up to the match even though he was recovering at the time from a major heart operation. For this we are especially grateful and we wish him a swift and complete return to his previous energetic self.

The weekend of events that included a Spring Ball, also organised at the same venue (see page 3 for details), raised almost Pak. Rs. 1.5 million for the School.

The Managing Trustee's Column



“

With the teaching team that we have managed to assemble, we remain confident that this is the beginning of an exciting and productive journey for the children enrolled in our School.

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This first quarter of the new year was relatively quiet as the Kaghan Memorial School (KMS) was closed for winter break for most of the period and construction work on campus was also limited to a minimum because of the extreme cold and snow in the Kaghan Valley. The KMT Head Office, however, continued its work over these months, with the focus mainly on preparing for the launch of the new academic year, recruiting additional staff, and fundraising.

In response to our on-line advertisements, we received numerous applications from teachers interested in volunteering their services for the School. Following a process of e-mail exchanges and detailed telephone interviews, three qualified and experienced teachers were eventually recruited from different countries. These three international volunteers, Niamh Honohan from Ireland, Adrienne Scott from New Zealand and Lauren Allen from the US, along with our existing teacher, Ruth Suffield from Canada, will be teaching the four classes at the School this year. They will be supported by four local teaching assistants selected from the Balakot area.

The first term of the 2009 academic year started on March 8, and as of April 6, KMS will have 130 children on its rolls, divided over two sections of Kindergarten and two sections of Grade 1. Each classroom has a capacity of 17 boys and 17 girls, which translates to a total of 136 children over four classes. We aim to induct additional students against the 6 vacant seats over the coming months.

KMS also started providing free lunches to its students from the start of this new school year. This had been one of the objectives of the Trust for quite some time, but we had been unable to offer this facility in our Foundation Term due to budgetary constraints. We are still in a very tight financial situation this year, but the problem of malnutrition amongst the children was simply too critical to ignore, and we therefore took the decision to introduce these meals even though they have considerably inflated our monthly expenses.

On the fundraising front, we were fortunate during the quarter to receive a steady stream of child sponsors each month. It is through such sponsorships that we aim to eventually cover the operational costs at KMS. We are also indebted to Coca-Cola Pakistan for donating Rs. 1 million to us during this period, and to De Laas Gul Welfare Programme (DLG) for lending us Rs. 500,000 as an interest free loan. These funds are being used for our ongoing construction work on the Main Campus.

KMT also organised two fundraising events at the Lahore Polo Club at the end of March 2009. Details on these events, our Spring Ball and our second annual Chukkers for Charity Polo Match, are given in other sections of this newsletter but I need to take this opportunity to personally thank the management of the Lahore Polo Club for their continued support of our Trust and School. We managed to raise roughly Rs. 1.5 million from these two events, an amount that is all the more valuable considering the financial crisis that our country has been going through in recent months.

We are all excited that KMS has entered its first full academic year. With the teaching team that we have managed to assemble, we remain confident that this is the beginning of an exciting and productive journey for the children enrolled in our School. Having said this, however, we are also very much aware that this year is going to be the most challenging for us to date as we strive, in these tough times for Pakistan, to meet our construction targets and also to offer the education and the services that we have committed to deliver to the children of Kaghan.

Please pray for our success and, if possible, support us. We need your help now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Khurram Khan

April 2009

Coca-Cola donates Rs. 1 million



Established in 1885, Coca-Cola owns four of the world's top five non-alcoholic beverages, describing itself as 'a local business on a national scale'. Fully aware of their social responsibilities, Coca-Cola recognises that they cannot have a successful and growing business without helping to create healthy and sustainable

communities. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year alone, Coca-Cola contributed over US\$ 99 million to community initiatives worldwide with particular emphasis on supporting educational projects.

This year KMT and the Kaghan Memorial School were fortunate to have been selected amongst the beneficiaries of Coca-Cola's educational support efforts. Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Ltd., impressed by the work of the

Trust, gifted Pak. Rs. 1 million to KMT this February. These funds are being used for the ongoing construction of the Kaghan Memorial School.

KMT would like to thank all those involved in approving this generous donation for our organisation. In particular, we are grateful for the support of Mr. Ahsan Rashid, Managing Director of Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Ltd.



IBM donates 140 school bags



After seeing a related story in an IBM newsletter, The Kaghan Memorial Trust requested school bags from IBM for the students of KMS. IBM Pakistan

responded by generously donating 140 bags for the first school year. This is only a small part of IBM's overall commitment to the community as they aim to support the development of a worldwide knowledge-based society in over 50 countries.

IBM is a consistent supporter of KMT, having already donated two KidSmart computers for the School earlier during the year.

The students and teachers are always delighted to receive such useful contributions.



Spring Ball 2009



On the same weekend that KMT entertained Lahore with the Chukkers for Charity event, we also held our Spring Ball 2009. Guests came dressed in their finest to enjoy a live performance by Dirty Rosco, an East London band, and music by a top local DJ. Fine dining was sponsored generously by the

Avari Hotel, who also very kindly provided complimentary accommodation for the band during their stay in Lahore.

Fundraising events are used by the Trust both to raise money for the School and also to increase awareness of this cause. The Spring Ball allowed us to broaden our network within Lahore, which will be further developed through subsequent follow-up events and visits of the KMT team to

that city.

A special note of thanks to Mr. Byram D. Avari, Chairman of the Avari Group, for the support that he personally extended to our Ball through his hotel. Mr. Munawar Baseer Ahmad, one of our most consistent supporters and benefactors also played an invaluable role in helping raise funds and sponsorship for this event. As ever, we continue to be in his debt.



2006 - 2009

3 YEARS OF

**October 8, 2005**

An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale hits the Kaghhan Valley and northern areas of Pakistan.

**October 11, 2005**

Khurram Khan and Kashif Khwaja hike from Mansehra into the valley to find their friend Junaid Ali Qasim who they believe to have died in the earthquake. Along the way Khurram resolves to build a school in Junaid's name. Eventually, and thankfully, they find that Junaid is alive but his local village Kawai is devastated.

**November, 2005**

Khurram, Kashif and Junaid meet in Abbottabad. They decide to establish a trust that will build a school in the Kaghhan Valley for the survivors of the earthquake.

**January 3, 2006**

The Kaghhan Memorial Trust (KMT) is registered in Islamabad as a non-profit charitable Trust. It is named The Kaghhan Memorial Trust in memory of the thousands of children who lost their lives to the earthquake.

**July, 2006**

KMT secures 50 Kanals (6.25 acres) of land on a 99 year lease in the village of Kawai, the Kaghhan Valley. This site will house the Main Campus of KMS.

**September 1-3, 2006**

Tour of the Karakurrams International Mountain Bike Race

**September 3, 2006**

Foundation stone for Kaghhan Memorial School laid by Federal Minister for Tourism, Nilofar Bakhtiar at the concluding ceremony of the Tour of The Karakurrams.

**March, 2007**

Infrastructure work across the Main Campus site begins.

March 23-25, 2007

Tour of Islamabad International Cycle Race

**August, 2008**

International volunteer teachers and a Programme Officer join the KMT team. Local staff, including teaching assistants, are also recruited for the School.

July 30, 2008

Run for a Life, fundraising marathon, Munich, Germany

**April–August, 2008**

Selection of students for the first two foundation classes at KMS. Children coming along with their parents from Kawai and the surrounding villages are interviewed and selected primarily based upon age and the economic position of their families. The selection team tries to pick the children most in need. 30 boys and 30 girls are selected for the two foundation classes.

**March 23, 2008**

Chukkers for Charity, 1st Annual Exhibition Polo Match, Lahore

**December 8, 2007**

Winter Ball, Islamabad
Performance by Bombay Rockers

**September 7-9, 2007**

Tour of The Himalayas, International Mountainbike Race and Mountainbike Tour

**From September, 2007**

International volunteers join the Trust to assist with curriculum design.

June, 2007

Construction work on the Junior School and allied buildings begins.

**September, 2008**

Four classrooms built and furnished for the launch of the School.

September 15, 2008

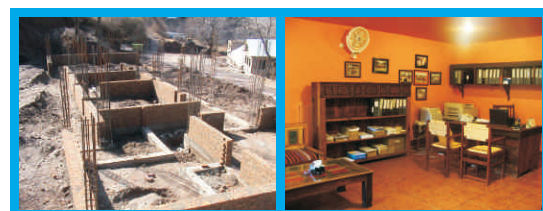
The Kaghhan Memorial School starts its Foundation Term.

September, 2008

Sponsor a Child programme launched for the students of KMS.

**November, 2008**

Work begins on the Administration and Library block at KMS. Meanwhile in Islamabad, the purpose-designed facilities for the KMT Head Office are completed and the Programme Officers move in.

**December 5, 2008**

KMS Foundation Term ends, winter break commences.

**December 13-14, 2008**

Interviews take place for the students and staff for two additional classes to be launched in Spring 2009.

**March 9, 2009**

School Year 2009 First Term begins. In the same month, free school meals are started for the students at KMS.

**March 21, 2009**

Spring Ball 2009, Lahore
Performance by Dirty Rosco

March 22, 2009

Chukkers for Charity 2nd Annual Exhibition Polo Match, Lahore

**This year:**

- Two new classes will be launched in April;
- International teachers will move into residences at KMS;
- Students will be given school uniforms;
- The first Primary School classroom block will be completed;
- Land will be acquired for the Boys Senior School campus.



New Staff Profiles

Kaghan Memorial School, Kawai

Niamh Honohan — Volunteer Primary School Teacher

Niamh (pronounced Ni-eve) is a native of Cork, Ireland. Prior to coming to Pakistan, Niamh taught English in Cambodia for two years on the strength of her B.A. Degree and a TEFL Certificate. On her return to Ireland, she earned a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from University College Cork and spent the following year teaching in Primary Schools in Cork.

Niamh has spent time volunteering with various organisations in Cork. She has experience in organising workshops for homeless adults in a local SIMON shelter and also in teaching English to refugees and asylum seekers who have been accommodated in Cork city.

She received an additional Certificate in Special Needs Assistance from Portobello College, Dublin, equipping her with the knowledge and skills required to address a wide array of learning needs that some young pupils experience as a result of various cognitive and social challenges. She will be an asset at the Kaghan Memorial School in helping to recognise any special needs that the children who were affected by the earthquake may have.

In her free time, Niamh enjoys recreational activities, and is always up for a walk through the mountains when not teaching class. She believes that physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle is the basis for all other education and plans to implement these concepts in her classroom so that her students can be better equipped to learn. When asked why she chose to join the programme, she replied, "Before I came to Pakistan, I perused the KMT website and was truly inspired by the vision of such a brilliant organisation which is aiming to build something so great, in an area that has nothing. The objective of sending these local children on to a higher education inspired me to come to Pakistan and help to lay the foundation of this excellent project". "Of course," she paused, "the snowy caps of the Himalayas didn't dissuade me either!"

Adrienne Scott — Volunteer Primary School Teacher

Adrienne hails from Turangi (Taupo) New Zealand, and this is not her first trip to Pakistan. She spent almost two years here with her husband during two visits, serving first as a Humanitarian Relief Worker in the Bagh district of Azad Kashmir, helping to counsel, teach, and provide basic health needs to victims traumatized by the 2005 earthquake. The second time around, she assisted with promoting different NGOs on an international level. During these assignments, Adrienne worked on numerous community projects in Pakistan including medical eye camps, fruit and vegetable solar dryer construction, and other livelihood projects.

Adrienne has had an array of different work experiences. She was employed in New Zealand by the Department of Corrections, was a District Supervisor for the Census of Population and Dwellings, worked as a Dental School Therapist, and was involved in various adult education programmes. Adrienne also values community involvement and contributed her time to a number of organisations back home specialising in humanitarian work. She continues to show this fervour here in Pakistan by always looking for ways to connect the School to outside sources and to implement her past work experience into her involvement with KMT. With her dental, first aid and counseling experiences she will also help to look after the health needs of the children.

(continued on next page)



Upcoming Events

April 6, 2009

Two new classes start

May 23-24, 2009

Medical camp for KMS students and staff



New Staff Profiles

(continued from previous page)

Her reason for joining KMT has to do with her past connections to Pakistan. In 1995, she hosted 6 Pakistani students for two and a half years in New Zealand. Watching these students grow and develop, and keeping in touch with them ever since, has shown her how teaching English and further educating students can impact the lives of children and their families in Pakistan, a country that gives very high importance to family ties. "Through building relationships with these students and their families, I realised that my aid could go so much further in an area of dire need, which is what drew me back to this country, specifically to Kawai; one of the areas of extreme poverty that was most affected by the earthquake." During one of her stays in Pakistan, she had the chance to visit Kaghan. This happened to be in 2006, just after the earthquake. When the KMS teaching opportunity arose, she was eager to take the position to be able to return to the area to see how it had progressed since her last visit, and to play a role in helping with its long-term development.

Lauren Allen — Volunteer Primary School Teacher

Lauren has joined us from Chicago, Illinois, USA. With an extensive history in volunteer work, she was eager to become part of the teaching team at the Kaghan Memorial School. Lauren received a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics from the Moody Bible Institute in 2007 and has since been working with children in numerous ways: as a Learning Facilitator for the PODER Program in Chicago; through volunteer work; and as a nanny. Lauren also had the opportunity to go to Moshi, Tanzania to teach orphaned youth through the Rafiki Foundation in 2008.

Like most volunteers at the School, Lauren has a love for traveling. She has led numerous trips to various countries; studied abroad in Granada, Spain, while in college; and spent four months in Cambodia as a Residential Women's Centre Intern where she taught English and vocational arts to women who were impacted by sexual exploitation. It was through this last experience that Lauren realised her passion for helping people in need all over the world. Lauren therefore decided to come to Pakistan to put her past experiences and her love for children and for cultural exchanges to use in helping educate the youth of the Kaghan Valley.

In her free time, Lauren enjoys all sorts of water sports, especially water-skiing. She has been swimming all her life, and of course she's found a way to share this interest with children by becoming a lifeguard and instructing swim classes. When asked why she chose to come to Pakistan, Lauren said, "I really enjoy working in developing countries, especially areas where there has been recent tragedy, because it makes me feel like I can really help to make a difference. My long-term goal in life is to work as a social worker in a developing country alongside people who have been marginalised in some way. What drew me to the School was working with the children, being able to interact with local citizens and having the opportunity to experience Pakistani culture firsthand. I want to take part in aiding the poverty-stricken area of the Kaghan Valley to rise above and beyond the tragedies of the 2005 earthquake. Most of all, I want to help provide these children with a better future."



This quarter we say goodbye and thanks to:

Sara Sehbai

Programme Officer

KMT Head Office

September, 2008 to March, 2009

Shireen Lakhani

Volunteer Primary School Teacher

Kaghan Memorial School

September, 2008 to December, 2008

You have both helped tremendously during your time with us and we wish you the best in your future endeavours.





Contact Us

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KMT Board Of Trustees

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About the Trust

The Kaghan Memorial Trust (KMT) is a non-profit Charitable Trust registered in Islamabad in January 2006 in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake in Northern Pakistan.

The sole immediate objective of the Trust is to establish a school in the Kaghan Valley of Northern Pakistan that will offer a first-class education to children of this severely hit region. Through the provision of quality education, KMT contributes towards sustainable long-term development in the Kaghan Valley.

About the School

The Kaghan Memorial School (KMS) is the first of its kind in Pakistan, in that the highest quality of education is being made freely available to some of the poorest children in the country. The resources and facilities being provided and developed in this school will rival those at the best institutions in Pakistan.

The Kaghan Memorial School is dedicated to the memory of the thousands of children who lost their lives to the earthquake.

Friends of KMT

Pakistan

Munawar B. Ahmad
 Meraj Humayun Khan
 Dr. Tasleem Akhtar
 Dr. Murad Afridi
 Mansoor Khan
 Hassan Khan
 Mehr Zeb
 Dr. Hina Inayat Khan
 Faridullah Khan
 Jawwad Abbasi
 Raza Ullah Khan

Pakistan

Tahir Ayub Khan
 Shahbaz Rana
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Germany

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Holland

Francis Linthorst
 Casper Helling

New Zealand

Nathan Dahlberg
 Robin Reid
 Britta Martin

USA

Amanda Lawrence

United Kingdom

Jeremy 'Jez' Cox

New Contributors January to March 2009

Child Sponsors

Mr. Munawar Baseer Ahmad	2 children
Mr. Daud Suleman Sheikh	2 children
Mr. Martin Krieg and the Australian Tour of The Himalayas 2007 Team	1 child
Mr. Akram Sultan	1 child
Mr. Humza Wazir and Mrs. Amina Wazir	1 child
Mrs. Saira Hammed	1 child
Members of St. Mary's & St. George's Church, High Wycombe	1 child
Mr. Shoaib Yunus	1 child
Mayfair Limited	1 child

Other Donations

Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Ltd.	Rs. 1 million
GlaxoSmith Kline Pakistan Ltd.	Rs. 100,000
Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Khan	Rs. 100,000
Mr. Imtiaz Pervez	Rs. 50,000
The Zohra and Z. Z. Ahmed Foundation	Rs. 25,000
Dr. David Kerr	£ 250

Interest Free Loans

De Laas Gul Welfare Programme	Rs. 500,000
Mr. Kashif Khwaja	Rs. 200,000
Mr. Khurram Khan	Rs. 1.05 million