



Petarian Convention 2004

at Petaro 24-26 Dec 2004

www.petaro.com

28 December 2004

To: All Petarians

Subject: Highlights of the Petarian Convention 2004

Dear Friends
as salamu alaykum

I just landed back at Islamabad - returning from the Convention. This was truly an amazing event. Over 400 Petarians registered and turned up at the Convention - though many of them could only attend the sessions on Saturday alone. They came from far and wide - from the Americas, UK, Singapore, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and from all over Pakistan.

I will write a detailed report which will be published here. But I thought I should give you all a quick gist so that those who could not come may at least get a flavour.

Some of the key highlights:

- Love was in the air - love is in the air - and love continues to be in the air
- Ex-teachers who came:
 - From Lahore: Mr. M.A. Bhatti, Ch. Saeed Ahmed, Col.(R) Nasir Abbas
 - From Rawalpindi: Mr. Affan Maqsood, Maj.Gen.(R) Z.I. Abbasi
 - From Karachi: Mr. A. A. Faruqi, Mr. Abdullah Khadim Hussain, Dr. Qamaruzzaman Khan Yusufzai
 - From Hyderabad: Mr. Inayat Ali Khan
 - From Nawabshah: Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Khan
 - From Chakwal: Mr. M.K. Mughal
 - From Faisalabad: Ch. Abdul Ghani
- Ex-cadets who registered / attended - over 400
- 11th + 12th classes who attended - over 300
- Present staff members who attended - around 50
- Thus, total in attendance was around 750
- Ex-cadets were housed in the following dorms:
 - Shahbaz House - all the entries of 50s and 60s
 - Latif and Ayub Houses - all the entries of 70's and 80's
 - Qasim House - all the entries of 90's
- The 11th and 12th class were staying at Jinnah, Liaquat and Iqbal Houses
- Thus all the loudest snorers were in Shahbaz House - which was shaking like an earthquake at night - (I guess I must have been the loudest of them all)
- Every one was required to wear the uniform shirt, with epaulettes (5 stripes), arm badge, CCP brass, and berets. We got the epaulettes and badges according to our own house colours.



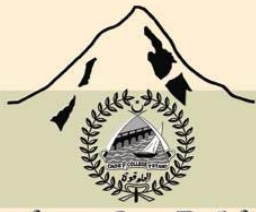
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- All food was served in the Students' Mess, and cooked by the college mess staff. The outside caterers were dropped upon great demand.
- The program was as follows:
 - Friday - people started arriving since the morning. And it was a crowd by dinner. Scenes of hugs between old long lost friends was a continuous sight.
 - Friday - Waseem Sipyo 8648 manned the Registration Headquarters at the Latif House Master's Office - which we had occupied. Tajammul Bhai and his team managed the Registration Desks inside a *shamiana* that was put up next to the parking lot near the riding gate for the incoming cars. Tea and coffee was available for the tired travelers in the tent. No one wanted to leave the *shamiana*. It became the center of all activity.
 - Friday - Dinner at the mess followed by a speech delivered by Bashiruddin Memon, kit no. 63, President Petarian Association. Bashir Bhai talked about how he wants to take the Petarian Association into the next couple of years, and prepare us for the 50th anniversary celebrations. This was followed by short speeches by Mr. Abdullah Khadim Hussain, Mr. A.A. Faruqui, and Ch. Abdul Ghani
 - Friday - There was a movie screened at the main auditorium after dinner.
 - Friday night - It was a cold night - while we were wrapped up in blankets, the 94 and 96 entries were out there in the wilderness making noises into the wee hours of the morning. Sounded more like howling wolves looking for a prey. Or was it the moan of a lost beloved?
 - Saturday - College had arranged for hot water in the taps and in the showers. Some of us bathed, while others braved the cold by simply deciding to use only perfume.
 - Saturday - The sun rose at 7:10am. No one dared to go out for PT in the cold except for the 11th and 12th classes. But at 7:30am, most of us had donned the uniform and were out at the mess hall for breakfast. Menu: *Parathas, chana choley, qeema*, omelette, fried eggs, toast, butter, corn flakes and tea. We hogged ourselves as if we hadn't eaten for ages.
 - Saturday - At 8:15am, all the ex-cadets donned in uniforms assembled near Shahbaz House on the main road. At 8:30am, the troops marched (some straggled) to the Assembly Area in front of the main Administration Building. All our old and new teachers were assembled on top of the stairs, while we ex-cadets (regardless of age, entry, admiralship, rank, wealth, ethnicity, religion, etc) were all standing attention in rows below. Cdre. Abid Saleem shouted the command in Urdu to be "At Ease". Ex-Cadet Muhammad Ali Khan Durrani, kit no. 482/Latif (passed out 1965) recited early verses of *Surah Al-Rahman* in one of the most beautiful voices and also read out the translation. This was followed by "News" of the day read by Shajar Abbas Khan, kit no. 75113/Liaquat.
 - Saturday - At 9:00am, the first session started, chaired by Prof. Inayat Ali Khan and moderated by Cdre. Ashfaq Beg, kit no. 69, and with presentations by
 1. Kazi Zulkader Siddiqui, 671/Latif - on "*Petaro and Petarians over the past 47 Years*"



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2. Shabieh Haider Zaidi, 7102/Liaquat - on "*Good Governance*"
3. Shahid Mahmud, 74104/Liaquat - on "*Elements of National Power*"

All three presentations were done using a multimedia projector and PowerPoint presentations.

- The first session ended with one of the most marvelous presentations of a summary of the session in poetic format by Prof. Inayat Ali Khan. He was an instant star.
- Saturday - At 12 noon, the second session started. Upon great demand, Prof. Inayat Ali Khan was requested to recite more of his "*kalam*". At 12:30pm, the main second session was held as a panel discussion with Prof. Abdullah Khadim Hussain in the chair, Dr. Ahmed Makhdoom, kit no. 97 as the moderator, and Sohail Malik 83140/Qasim as the discussant. Panelists were Nauman Ozair 556/Ayub, Mahmood Baweja 7518/Qasim, Qaisar Zaman 7523/Iqbal, and Shabieh Zaidi, 7102/Liaquat. Topic of the discussion was "*Is it time to Redefine the mission of CCP?*" in terms of education.
- Saturday - Lunch at the Cadets Mess at 2pm. We had *daal*, *chawal*, deep fried chicken and chicken *salan* with bananas. Cdre. Abid Saleem, Principal made his welcome address right after lunch, followed by a keynote speech by the COMKAR, Rear Admiral Asad Qureshi.
- Saturday - After lunch, there were three matches held between ex-cadets and present cadets as follows:
 - Cricket at the new stadium
 - Hockey in the field next to cricket
 - Football in the main grassy field between the houses

The most famous star of yesteryears was Lt. Col. Yunus Changezi "TARZAN", who was on the field playing football. Tarzan is now the Baluchistan Minister for Environment, Sports, Forests, etc. Though it was a pleasure to see him on the field, of course age and fat has gotten to him. Right after the match, he was standing in the middle of the road with his hands slipped inside his trousers rubbing Iodex. Jokingly I told him to go inside, but he was totally relaxed, saying not to worry - he wouldn't strip. Tarzan is the same old Tarzan despite being a provincial minister. Also present was the famous Arshad Raja who was Football captain in 1966-67. He was wise enough not to play this time though. The ex-cadets won the matches – don't ask me who fixed the matches.

- Saturday - 6-8pm, we had the session on reminiscences and nostalgia in the main auditorium. Tens of ex-cadets walked up to the podium to tell their tales of yesteryears and a bit about what they are doing.
- Saturday - 8:30pm was dinner time. Dinner was with Chinese rice, *Nan*, *Qorma*, *Daal*, and *firni*. After dinner, Dr. Agha Taj, 7564/Latif presented the Petarian Association Hyderabad chapter, and Javaid Soomro, 8593/Ayub told us about



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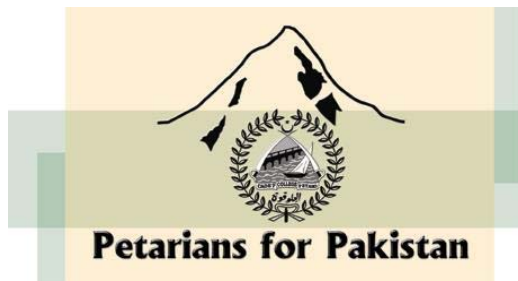
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Petarian Association of Europe (PAE). Unfortunately, Naeem Saroya, 504/Liaquat who was supposed to talk about PANA and Aurangzeb Khan 431/Latif who was to present PASA were not present. This was followed by a keynote speech by Lt.Gen. S.P. Shahid, 332/Ayub.

- Saturday - 10pm the variety program started in the main auditorium. The show continued on till around 3am. There were 4 artists who were brought by the Hyderabad chapter, but interspersed were songs, *ghazals*, jokes, skits and dances by Petarians. There was a lot of hidden talent on display. The cadets and ex-cadets had a ball of a time. In fact, when we decided to call it a day at 2:30am, many of them just didn't want to leave the hall. The boys danced all night.
- Sunday - 8am (all of us skipped PT). Went for breakfast. Same breakfast menu as previous day
- Sunday - 9am, 3 workshops were held as follows:
 - Workshop 1 on Education - Prof. Affan Maqsood in chair, and speakers being Dr. Ahmed Makhdoom 97/Ayub and Syed Raza Mujtaba 74105/Latif
 - Workshop 2 on Infrastructure and Development - Prof. Ch. Saeed Ahmed in the chair, Tariq Hafiz 7581/Ayub as moderator and speakers being Brig. Nasim Akhtar Khan, 533/Qasim (on solar and wind energy), Dr. Shahid Iqbal 7538/Liaquat, Syed Waqas Azher 7935/Iqbal, Khalid Qasim Malik 7561/Jinnah and Prof. Mohammed Ahmed Khan
 - Workshop 3 on Career Development - Col. Nasir Abbas (ex-Adjutant) in chair, Nizamuddin Siddiqui 75111/Qasim as moderator and speakers being Lt.Gen S.P. Shahid 332/Ayub (on army and air force), Rear Admiral Saeed Sargana 263/Ayub (on navy), Javaid Soomro 8593/Ayub on IT/Telecom, Arif Hashmi 75102/Latif on Hotel and Travel industry, Nizam Siddiqui 75111/Qasim on Media/journalism, Dr. Amjad Siraj Memon 7515/Ayub on Medicine.
- Sunday - 12noon - Session no. 5 (CONCLUDING SESSION) where summaries of workshops were presented and the Petarian Declaration 2004 was announced. There was a unanimous approval of the Declaration. I am attaching a copy of the Declaration for all to read. The GIFT TO PETARO was also announced. We had a total collection of around Rs. 40 lacs out of which we expect that the expenses for the convention would be around Rs. 7 lacs. The rest would be the GIFT. It was decided to utilize this GIFT for paying better salaries to teachers and thereby hiring better quality teachers. Details would be worked out with the Board of Governors of CCP.
- Sunday - 1:30pm - Keynote speech by Vice Admiral Farooq Rashid, kit no. 236/Jinnah, who is Chief of Staff of the Navy.
- Sunday - 2pm - lunch
- Sunday - 3pm - buses started to leave for Karachi and Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister Sindh was called to Islamabad on Saturday evening by the Prime Minister, and therefore couldn't make it on Sunday lunch. He called and apologized.



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The attached "DECLARATION" summarizes the outcome of the convention. Do read it. It is a PDF file and you will need Adobe Acrobat to open it.

I want to personally thank all the organizers whose tireless efforts made this convention a great success. (I will publish a full list later on). I would also like to thank the Principal CCP, and all the staff members and workers there for the great effort and work on their part. They did a tremendous job. And lastly I want to thank the COMKAR for his support which was essential for this event's happening. We are most grateful to all these people.

More on this later on.

With Best Wishes,

Kazi Zulkader Siddiqui

Convener, Petarian Convention 2004 & Chairman, Petarian Foundation