

Resebrev Nr 79

20–30 november & 4-6 december 2003

PAKISTAN: KARACHI–ISLAMABAD–LAHORE

Rapport från en fascinerande resa i tjänsten 20 november till 6 december av Lars Eklund och Staffan Lindberg till universitet i Pakistan och Afghanistan. Vi besökte en rad universitet i Pakistan – Aga Khan University som har samarbetat med Karolinska Institutet i 75 år; LUMS i Lahore som stöttats av familjen Rausing; National College of Arts i Lahore; Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad; and many others. We met Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan to discuss a new sandwich scholarship programme with Sweden. We also enjoyed the warm hospitality meeting academic colleagues and personal friends. Our impressions also summarized in a SYDASIEN article.





Lahore 29 november 2003

Sitter vid fönstret på mitt rum på Gymkhana Club där vi bor under fem dagar i Lahore. En klubb med rötter i kolonialtiden som dagens pakistanska/punjabiska elit vidareutvecklar. Slipstväng i restaurangen och sällskapsrummen, där **Staffan** och jag haft möten med en lång rad framstående forskare och professorer.

Det har varit Eid-helg, helg det vill säga muslimernas största årliga högtid – efter fastemånaden Ramadans slut. Nästan allting har varit stängt sedan i tisdags, men det har inte hindrat oss från att ha haft ett fullbokat schema och träffat massor av intressanta människor som jag tidigare enbart ha kommunicerat med via e-post, och dessutom folk som rekommenderats åt oss, bland annat av pakistanske ambassadören i Stockholm.

Lahore är en underbar stad med mycket parker och grönska, en mängd vackra byggnader från kolonialtiden (liksom Kolkata), och nu på vintern med ett angenämt klimat.

Vi har besökt stadens sevärdheter och med en god väns hjälp varit med en sen kväll på en sufisk dansföreställning, vild av rytmiskt trummande och dansande dervischer, sittande på gravstenarnai inne i sufihelgonet **Shah Jamals dargah** – gravmonument. En fullständigt otrolig upplevelse.

I går besökte vi National College of Art i Lahore – konsthögskolan – och träffade bland annat **Ajaz Anwar**, världsberömd konsthistoriker och själv konstnär. Det är han som målat bilden på denna sidan. Hans motiv är det gamla Lahore.

Nu väntar vi på att bli hämtade för att besöka Iqbal Academy, tillägnad Pakistans nationalpoet. **Muhammad Iqbal**.

Tidigare har vi varit i Karachi och Islamabad, och övertallt har vi haft fullt program. På måndag flyger vi till Kabul i Afghanistan där vi ska bo i svenska Afghanistankommitténs compound. Jag hoppas det inte blir några oroligheter medan vi är i Kabul.

Nästa helg återförenas jag med familjen i Delhi. **Bubu** och barnen flyger från Sverige, jag från Afghanistan – vi ska nämligen resa runt i Rajasthan en vecka innan vi åker hem till Kolkata. Det ska bli skönt med en månads semester efter en rolig men intensiv tjänsteresa med Staffan.

LARS EKLUND

2003 report from Pakistani universities

by Lars Eklund and Staffan Lindberg



In November–December 2003 we made a contact journey to Pakistan and Afghanistan. The purpose was to network with researchers and institutions, and get to know under which conditions and with what expectations they function. We travelled for three weeks, met lots of people and had fascinating experiences. In Pakistan, we visited the three cities of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

The visit was part of mine and Staffan Lindberg's contact tour on behalf of SASNET to universities in Pakistan and Afghanistan, especially those already involved in collaboration with Swedish universities. Our itinerary included Karachi University and Aga Khan University (AKU) in Karachi; the National College of Arts, Lahore University in Management Studies (LUMS), New Media Film & Television Studies, and Iqbal Academy in Lahore; and Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad. We also made a spectacular visit to Dr. A. Q. Khan Research Laboratories in Rawalpindi, with links to the Pakistani nuclear programme.

After return from Afghanistan (see resebrev 140), Staffan also visited Lahore School of Economics and King Edward Medical College in Lahore on his own, plus a follow-up meeting at Quaid-e-Azam University.

Among the important persons we met should be mentioned professor Zulfiqar Bhutta at AKU; professor Parvez Hoodbhoy at Quaid-e-Azam University; Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan; professor Fehmida Jalil from King Edward Medical College; Dr. Nasim Zehra, and Swedish Ambassador Anne Wilkens.

We experienced also several extramural activities – we attended a fascinating Sufi night at the shrine of Sufi saint Shah Jamal; drinking whiskey at Cucoos Café on top of a building in the former red light district of Lahore, with a wonderful view over the Badshahi mosque. And one evening we spent with Maqbool and Maj-Britt Rabri, a Swedish-Pakistani couple living in Lahore. Read our detailed reports from our tour.

The report is also available on the Net. Go for the report.

Pakistan/Karachi

Our tour to Pakistan started in the early hours of Thursday 20 November 2003, by taking a taxi from Lund to Malmö, train to Kastrup airport and a short SAS flight to Frankfurt in Germany. From there we travelled by Gulf Air to Karachi, via the island kingdom of Bahrain. We finally landed at Karachi's Quaid-e-Azam International Airport at 4 o'clock the next morning.

It was Friday 21 November, *Jumatul Wida*, the holiest of all Fridays in the month of Ramadan (just before *Eid ul Fitr*), and there were enormous queues by home-coming Pakistani guest workers from the Gulf to every single immigration counter, even to the one labelled Diplomats/Businessmen but once getting first in line it took only a few seconds to pass the immigration official.

We were met by people from the Aga Khan University Conference Centre, who brought us to the excellent guest house belonging to the Institute of Educational Development (part of the Aga Khan University), situated in a posh cantonment area of Karachi, southeast of the city centre, and home to many famous persons like for example the president himself. We felt safe within the walled and guarded compound.

We managed to get a few hours sleep before we again were picked up at 11 o'clock and brought to the other end of the city, where Aga Khan Hospital and University are located. Inaugurated in 1985, the impressive main buildings in red polished sandstone reminded us of the Mughal/Islamic architectural heritage. Combined with modern architectural features and well-equipped premises this gave a bright and welcoming impression. The beautiful Karachi November sunshine, with an enjoyable 20 plus weather and clean air in the surroundings, further helped us feel comfortable despite our recent 30 hours journey.

[Report from the visit to Aga Khan University 21 November 2003](#)

[Report from the visit to Karachi University 22 November 2003](#)

On 23 November, Sunday morning, we went for a quick sightseeing tour of Karachi, before proceeding by an afternoon flight to the federal capital of Islamabad. Our Karachi taxi driver was given two hours to show us *Saddar*, the old town, other interesting places and also the Clifton beach. [Read our reflections from the Karachi sightseeing!](#)

Swedish Embassy in Islamabad



Pakistan/Islamabad 1

We left Karachi by air to Islamabad on 23 November in the late afternoon. By some strange reason the officer at the PIA check-in desk at Karachi Airport could not find our names in the computer, meaning we had no confirmed reservations, but in a typical pragmatic way, characteristic of South Asia, we were promised that things would turn out OK anyway. So after waiting for an hour in the airport lounge, seats were arranged for us and we were airborne again an hour before sunset. After a short while plates of snacks were served, along with cool drinks. All passengers on board happily accepted the snacks, but then sat back without touching the food for another hour. The Ramadan fast was observed by everybody, even children and what we considered to be a westernised elite. We felt a bit awkward, like small children doing the forbidden thing, when we had our bites and drinks in splendid isolation. Then immediately after sunset a message in Urdu appeared on the loudspeaker. Everybody eagerly grabbed their plates and started eating and drinking just in time before the plane should land at Islamabad International Airport.



We landed on time, and after a short taxi drive along a well-maintained highway we arrived at Hotel Crown Plaza, a mid-range hotel in the Blue area of Islamabad, where we were kindly taken care of by their charmingly sari-clad employees – an unexpected feature in Pakistan (*photo to the left*).

Dr. **Ruth Laila Schmidt**, from the Dept of East-European and Oriental Studies, University of Oslo, Norway, already waited for us in the foyer and later joined us for dinner. Ruth was in Pakistan to see where her students from Oslo might be placed for the study of Urdu. She was visiting various institutions, and was at the time we met her inclined to make a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the University of Punjab in Lahore for this purpose. Ruth is an old-time Pakistani visitor. She came here for the first time already in 1964, and she has lived in Pakistan for altogether 15 years. She now stayed with friends in Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Lahore. Her research interest is focused on dialects of the Shina language spoken in the Kohistan region of northern Pakistan. Along with two Pakistani researchers she is working on a grammar for that language. Ruth Schmidt is one of the panel convenors of the 18th European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies in Lund in July 2004 ([Panel 27. South Asian languages in linguistic focus](#)).

The following day we had a full programme, visiting the Swedish Embassy, and meeting several academic people.
[Report from meetings in Islamabad Monday 24 November 2003](#)

Pakistan/Lahore 1

The Korean Daewoo Express bus service on Tuesday 25 November carried us comfortably on the new super express highway built by Prime Minister Navaz Sharif in the 1990s (maybe one of his few lasting legacies). It is South Asia's best motorway and the bus traversed without much shaking the 400 km long distance in just 4,5 hours, with a stop-over in a nice clean motel halfway, at Kallarkahar.

We arrived before the evening in Lahore, where we had reserved rooms at the legendary Gymkhana Club located on the Mall. This is the modern successor of the British club originally built in the late 19th century. Colonial in style, with strict dress regulations (tie and suit compulsory to use in the dining hall and the Chandni Lounge; no jeans nor sandals permitted).

The club has all the activities a gentleman can require, including golf, squash, a reading room, library with Internet facilities, a modern gym in the basement, swimming pool, as well as restaurants, coffee shop, club room, family room, verandah with a view, etc. The guest rooms are spacious suites, but alas no BBC news was to be found among the 40 channels available on the cable television.

The following morning we woke up leisurely. It was the first day of *Eid-ul-Fitr*, the holiday celebrating the end of Ramadan. The Gymkhana Club was all quiet, and we enjoyed a nice breakfast with toast and eggs and Nescafé, reading the English language newspapers full of articles and commentaries about Indo-Pakistani relations, as well as on the President and his proposed Legal Framework Order (LFO), by many considered to sideline the constitution, parliament and a democratic government system.

In spite of the fact that it was *Eid-ul-Fitr*, meaning that all offices and all universities are closed, we had managed to make a programme for the day, meeting several people of relevance for SASNET.

[Report from meetings in Lahore Wednesday 26 November 2003](#)

The next day, 27 November, was the second day of the Eid festival and we also decided to keep half a day off from official work and went sight-seeing Lahore. Mr. **Saeed Ahmad** from the Punjab Tourism Development Corporation had promised to show us around, taking us to the Lahore Fort, the Badshahi mosque and the old town.

We went by motorised rickshaw to a taxi stand on the Mall near the Anarkali market, from where we proceeded by taxi to the Red Fort and the landmark of Lahore, the Badshahi Mosque.



Mosque.

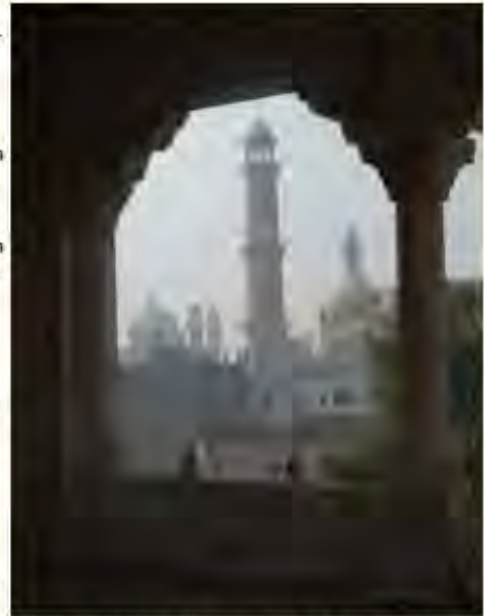
The Badshahi Mosque built by [Aurangzeb](#), the last great Mughal emperor, in 1676 is big and imposing. It can easily house around 100 000 people for prayer in its big square, and many had been there just the day before at the Eid morning prayer.

Opposite stands the mighty fort, Shahi Qila, given its current form by the Emperor [Akbar](#) in 1566, rebuilt by later Mughal emperors, by the Sikh king [Ranjit Singh](#) and finally the British, who used it as a military fort till 1927 (when it finally was handed over to the Archaeology Dept.).

It reminded us of Agra and of Fatehpur Sikri. Lahore was one of the capitals of the Mughals and they stayed here frequently for extended periods of time, making Lahore a major centre of learning, art and music. We wandered through courtyards of the Mughal families, the women's garden, the Palace of mirrors ... and ended by the picture wall where birds also had their nests. Here was the entrance of the royal family carried by elephants up the broad stairs to their quarters.

Lahore continued to be the centre of the Northwestern part of India during British rule. Many new buildings, including university colleges and the famous Lahore Museum (where [Rudyard Kipling's](#) father was the curator), were added to the Mughal ones making the city truly magnificent even today. The broad and lofty roads and avenues, the cleanliness of the city and the friendliness of its people all impress and leave a lasting memory.

We had excellent Kashmiri chai with herbs at the so-called Food Street, and then went for a walk through the old city, entering through the Delhi Gate. Narrow lanes and lines of small shops but since this was an Eid holiday not much people nor vehicles thronged the narrow passages. We came to the open square outside the famous Wazir Khan mosque, where a lot of people had gather enjoying their holiday. We went inside the beautiful mosque decorated all over with mosaic figures, and sat down on a mat in the main prayer hall and watched the open yard outside, and had a friendly chat.



In the afternoon we met Mr. [Ali Raza](#), a journalist working at the daily newspaper [The News](#) in Lahore. He is just 31 years old, but already has a long experience as a journalist. He started off as a journalist specialised on crime reporting, but later changed into business, energy, water, and more recently rural development.

Raza told us about the great problems journalists have in pursuing their profession in Pakistan. Journalists are also vulnerable because of their low pay and uncertain employment situation, and even the newspapers face economic difficulties, since the government and others may withhold advertisements when displeased with the content of the paper.

Despite his young age, Ali Raza has an advanced and critical understanding of recent developments in Pakistan.

Friday 28 November was a hectic day. In the morning we visited the National College of Arts (NCA), meeting Prof. [Ajaz Anwar](#), then we had a lunch meeting with the faculty of NCA at Dr. [Durre S. Ahmed's](#) residence. After that a meeting with Prof. [Sajjad Naseer](#) and colleagues at Gymkhana Club, and finally a meeting at the Punjab Club with Professors [Fehmida Jallil](#) and [Shaukat Raza Khan](#) in the evening.

[Full reports from meetings in Lahore Friday 28 November 2003](#)

On Saturday 29 November we had an appointment to visit the Iqbal Academy Pakistan. Its Director, Mr. [Muhammad Suheyf Umar](#) (*photo to the right*), picked us up at Gymkhana Club and brought us to the Awwan-i-Iqbal Complex, in which Iqbal Academy is situated. The complex is nice three-towered building, which also houses a big auditorium and seminar halls, in the centre of town, opposite to Faletti's Hotel.

The Iqbal Academy is caretaker of the legacy of [Allama Muhammad Iqbal](#), the poet philosopher and spiritual father of Pakistan. The Academy publishes books and journals about Iqbal, networks with the departments of Iqbal studies in the various universities of Pakistan, and organises seminars and conferences. It is also networking with foreign scholars who work on Iqbal. It has a library, it publishes CDs and it is bringing Iqbal online.

(<http://iqbalcyberlibrary.net/>)

In Pakistan, Iqbal has become the public hero, comparable to [Mahatma Gandhi](#) in India. Recently there has been a controversy about the role of Iqbal in the creation of Pakistan, but Umar has recently published a booklet called '*Iqbal and the concept of Pakistan*' (2002) in which he refutes these ideas.

*Religion is the basis of nationalism.
If the stars are not bound to each other,
there is no star-lit sky.
Arise! Emancipate the wretched of the earth by the power of Ishq
and enlighten the world with the name of Muhammad.
Be faithful to Muhammad, and we yield ourself to you;
not this world alone – the Tablet and the pen your prize shall be.*



We returned to Islamabad on Sunday 30 November, once again by a comfortable Dawoe Express bus.

In the evening we were once again invited by Ms. [Nasim Zehra](#) for a dinner meeting with some prominent researchers in Islamabad:



- Dr. [Rifaat Hussain](#), Professor & Chairman, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University (note that this study department at Quaid-e-Azam University has no links with the Institute of Strategic Studies, also to be found in Islamabad, which is a research institution closely connected to the Pakistani government and its official policies)
- Dr. [Dushka H. Saiyid](#), Chairperson, Department of History, Quaid-i-Azam University
- Dr. [Khalid Mahmud](#), Research Analyst, Institute of Regional Studies

We had a very interesting discussion about the ongoing reconciliation process in Indo-Pak relations. [Khalid Mahmud](#) (*photo to the left*), senior professor at the well-reputed Institute of Regional Studies, and previously also editor of the daily newspaper *The Nation*, turned out to be extremely well-informed about regional politics. He argued that there are differing communal relations in different parts of India, and in his opinion the state of Gujarat is an exception from the rule in Indian politics. He has travelled extensively all over the region. The institute is funded by the government but is run independently, and it carries out research not only on South Asia, but also since the past 4-5 years to a certain extent on China and

Central Asia.

Dr. Rifaat Hussain informed us about the institutional setup at Quaid-e-Azam University within the fields of social sciences and area studies. The university runs two area studies centres; one on North America, South America and Africa (!), and one on Pakistan Studies. In the social sciences field an exchange of scholars regularly take place with France and Germany. Rifaat also mentioned that an Area Studies Centre for Central Asia exists at Peshawar University, which we unfortunately had no time to visit.

On Monday 1 December we spent the morning at Hotel Crown Plaza, and had a meeting with Dr. Qasim Ayub, Deputy Director, Biomedical & Genetic Engineering Division, [Dr. A. Q. Khan Research Laboratories](#), Rawalpindi. The Laboratories, founded by – and named after – the controversial [Abdul Qadeer Khan](#), the father of the Pakistani nuclear bomb, are more commonly known as the Kahuta laboratories). It is a fairly new institute, small in size, but with very qualified researchers and modern equipment. It is interested in collaboration with similar institutes. We were supposed to visit the laboratory but due to technical problems it could not materialize.

[More information on A.Q. Khan, and Pakistan's nuclear weapons program](#), which has been a source of extreme national pride in Pakistan.

Pakistan/Islamabad 2



Staffan returned to the Pakistani capital Islamabad on Thursday 4 December, in order to participate in a meeting at the Quaid-e-Azam University the following day. The reason for arranging the meeting now, after the completion of our Afghanistan tour, was that due to the Eid festival no such gathering of prominent Islamabad scholars could be materialized during our previous visit to the capital city.

[Report from meeting at the Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad Friday 5 December 2003](#)

Pakistan/Lahore 2

Lahore became the final destination of our contact journey 2003. Staffan had to return to the city, this time by domestic flight, in order to have a meeting with scholars from Punjab University, and King Edward Medical College; and visit the Lahore School of Economics. This was not possible during our first stay in Lahore due to the Eid festival.

After completing his mission in Lahore Staffan returned once again to Islamabad, from where he flew back with Gulf Air to Sweden in the early morning of Monday 7 December.

[Report from Staffan's meetings in Lahore Sunday 6 December 2003](#)



CLIFTON BEACH, KARACHI

Report from Aga Khan University, Karachi:

Aga Khan University was the first private International university established in Pakistan in 1983. The university plays a pivotal role in the Aga Khan Developmental Network, AKDN, which runs educational, health and social institutions in a large number of countries around the World, especially in South Asia, Central Asia and East Africa, areas with an important presence of Ismaili communities for which Aga Khan is the spiritual head.

Persons we met:

Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, professor of Paediatrics, and member of SASNET's South Asian Reference group

David Taylor, Professor of history, Provost of the Aga Khan University

Mohammad Khurshid, Professor of Pathology & Medicine, Dean of the Medical College

Mehtab S. Karim, Professor of sociology, Head Population & Reproduction Health Program, Noormahomed P. Sheriff Professor of

Demography, Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Medical College

Sadrudin Pardhan, Professor & Director of Outreach, Institute for Educational Development

Gordon Macleod, Professor and Director, Institute for Educational Development



Reports from Staffan Lindberg's and Lars Eklund's visit Friday 21 November 2003



With **Zulfiqar Bhutta**, who in 2001 visited Lund University and took part in [SASNET's Workshop on Global Networking](#), we discussed several matters related to SASNET. Zulfiqar Bhutta is very eager to encourage and promote increased cooperation between Swedish and Pakistani researchers, and he feels that SASNET has an important role to play. In July 2004 he will convene [panel no 28 of the 18th EASAS conference](#) at Lund, something he is looking forward to. Not the least because the Lund conference gives an opportunity for researchers from India and Pakistan to come together. In the last few years it has become more and more difficult to obtain visas to visit conferences in the neighbouring country; during the last year Bhutta has been invited to take part in six different research conferences in India (including the [International Seminar & Workshop on "Fermented Foods, Health Status and Social Well-being"](#) at the Institute of Rural Management in Anand, Gujarat, 13-14 November 2003, partly sponsored by SASNET). Twice his visa applications have been rejected, and in the other cases a visa has been qualified by unacceptable restrictions in the form of reporting every step to the police.

Zulfiqar Bhutta enthusiastically informed us about a WHO sponsored Health Sciences conference at the Maldives in August 2003, which he attended. There Indian and Pakistani researchers in the field had an opportunity to meet and discuss their results without any hindrances. The Lund conference might offer a similar opportunity.

Finally he announced that he is most willing to include one of the students from SASNET's and Lund University's ongoing Masters programme in Asian Studies in his programme at Aga Khan University on women's health during the fall of 2004.

We then met **David Taylor**, professor of history and Provost of the Aga Khan University, that is, the Rector. Taylor got his PhD in 1970 and has for many years worked at SOAS, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, UK, and also been active in the [British Association for South Asian Studies](#), BASAS. He recently signed a contract to work at AKU for a period of 4-5 years.

We informed him about the purpose of SASNET and our ambition to involve more Pakistani scholars and students in the network, and how we already are linked to Aga Khan University through the long standing relationship between Prof. Bo Lindblad at Karolinska Institutet Medical University, Stockholm, and the Department of Paediatrics here. David told us about the great changes that are planned for the Aga Khan University. After mostly keeping to Health sciences (AKU is situated in the middle of a hospital), and since the last 10 years also to Educational development, AKU now is going to expand its activities. A Faculty of Arts and Sciences with interdisciplinary approach is going to be established at a new campus area outside Karachi, giving it unlimited space for new constructions of institutes and research centres. The new faculty is scheduled to be inaugurated in 2007, and efforts are now under way to choose the architect for the construction.

By including social sciences within the scope of AKU the ambition is to enhance studies on the relation between health and the society, e.g. by studies on Human Development, Psychology, Economic growth, and perhaps even Journalism.

The staff at AKU is already very International, even though only few Western expatriates like himself are staying on because of the worsened security situation in Karachi during the last 10 years. But the faculty today consists of members from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ismailis from East Africa, and Taylor emphasizes that a strong ambition is to encourage bright young Pakistani PhD's now staying overseas to return home, and he would also like to have faculty members from India if that was possible.

Taylor also informed us about AKU's activities in Afghanistan, including the establishment of IMEI, the International Medical Nursing Institute; and a scholarship programme offered to students from Afghanistan. In neighbouring Tajikistan AKU has been heavily involved in creating a new pan-Central Asian university high up in the Pamir mountains, [University of Central Asia at Khorog](#). Taylor however told us that the mood has gone down with the project, and the planning has been taken over from AKDN by the regional Central Asian universities.





We also had a brief meeting with Dr. **Mohammad Khurshid**, Professor of Pathology & Medicine, Dean of the Medical College (*photo to the left*). He told us more about the linkage with Karolinska Institutet and that it was the most important partner for Aga Khan University besides Harvard. He emphasised the importance of the joint PhD-programmes and that in the future the sandwich technique could be further developed. Within Pakistan they had a joint programme with other universities within the field of biology. He also told us that once there had been a Pakistan-Swedish Institute at the time when there was much development cooperation between Sweden and Pakistan.

During lunch we met Dr. **Mehtab S. Karim**, Professor of sociology, who is working with the demography & health programme. His main area of research is migration, especially between India and Pakistan. He has been involved with a Masters programme on Health Policy and Management at the Aga Khan University. He expressed keen interest in participating in the EASAS conference at Lund next year, and was also interested to link up with SASNET in various ways.

After lunch, about 40 teachers and senior students attended a **SASNET presentation meeting**, where we informed about the main objectives of SASNET and details about our gateway and how it can be used. We also invited people to our conference next year. There were many questions related to the conference and to the academic environments in Sweden. Was there an interest in South Asian languages? How come we included Afghanistan in the network? Etc.



Finally in the afternoon we had a drive across the entire city to reach the Institute for Educational Development (IED), which is also part of the Aga Khan University. Here we met Dr. **Sadrudin Pardhan**, Professor & Director of Outreach, Institute for Educational Development (*photo, standing to the left*) and Dr. **Gordon Macleod**, Professor and Director, Institute for Educational Development.

IED has an impressive array of activities, spanning from running its own schools (primary, secondary and higher secondary), teachers training colleges and research. The institute has been funded by the European Commission since its inception in 1992. The staff is about 70 persons, including several professors and 17 PhD-students registered with various universities around the world (including



Toronto and Oxford). There are Masters programmes and they plan to start a PhD programme in 2004.

The institute operates in a wide circle around the Arabian Sea and in ten countries, stretching in the southwest down to Tanzania (including Zanzibar) and eastwards to Bangladesh. India is included in the programme, but can only be linked up through Tanzania because of the visa problems involved. The institute even runs shorter training courses for teachers in northern Afghanistan. They have had some contacts with **Pia Karlsson** and **Amir Mansory** from the Institute for International Education, Stockholm University, and wish they could develop more cooperation with them.

Sadrudin startled us by greeting us in Swedish language. It turned out that he has a special relationship to Sweden. He was born in a Muslim Gujarati family in Kenya, but got his higher education in Chemistry at Uppsala University (PhD in 1969) and also a teachers training, and other members of his family still live in Uppsala. Sadrudin however returned to Africa, and worked in a Sida sponsored programme at Kenya Science Teachers College for 10 years. He also spent some time in Canada before joining the newly established IED in Pakistan in 1993.

Sadrudin Pardhan informed us about the extensive in-service programmes and research that IDE is involved with. It has 38 faculty members, and another 17 people engaged in research. Besides the International activities mentioned above IDE has built centres in the northern parts of Pakistan, in Gilgit and Chitral.

Before leaving IDE we were also introduced to the Director, Prof Gordon MacLeod, coming from Australia.

The drive back across the city was cumbersome and took its time. This was not just any Friday, but the *Jumatul Wida*, and the streets were jammed with people and vehicles of all sorts coming from prayers and going to the markets to buy Eid gifts. We were extremely tired after a hectic first day in Pakistan without a proper night's sleep after arrival.

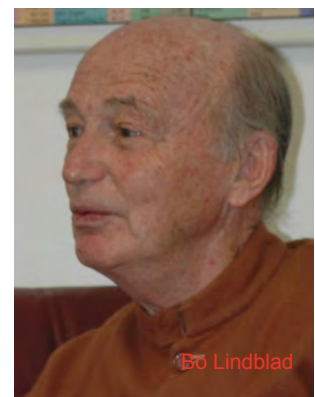
75 years of Swedish collaboration with Aga Khan University (AKU)

Karolinska Institutet (KI) and Aga Khan University in Karachi was established already in the 1950s. It started with Professor **Ulf Borell** at KI being a consultant to the Pakistan Government in the establishment of a family planning programme and Professor **Egon Diczfalusy** supervised several Pakistani PhD students in human reproduction.

In the 1960's, Professor Emeritus **Bo Lindblad** at the International Child Health Unit (IHCAR) – part of the Department of Public Health Sciences at KI was personally initiated with Professor **Shaukat Raza Khan** and Professor **Fehmida Jalil** in a collaborative research and research training project at the Departments of Paediatrics and Social and Preventive Paediatrics, King Edward Medical College (KEMC) in Lahore.

The project was later supported by Sida/SAREC for 18 years and involved a "sandwich system" of research training. In the end it involved no less than five Swedish universities. All Pakistani PhDs trained are today working in Pakistan. Bo Lindblad has been a stalwart in keeping the the extensive collaboration between KI and Aga Khan University alive. Married to a Pakistani lady, he has for decades gone to Karachi every winter, teaching at AKU. He has also held professor positions in paediatrics at the King Saud University, Riyadh, at the United Emirates University, Al Ain and also been professor and chairman in paediatrics at the Aga Khan University, Karachi.

Bo was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Swedish South Asian Studies (SASNET) in 2000 and during period 2001–2006, he was an active member of SASNET's board and supported the early SASNET team – **Staffan Lindberg** and **Lars Eklund** – developing SASNET into become unique national and international network connecting researchers in all fields, and at all Swedish universities, involved in South Asia related activities and their counterparts in South Asia.



60 years of research collaboration with Pakistan and India

Karolinska Institutet Medical University has been involved in collaboration projects with Pakistan, and especially with Aga Khan University (AKU) in Karachi, since the 1950's. Professor Emeritus [Bo Lindblad](#) at IHCAR has been instrumental in much of these projects. [Read his report on the 50 years of KI-AKU collaboration.](#) Prof. Lindblad also served as Professor and Chairman of Paediatrics at the international Aga Khan University in Karachi during the years 1992-98. He was a member of SASNET's board during the years 2001-06.

The president of AKU Dr [Shamsh Kassim Lakha](#) visited KI in 2001 and an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for research collaboration was signed by him and KI's Dean of Research Professor [Jan Carlstedt Duke](#). In July 2005 this was followed up with a decision by KIRT, [Karolinska Institutet Research and Training Committee](#), KIRT, to intensify and extend the already existing collaboration on research and research training with Pakistan, mainly through the Aga Khan University.



In 1997 and 1999 Mr [Syed Ahmed Naqvi](#) from the Library of AKU visited the KI Medical Information Center and started a collaboration to improve the library science facilities at AKU, which serves other universities in Pakistan.

Among specific collaboration projects can be mentioned that Professor [Zeenat Issani](#) and Dr [Jamal Raza](#) from the [National Institute of Child Health & Human Development](#), NICH, Karachi has visited KI; and Professor [Claes Frostell](#) and Head Nurse [Christine Johnstone-Jolinger](#) from the [Pediatric Intensive Care Unit](#) of Astrid Lindgren's Children's Hospital of Karolinska Hospital, KI, visited the NICH in 2001 in order to initiate a collaboration to improve the situation, especially nursing in the heavily burdened Intensive Care Unit of the [National Institute of Health](#), Karachi, Pakistan.

Since 1995 Associate Professor [Tommy Linné](#) from the [Dept. of Woman and Child Health](#), Karolinska Institutet has lectured on pediatric nephrology at several symposia organised by the Urology Unit of [Dow Medical University](#), Karachi, Pakistan.

Karolinska Institutet (and IHCAR) is also involved in extensive collaboration projects regarding research as well as students and teachers exchange with India. Several of the researchers and professors at IHCAR, including Prof Bo Lindblad, have long-standing relations with institutions in India, especially the [Thiruvananthapuram Medical College](#) (TMC), but lately also with the [Indian Institute of Science \(IISc\)](#) in Bangalore (an MoU was signed in early 2006).

Karolinska Institutet Medical University has a special India Programme, coordinated by Dr. Sanjeevi at the Centre for Molecular Medicine. [More information about Karolinska Institutet's India program.](#)

A long-standing relationship exists between Karolinska Institutet (KI) in Stockholm, and TMC in Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) since the early 1950s, when the Swedish professor [Axel Höjer](#) became the first Principal for TMC. Later, Prof. [Bengt Höjer](#) (Axel Höjer's son) was instrumental in realising and developing a collaboration programme. During the period 1995-2001, Bengt Höjer was Head of IHCAR.

The Lahore Child Health Project

A major long-term research and research training project on [Early Child Health in Lahore](#) was running from 1976 to 1995 with support from Sida/SAREC. The project was jointly managed by IHCAR; [Dept. of Women and Child Health](#); and [Dept. of Clinical Immunology](#), the two latter at Göteborg University, the [Dept. of Children's Dentistry and Orthodontics](#) of Lund University; the [Dept. of Clinical Genetics](#) of Uppsala University; the [Dept. of Epidemiology](#) of Umeå University; the [Dept. of Paediatrics](#), Queen Mary Hospital, University of Hong Kong; the [departments of Paediatrics](#), and [Social and Preventive Paediatrics](#), at the renowned [King Edward Medical University \(KEMU\)](#), Lahore, Pakistan; and finally the [Dept. of Applied Psychology](#) at the University of Punjab, also in Lahore. The main contact persons at KEMU has been Professor Emeritus [Fehmida Jalil](#) (photo to the right) and Dr [Shakila Zaman](#).



On 17 March 2004 Uppsala University awarded the [2004 Rosen von Rosenstein medal](#) to Prof. Dr. Fehmida Jalil in honour of the 40 years she has been involved in this research. The award ceremony took place in Uppsala University's Gustavianum hall. Earlier the same day she held the traditional Rosen lecture in the Grönwall hall. The lecture dealt with ["Perinatal problems in Pakistan"](#). [More information about Prof. Jalil.](#)

A summary of the research results, including six Pakistani and three Swedish research students' completed theses was given in the final report to Sida, and in the Supplement 390, Vol 82, August 1993 of *Acta Paediatrica* (entitled ["Early Child Health in Lahore, Pakistan"](#)). The material presented in the 13 chapters build on very well controlled follow up material from four different communities in and around the city of Lahore and represent a well defined and reliable material from both rural and urban women and child populations of South Asia.

The collaboration has continued, now concentrated on yearly medical student exchange between Göteborg University and Lahore, and a follow-up study of the effects of prenatal growth retardation, which was seen in up to 30 % of the material. The infants originally studied in Lahori communities from 6th month of pregnancy are now up to 35 years old and the material offers a unique possibility of long term follow-up of well defined and controlled Intrauterine growth retardation in a low income country's poor urban and rural population.

Contact persons for the Lahore project: Professor Emeritus [Lars Å Hanson](#), [Dept. of Clinical Immunology](#), Göteborg University, Professor [Lotta Mellander](#), [Dept. of Pediatrics](#), Göteborg University, and Professor [Bo Lindblad](#) at IHCAR.

PhD and postgraduate researchers from South Asia:

A large number of Pakistani students, PhD candidates and post-docs have studied at Karolinska Institutet over the years. No less than six present faculty members at AKU received their PhD's at Karolinska. They all still maintain close contacts with their former KI departments, supervise KI students and come to do lectures in Sweden regularly:

Meeting the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) chairperson

One of our most important appointments during our contact journey to Pakistan was with Dr. **Atta-ur-Rahman**, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC). HEJ is interested in organising a PhD sandwich program for 20 students, that is, two years of studies at HEJ and two years in a Swedish department, and SASNET was asked to investigate about the possibilities for this. Out of the 50 students going to Sweden, 40 should be in sciences (Biotechnology, Engineering, Basic sciences, certain areas of Medical sciences such as Pharmaceuticals), and ten in other disciplines (out of which five might be in Economics). He wanted SASNET to help in this.

The background is that higher education and research is severely underdeveloped in Pakistan. Out of about 7 000 teachers at the university level, only about 1 500 have a PhD degree. At present 200 students pass their PhD exams in Pakistan every year. The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, HEC, wants to increase this number to about 1 500 per year. This should to a large extent be realised by sending them to universities abroad. Read more in the report from Karachi University below.

Report from visit to Karachi University 23 February 2003:

This day was reserved for one of our most important appointments during our contact journey to Pakistan. We were going to meet Dr. **Atta-ur-Rahman**, Chairman of the [Higher Education Commission of Pakistan \(HEC\)](#). He is also the federal minister for Science and Technology, and the Pakistani representative in [COMSTECH](#), the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific & Technological Cooperation; based at Islamabad, Pakistan. COMTECH promotes science and technology in the 57 OIC member states.

We met Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman at the [Husein Ebrahim Jamal Research Institute of Chemistry, HEJ](#), in Karachi (as he also happens to be the Director of this institute) in a typical modern administrative South Asia-style building with a green lawn in front of the building (*photo to the right*). When we arrived Atta-ur-Rahman was busy with a meeting, but he soon joined us in a kind of session room, and we were served tea despite Ramadan (as non-muslim foreigners we were not expected to fast).

HEJ is an internationally renowned institute with collaboration in 12 countries, mostly Islamic. It has teachers and PhD students from a great many countries. We met two

young PhD students from Nepal – **Krishna Prasad Devkota** (from the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, half through with his PhD studies at HEJ), and **Rosa Ranjit** (from the Dept. for Organic Chemistry, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, almost completed her PhD studies at HEJ) – *photo to the right*; and two teachers – one from Japan and one from Kazakhstan. The institute situated within the premises of the University of Karachi on the eastern outskirts of the city, has excellent facilities, its own workshops for producing substances and equipment (like glass bottles, etc) used in chemical research, it has residential quarters for staff as well as students.

HEJ is interested in organising a PhD sandwich program for 20 students, that is, two years of studies at HEJ and two years in a Swedish department, and SASNET was asked to investigate about the possibilities for this. Swedish universities are highly interesting as they do not charge any tuition fees.

As far as the whole of Pakistan is concerned, **Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman** (*photo to the left*) suggested in our meeting that the Pakistani government would like to send about 50 students for PhD studies to Sweden per year during the coming 5 years. Pakistan already has such programmes in Germany (Thübingen University) and Austria (University of Innsbruck). Out of the 50 students going to Sweden, 40 should be in sciences (biotechnology, engineering, basic sciences, certain areas of medical sciences such as pharmaceuticals), and ten in other disciplines (out of which five might be in Economics).

The background is that higher education and research is severely underdeveloped in the country. Out of about 7 000 teachers at the university level, only about 1 500 have a PhD degree. At present 200 students pass their PhD exams in Pakistan every year. The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, HEC, wants to increase this number to about 1 500 per year. This should to a large extent be realised by sending them to universities abroad.

He wants SASNET to help in this. His idea is that there should be a Swedish Reference Group (SRG) facilitating the programme by helping in selecting and placing the students in appropriate departments. HEC would first announce the positions, then select 150 – 200 candidates and send their applications to the SRG for selection and placement of 50 students. HEC would then pay for all the expenses of the students including travel and insurance. HEC would also like the Swedish departments accepting these students to conduct a qualification examination after one year of studies, to see if the student is really qualified and makes progress in his/her studies. If an agreement could be worked out Prof Atta-ur-Rahman was eager to start sending PhD students as soon as possible, maybe already from 2004.





Prof. **Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary** (photo the left along with Lars Eklund), who is acting director, then proceeded to show us around the HEJ institute. It is well-equipped with computers linked up by fibre technology and satellites to the national network to which at present 37 universities in the country are connected. It means that lectures can be shared within the country, and even that lectures held at universities in other countries can be broadcast live in Pakistan. Earlier Prof Atta-ur-Rahman had informed us that the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has initiated a programme to make electronic journals available to all universities. Right now 5 000 scientific journals are presented in full-text on-line, and another 30 000 journals are to be found with abstracts.

In this connection should be mentioned that [the Virtual University](#) was established in Pakistan two years ago, offering a 4 years BA in science. It now extends to 60 cities in the country and has enrolled 2 000 students who pay 25 US-dollars a month as fee. According to Atta-ur-Rahman the Virtual University is run after a hybrid model, including both distance education as well as going to course centres. We informed him about the advanced distance education that has been developed by Lund University, and the possibilities for cooperation in this field.

Later on in the afternoon we met Prof. **Syed Iqbal Mohsin**, the Dean of the Science Faculty (photo to the right). He informed us that Karachi University at present has about 500 teachers, out of whom 300 are in the sciences departments, and the rest divide between arts, pharmacology, engineering, and Islamic learning. Altogether 15 000 students are taught within the university, while its affiliated colleges have another 85 000 students. The university was founded in 1951 (till then the only university in Karachi was the University of Sindh, before the partition affiliated to the University of Bombay); it has large scope for expansion as there is much land available and enough faculty members. The only inhibiting factors are lack of funds and insufficient laboratory equipment.



Syed Iqbal Mohsin is professor of Petroleum Science, an important field in Pakistan as the country has large deposits of oil and natural gas and hopes to reduce imports substantially. He asked us whether any Swedish departments might be interested in collaboration, and we promised to explore the possibilities to establish such contacts.

We also discussed the present low level of research and developmental cooperation between Sweden and Pakistan, except in a few fields, and the possibilities for revival of such. In the 1950's the situation was very different, there even existed a Pakistan-Sweden Institute. Sweden was at that time heavily involved in a number of projects, including one in family planning, and this continued through the 1960's but then petered out with the military regimes and the 1971 war.



The visit to the University of Karachi had been organized by Dr. **Arif Siddiqui**, associate professor of Physiology at Aga Khan University. He was a guest researcher at Karolinska Institutet in 2001-02 working together with Prof. **Olle Söder**. Arif accompanied us during the visit and on the way back we had a nice treat of coffee and pakoras and fruits in his nice home, and met his family.

In the evening we were then invited by Prof Zulfiqar Bhutta for an Iftar dinner at a barbeque restaurant in Clifton, after first breaking the fast in his house with juice and delicious dates from Saudi Arabia.

Meeting at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Friday 5 December 2003:

Prof. Pervez Hoodbhoy and a colleague had organised a meeting in a seminar hall at the Central Library, where Staffan Lindberg presented the activities of SASNET. The following persons attended:

- **Pervez Hoodbhoy**, Prof. of Physics (photo to the right). Pervez Hoodbhoy. Dr. Hoodbhoy received his bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and mathematics, master's in solid state physics, and Ph.D in nuclear physics, all from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been a faculty member at the Dept. of Physics, Quaid-e-Azam University since 1973. Besides his professional capacity he is also one of the leading intellectuals of the country, writing articles on current affairs in Pakistani and International newspapers. He is chairman of Mashal, a non-profit organization that publishes books in Urdu on women's rights, education, environmental issues, philosophy, and modern thought. In 2003, Dr. Hoodbhoy was awarded UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for popularising science in Pakistan with TV serials, and his film "The Bell Tolls for Planet Earth" won honourable mention at the Paris Film Festival. [More information on Dr. Hoodbhoy, with links to his articles.](#)
- **M. Zafar Iqbal**, Prof. of Physics. He has interacted with Prof. **Lars Samuelsson**, [Division of Solid State Physics](#), Lund Institute of Technology, Lund University. He also mentioned the IPPF programme at Uppsala, which had involved Pakistani researchers.
- **Umar S. Qurashi**, Assistant professor of Physics
- **Arif Mumtaz**, Assistant professor of Physics
- **S. Khurshid**, Professor of Physics (Condensed matter)
- **Abid Hameed Toor**, Assistant professor of Electronics
- **Naseer Ahmad**, Professor of Business Administration, Department of Administrative Sciences
- **M. Mazhar**, Professor of Chemistry
- **Muhammad Ishaq**, Assistant professor of Chemistry
- **Razia Sultana**, Assistant professor of History. She is a specialist on Afghan history.



After my presentation, we discussed the possibilities of sending PhD students to Sweden – a proposal put forward by Dr. **Atta-ur-Rahman**, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC), [see our report from the meeting we had with with him at the HEJ Institute in Karachi.](#)

There was considerable interest in this proposal. I made it clear that according to the Swedish university system PhD students will be recruited independently by each department, on merit and that having a good command of English (documented in the same way as when one applies for a International Masters course) will be necessary.

There was some experience of sending students for a masters course to Linköping University. Unfortunately, none of those students could continue on the PhD level, and the funding for new masters student for this programme had also stopped.

After 9/11 there is an increasing interest in studying in Europe, since it has become more difficult for Pakistani students to study in the US, and because several European countries opposed the attack on Iraq.

We also discussed the situation in Afghanistan. There was a strong concern about the volatility of the situation, the unholy alliance with warlord, the lack of proper Pashtun representation in the interim government, and the role of narcotics in the current economy of the country.

It was also claimed that the current approach to Afghanistan on account of the Western forces was piecemeal and not holistic. You cannot just export a particular kind of 'democracy' just like that. The use of narcotics in the financing of the Jihad war on the Soviet forces had also laid the foundation to the present difficulties to return to a normal economy. If anything, the Taliban at least had tried to control the narcotics economy during the government, the argument went.

There is currently a strong need to upgrade teaching and research at Pakistan universities. Two generations of students, trained under and after the **Ziaul Haq** era, have been educated in a traditional Islamic way, that is learning by heart various pieces of knowledge, but not to use this knowledge in a critical way.

The Higher Education Commission on its website, <http://www.hec.gov.pk/>, has announced 300 professorial positions for foreign academicians, but so far only about 80 have applied. Prof. Hoodbhoy sits in the committee to select among these applicants.

Meetings in Islamabad Monday 26 November 2003:

Swedish Embassy

We visited the newly appointed Swedish ambassador to Pakistan, **Ann Wilkens**, and the Counsellor **Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt** at the [Swedish embassy](#) in Islamabad's area F, with a beautiful view of the Margalla Hills.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency Sida is not much involved in development cooperation with Pakistan anymore. It was a long time ago when the left-hand driven Volvo buses arrived in Pakistan as a gift from the Swedish people after we went over to drive on the right side of the road in 1967!

The once thrifty Pakistani-Swedish Institute is long dead and buried. Military rule and the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971 did away with all this. We now ask whether things might be revived, and cooperation be established again?

We discussed with ambassador Wilkens the [proposal by Dr. Atta-Ur-Rahman to send Pakistani science students for PhD studies in Sweden](#). Ann Wilkens thought it was a good initiative worth following up. We promised to keep in touch on this.

With so little of interaction between Sweden and Pakistan, education would be one non-controversial field in which there could be more of cooperation in the future. University exchange could be organised in various ways, etc. Ann Wilkens had just visited the [Ali Institute of Education](#) in Lahore, which is an institute for primary and secondary education, involved in a [Linnaeus Palme exchange programme](#) with an institution in Sweden. Maybe SASNET could play a role here by involving some of its partners at a Swedish teachers training college?

Since we were planning to visit Kabul, we discussed with **Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt**, who has spent the last few years in Pakistan, frequently visiting Afghanistan, about the security situation there after the recent turmoil (November 2003), and the advances made by the Taliban in the southern part of the country. The understanding on his part was that the evaluations given by SCA, Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, with experienced staff staying inside the country, were the most reliable. We decided to follow their advice.

Meeting with Zahid Hussein



We spent the late afternoon with Mr. **Zahid Hussein**, an old friend of Dr. **Ishtiaq Ahmed** of Stockholm University, who had also been the liaison person for this meeting. Zahid Hussein is a political scientist of wide experience. He served for many years as an English language teacher in Somalia and Nigeria. After his return to Pakistan in 1978, he has worked as a consultant to the Pakistani government and international organisations. His main field of specialisation is social marketing, especially in the field of health and environment. Much of his work is carried out within the NGO [Sustainable Resource Foundation \(SURF\)](#) in which he is the President. He should be an ideal partner in various social consultancy projects. He also works with recruitment of students to Australian universities and he offered to do the same service on a non-profit basis for Lund University. A keen observer of Pakistani politics and social development he also offered to write articles for our Swedish magazine Sydasien. We will be eagerly waiting for his manuscript.

Meeting with Nasim Zehra

In the evening we had dinner at Nasim Zehra's home in the Diplomatic quarters of Islamabad, close to the Swedish Embassy. Nasim Zehra is an M Phil in political science from Harvard University, USA, nowadays working as a writer and free consultant to the government and international organisations. Nasim has a vast knowledge and strong views about Pakistani domestic and foreign politics. Currently she is writing a book on Pakistan-India relations. She tries to do away with usual mutual stereotypes delving into the actual obstacles to a settlement in the Kashmir and other issues. She suggests that peace must come out of a process, involving a win-win situation for both sides. There must be a bottom line from where to go. We had a vivid discussion on this life and death issue for the future of Pakistan, India and maybe the rest of the world. The influence of the events in Afghanistan and Iraq is a complicating factor, which is very hard to predict.

The intellectual elite of Islamabad - Lahore - Karachi circles is all within her network and reach, and we were given lots of advice on names and institutions, and how to proceed in networking to promote exchange and cooperation in research and education between Pakistan and Sweden. We were to follow up some of these leads in Lahore and on our return to Islamabad.

Nasim Zehra is also the organiser of the [panel on 'Politics, Power and Islam in South Asia'](#) at the 18th European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies, that SASNET and Lund University organises in July 2004.



Reflections from a sightseeing tour in Karachi, Pakistan:

On 24 February 2003, Sunday morning, we went for a quick sightseeing tour of Karachi, before proceeding by an afternoon flight to the federal capital of Islamabad. Our Karachi taxi driver was given two hours to show us *Saddar*, the old town, other interesting places and also the Clifton beach.

We drove through almost deserted streets surrounded by giant advertisement boards displaying the latest gadgets in mobile phones, fashion clothes ... whereas below on the streets lay an incredible amount of garbage, plastic bags, and litters of all kinds. Beggars approached us at every crossing... poverty is on the increase in Pakistan and this giant 15 million city has a lot of it, side by side with all the wealth and luxury.

Central Karachi is an old town with colonial buildings and lively market places, The Salvation Army is situated here, well entrenched behind high walls.

This was once a small port city founded by the British as late as 1839 – and the port is still very important for the Karachi economy (*photo from the harbour to the right*). At the time of the foundation of Pakistan in 1947, it had only 300 000 inhabitants. It was made the capital of the new country and it was here that most of the mohajirs, the urdu-speaking Muslim refugees coming from Uttar Pradesh, Bombay and other places in India ended up.

It was also here that the new industries grew up, and it did not take long before it became a World metropolis with plane-loads of businessmen and politicians arriving in a thick stream, with a bustling nightlife where people from all corners mixed. Till 1984 the Scaninavian Airlines, SAS, had a direct flight Copenhagen–Karachi (and onwards to Calcutta). Not much of that époque is visible any more. After the changes the Zia ul Haq regime brought to Pakistan Karachi has turned into an increasingly Islamic modernity, with few women visible in public life, with no alcohol, bars and night clubs...

We left the old town and came out in open space and the seat of the Jinnah Mausoleum, a Pakistani variant of Taj Mahal, imposing in majesty, surrounded by a very big garden with space for planned additional buildings, a museum, etc.

We then headed for the biggest market in town, the Tariq market, but when we came there it was stone dead. Naturally, on a Sunday morning in the holy month of Ramadan.



From there we drove southwards, passed Benazir Bhutto's fortified residence and reached the Clifton beach. We immediately felt the smell of oil in the air, and it also lay in thick layers in the water and on the beach. Through the haze of polluted air we could see the back portion of the shipwrecked oil tanker *Tasman Spirit* at a distance.

This felt like doomsday; the sand all along was not sand but a greyish silvery powder which came into the shoes ... and stuck. A lonely camel approached us and its owner offered us a tour or



at least a sit up for a photograph. We didn't oblige.

The oil tanker broke down here more than six months earlier, but so far no real action had been taken by the municipality, the provincial government of Sindh or the central government. This is now seen as one of the notorious shortcomings accruing to the bureaucracies. It is a bewildering experience. Just on the seashore at Clifton new luxurious flats have been built supposedly inhabited by the upper classes. Have they no stake in cleaning up the shore? How can they just turn their back to what's so nearby?

Meetings in Lahore Friday 28 November 2003:

National College of Arts

On Friday 28 November we visited the prestigious National College of Arts, where we were received by Prof. Ajaz Anwar. Staffan had already met him once, in February 2001 at a conference on Punjab studies in Coventry, U.K. Ajaz Anwar is Professor of Fine Arts, and he got his training in Istanbul, Turkey in the 1970's. He also got his PhD degree from there. After that he worked for some time in Uganda, during the horror regime of Idi Amin, before he joined the National College of Arts, NCA, in Lahore in 1980.

Prof. Ajaz Anwar showed us around in the premises of this very interesting and perhaps unique college of arts, started as early as 1864 and situated next to the famous Lahore Museum.

At the NCA architecture, design, painting, graphics, art history, musicology, media & communication, cultural analysis and social sciences, are taught in undergraduate courses lasting three to four years. Some masters courses are taught on top of that, and PhD training was recently introduced in the area of Communication.

Some 700 students study presently at NCA, out of whom quite a few are girls. Several students proceed for their studies overseas. There also used to come a number of foreign students to the NCA, mostly from Arab countries, Palestine, Iran, etc., but due to the worsened political situation in the Middle East this flow has diminished. At present only one Turkish student is there along with two students from America and from England, all of them having a Pakistani background. They study on what is called 'foreigner's seats', which means that these student can attend the whole degree programme at slightly higher fees. Swedish students would be welcome here. Ajaz ensured that they would be accommodated in a nice hostel - separate for boys and girls.

Abdul Hameed whom we met two days earlier, see

<http://www.sasnet.lu.se/lahore1.html>, once was a student of this college. Ajaz Anwar (standing in front of his vintage car on the photo above) thinks that Hameed, with his Swedish contacts, could become a liaison person and promote further student exchange between Sweden and Pakistan.



Prof. Ajaz Anwar with his car.



Ajaz had just had an exhibition of his vivid paintings of old Lahore, and the pictures were still up in one of the exhibition halls of the College. (A painting of his childhood home in Lahore is shown to the left). He is widely known for his paintings all over the World and maintains a rich contact network. In September 2004 he has been invited to exhibit his works in Krakow, Poland, and is likely to go.

In the other exhibition hall there was an exhibition of students' works on globalisation and its effects, very ingenious paintings and collages! Ajaz has a strong feeling for times past and especially the city culture of Lahore in the 1940-1960s. Development should not be at the cost of culture. He deplores the erosion of the joint family system in the West, and the break up even of marriages. What a loss to humankind, ending up in people living alone, becoming two halves, and at much higher cost for the individual and society.

He favours an eclectic style in building constructions and architecture. Each

material, concrete, bricks, and wood, has its function and has to be used according to the climate. Wood is vulnerable here since it is destroyed by termites.

with a garden terrace, in order to meet several members of the NCA faculty. Dr. Ahmad who is also professor of Psychology & Communication had gathered colleagues from various departments:

Prof. **Suroosh Irfani**; Programme Advisor, Graduate Programme
Dr. **Ayesha Noorani**; Teacher in sustainable architecture, Dept. of Architecture
Dr. **Lafa Rukh**; Director, Dept. of Visual Arts
Dr. **Syed Maqsood Pasha**; Director, Multimedia Programme
Dr. **Sajjad Kausar**; Associate professor, Dept. of Architecture

We presented SASNET and our ambition to create increased cooperation and exchanges in the academic fields. This led to a number of questions regarding research going on in Sweden.

We were impressed by the competence and different angles and viewpoints that the college has developed. It must be a very enriching experience for the students of architecture, fine arts, graphics, etc., to attend these varied programmes. Especially the mixing of substantial portions of cultural analysis, social sciences and history into the curriculum make a very innovative impression.



The Department of Academics has three doctoral students in Media and Cultural analysis, guided by Durree Ahmad and Suroosh Irfani. The latter worked as a university teacher in Iran for 20 years, up to the beginning of the 80's. He witnessed the Islamic revolution in 1979 and the subsequent take over of power by the mullahs. After returning to Pakistan he wrote extensively about this experience in *The Muslim*, a radical daily at that time. He also published a book on Zed Press in 1983 (and was coincidentally interviewed by the Swedish magazine *Vi* sometime in the Winter 1983/84).

In their teaching at NCA Durree and Suroosh both focus on cultural developments and transformations in Pakistan and the Muslim world. They regret the absence of radical intellectual and cultural reform movements and discourses in the contemporary situation, an active response to the modernisation and 'post-modernisation' trends in the west. They would like to see an open dialogue with Western literature. Issues of modernity and post-modernity, for example 'individualism', need to be discussed. The Sufi tradition in South Asia with its emphasis on the affective dimension has been very important through the ages. What is the fate of the Sufi text in the contemporary situation? Will it be transformed in the new situation where the spread of the puritan Wahabi form of Islam from Saudi Arabia, from 1970's onwards, partly has overshadowed the Indo-Islamic-Persian culture with the strong Sufi tradition, that used to dominate in Pakistan earlier.

Much of their academic interest focuses on the history of the colonial period. They have studied the so-called New Light Movement among Muslims in the 1860/70s, that was a synthesis of Oxford education and the Indian context at that time. It was the basis for establishing the Muslim Aligarh University. One of their the doctoral students has chosen this as topic for a dissertation, another one focuses on gender and media. They would welcome researchers from outside to come and teach and do research at the NCA.

Durree and Irfan mention the intellectually strong Pakistani writer **Eqbal Ahmad**, who returned to Pakistan some 15 years ago after teaching for many years in the US. He was a Pakistani counterpart to **Noam Chomsky**, **Tariq Ali**, and **Edward Said**, and his book *"Confronting Empire"* has been widely circulated. Now there is an annual Eqbal Memorial Lecture. **Pervez Hoodbhoy**, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, is involved in organising these lectures.

One of the NCA teachers, Dr. **Lala Rukh** (photo to the right), was very active in the women's movement in the 1980s, and is currently working with gender analysis, just like Durree Ahmed who has published an anthology *'Gendering the Spirit. Women, Religion & the Post-Colonial Response'* (published by Zed Books 2002), which analyses the spirituality and resistance of women in various creeds: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Buddhism.

Dr. **Sajjad Kausar** from the Dept of Architecture has specially focussed on Mughal gardens in his research, which has included studies in India and Iran, and he has initiated a teachers exchange programme between NCA and the [Landscape College at Versailles](#), outside Paris, France. He has also brought students with him to Paris.

Dr. **Syed Maqsood Pasha** from the Multimedia Programme also informed us that his department is involved in an exchange programme with a French university as well. Faculty members and students have gone to the [University of Aix-en-Provence](#) as part of this exchange.



Afternoon meeting with Prof. Sajjad Naseer and colleagues



Back to Gymkhana Club we had a meeting with Prof. **Sajjad Naseer** from the Department of Political Sciences, University of Punjab (the person who kindly has arranged for our stay at the club, photo to the left), and a number of his colleagues from the academia of Lahore: Prof. **Khalid Aftab**; Economist, and Vice Chancellor, Government College Mr. **Mansoor H. Khan**, attorney at law, Khan & Associates, Lahore Dr. **Sarwat Ali**, Department of Musicology, National College of Arts Dr. **Asif Mian**, based in Canada

Together we discussed various research projects that could be undertaken by Pakistani and Swedish scholars jointly: **Sajjad Naseer** is especially interested in the Kashmir conflict and Indo-Pak relations, and we suggested that a possible partner could be Dr. Sten Widmalm, [Dept. of Government](#), Uppsala University.

Prof. **Khalid Aftab** from the prestigious Government College had once visited Sweden, to take part in the 1983 European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, held that year in Tällberg, Dalarna. Prof Aftab expressed his interest in research

collaboration on industrialisation, especially small scale industrialisation. We suggested as possible partners **Alia Ahmad**, [Dept. of Economy](#), Lund University, and **Hans Jansson**, business economist, Kalmar University.

Sarwat Ali (photo to the right) is interested in classical music of South Asia, which is also the research focus of the department of musicology at the National College of Arts. It is the first institution of its kind to be set up in Pakistan in 2001, and he informed us about their 4-years BA programme. We don't know of any researcher in Sweden interested in this field, but Sarwat Ali says that the ethno-musicological tradition would be interesting for Pakistan, where such methods and approaches have not been practised so far.

Mansoor H. Khan told us that the complete laws of Pakistan are not available in print to the public, only at some public libraries, with limited access. So how can people and business follow the laws if they do not even know its content. How can lawyers work.

And what about the judges and other executives, will they rule arbitrarily? He said Pakistani lawyers needed more knowledge about WTO since it was to be fully implemented by 2005.



Evening dinner at the Punjab Club

Prof. [Fehmida Jalil](#), [King Edward Medical College, University of Punjab](#), and Prof. [Shaukat Raza Khan](#), [Fatima Memorial Hospital Medical College & Dentistry](#), Lahore (*photo to the right*), had invited us for dinner in this most prestigious and oldest of the clubs in Lahore. It has a limited membership of only 300 persons, mainly from the higher government civil services. Servants provided us with the compulsory ties and we sat down for a conversation near the open gas stove in Nishan Hall, one of the comfortable drawing rooms of the club. Later we had a nice western style four course dinner.

Dr. Jalil and Shaukat Raza Khan told us about their work at the Department of Paediatrics at the King Edward Medical College. They have been involved in a PhD sandwich programme with Karolinska Institutet Medical University for 15 years, which has resulted in no less than seven PhD students completing their theses. The active counterpart in this has been Prof. [Bo Lindblad](#), [Dept of Public Health Sciences, Division of International Health \(IHCAR\)](#), Karolinska Institutet, and later Prof. [Lars-Åke Hansson](#) from the [Dept. of Clinical Immunology](#), Sahlgrenska Academy, Göteborg University.

Since he retired Prof. [Shaukat Raza Khan](#) has now become the Principal of a private medical college, the Fatima Memorial Hospital College of Medicines & Dentistry, at New Garden Town in Lahore. The college has about 350 students. It is financed by a trust led by two sisters with private wealth.

Both Dr. Jalil and Dr. Shaukat Raza Khan think that there has been steady improvement in child health in Pakistan since the early 1960s when they started to work in this field. They have both been very active in immunisation programmes and they claim that there were no or very few cases of undernourished children 0-2 years coming to the hospitals nowadays.

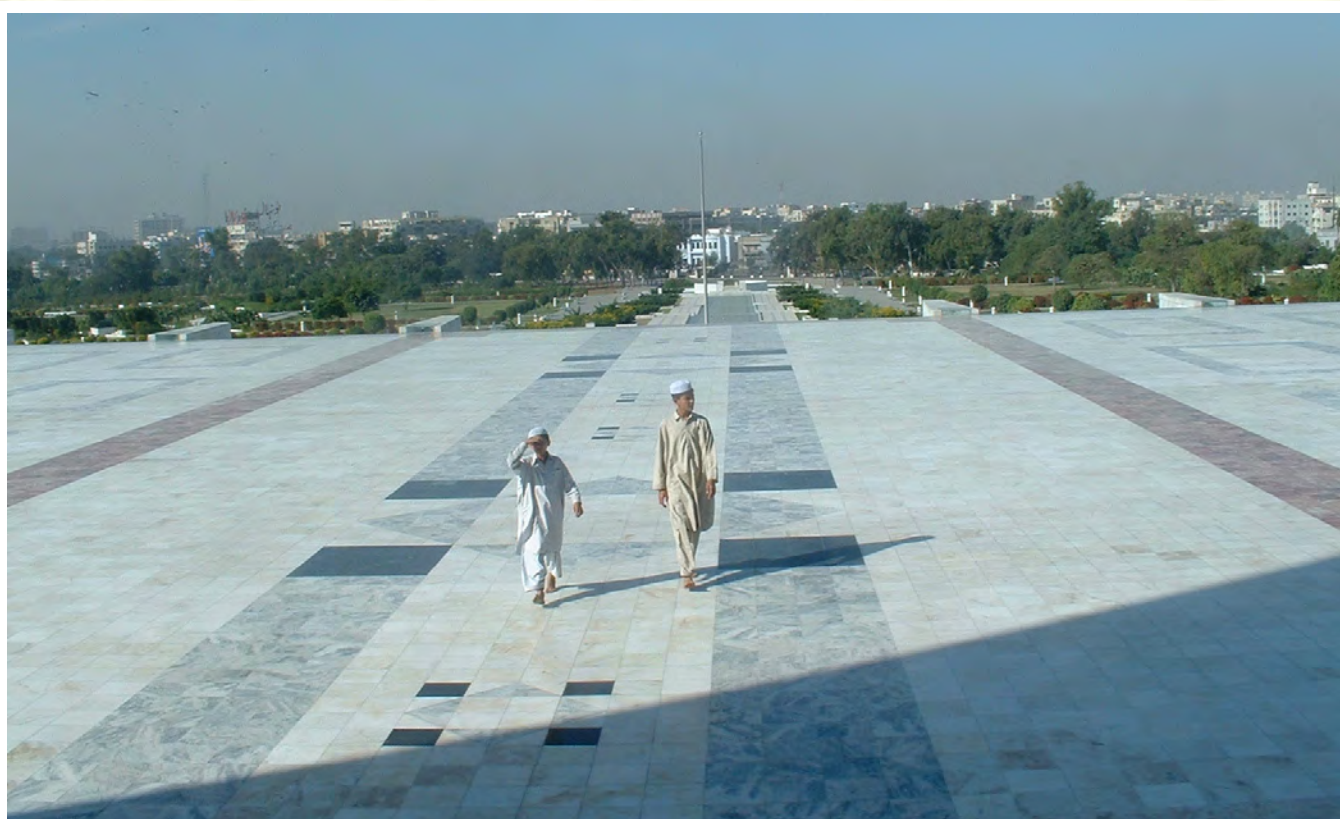


Professor [Fehmida Jalil](#) has had a long and ambitious career, creating six departments of Preventive Paediatrics now running in Pakistan, including the one at King Edward Medical College. She also started the first vaccination centre in Pakistan, and after training the staff and monitoring the output, handed it over to the Government for an Extended Programme of Immunization. In the late 1960's she ran her first nutrition rehabilitation centre, which she has subsequently increased to 11 centres in poor communities.

Professor Fehmida has, after a survey of the attitudes and practices of families and care providers at the time of delivery developed protocols for training Traditional Birth Attendants for home deliveries. She has adapted the WHO/UNICEF manual on "Breastfeeding Promotion and Lactation Management" for local use and provided training for 26 districts and seven teaching hospitals, in addition to a community based campaign for breastfeeding in two large districts. In addition to a considerable list of scientific publications she is the author of five books in local language for health care providers. As early as in

1964 she started a community based cohort study to determine the health determinants of children in poor slums. This was extended through the Swedish collaboration, and the same individuals have now been revisited for follow up studies of the late effects of malnutrition in life before birth.

PS. On 17 March 2004 Uppsala University awarded the [2004 Rosen von Rosenstein medal](#) to Professor Emeritus Dr. Fehmida Jalil. She was thereby honoured for the 40 years she has been involved in cooperation with five different Swedish universities, working on projects related to preventive paediatrics in Pakistan. The award ceremony took place in Uppsala University's Gustavianum hall. Earlier the same day she held the traditional Rosen lecture in the Grönwall hall. The lecture dealt with "*Perinatal problems in Pakistan*".





Meetings in Lahore Wednesday 26 November 2003:

Film and Management Studies

We had made an appointment at noon with Mr. [Abdul Hameed](#), Director of the [Center for New Media Film & Television Studies](#) (NM-ftv), an independent institution based at New Garden Town in Lahore. He picked us up at Gymkhana Club, and while talking we were going for a drive through the lush green streets of Lahore. Such a contrast to Karachi, with neat and clean streets everywhere, plenty of green parks and gardens. We experienced the same feeling that many before us also have got, that this probably is one of the best cities that the Indian subcontinent can offer.

Abdul Hameed has studied media and film in Australia, and after that had a varied career in government institutions and at university (the National Academy of Arts) before he established the NM-ftv a couple of years ago. It is said to be Pakistan's first film school, a necessary pre-condition for building new independent TV-channels in Pakistan, that today is totally dominated by the state TV channel PTV, and by foreign commercial channels. Abdul Hameed has managed to make a deal with a new private university, the [IQRA University](#), and its Department of Communication, to give a degree programme in media and communication, so NM-ftv now concentrates on the film making.



NM-ftv through the Internet has invited foreign scholars and film makers to come for some period of time to teach and make films or other media-oriented projects in Lahore. They have been provided free board and lodging and full assistance in making films, etc, in exchange of teaching for the same amount of time at the Centre. In the year 2002 three Swedes stayed with the institute – the poet [Carl Forsberg](#) from Göteborg, and the two journalists [Carl Godani](#) and [Daniel Wilby](#). Forsberg wrote an article about NM-ftv in the magazine SYDASIEN, No. 2/ 2003, also available on the Internet. The article is called "[Pakistansk filmskola satsar på ambitiöst utbytesprogram med Sverige](#)".

Hameed now plans to make a film about the wave of Pakistani immigrants coming to Norway and Denmark in the 1960's, and their integration or lack of integration that they have experienced into their host societies. According to Hameed a large proportion of these immigrants come from one specific district in Punjab, namely Jhelum and Gujrat. Another film project he hopes to realize later is to make a film about the Indus river basin, travelling from the sources high up in the Himalayan mountains down to outlet in the Arabian Sea. It would be a film about shifting landscapes, peoples, and cultures but also about the water problems all along: pollution and scarcity. We suggested that he makes the river alive by making an analogy to the human life cycle from cradle to grave and he appreciated the idea.

Meeting with Ahmed Ghazali, Lahore Law Group



Later on in the afternoon we met Mr. [Ahmed Ghazali](#), who has been working as a lawyer working with a private law firm, Lahore Law Group, for three years, after completing his studies at the University of London. The law firm he works for is working hand in hand with the Punjab University; Kinnaird College; Peshawar University; and Lahore University of Management and Sciences (LUMS), in training and research programmes related to law and public policy, business and the environment. Ghazali himself is very engaged in environmental issues, and he plans to apply for a Masters course at the [International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics](#) (IIIEE) at Lund University starting in September 2004. It is in connection with his application to this course that he came into contact with us at SASNET, through our web site giving information on IIIEE, and he wrote to us about meeting here at Lahore during our tour.

Lahore University of Management and Sciences, LUMS

Just before sunset we visited the [Lahore University of Management and Sciences](#) (LUMS), a well-reputed private university with about 1 500 students. It was established in the 1990's with courses in economics, business management, and computer science/computer engineering; on BA, MSc and PhD levels (at present only five PhD students however – in Mathematics). LUMS is considered to be leading institution in its field in Pakistan, and it recruits the cream of the Pakistani students. The fee for studying one year at LUMS is at present 498,000 rupees (equal to about 9,000 US-dollar), though scholarships are available. In the year 2001-2002 students were given around 14 million rupees as financial aid. These scholarships are made possible by donations from a number of banks and companies.

From being a pure business school, initiated by the Pakistani industrialist [Syed Babar Ali](#) (also Swedish honorary consul to Pakistan), LUMS has during the last two years gradually started to include also Arts and Social Sciences in its curriculum. LUMS has recently also started a law school, for which they now look for faculty.

We visited the Social Science Department, where we were shown around by Dr. [Ghazala Irfan](#), associate professor of philosophy. Dr. Irfan who functions as the co-ordinator of the department was recruited to LUMS from the University of Punjab where she previously served for 25 years.

In 1994 USAID provided 10 million US-dollars for building the magnificent campus situated in the Cantonment area of Lahore. Despite the fact that it was Eid day we made a quick tour around the university, built in Mughal style, with departments in a huge circular building with an inner hexagonal court yard used for meetings, convocations, etc. This makes it easy to reach colleagues in other departments, and reminded us of a medieval European walled town.





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LUMS is very interested in sending students abroad after they have finished their studies at Lahore. They could also think of accommodating foreign students, as LUMS has excellent dormitory facilities.



The university has a special connection to Lund. Tetra Pak has had a big presence in Lahore with a large manufacturing unit, and has been one of the biggest donors to LUMS.

On its premises there is now the [Rausing Executive Development Centre](#) (REDC), named after the Swedish industrialist [Ruben Rausing](#) - founding father of Tetra Pak (with his portrait hanging on the wall), housed in a beautiful building in style with the rest of the university complex. The centre, inaugurated in 1989, has auditoriums and seminar halls and guestrooms for students from companies (often business executives) attending seminars and courses, and a one-year Management Development Programme, training managers from all over the world, as far away as Trinidad and Fiji Islands and as near as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

REDC has been supported in its training efforts by the development agencies such as the Commonwealth Secretariat; the Management Training and Services Division; and the World Bank. About 40 programmes are offered annually serving about 1,500 executives.

REDC also arranges major external conferences, e.g. the UNDP Asia Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Growth, Equity and Governance in 1996; and a 12-days training conference for the LEAD International in 2001, an event attended by more than 200 participants from 45 countries.

Meeting with Dr. Ghazala Irfan

We were also invited to the artistic home of Dr. Ghazala Irfan. As one of three Pakistani representatives she was a few days later supposed to go for an International conference in Sri Lanka on "Teaching of Philosophy in an Asian context", organised by the Dept. of Missiology, Aachen University, Germany.

We discussed the image abroad of her country, and she pointed out to us the necessity of breaking the false and one-sided notion on Pakistan and its people, now prevalent in the West.

'They think we are all fundamentalists supporting terrorists. How can it be? True, there are many fundamentalists here, but still the vast majority is not. And terrorists, very few indeed, and certainly not more than in most other Islamic countries of West Asia.'

She was seriously worried about this image.

'Personally, we don't know of any fundamentalists, and we fight them in public. This is just like any other country, and there are probably more fundamentalists in the United States.'

Swedish connection to Lahore



We spent the evening with [Maqbool](#) and [Maj-Britt Babri](#),

a Swedish-Pakistani couple settled in Lahore for 20 years, and now living in a well-planned house in Defence Colony. Maqbool, more often called by his nickname Max, speaks Swedish fluently.

He is a trained psychologist, and studied and worked in Sweden in the 1970s. He passed the Masters programme in Ergonomics at the [Division of Industrial Ergonomics, Dept. of Human Work Sciences, Luleå University of Technology](#). In Sweden Max met Maj-Britt, who describes herself as a combination of journalist, social worker and lorry-driver, originating from Norrbotten in the far north of Sweden. They settled in Lahore, Max' native place, in the early 1980's. Some years she worked for a Swedish NGO called PAKS.

Later they have established two firms: The Konsultants - Management & Training Specialist, which serves the organised sector in Pakistan with courses and seminars about personal management, team work, etc.; and The Healing Centre, which caters to the public with various types of therapies. Besides Max is active in what is called the LabourNet, a worldwide network within the labour movement. He is making documentary films about various political activities in Pakistan. It was a

very nice evening and also informative about Swedish-Pakistani connections, which are not so many after all.



Staffan's meetings in Lahore Sunday 6 December 2003:

Staffan arrived late Friday 5 December by flight from Islamabad, and stayed over night at Best Western Hotel in the Liberty (Market) area.

Meeting with scholars from King Edward Medical College (KEM)

Prof. **Rifat Nisar Ashraf**, head of the Department of Social and Preventive Paediatrics (*photo to the right*, in front of KEM), and Prof. Emeritus **Lars Åke Hanson**, Dept. of Clinical Immunology at **Sahlgrenska Academy**, Göteborg University (at the time visiting Pakistan) came around 9 AM and brought Staffan to the department at King Edward Medical College (KEM). **Web site:** www.kemc.edu.

Lars Åke Hanson is pursuing panel studies, initiated by Prof. **Fehmida Jalil** already in 1964. They have also collected data from the year 1984, which they now want follow up.

The 64 generation consists of a large sample of about 2 400 individuals taken from one village, one peri-urban and one central slum in Lahore, and one upper middle class area. The 84 generations is smaller (less than 2 000). In both cases, a number of characteristics like birth weight, etc. have been recorded. The original measurements have been followed up by subsequent health status investigations. Most individuals have stayed in their area in the village and the central slum, while there has been considerable out migration from the peri-urban slum and the middle class area.

Lars Åke now wants to include more social variables in the follow up study. They have already established that low birth weight is connected with higher incidence of ill health and disease later on life. What about occupational career, family, and children. It is a very interesting study, and since Staffan is attempting to do a panel study in Tamil Nadu, a decision was made that he would be included in the reference group for the Lahore study.

Rifat Ashraf informed about her department. They are engaged in practical medical work both in urban and rural clinics – in cooperation with NGOs. They have a strong community orientation in their work, and they have also managed to make the community orientation a leading theme in the overall curriculum of the courses at KEM.

We went to see the Principal, Prof. **Mumtaz Hasan**, who brought us to a seminar hall in the main building of the university. Altogether nine professors had gathered there to listen about SASNET:

- Prof. **Mumtaz Hassan**,
- Prof. **Rifat Nisar Ashraf**
- Prof. **Kamran Aziz**, Biochemistry
- Prof. **Ahmed Wasim Yusuf**, Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Prof. **Sabrina Suhail Pal**, Dermatology
- Prof. **Samina Jahangir**, Ophthalmology
- Prof. **M. Zafor Ullab Khan**, Medicine
- Prof. **Ghazanfar Ali Sheikh**, Paediatrics
- Dr. **J.A. Naveei**, Pathology

After Staffan's presentation of SASNET, there were quite a few opinions about SASNET, and about sending students for higher studies in Sweden. Almost all claimed that the students at KEM were very proficient in English and would have no difficulties in following the courses there.

The Principal, Prof. Mumtaz Hasan, gave an overview of the activities at King Edward Medical College. Started in 1860 it is one of the oldest academic institutions in Pakistan. Currently it has about 4 000 students and a staff of totally about 800, out of whom 42 are full professors. Three hospitals are integrated, the general hospital attached to the campus, and two hospitals for women. Total annual budget is around 60 Crore rupees (about 100 million Swedish crowns). There is need for donations, since some of the equipment and buildings are old and need to be renewed. The government funding is \$ 2 per patient only.

After the meeting, Rifat showed the campus. Many of the original buildings were nicely maintained, and new ones had been constructed in the same architectural style. There are nice green spots with trees and flowerbeds all around the campus, as well as a sports ground.

Lahore School of Economics (LASE)

Web site: <http://www.lse.edu.pk/>

After lunch, Prof. **Sajjad Naseer** brought Staffan to this school, in which he has a part time assignment as professor. We met Prof. **Shahid Amjad Chaudhry**, who is the Rector of the school (*photo to the right*), after serving for a long career as a civil servant in the government administration, World Bank, and lately as highly placed manager in the Public Sector. He was responsible for the Pakistani Afghanistan policy under the first years of President Musharraf's rule. Originally he hails from a farmer household, and he still has 125 acres of land near Lahore, in which he is running farm operations.

LASE started in the 1990s and is a private university run by a trust. The staff consists of 50 faculty and 30 part time teachers. It has about 800 students, out whom 300 are Masters students, and about 50 M Phil and PhD students. Annual fee is between 2–3 000 \$. The school has a strong financial position, and welcome foreign scholars and professors. There is a new campus near the airport, with 30 cottages for visitors who are then taken to the school in shuttle busses. Shahid would also welcome foreign PhD students, for which they could provide board and lodge. They would welcome comparative studies in South Asia, say, for example, of similar phenomena in India and Pakistan. Outsiders' views would be useful.

The school is oriented to economics, business economics, management, and IT. But the courses are embedded in a broader context of history and social studies. One course given is called 'City of Lahore'.

LASE publishes a journal: **The Lahore Journal of Economics**, which is internationally recognised.

Shahid Chaudhry considers the school and himself to be social liberal, and institutional economics is part of the curriculum. He does not think industrial development is the only road for Pakistan, especially given the growing competition from China. Agriculture should be promoted since Pakistan has one of the richest river deltas in the world. On that basis a more broad based economy could grow.



Sufiska nätter och klubbbliv i kolonial miljö

– Pakistan för en ren nybörjare

Jag minns att någon frågade mig vad jag hade för förväntningar inför min första resa till Pakistan och att jag svarade att det säkert skulle bli mycket socialt och trevligt, att jag trodde att Lahore skulle bli en stor upplevelse, och att jag inte skulle träffa några kvinnor.

Det blev faktiskt två rätt av tre. Så socialt tillmötesgående och vänligt det är överallt, men inte bara det, vi har fått en jättefin kontakt med många kvinnor både i det offentliga livet och i hemmen. Tänk så fel man kan ha.

Lars Eklund och jag är på resa i Pakistan alldeles runt Eid-tid i november 2003. Vi ska främja samarbeten och utbyten mellan forskare och studenter i Sverige och i Pakistan. Det blir en resa i den övre medelklassens värld, på två och tre-stjärniga hotell, med tillfälliga känningar också av den rena överklassen. Allt annat konfronteras på gatan, under en taxiresa, men skymtar mest på avstånd och något som man läser om i tidningar och böcker.

Lars har varit här tre gånger tidigare och är beläst som få på Pakistans historia och politik, för mig är det första gången. Så om det finns någon riktig visdom i denna artikel är det för att jag rest i Lars sällskap. Aha-upplevelserna är mina.

Det mesta är sig likt

Vi bor några dagar på Gymkhana Club i Lahore, en brittisk kolonial kvarleva från 1878, ömt vårdad av den lokala överklassen. Det är överdådigt med golf och andra sporter, biljardhall, restauranger, verandor, café och klubbtrum flotta som på femstjärniga hotell men till en bråkdel av priset om man är medlem. Strikt klädsel i matsal och omgivning – jag blev underkänd i mina svarta jeans när jag försökte gå in i klubbtrummet en eftermiddag.

Pakistan är naturligtvis en del av 'Indien', inte som land eller stat men som kultur och som historia. Människorna här i



Hästdroska i Lahores gamla stadskärna.

Lahore ser exakt likadana ut som i nordvästra Indien och de talar samma språk som i det indiska Punjab, punjabi. Männerna bär *kurta* och *pyjama* och kvinnorna *salwar kamiz*, med håret uppsatt på samma sätt i en fläta och en knut. Det är bara pricken i pannan som saknas.

Och kvinnorna finns överallt. På gatorna, i affärerna och på kontoren. Och de talar med en och skämtar med en ibland.

Samma känsla av social gemenskap, att bara vara ihop, småprata utan att titta på klockan, och trivas som sydasiaterna är världsmästare på. Det bästa lackmuspapper för god personkemi.

Ingenstans är denna känsla starkare än just här i Lahore, Mogulkejsarnas andra huvudstad, trädgårdarnas, poeternas och musikernas stad. Det bästa av den indiska kulturen löper samman i de gröna gatorna, de stora parkerna, de vackra byggnaderna, det oändliga umgänget och samtalet.

Först var det dock någonting som kändes annorlunda. Vi mellanlandade i Bahrain på vägen. På flygplatsen var det en saglig blandning av passagerare från hela värl-



den, men när vi kom ombord på planet till Karachi kändes det som om det bara var Lars och jag som inte hörde hemma i Pakistan eller åtminstone i den närliggande regionen.

Inga hippies på väg till Goa, inga turister till Agra, inga affärsmän till Delhi eller Mumbai, inga studenter på väg till nåt indiskt universitet eller språkkurs ... Pakistan är isolerat från omvärlden i dag, mer än någonsin verkar det som.

Men etnocentrismen ligger på lur. Hur många icke-nordbor skulle det vara på planet från Arlanda till Luleå en fredag morgon i slutet av november. Och skulle man kunna dra några slutsatser om mångfald av det?

I själva verket är Pakistan en mycket etniskt blandad stat. Visserligen dominerar Punjab i centrum med över hälften av befolkningen, men i söder ligger Sindh, i sydöst ligger Baluchistan, i nordväst ligger Nordvästgränsprovinsen och i norr finns Northern Areas, Azad Kashmir och en mängd olika folkgrupper i de himmelska bergens land. Vart och ett med sitt språk och sin kultur. Dessa olikheter har lett till en konstitution med omfattande autonomi för de olika provinserna, som dock åsidosatts under de långa perioderna av militärstyre i landet.

Leva med Indien som fiende

Det var naturligtvis ett misstag, en tillfällighet, delningen av Indien. Ingen av de stora hade egentligen velat det – inte ens



På väg till landsfadern Mohammed Ali Jinnahs mäktiga mausoleum i landets gamla huvudstad Karachi.

Jinnah som bara läste sitt hus i Bombay och for på som han trodde ett tidsbegränsat besök i Karachi – utan bara att deras grupper skulle få plats i det nya och självständiga Indien.

Men delningen har varit det trauma som framförallt kommit att dominera pakistansk politik och självförståelse. Militären styr landet med järnhand, försvaret är viktigare än allt annat.

Om det var en kommentar av **Nehru** kring den tidigare planen omfattande provinsiellt självstyrelse, eller vad, som utlöste den kedja av händelser som ledde fram till bildandet av de två staterna 1947, den snabba kartritningen och gränsdragningen av en ensam engelsk lord, Indiens annektering av furstedömet Junagadh (i nuvarande Gujarat), kriget och den militära ockupationen av Kashmir från båda sidorna som ledde fram till en FN-resolution om att det skulle hållas en folkomröstning, spelar egentligen mindre roll.

Det är själva såret i samhällskroppen, de smärtsamma uppbröten, hatet och folk-morden när de flyende möttes på vägen bort, och den olösta Kashmirfrågan som är konfliktens kärna. Pakistan vill ha internationell hjälp med att lösa frågan, Indien vill det inte. Säger det något om förankringen i internationell rätt?

Två arméer rustade till tänderna, kärnvapen utom USA:s kontroll. Det ser ut som om de vore på randen till ett Harmagedon,

en fruktansvärd katastrof för människor och miljö i Sydasiens och ett allvarligt hot mot hela mänskligheten.

Så har nu ändå det otroliga skett. När bara ett fullskaligt krig egentligen återstod har det plötsligt blivit försonligare tongångar. Hur kan det ske när både den pakistanska militären och de indiska hindufundamentalisterna bygger sin maktställning just på in- och ut-gruppsituationen. Nationen kräver samling inför det fientliga hotet.

Men eftersom kriget som medel är utslutet, priset helt enkelt för högt, så återstår just nu bara nedtrappning. Diplomatiska förbindelser återupprättas, kommunikationer öppnas igen och så vidare, så att en ny runda av konfliktupptrappning kan användas i det politiska spelet i de båda länderna.

Den 22 oktober föreslog Indien att buss-, flyg- och sjöförbindelser skulle återupprättas. Pakistan tog en månad på sig att svara men den 23 november kom svaret utan hänvisning till Indiens initiativ en månad tidigare. Eldupphör längs stillståndslinjen i Kashmir och öppnande av de kommunikationer som Indien redan föreslagit.

Indien valde att svälja förtretet och gick med på allt. Den 24 november kl. 18, när månen just visat sig och Eid-högtiden inletts, blev det eld upphör längs gränsen. Därefter har flyg-, buss- och tågförbindelser också kommit i gång och allt ser hoppfullt ut.

En kula i Kashmir skulle dock mycket

väl snabbt kunna stoppa hela förloppet.

Man är således tillbaka på ruta ett i det diplomatiska spelet. En middagsbjudning kan tackas nej till, en förstesekreterare på ambassaden kan utvisas ... hela arsenalen i den diplomatiska etikettens regelsystem kan nu åter användas för att hålla konflikten och makteliterna vid liv.

Eller, tänk om, den onda cirkeln bryts?

Godsägare och politik

Mer än på de flesta håll har Pakistan stelnat i den koloniala formen. De koloniala godsägarna har behållit sina jordar efter självständigheten och behärskar det nationella parlamentet och delstatsparlamenten genom patron-klient-liknande mobilisering av underlydande arrendatorer och lantarbetare. Alla försök till jordreformer har blockerats.

De islamiska arvsreglerna, där alla söner ärver lika och döttrarna hälften av vad sönerna får, följs inte heller, vilket annars skulle ha lett till en viss omfördelning på sikt. Godsägarna sätter helt enkelt arvsreglerna ur spel genom att sätta kvinnorna på religiösa institutioner i stället för att gifta bort dem, eller så gifts de bort med Koranen. Och yngre söner sätts på internatskolor för en professionell karriär.

Även om Pakistans start blev en mardröm i form av att landets bomullsodlare förlorade sin avsättningsmarknad

VÄND!

FORTS.

bland textillfabrikerna i Bombay, var ändå landets ekonomi lite starkare än den indiska. Stora naturrikedomar, olja, naturgas och vattenkraft och bördiga jordar gör att landet är ett av de potentiellt rikaste i Sydasiens.

Ekonomisk stagnation

Länge var också den ekonomiska utvecklingen lite bättre än i Indien. Men det senaste decenniet har ekonomin försämrats starkt och fattigdomen bland befolkningen ökat, så att Indien i dag ter sig relativt sett mer framgångsrikt. Andelen fattiga är nu också större i Pakistan än i Indien.

Trots landets storlek, 140 miljoner invånare, och naturrikedomar, så har alltså utvecklingen efter självständigheten varit ganska medelmåttig. En del av förklaringen ligger säkert i att det koloniala jordbrukssystemet inte förändrats, vilket lett till att jordränta är viktigare än vinst på investeringar i jordbruket. En ännu viktigare förklaring är dock landets stora militäutgifter som minskat utrymmet för offentliga investeringar i infrastruktur, utbildning och hälsovård. Utan dessa kan det inte växa fram en modern industri- och tjänsteekonomi.

Det saknas produktiva och ordentligt betalda arbeten. Folk känner sig instängda i en ekonomi som inte växer med befolkningsökningen, för närvarande cirka 2,3 procent/år. Mer än hälften av befolkningen är under 20 år.

Inte undra på att så många pakistanser utvandrar till USA och Västeuropa, för att inte tala om alla som är gästarbetare i Mellanöstern. Till och med i Norden har vi nu en betydande pakistansk minoritet, 40 000 i Norge, 30 000 i Danmark och 10 000 i Sverige.

Vad sker under ytan?

Kanske blir utvecklingen knappast vad någon riktigt förutsett. Satsningen på en stark utvecklingsstat har gått i stå genom bristande finansiell kapacitet, brist på effektiv beskattning av framförallt den ofantligt rika över- och medelklassen och genom att den offentliga sektorn saknar all tillstymmelse till effektivitet. Den koloniala statsförvaltning man övertog med hull och hår har blivit föråldrad och snarare en broms på än en dirigent i utvecklingen.

Under ytan växer, liksom i Indien, stater i staten fram, enklaver med egna poliser och egen infrastruktur för industri/tjänster och delar av över- och medelklassen. Man ser dessa enklaver tydligast i Karachi, denna förvuxna men stelade metropol, där det gemensamma rummet förfaller medan enklaver av grönska och lyxbostäder spirar.

Enklaverna innefattar ännu inte Karachis strand. Våren 2003 havererade oljetankern Tasman Spirit utanför kusten och olja spred sig över hav och land. Ännu i november låg oljan kvar som en död hand

över hela kusten, alldeles i närheten av de lyxlägenheter som byggts med utsikt över sand och hav vid Clifton beach. Och det är så gott som alldeles tyst i media, undertryckt som den är av de militära myndigheterna och privata företagsintressena.

Eller finns det en chans för ett uppvaknande, som följs av jordreformer och demokratisk mobilisering grundad på samhällsintressen? Är den islamiska mobiliseringen, som i sig också innebär en slags nationell självkänsla, ett steg på vägen? Är det möjligt att finna en kompromiss i Kashmirfrågan efter alla dessa år?

Fundamentalister, terrorister...

Omvärldens dom över Pakistan är inte nådig i dag. Islamisering, fundamentalism och terrorism är de vanligaste orden i vocabulären.

Visst upplever vi en överväldigande och aktiv muslimsk kultur. Alla fastar, ber och många kvinnor går med slöja.

Men formerna bedrar. Liksom Gymkhana Club i Lahore inte betyder att inget hänt sedan engelsmännen lämnade landet, så är inte dessa yttre intryck mycket mer än just en bedräglig yta.

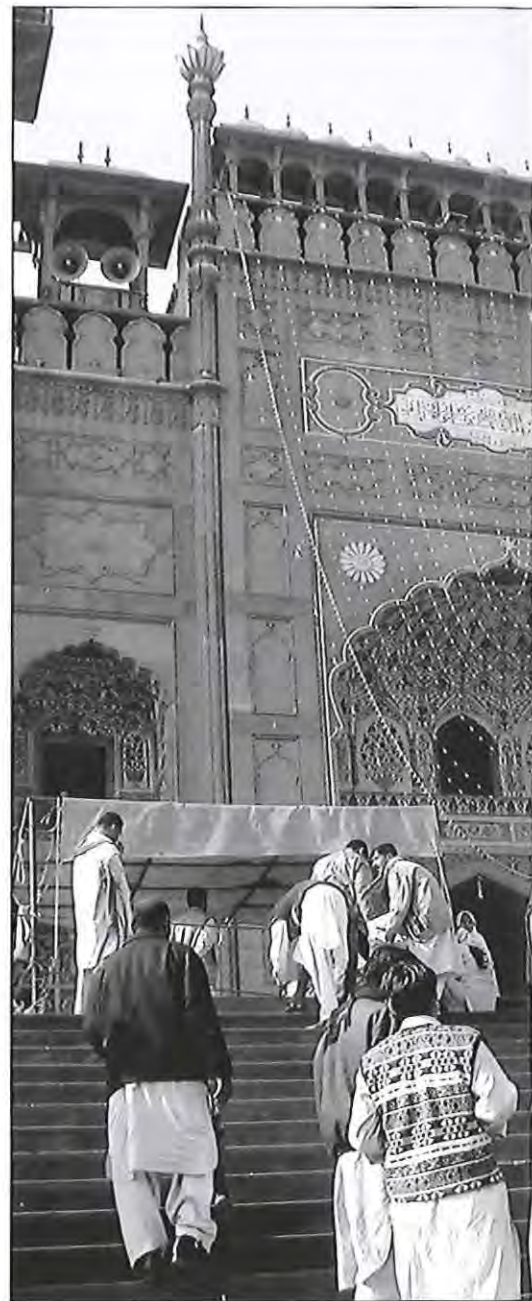
Det mesta av denna religiositet är fortfarande traditionell. Folk går i moskén, man ber och firar Eid på ett sätt som liknar den religiositet man fortfarande finner i USA. I vardagen är det dock mera världsliga bekymmer som tar över.

Den islamiska fundamentalismen har sina rötter i den snabba samhällsombildningen – modernisering, urbanisering, folk som rycks upp med rötterna och möter allt det nya, TV, film, reklam, våld och sex som underhållning (nu inte bara från Hollywood, utan också från Bollywood och Lollywood – Lahores filmindustri). Väckelserörelser har satt fart precis som en gång hos oss i Sverige. Hur tolka allt det nya? Hur vara trygg när allting förändras?

De islamiska organisationerna som vuxit som svampar ur jorden de senaste åren försöker ge svar på dessa frågor, ge människor en hållpunkt i livet. Ett steg på vägen i den oundvikliga moderniseringen, Muslim style!

Men vad som händer i Pakistan är inte bara en fråga om inrikespolitik. Liksom vi svenskar i mötet med EU känner oss utmanade av en Leviathan, en övermakt som vi inte litat på, ser man i Pakistan hur det som händer i världen påverkar starkt. Mycket starkt. Först var de med oss, när vi tränade frihetskämpar och körde ut ryssarna från Afghanistan. Då dög vi som samarbetspartners, vi fick vapen och var bröder. Men efter den 11 september 2001 gick det snabbt utför. Talibanerna passade liksom inte de amerikanska ambitionerna att kontrollera oss, oljan och naturgasen.

Folk är lika delade och splittrade som var som helst på jorden. Vad som har hänt är dock en politisk och kulturell samling mot den amerikanska aggressionen. Lik de



flesta i de muslimska länderna känner man sig inringad och attackerad av den amerikanska stormakten som man bara uppfattar som ute efter att behärska världen och inte minst olja och gas. Allt detta upplevs som en kollektiv förnedring.

Inte så konstigt kanske att man efter varje bombattack frågar sig: 'Hur många amerikaner var det som dog?'

Den man älskar smädar man

Under hela kalla kriget har USA varit Pakistans bundsförvant och garant. Pakistan var för amerikanerna kilen mellan Indien och Sovjetunionen och nyckeln till Centralasien med dess olja och gas. För den professionella eliten i Pakistan var det också USA som gällde. Nästan alla vi träffar har en bror eller syster i USA i hög ställning. Eliten lever också här ett amerikaniserat liv och de många McDonaldsrestaurangerna behöver heller inte byta ut bifsköttet mot kyckling.

Det finns alltså en alldeles särskild pakistansk bitterhet i den islamiska samlingen mot den amerikanska politiken i Väst- och Sydasiens. Man följer här noga debatten



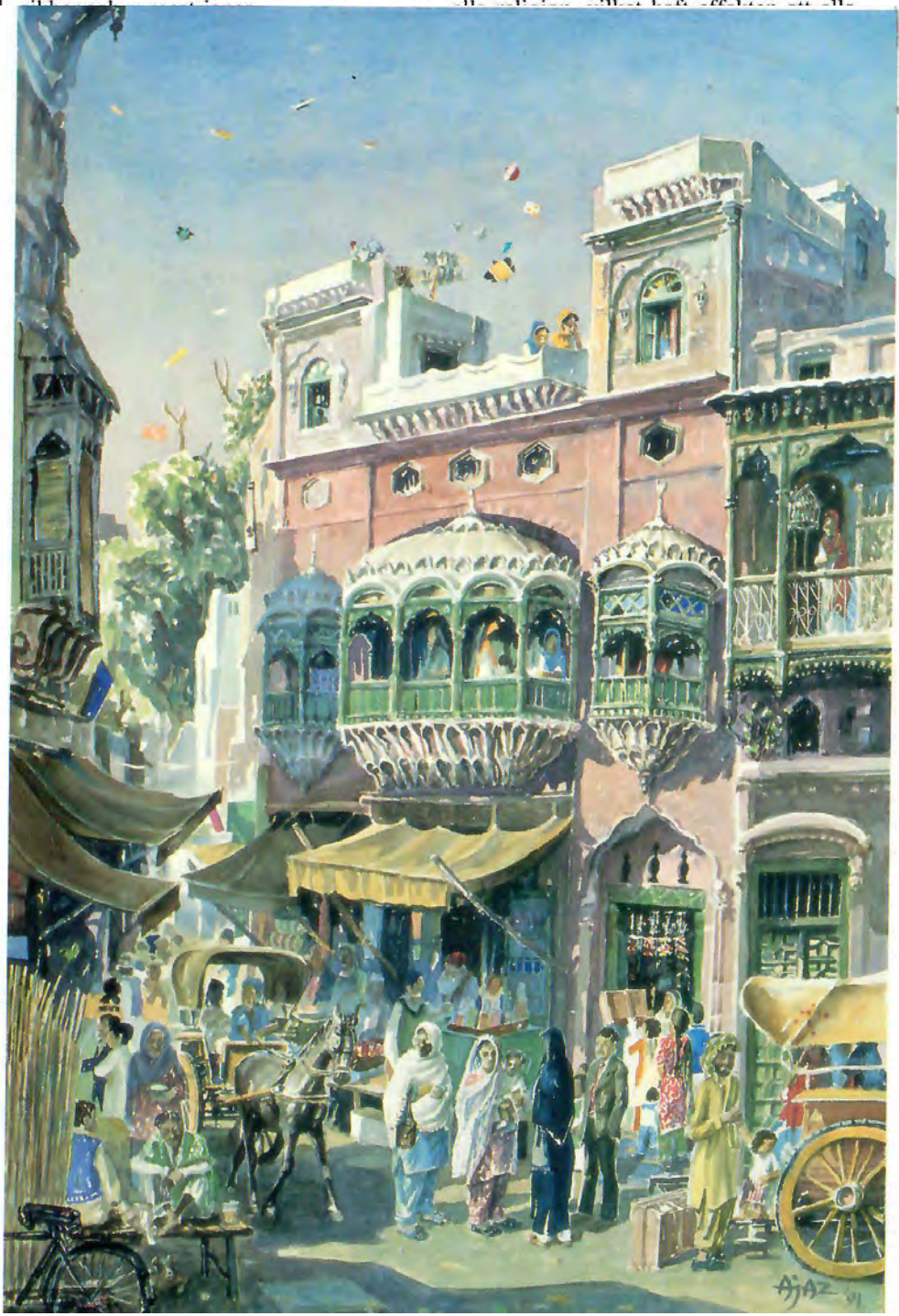
i FN och andra fora och minsta europeisk protest mot USA analyseras. Efter den 11 september och den diskriminering som utvecklats mot muslimer i USA har också intresset för Europa ökat. Är det dit eliten kommer att skicka sina söner och döttrar för utbildning i framtiden?

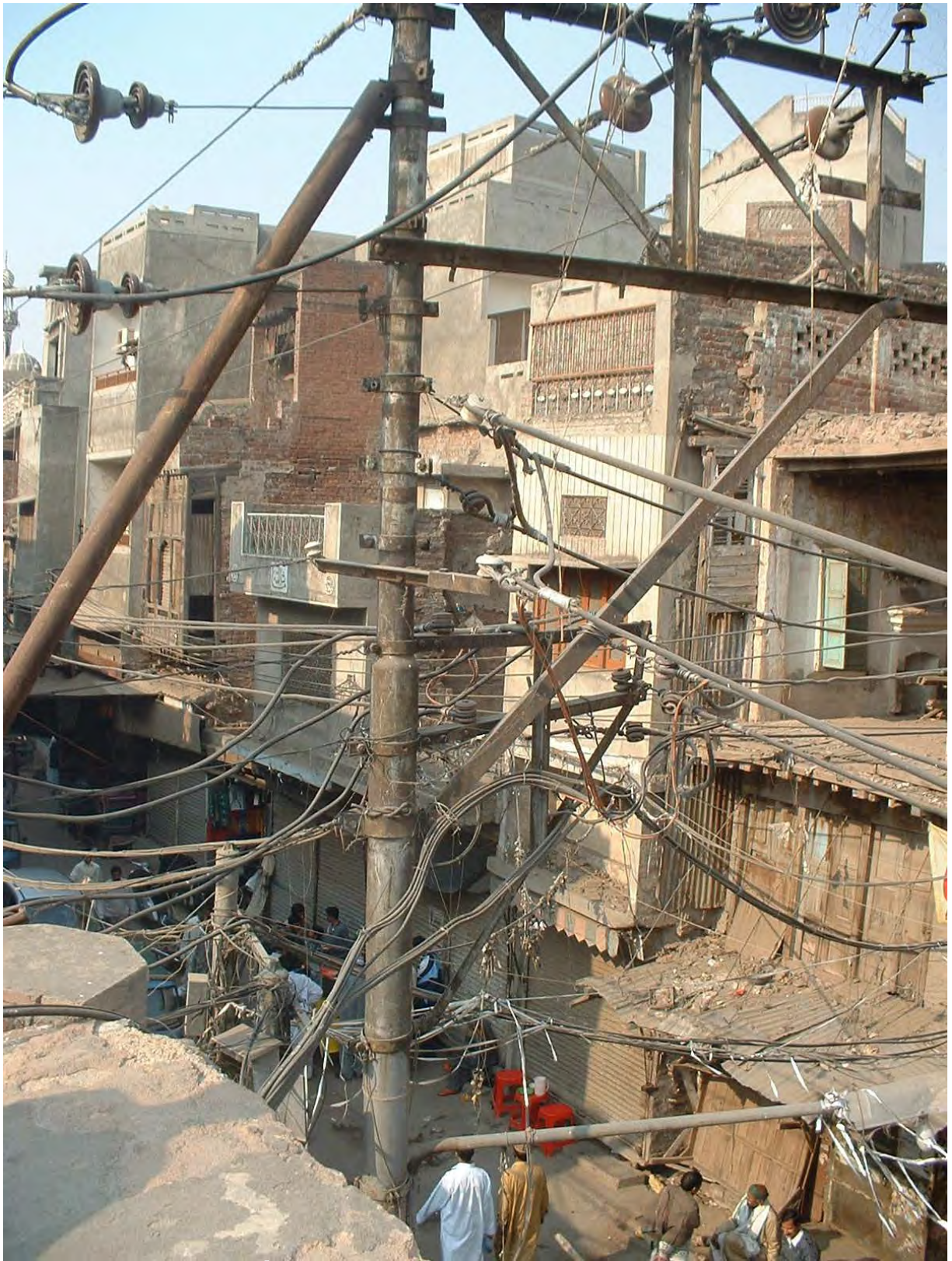
Det är inte svårt att älska detta folk och land. Ta bara *dhol*-trummorna och dansen vi var på en natt i stadsdelen Shah Jamal Colony. På en sufisk gravplats i en byggnad med två våningar hade hundratals människor samlats till denna intensiva inlevelse vare sig man satt och lyssnade, eller dansade som en dervisch, en virvel eller hamrade på trummorna.

Det är som med Shiva Nataraj – musiken och dansen håller världen i gång. Jag tror jag vill återfödas som en sufi i mitt nästa liv. Varför inte i Pakistan?

PS. Den som är intresserad av vårt akademiska nätverkande kan läsa vår reseskildring på engelska på SASNET:s webbsida <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/journeytwo.html>

Staffan Lindberg, text
Lars Eklund, foto





Cocos Cafe i ÖLahore



Cocos Cafe i ÖLahore







Zulfiqar Bhutta med familj



Ariof Siddiqui med familj



Buss Islamabad-Lahore

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