

Pakistan

Saudi Press Agency

March 1, 2006

HEADLINE: Bush to Arrive in Pakistan on Friday

Final shape has been given to the visit program of President George W.

Bush to Pakistan, who will stay in Islamabad for over one and a half day, on arrival from Hyderabad, India, on March 3, Pakistan's Ambassador to Washington Gen (retd) Jehangir Karamat said..

Bush's program includes his one-on-one meeting President General Pervez Musharraf, followed by an elaborate conference by delegations of both sides, Karamat told the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP)..

He said President Bush would speak to a gathering of invitees from the fields of business and politics, as well as notables..

It will be followed by an event at the U.S. Embassy, where Bush will deliver his remarks..

Besides, there will be a sports event of cricket, to be followed by a banquet to be hosted by Musharraf for Bush and the U.S. **First Lady, Laura Bush..**

An event related to earthquake rehabilitation is also on the cards, the ambassador said..

"Discussions have been completed on the visit program, while the specific areas to be covered in the scheduled talks have been decided, and the subjects to be included in the joint statement have almost been agreed upon," Karamat stated.

Agence France Presse -- English

March 3, 2006

HEADLINE: US President Bush arrives in Pakistan

US President George W. Bush arrived in Islamabad Friday for his first visit to Pakistan, which will include talks on the "war on terror".

Bush flew in to the Chaklala military airbase from New Delhi on board Air Force One and was received by Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri, television footage showed.

He was accompanied by his wife Laura Bush at the start of his two-day visit.

The couple waved as they descended the steps of the giant blue and white plane, before Bush was handed a bouquet of flowers.

They were then flown to the US embassy in Islamabad by a US helicopter, a Pakistani official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

New York Post

March 2, 2006

HEADLINE: Pre- Bush Bombs

BYLINE: Zarar Khan & Deborah Orin

ARACHI, Pakistan — Two car bombs exploded early today outside the U.S. consulate and a hotel in Pakistan's largest city — killing three people and wounding 34 others — two days before a visit to Pakistan by President Bush, officials said.

The bombs ripped through vehicles in the parking lot of the Marriott Hotel in Karachi, about 20 yards from the consulate, police official Mushtaq Shah said.

The explosions shattered windows and destroyed at least 10 cars, sending flames and clouds of thick black smoke across the neighborhood.

None of those killed or injured worked at the consulate, officials said.

The bombings occurred two days before Bush was to visit the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks.



Meanwhile, Bush vowed yesterday that Osama bin Laden "will be brought to justice" as he made a surprise stop in Afghanistan — his first visit to the nation where U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban two months after 9/11.

Asked why bin Laden — the 9/11 mastermind — has yet to be caught dead or alive as he once vowed, Bush replied, "It's not a matter of if they're captured and brought to justice. It's when they're brought to justice."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai hailed Bush as a hero, welcoming him as "our great friend, our great supporter, a man who helped us liberate."

Five hours after his surprise landing, Bush flew on to India to promote trade with the world's biggest democracy and try to finalize a deal on helping India with civilian nuclear energy to power its booming economy.

The toppling of Afghanistan's Taliban — which harbored bin Laden — marked the culmination of Bush's vow, in the ashes at Ground Zero, that "the people who knocked these buildings down will hear from all of us soon."

Bush congratulated the Afghan people on electing their parliament in September, adding: "People all over the world are watching. I hope that the people of Afghanistan understand that as democracy takes hold you're inspiring others."

He also cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, stressing that it's a big solid building that shows the United States intends to stay there.

It was Bush's first trip to Afghanistan, but **First Lady Laura Bush** — who's traveling with him — made a solo visit last spring. Yesterday, she met with Afghan women leaders to talk about issues like health care.

After attending a ceremonial reception with cavalry soldiers, a gun salute and a military honor guard for President Bush at New Delhi's presidential palace, **Mrs. Bush** broke from the presidential entourage.

Her first stop was to be Film City television studios, where **Mrs. Bush** will take part in a shoot of "Galli Galli Sim Sim," an Indian take on the popular puppet show.

The White House did its best to keep the sidetrip under wraps for security reasons.

Associated Press Worldstream

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: Primary school class comes to U.S. first lady in Pakistan

BYLINE: Rod McGurik

When American first lady **Laura Bush** wants to visit schoolchildren, she usually goes to a classroom. But not in Pakistan.

Because of security concerns, the children had to come to Bush on Saturday when she wanted to see how U.S. aid was being spent in Pakistani schools. A class of 22 fourth graders met with her at the fortress-like U.S. Embassy, where they tried to recreate their classroom atmosphere.

The class is part of a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. It replaces the rote learning in Pakistan's austere traditional schools with American-style interactive teaching.

Bush arrived Friday with her husband for a two-day trip. On the eve of their visit, a suicide bomber killed a U.S. diplomat and three others in the southern city of Karachi.

The American first lady, a former librarian and teacher, beamed as she watched a circle of students in an embassy room decorated with the children's art. The students, dressed in blue Western-style uniforms, engaged in an imagination exercise which involved making up stories revolving around a toy rabbit.

"That bunny over there is actually Bugs Bunny," the president's wife told a class of mostly 10-year-olds who were clearly less familiar with Western cartoon characters than their American counterparts.

The lesson ended with a class photograph. The first lady posed with her arm around Saeeda Qurbani.

"I got a warm hug from the president's wife. I wasn't expecting that, that's for sure," she said in Urdu. "I like her a lot."

In another room of the embassy, Bush met with education administrators involved in USAID-funded Children Resources International. The organization is introducing the new teaching method in Islamabad, nearby Rawalpindi and Karachi. The meeting included representatives of UNESCO and the Pakistan government.

This poor Islamic nation has one of Asia's lowest literacy rates, with only 48.7 percent of adults able to read and write.

Bush empathized with a teacher who lamented that the traditional teaching methods she learned in the Pakistani education system had not achieved results.

"I was the same way after graduating with a degree in education," **Laura Bush** said. "I started to

teach and I was wondering: Do I really know how to teach?"

The Bushes spent the night in the heavily fortified embassy compound after arriving from India.

The media were taken to the embassy on a bus that was thoroughly checked by a bomb sniffer dog. After getting off the bus, reporters had to go through two metal detector checks and their cameras and tape recorders were scrutinized by an X-ray machine and another sniffer dog. Reporters were then threatened with eviction if they touched a red rope that separated them from the president's wife.

Laura Bush began her only full day in Islamabad with the education program in the embassy, before driving to the Presidential Palace for tea with Pakistan's first lady, Sehba Musharraf. The route was completely closed off to traffic.

The Pakistan Newswire

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: **Laura Bush** stresses promotion of literacy

The American First Lady **Laura Bush** has stressed promotion of literacy in Pakistan. Speaking at a roundtable conference on Pakistan educational projects, held at the US embassy here Saturday in collaboration with the US Aid and UNESCO, she said that illiteracy was an international issue. She said Pakistan with persistent effort and support from the US Aid and UNESCO would achieve its targets in the education field. **Laura Bush** was briefed on Pakistan's key education projects in the conference including the 'Early Childhood Education Programme', teachers training programme and literacy programme for illiterate parents. Regional Director General UNESCO briefed Mrs. **Laura Bush** about existing literacy rate in South Asian countries and in various parts of Pakistan and literacy targets fixed for the nation. Pakistan has the lowest literacy rate in South Asia i. E. 48.7%. **Mrs. Bush** was told 88% literacy target has been fixed to achieve till 2015. The US first lady also saw a model classroom and demonstration of modern teaching methods. **Mrs. Bush** distributed gifts among the children.

The Pakistan Newswire

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: BUSH: Lady Laura meets Begum Musharraf

The American First Lady **Laura Bush** on Saturday morning met Pakistan's first Lady begum Pervez Musharraf at the Awan-e-Saddar. Lady Laura arrived at the Awan-e-Sadar from the American embassy where the American President and his wife are staying. She arrived at the Awan-e-Saddar after nearly an hour when the two Presidents' had already started their one to one meeting.

BBC Worldwide Monitoring

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: US president promises continued assistance to Pakistan for quake relief

BYLINE: Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency

Islamabad, 4 March: US President George W. Bush Saturday [4 March] vowed continued support for Pakistan's reconstruction and recovery efforts in the quake zone, describing October last catastrophe as a "staggering" natural disaster. The visiting leader, who met with quake survivors at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] along with President Pervez Musharraf and also watched a documentary on the scale of damage and post-quake relief efforts, said the US is proud of having assisted Pakistan in its hour of need.

"It is staggering what the people have gone through in the quake. It is unbelievable. We are proud to stand by Pakistan in dealing with the disaster," he said at a post-talks press interaction. The 7.6-magnitude 8 October quake killed 73000 people, injured an equal number and left more than three million shelterless at the start of harsh winter. Referring to half a billion dollars assistance by US, he said it spoke of closeness between the two peoples.

President Bush and First Lady **Laura Bush**, accompanied by President Musharraf and First Lady Begum Sehba Musharraf, met with orphaned children, amputees and women survivors and expressed their sympathy and support for them. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was also present.

President Bush praised the resilience of the Pakistani nation and efforts of the Pakistan army and non-governmental organizations in facing the gigantic natural disaster. He also met with the American military officials engaged in airlifting relief supplies and lauded their services.

President Musharraf expressed the Pakistani nation's gratitude for American help in carrying out early rescue and medical relief operations in the mountainous regions of NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He said the American Chinook helicopters had been "critical" in the immediate rescue and relief operations with their life-saving missions. The visiting leader was briefed about Pakistan's post-quake relief and reconstruction efforts.

Hindustan Times

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: Illiteracy, an issue of global concern: **Laura Bush**

BYLINE: Hindustan Times

Islamabad, March 4 -- Addressing a roundtable conference on educational projects in Pakistan on Saturday, U.S. First Lady **Laura Bush** said that illiteracy was a concern of international proportions, but expressed confidence that Pakistan would achieve its education-related targets with support from USAID and UNESCO.

During the conference, which was held at the US embassy in Islamabad, **Laura Bush** was briefed on Pakistan's key education projects, including the 'Early Childhood Education Programme', teachers training programme and literacy programme for illiterate parents.

The Regional Director General of Unesco briefed the U.S. First Lady about existing literacy rate in South Asia and in various parts of Pakistan and literacy targets fixed for the nation.

Pakistan has the lowest literacy rate in South Asia of 48.7 percent, **Mrs. Bush** was told, and a literacy target of 88 percent has been set. This target is to be achieved by 2015.

The U.S. First Lady was also shown a model classroom and demonstration of modern teaching methods. She used the opportunity to distribute gifts among the children.

BBC Worldwide Monitoring

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: US first lady calls for promoting education in Pakistan

Text of report by Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency

Islamabad, 4 March: US First Lady **Laura Bush** on Saturday [4 March] stressed the need for promotion of education in the country, with special focus on advanced skill training for teachers. "Education is an issue of concern worldwide... [ellipsis as received] and we (United States) want Pakistan to shift from simple qualifications to advanced methodology in the educational field. This can help people to lead life with success," she said in a roundtable talk with the representatives of UNESCO, Federal Directorate of Education, Children Resource International (CRI) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at US embassy here.

Laura Bush said United States and Pakistan were partners in education as the former was running several literacy projects under the umbrella of USAID and UNESCO in the country. She emphasized on the direct involvement of parents and teachers in the educational activities of a child. "Children need parents and teachers to help them prepare for success in school and in life. Once in classrooms, our children deserve excellent teachers and high-quality education."

Being a graduate of education and a former public school teacher, Laura said she believed teachers' training was a must to update them with advanced methodology. She said President Bush's commitment for the promotion of education continues from the time he was the governor of Texas and played an active role on focussing research on teaching methodology.

Regional Director-General UNESCO Jorge Sequeira briefing the US first lady said Pakistan was lagging behind in regional educational perspective with 48.7 per cent literacy rate as compared to Sri Lanka with 90.4 pc and India 61 pc. He said in Pakistan there was a need to overcome educational disparity as the ratio of child literacy was 58 per cent, while focus was being laid on ensuring that all boys and girls complete their primary level by year 2015.

Director-General Federal Directorate of Education Brig (retd) Maqsood-ul-Hassan said the government was successfully carrying out American "Interactive child-centred methodology" through CRI in its 150 schools in Islamabad. He said under the project, specialized courses for teachers were being carried out besides introducing interactive methodology in 40 universities in the country. Chief Executive CRI Mehnaaz Aziz said the aim of the project was to link the youth with global reality through advanced educational means. She said more than 25,000 children in ICT [Islamabad Capital territory], Rawalpindi district and Karachi were benefiting from the change brought about in classroom environment.

Later, the US first lady distributed gifts among the group of school children which amused her by presenting self-created tales in a playful manner.

Agence France Presse -- English

March 4, 2006

HEADLINE: Bush holds terror talks with Musharraf in Pakistan

US President George W. Bush held talks with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday, at which he was to push his key ally for more progress on the "war on terror" and on democracy.

Pakistani police detained opposition leaders including former cricketer Imran Khan to prevent planned protests, while tensions remained high after a suicide bomber killed a US diplomat in Karachi on Thursday.

Unprecedented security turned Islamabad into a ghost town for the first visit to Pakistan by Bush, who arrived with his wife Laura late Friday on the final leg of a South Asian tour that has also taken in India and Afghanistan.

Musharraf and Bush held a "fruitful" one-on-one meeting at the imposing presidential compound in Islamabad, a Pakistani official said. Bush earlier inspected an honour guard of Pakistani soldiers.

"They discussed all issues, the fight against terrorism, Kashmir, the regional situation, Iraq. It was a very comprehensive, friendly and relaxed meeting," the official said on condition of anonymity.

First Lady **Laura Bush** met Musharraf's wife Sehba and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's wife Rukshana, the official added.

Two US Black Hawk helicopters circled low over central Islamabad throughout the visit, anti-aircraft guns were positioned on nearby hillsides and thousands of police lined the streets.

"I will meet with President Musharraf to discuss Pakistan's vital cooperation in the war on terror and our effort to foster economic and political development so we could reduce the appeal of radical Islam," Bush said in New Delhi late Friday.

"I believe a prosperous democratic Pakistan would be a steadfast partner for America and a peaceful neighbour for India and a force for freedom and moderation in the Arab world," he added.

A White House official later said Bush meant to say "Muslim world".

Bush spent the night at the heavily fortified US embassy and will spend the whole day in Islamabad, also meeting businessmen and attending a banquet -- which opposition legislators have vowed to boycott.

Bush, an avid baseball fan, was expected to meet Pakistani cricket captain Inzamam-ul Haq, vice captain Younis Khan and opener Salman Butt as well as child players from this cricket-crazy country.

Bush's maiden trip to Pakistan despite the security risks is being seen as a show of solidarity for Musharraf, whose alliance with Washington since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States has angered Islamists at home.

Pakistan has around 70,000 troops along the rugged frontier with Afghanistan where Osama bin Laden and other militants are thought to be hiding and has caught several key Al-Qaeda militants.

But Bush said before his tour that he would remind his "friend" Musharraf of the need to do more to combat terrorism and cross-border infiltration.

Meanwhile the US leader's comments on democracy reflect the fact that military ruler Musharraf has refused to shed his role as army chief more than six years after he seized power in a bloodless coup.

Opposition Islamic groups led a national strike and protests against cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed on Friday, which turned into anti-Bush rallies, and called for Pakistanis to observe a "black day" on Saturday.

A spokesman for Imran Khan's small Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf or Movement for Justice party, told AFP that the ex-cricket captain was under house arrest to stop him leading a protest in Rawalpindi near Islamabad.

Police also detained a lawmaker from Pakistan's main alliance of religious parties who planned to head the rally instead, and dozens of other activists.

For Pakistan the visit is a chance to consolidate its relationship with Washington, after Bush hailed a new strategic partnership with Islamabad's traditional rival New Delhi.

Bush clinched a landmark nuclear energy deal with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and Pakistan says it wants a "similar" arrangement despite a proliferation scandal involving its disgraced top nuclear scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan.

Musharraf is expected to ask Bush to push India on the their nearly six-decade-old feud over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, trigger of two of their three wars. India and Pakistan began a peace process in 2004.

Officials said Pakistan and the United States were also working on finalizing a bilateral investment treaty, seen as a first step to a Free Trade Agreement.

The Statesman (India)

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Imran Under House Arrest as Stir Peaks

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD March 4. Cricketer-turned politician Mr Imran Khan was today put under house arrest by Pakistan police which detained hundreds of Islamist leaders and opposition activists across the country to thwart protests against US President Mr George W Bushs visit.

Mr Khan was detained at his home here in the early hours as he was preparing to take out a march from Rawalpindi to Islamabad, said leaders of his Tehrik-e-Insaf party. Besides Mr Khan, 26 of his associates were also taken into preventive custody by authorities. Police used batons to disperse party activists who gathered in central Rawalpindi shouting slogans like Killer Bush go back. Some of the party cadres were also arrested.

Mr Khan, who had been detained last week also for attempting a similar rally in Lahore, said that his house arrest was just to appease Mr Bush.

Opposition parties had pledged to observe Black Day and take out demonstrations to protest the American leaders visit. To prevent any major rallies, police detained from across the country some 350 activists of the Islamic alliance Muttahida Majlis-e Amal (MMA) and opposition parties including some local leaders. mR Hanif Abbasi of MMA was detained at his home in Rawalpindi, while the alliances leader Qazi Hussain Ahmed, detained a few days ago, remained in house arrest in Lahore. Despite the crackdown, around 500 protestors gathered in the eastern city of Multan and took out a peaceful rally, while nearly 50 Islamists held a march in Lahore. Police blocked a key bridge to prevent any protestors from entering Islamabad from the northwest, which is dominated by Islamist parties. School comes to Laura ISLAMABAD, March 4. When American first lady mS **Laura Bush** wants to visit school children, she usually goes to a classroom. But not in Pakistan. Because of security concerns, the children had to come to Ms Bush on today when she wanted to see how US aid was being spent in Pakistani schools. A class of 22 fourth graders met her at the fortress-like US embassy, where they tried to recreate their classroom atmosphere. The American First Lady, a former librarian and teacher, beamed as the lesson ended with a class photograph.

Hindustan Times

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: 'Educated' Laura lays stress on improved education of Pakistani teachers

BYLINE: Hindustan Times

Islamabad, March 5 -- US First Lady **Laura Bush**, who is a graduate of education and a former school teacher, said during her visit to Pakistan that the level of education of teachers in the country needed to be upgraded.

She said that that teachers' training was a must to update them with advanced methodology.

"Education is an issue of concern worldwide,...and we (the United States) want Pakistan to shift from simple qualifications to advanced methodology in the educational field. This can help people to lead life with success," the Dawn quoted Mrs Bush as saying at a roundtable with the representatives of the UNESCO, Federal Directorate of Education, Children Resource International (CRI) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at US embassy on Saturday.

Laura emphasized on direct involvement of parents and teachers in educational activities of a child. "Children need parents and teachers to help them prepare for success in school and in life. Once in classrooms, our children deserve excellent teachers and high-quality education," she said.

On the occasion, UNESCO Regional Director-General Jorge Sequeira briefed Mrs Bush on the status of education in the country. He said that Pakistan was lagging behind in regional educational perspective with 48.7 per cent literacy rate as compared to Sri Lanka with 90.4 per cent and India with 61 per cent.

Saudi Press Agency

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Bush concludes visit to Pakistan

BYLINE: Saudi Press Agency

US President George W.

Bush left Islamabad Saturday night after completing his first ever visit to Pakistan, officials said..

Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, US Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C.

Crocker and Pakistan Foreign Ministry officials saw off Bush and First Lady **Laura Bush** at Chaklala Air Base, near Islamabad..

The Statesman (India)

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Imran Under House Arrest as Stir Peaks

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD March 4. Cricketer-turned politician Mr Imran Khan was today put under house arrest by Pakistan police which detained hundreds of Islamist leaders and opposition activists across the country to thwart protests against US President Mr George W Bushs visit.

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New Kerala

March 5, 2006

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She said that that teachers' training was a must to update them with advanced methodology.

"Education is an issue of concern worldwide,...and we (the United States) want Pakistan to shift from simple qualifications to advanced methodology in the educational field. This can help people to lead life with success," the Dawn quoted Mrs Bush as saying at a roundtable with the representatives of the UNESCO, Federal Directorate of Education, Children Resource International (CRI) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at US embassy on Saturday.

Laura emphasized on direct involvement of parents and teachers in educational activities of a child. "Children need parents and teachers to help them prepare for success in school and in life. Once in classrooms, our children deserve excellent teachers and high-quality education," she said.

On the occasion, UNESCO Regional Director-General Jorge Sequeira briefed Mrs Bush on the status of education in the country. He said that Pakistan was lagging behind in regional educational perspective with 48.7 per cent literacy rate as compared to Sri Lanka with 90.4 per cent and India with 61 per cent.

Business Recorder

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Laura Stresses Skill Training for Teachers

United States First Lady **Laura Bush** on Saturday stressed the need for promotion of education in Pakistan, with special focus on advanced skill training for teachers.

"Education is an issue of concern world-wide, and we (US) want Pakistan to shift from simple qualifications to advanced methodology in the educational field. This can help people to lead life with success," she said in a roundtable talk with the representatives of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), Federal Directorate of Education, Children Resource International (CRI) and US Agency for International Development (USAID) at US Embassy here.

Laura Bush said the US and Pakistan were partners in education, as the former was running several literacy projects under the umbrella of USAID and Unesco in the country.

She emphasised on the direct involvement of parents and teachers in the educational activities of a child, and said, "Children need parents and teachers to help them prepare for success in school and in life. Once in classrooms, our children deserve excellent teachers and high-quality education."

Being a graduate of Education and a former public school teacher, Laura said she believed teachers' training was a must to update them with advanced methodology.

She said President Bush's commitment for the promotion of education continued from the time he was the governor of Texas and played an active role on focussing research on teaching methodology.

Unesco-Regional Director General Jorge Sequeira briefing the US first lady said Pakistan was lagging behind in regional educational perspective with 48.7 percent literacy rate as compared to Sri Lanka with 90.4 percent and India 61 percent.

He said in Pakistan there was a need to overcome educational disparity, as the ratio of child literacy was 58 percent, while focus was being laid on ensuring that all boys and girls completed their primary level by year 2015.

Federal Directorate of Education Director General, Brigadier Maqsood-ul-Hassan (Retd), said the government was successfully carrying out American 'Interactive child-centred methodology' through CRI in its 150 schools in Islamabad.

Under the project, specialised courses for teachers were being carried out besides introducing interactive methodology in 40 universities in the country, he added.

CRI Chief Executive Mehnaz Aziz said the aim of the project was to link the youth with global reality through advanced educational means, and added that more than 25,000 children in ICT,

Rawalpindi district and Karachi were benefiting from the change brought about in classroom environment.

Later, the US first lady distributed gifts among the group of school children, which amused her by presenting self-created tales in a playful manner.

Agence France Presse -- English

March 5, 2006

HEADLINE: Bush returns to US after South Asian tour

US President George W. Bush returned to the US capital early Sunday after wrapping up a landmark tour of South Asia, during which he visited Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.

Air Force One carrying the president, First Lady **Laura Bush** and members of the US delegation landed at Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Maryland at 4:50 am (0950 GMT).

On Saturday, Bush reassured Americans that broader ties with India, Pakistan and Afghanistan would strengthen US national security.

"By working with these leaders and the people of these three nations, we're seizing the opportunities this new century offers and helping to lay the foundations of peace and prosperity for generations to come," the president said in his weekly radio address.

Before leaving Islamabad, the US president reaffirmed what he called a broad and lasting strategic partnership between the United States and Pakistan forged after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Press Photos

Mrs. Bush's Press Photos
India- March 2, 2006



REUTERS 

Tue Feb 28, 1:52 PM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush wave from Air Force One as they depart Andrews Air Force base near Washington February 28, 2006. Bush is



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 2:03 PM ET

Indian President Abdul Kalam (R) shakes hands with U.S. First Lady Laura Bush as U.S. President George W. Bush (C) watches before their meeting in New Delhi March 2, 2006. India and the United States sealed a landmark civilian nuclear co-operation pact on Thursday, the centrepiece of President George W. Bush's first visit to the world's largest democracy. REUTERS/B Mathur



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 1:51 PM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (R) and First Lady Laura Bush walk before their meeting with Indian President Abdul Kalam in New Delhi March 2, 2006. India and the United States sealed a landmark civilian nuclear co-operation pact on Thursday, the centrepiece of President George W. Bush's first visit to the world's largest democracy. REUTERS/B Mathur



Thu Mar 2, 1:04 PM ET

US President George W. Bush (R) speaks to US troops at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan as First Lady Laura Bush looks on. Bush regularly reminds Americans that he is the "commander in chief", but nobody expects to see him with US troops in Iraq any time soon (AFP/Mandel Ngan)



Thu Mar 2, 11:34 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush (C) meets the cast of the Indian version of the children's television show Sesame Street, called 'Galli Galli Sim Sim', at their film studio on the outskirts of New Delhi March 2, 2006. From left are the characters Boombah, Chamki, Googli, and Aanchoo. On the right is Nafisa Ali, the chairperson of the Children's Film Society of India. REUTERS/Eagle Studios/Handout



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 11:17 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (front R) and First Lady Laura Bush (front C) join President of India Abdul Kalam in a reception line at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi March 2, 2006. It is Bush's first visit to the country. REUTERS/Jim Young



AFP 

Thu Mar 2, 11:02 AM ET

US President George W. Bush (L) and First Lady Laura Bush step off Air Force One in New Delhi. The United States and India have sealed a civilian nuclear deal, the leaders of the two countries announced following talks in the Indian capital (AFP/Mandel Ngan)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:58 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush, right, laughs while standing in a receiving line with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, second left, and first lady Laura Bush, center, at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:57 AM ET

President Bush, center, looks towards U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during a receiving line at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is at far left and first lady Laura Bush is second left. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:52 AM ET

George Bush, right, first lady Laura Bush, center, and Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam stand for the United States national anthem at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:46 AM ET

President Bush, right, and first lady Laura Bush receive drinks after they finished the receiving line with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 10:27 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush (R) and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are pictured prior to a state dinner hosted by Indian President Abdul Kalam for U.S. President George W. Bush at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) in New Delhi March 2, 2006. REUTERS/Jason Reed



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 10:24 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (C) is greeted by Indian President Abdul Kalam as First Lady Laura Bush (L) looks on at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) prior to a black tie State Dinner in New Delhi March 2, 2006. At left behind is U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. REUTERS/Jason Reed



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:18 AM ET

First lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, smile as they arrive to greet Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the Presidential Palace prior to a State Dinner in Delhi, India Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:18 AM ET

President Bush and first lady Laura Bush meet with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, right, before a state dinner at the Presidential Palace in Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 10:46 AM ET

President Bush, right, and first lady Laura Bush receive drinks after they finished the receiving line with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the start of the State Dinner at Rashtrapati Bhavan, or the President's House, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



REUTERS

Thu Mar 2, 9:26 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (C) applauds as disabled Indian children play a game with Indian and U.S. flags at a classroom in the Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:23 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (C) meets a group of Indian child performers at the Prayas Institute in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The facility cares and educates neglected, abused, and homeless children.

REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:14 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (R) meets cast members of the Indian version of the children's TV show Sesame Street, called 'Galli Galli Sim Sim', inside a model of a mechanic shop at their film studio on the outskirts of New Delhi March 2, 2006. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:14 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush meets the cast of the Indian version of the children's TV show Sesame Street, called 'Galli Galli Sim Sim', at their film studio on the outskirts of New Delhi March 2, 2006. Standing with Bush are characters (L-R) Boombah, Chamki, and Googli. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:11 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush, center, sits with disabled Indian children as they work on arts and crafts at Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:08 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (2nd R) and three nuns applaud after a singing performance by disabled Indian children at Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 9:07 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush thanks a young disabled Indian girl as she visits the Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS

Thu Mar 2, 9:03 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush (R, sitting) listens as disabled Indian children sing to her at Jeevan Jyoti (Mother Teresa's) Home for Disabled Children in New Delhi March 2, 2006. The home is run by the Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, and cares for children with physical and mental disabilities. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 5:34 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush, third right, and first lady Laura Bush, right, are greeted by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, fourth right, shaking hands, and his wife Renu Chatterjee, fifth right, and President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, second right, at an arrival ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, India Thursday, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 4:05 AM ET

U.S. first lady Laura Bush is hugged by Indian children at the Prayas Institute in New Delhi March 2, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/David Guttenfelder/Pool



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 3:43 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (R) and first lady Laura Bush stand after placing a wreath at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/B Mathur



AP Associated Press

Thu Mar 2, 3:42 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush uses a traditional Indian greeting to say hello to Indian school children at the Prayas Institute in New Delhi Thursday, March 2, 2006. The facility cares and educates neglected, abused, and homeless children. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder, POOL)



REUTERS

Thu Mar 2, 3:40 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (L) and First Lady Laura Bush throw flower petals during a ceremony in honor of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in New Delhi, India March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/Jim Young



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 3:04 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (2nd L) and first Lady Laura Bush stand during their visit to the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/B Mathur



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 2:29 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (R) and first Lady Laura Bush (C) walk at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/B Mathur



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 2:18 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (2nd R) and first Lady Laura Bush (3rd R) stand after placing a wreath at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. Bush was given a grand reception in India on Thursday as officials from both countries edged closer to a landmark nuclear deal and communist and Islamist groups vowed more mass protests. REUTERS/B Mathur



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 1:56 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (C) and first lady Laura Bush (2nd L) attend a wreath laying ceremony in honor of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in New Delhi March 2, 2006. REUTERS/Jim Young



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 1:16 AM ET

U.S President George W. Bush (R) shakes hands with Indian President Indian President Abdul Kalam at an arrival ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, (Presidential Palace) in New Delhi, March 2, 2006. Alongside President Bush is first lady Laura Bush (2nd R), India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his wife Gusharan Kaur (L). REUTERS/Jason Reed



REUTERS 

Thu Mar 2, 1:07 AM ET

US first lady Laura Bush waves to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh whose image is reflected in the car during the welcome ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi, March 2, 2006. REUTERS/Kamal Kishore



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 12:37 PM ET

US President George W. Bush, left, and his wife Laura Bush come out of Air Force One after Bush's arrival in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in India on Wednesday as talks on a landmark U.S.-Indian nuclear pact were down to the wire and tens of thousands of Indians rallied in New Delhi to protest his visit. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)



REUTERS

Wed Mar 1, 11:21 AM ET

U.S. First Lady Laura Bush (L) talks with Afghan First Lady Zeenat Karzai (2nd L) during a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Kabul March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush began his first visit to South Asia on Wednesday with a surprise stop over in Afghanistan, where thousands of American troops are still engaged in hunting down the architects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. REUTERS/Shah Marai/Pool



REUTERS

Wed Mar 1, 11:13 AM ET

First Lady Laura Bush meets with Afghan First Lady Zeenat Karzai at the Presidential Palace in Kabul March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush began his first visit to South Asia on Wednesday with a surprise stop over in Afghanistan, where thousands of American troops are still engaged in hunting down the architects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. REUTERS/Shah Marai/Pool



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 10:59 AM ET

US President George W. Bush, left, waves to the media, as he and his wife Laura Bush come out of Air Force One after their arrival in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in India on Wednesday as talks on a landmark U.S.-Indian nuclear pact were down to the wire and tens of thousands of Indians rallied in New Delhi to protest his visit. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 10:21 AM ET

US President George W. Bush, left, his wife Laura Bush, second left, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, right, and his wife Gurcharan Kaur look on after Bush's arrival in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in India on Wednesday as talks on a landmark U.S.-Indian nuclear pact were down to the wire and tens of thousands of Indians rallied in New Delhi to protest his visit. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 10:15 AM ET

US President George W. Bush, left, and his wife Laura Bush hold flowers after their arrival in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, March 1, 2006. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in India on Wednesday as talks on a landmark U.S.-Indian nuclear pact were down to the wire and tens of thousands of Indians rallied in New Delhi to protest his visit. (AP Photo/Gurinder Osan)



REUTERS

Wed Mar 1, 10:07 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush addresses troops as first lady Laura Bush looks on during a surprise stopover at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, March 1, 2006. Bush began his first visit to South Asia on Wednesday with a surprise stop over in Afghanistan, where thousands of American troops are still engaged in hunting down the architects of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

REUTERS/Jim Young



AP Associated Press

Wed Mar 1, 10:04 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush, second left, cuts a ribbon as he officially opens the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan Wednesday, March 1, 2006. Standing left to right: first lady Laura Bush, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Ambassador Ron Neumann, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Bush made a surprise visit to Afghanistan ahead of his trip to India and Pakistan. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



REUTERS 

Wed Mar 1, 8:06 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (L), Afghan President Hamid Karzai (2nd L), U.S. first lady Laura Bush (C), Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (2nd R) and U.S. ambassador for Afghanistan Ronald E. Neumann (R) attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan March 1, 2006. Bush began his first visit to South Asia on Wednesday with a surprise stop over in Afghanistan, where thousands of American troops are still engaged in hunting down the architects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

REUTERS/Omar Sobhani



REUTERS 

Wed Mar 1, 7:59 AM ET

From (L-R), U.S. first lady Laura Bush, U.S. President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.S. ambassador for Afghanistan Ronald E. Neumann and Afghan President Hamid Karzai attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan March 1, 2006. President Bush made a surprise visit to Afghanistan on Wednesday to see for the first time the

emerging democracy that replaced the Taliban ousted in 2001 after September 11. REUTERS/Omar Sobhani



REUTERS 

Wed Mar 1, 6:39 AM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush (2nd R) and first lady Laura Bush meet troops during a stopover in Kabul, Afghanistan, March 1, 2006. Bush made a surprise visit to Afghanistan on Wednesday to see for the first time the emerging democracy that replaced the Taliban ousted in 2001 after September 11.

REUTERS/Jim Young



REUTERS 

Tue Feb 28, 1:52 PM ET

U.S. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush wave from Air Force One as they depart Andrews Air Force base near Washington February 28, 2006. Bush is































