

**Naeem Tahir's**

## **PICTORIAL**

**At a Glance**

The process of building relations with China continued for decades.  
Naeem Tahir represented Pakistan  
As Minister of Culture,  
At "Asian Culture Ministers Conference, 2005,"  
IN CHINA



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## Introduction

By Ali Tahir



Learning new things from the people around you and life in general, and working hard – all these traits lie within that inspiring person. I call him Abba and thousands of others know him by one name: Naeem Tahir.

Abba was born on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1937 in Amritsar, 34 miles from Lahore. At age 5 he moved with his parents to a village, Ali Raza Abad, 12 miles from Lahore. He was an “unschooled” little boy from a village who, in 1957, went on to do his MSC from Government College Lahore, in 1962 he got a Master’s Degree in Theatre Arts from UCLA, in 1963 he became the secretary general of Alhamra Arts Council and with that position he worked tirelessly and succeeded in making theatre commercially available, in 1964 he worked on initially setting up Pakistan Television Corporation and training the staff, in 1976 he became the chairman of Carpet Manufacturers Association and increased Pakistan’s carpet exports by ten folds from 1984 to 1995 he made the Horse and Cattle Show the most large scale festival in Pakistan, in 1997 he became the chairman of Pakistan Fruit Processors Association, in 1989 and then in 2004 he created the SAF Games opening shows; Pakistan’s largest ever event. In 2005 he became the Chief Executive of Pakistan National Council of the Arts; he completed the building of the Art Gallery and alongside he worked to create a softer image for Pakistan in the eyes of the world and implemented over 20 Cultural Pacts.

Behind all these accomplishments there is a long back-story, filled with difficult tasks as well as struggles that he had to overcome, and it is this very story that this book shall narrate.



For the ease of the readers, each section of this book has been divided according to decades of Abba's life. Some moments of this story that are included have been presented in the form of pictures.

So over 81 years ago from today, this picturesque story begins.

Ali Tahir

22 February 2018



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The invaluable contribution and support of friends and family is gratefully acknowledged. Efforts have been on for a decade. Ms Ayesha Taslim, Mr. Gulzar Afaqi, Agha Sahir Tanvir, Rab Nawaz, Prof. Farzana Mujib, Zafar Ahmad, Usman Rana and others, all contributed, and by the help of recorded interviews and conversations, this narrative was possible.



## Naeem Tahir

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

	<b>Naeem Tahir</b>
<b>Born</b>	<div>Naeem Tahir</div> Amritsar, 26 Feb, 1937
<b>Occupation</b>	<div> <div>Actor</div> <div>Scholar</div> <div>Public speaker</div> <div>Columnist</div> <div>Teacher</div> <div>Dramatist</div> </div>
<b>Years active</b>	1951-present
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Yasmeen Tahir
<b>Children</b>	<div> <div><u>Faran Tahir</u></div> <div><u>Mehran Tahir</u></div> <div><u>Ali Tahir</u></div> </div>

**Naeem Tahir** is Pakistani theatre, film and television actor, scholar, public speaker, columnist, teacher and dramatist. His works are extensively published.

### Contents

- Career
- Filmography
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### Career

His research work on the Pre-History of the People of Indus Valley was published by the National Council of the Arts Islamabad. His other publications include 'Views and Comments' a collection of 60 articles published in Daily Times. The volume 2 of this series is under publication and expected to be in the market in early 2014. This volume contains over 100 articles. Also in publication are his articles in English published in different magazines and Newspapers.

His publication of 'Jalsa Urdu Dramay Ka' is in Urdu. It was staged at the World Urdu Conference Islamabad and later at Alhamra, the Lahore Arts Council. Another rare form of an Epic Drama in Urdu has been written by Tahir under the title 'Sael e Rawan'. It is a researched narrative dramatized for stage. The subject is the rise and fall of the Muslim Empire and later freedom struggle in Indo Pakistan Sub-Continent. The narrative covers a period from 1609 to August 1947. The play has been repeatedly staged and is published along with other outstanding works as "Land Mark Theatre" by National Council of the Arts Islamabad.

Naeem Tahir has several other works telecast/ broadcast by Pakistan's networks. His research based work on terrorism was serialized recently as 'Samjhota Express'. Some of the subjects of his recent research include the roots, history and extent of terrorism in Pakistan and India. During his stay in USA in 2000 he was the COO of ICTV, a satellite channel in Urdu and English from Irvine California.

He has written two scripts for future film production namely 'Bombay by Boat' and 'God is Mine'. Mr. Naeem Tahir holds degrees of BSc and MA (Psychology) from Punjab University, and a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from the University of California at Los Angeles. As a scholar he continues to update his knowledge. He taught theatre subjects in 60's at the Arts Council Lahore. Later he was appointed Principle Central Television Institute Islamabad where he trained all entrants at the newly established TV networks in Pakistan including Bangladesh (now). He was responsible for developing the curriculum's in consultation with a German and Pakistani faculty. He taught 'Analysis and interpretation' of scripts. He is a visiting lecturer to the highest training centre for senior civil servants in Lahore named until recently as Civil Service Academy].

Tahir has held high positions in the Pakistan Government. His last appointment was as Chief Executive, Pakistan National Council of Arts, Ministry of Culture. He successfully completed and commissioned the National Art Gallery, popularly called, the 'Jewel of Islamabad' and taken note of by the international media. The National Art Gallery project was entirely developed during his tenure during his supervision. The National art Gallery complex is spread over 143000 Sq.Meters construction and houses 14 exhibition galleries, a modern theatre hall and studios. During his tenure he developed a program of Cultural Understanding through Performing Arts with The Kennedy Arts Centre at Washington. It was a three-year program which was partly implemented during his tenure.

Earlier, in his tenure at the Arts Council in Lahore he completed the construction and commissioning of the 'Alhamra Arts Centre' which includes two theatre halls and several art exhibition galleries, music centre and seminar halls. These are some of Mr. Tahir's tangible and durable contributions which shall be remembered for times to come.

In 2005 he was designated to represent Pakistan as the head of delegation in the Asia Culture Ministers Conference in Beijing. He has earlier been head of several cultural, goodwill and trade delegations to Europe, and South Asian Countries. Presently, he is Chairman 'Unesco Theatre Institute Pakistan.'<sup>[2]</sup>

### Filmography [edit]

- Khuda Kay Liye* (2007)

### Television [edit]

Naeem Tahir has done 100s of TV programs as actor, compere, producer and writer. Very recent few drama serials are: *MannMayal* (2016) *Sangsaar* (2017) *Jannat* (2018) *Toujo Nahee* (2018)



### Noticeable Achievement Highlights Building the institutions

#### Institution Building Alhamra

- (a) Purchased 4-acre land for Alhamra complex and started a vigorous movement for the development of visual and performing arts from 1963.
- (b) Planned a modern "Arts Center at Alhamra" in consultations with experts at Universities of California UCLA, World Architects Association and British Theaters Consultants.
- (c) Requested field Marshall Ayyub Khan for funding the Alhamra arts complex. Funds were granted 1966.
- (d) Maintained "Daily Activity Report" for as long as Naeem Tahir was there. *This is the only archival record.*
- (e) Stopped Punjab governor Sawar Khan, through legal action, in 1983 from transferring Alhamra to Auqaf Department, Punjab.
- (f) Completed Hall 1 in 1984 as convener of the Board of Governor of Arts Council, appointed by the Punjab Government, in record time of 6 Months.

#### PTV

- 1) Trained the TV personal in all aspects in West and East Pakistan from 1968 to 1970, as Principal Central Television Institute Rawalpindi.

#### NATIONAL ART GALLERY AND PNCA CULTURAL CENTRE AT ISLAMABAD

1. Proposed, and got approval of government for making of National Art Gallery, and PNCA culture Centre Islamabad, in 2005. Completed in record time and inaugurated in 2007.
2. Represented Pakistan as Minister of Culture at Asian Culture Minister Conference in China 2005.
3. Completed the National Art Gallery project in 2007 and got the restructuring of the organization started.
- Launched movement for Culture diplomacy and revived contacts with 18 countries.
- Signed culture programmes with Kennedy Arts Centre Washington for the first time in Pakistan's history.
- Proposed "Jinnah Centre for Cultured Understanding" at Washington, USA.
- Developed and got approved the performing Arts Center Islamabad including National Theater and Museum of Performing Arts Acquired 7 acres land.
- Proposed Arts Center at Gilgit, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta and specified the land required.
- FIELD BALLETS (Theatre Festival-Horse and Cattle show)**

9. From 1984 as Chief Organizer of National Horse and Cattle show and then later on SAF games, created the national show of Field Ballets. Naeem Tahir is the only expert, outside of China or Korea who has created "Field Ballets" with several thousand performers.

10. Contract with Kennedy Art Centre, Washington, USA.
11. Proposal to setup 'Jinnah Centre' at Washington DC.

#### Trade, Industry and Exports:

12. From 1975 to 1985 Naeem Tahir had a leadership role in Exports of Hand Knotted Carpets. When he started to promote this industry the annual export from Pakistan was about 50 Crores Rupees from Pakistan, In the next ten years it reached 500 crores due to his leadership efforts and participation in international exhibitions.
13. In early 1990s Naeem Tahir decided to set up an Industry for export of value-added fruit products. He set a plant with a capacity of 10tons an hour and opened export market for fruit juice concentrate, particularly from mango.
14. In 1994 led a delegation to UK to enhance exports of fruit processing industries. Delegation including Chairmen of Nestle, Cargill, Golden and several other large industrial groups.



## Cultural Diplomacy

The concept of "Soft Image" of Pakistan primarily meant to introduce the better side of Pakistan at a time when terrorism was getting out of control. Naeem signed and revived cultural pacts with at least 18 countries and made regular exchanges. He developed ballets on the life of the "People of Pakistan", Plus folk and classical music. Some of the most distinguished artists participated. Naeem closely supervised and sometimes lead the troupes.

## Letter to President of Pakistan

1

3 April 18, 2004.

Dear Mr. President,

It was indeed wonderful to have met you on April 6<sup>th</sup> along with Begum Sahiba and your illustrious mother. We sincerely thank you for providing us the opportunity and for the meaningful conversation that ensued. It was refreshing to observe your relaxed and focused style and the deep interest in the progress of the country. After a long time we felt that the country is in the right hands and moving in the right direction.

Your appreciation of our effort in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 9<sup>th</sup> SAF games was extremely encouraging. I, our son Ali, Yasmin and my trainers' team of Tahir Theatre Foundation worked hard to contribute the creative segments in the ceremonies. The SAF team headed by Lt. Gen. Arif Hasan has greatly contributed to build an impressive image of a progressive Pakistan. The International papers, BBC, and even Door Darshan have agreed that Pakistan has laid new standards. **This is where we take pride – building an image of Pakistan.**

I was very impressed by your interest in continued development of the arts in the country and your encouragement to me personally to continue to contribute. Your interest and encouragement set me thinking and I am now taking this opportunity to share some thoughts and to confirm my dedication if you would consider these pursuits worthwhile.

Before I draw your attention towards possibilities in image building of our country through Arts, I am giving a brief introduction of my past activities. I have been associated for almost 50 years in various development activities, in culture, Arts, TV, exports and trade. I was the first Pakistani Principal of the Central Television Institute, I ran training courses in 'Alhamra' Arts Council for 11 years and trained and directed the cultural troupes for the implementation of cultural pacts with China, Indonesia, Iran, Afghanistan Soviet Union and the Commonwealth. I also developed the Alhamra Halls. However, no amount of training will succeed in raising the general level of performing arts unless the market place is created for quality and the talent finds a respectable option of a career. God has been kind and my efforts have always brought good name.

At this time, I feel Pakistan needs an all out effort to promote its image as a progressive, enlightened and forward looking country. For years the image has been damaged and associated with terrorism, smuggling, money laundering and drugs. The great cultural and historical heritage has been forgotten and no one thinks of Pakistan as a pleasant place to be. You have brought a change and have made brave efforts to change the negative perceptions. I, with all my energy, experience and dedication wish to support you and make every possible contribution in building Pakistan's image.

Success in this direction only will bring investors, businessmen, tourists and good foreign relations.

Culture is the biggest attraction for this category of the flow of international investment. I feel we have no other options but to follow the course you have set. I and my family have been in the vanguard in our humble way and feel now is the right time to finally succeed.



I would like to outline and implement an annual program of the highest quality participation in all international festivals, exhibitions, conferences and sports events. These are the platforms where we need to establish our identity as a living, cultured and enlightened people. We have the world's richest heritage. Distinguished scholars like Dr. Dani and Mark Kenoyer will vouch for that. We have amazing talent which blossoms when given an encouraging environment. We need trainers in some fields but that can be arranged.

I also feel it is important that the domestic market place be improved. Improvement in the infrastructure is needed. For example there is not a single organization which has international standard of lighting, sound equipment and of stagecraft available in the country! Therefore within the country we need the upgrading, not by associating amateurs or only government functionaries, but the actual experienced professionals who have a standing and the experience. The TV and Film presentations are not much to talk about, however TV holds a better promise at this time.

We need to layout a program of training, upgrading and guidance to private and government organizations associated with culture in general, and in performing arts, so that they can come up with worth while participation in the international forums.

Finally we need to set up centre of excellence to support and produce the highest quality Programs in all art forms and equip it as a national window of achievement in visual and performing art forms.

These are briefly my thoughts, I believe all this is doable if I have your support and encouragement and the cooperation of the related department is forthcoming without reservations. Together we can change the national image to something we can all take pride in.

Mr. President Sir, if you feel these thoughts of some value then I can elaborate on an implementation plan. I am a field person. I have always proven that I do what I say or claim. Insha-allah we will succeed.

With the very best regards,  
Yours Sincerely,

M. Naeem Tahir  
Chairman, Tahir Theatre Foundation.  
Address: 122 - B, Model Town, Lahore  
Ph: 5831927, 5884038, Fax: 5831916  
Cell: 0300 - 8450416, Email: [mfusa@yahoo.com](mailto:mfusa@yahoo.com)

Naeem Tahir works with dedication and sincerity of purpose.

NOT FOR REWARDS OR AWARDS.

1965

## Building Bridges with China.



First ever Cultural Delegation of 48 members, on its way to China.  
Programme based on Folk Heritage themes by Naeem Tahir. Music composed by Feroze Nizami.

Troupe included Rafi Anwar, Ami Minwala, Akbar Samrat,  
Faqir Hussain Saga, Munir Sarhadi and Roshan Ara Bokhari.



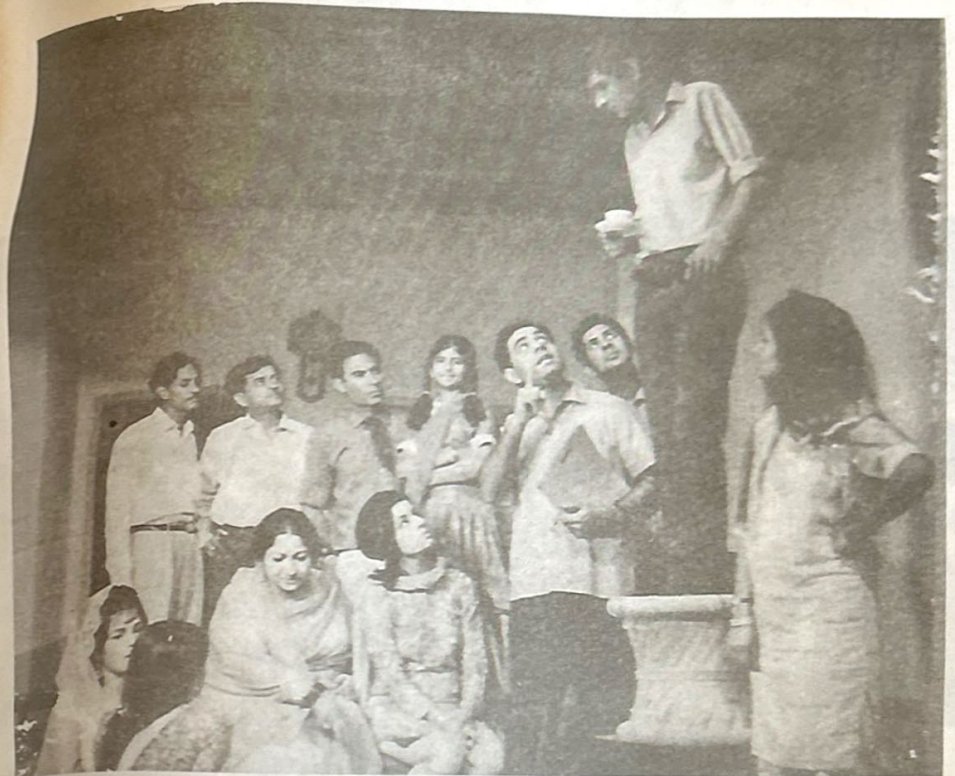


From East Pakistan, Bulbul Academy contributed its performers led by Ms. Jhunnoo.  
First ever Cultural Delegation to China 1965.



Members Call on Chairman Mao TseDhung  
At the 'Great Wall'

Directing a drama for Radio Pakistan Lahore



Kennedy Award for Nadeem Aslam



## Important meetings to promote international Cultural Relations

At President's House Islamabad with President Bush, President Musharaf, first ladies, and other participants



Kennedy Award given to Naeem Tahir



At Kennedy Art Centre Washington, with First ladies, Laura Bush and Sehba Musharaf and Micheal Kaiser, Chiarmen and Executives of Kennedy Center



To Naeem Tahir  
With best wishes  
*Laura Bush*



Ms Hilary Rodham Clinton talking to Mr. Naeem Tahir at the Ambassador's residence, Islamabad 2009.



Asim Yar, Naeem Tahir, PM Jordan Adnan Badran, PM Pakistan Shaukat Aziz, HSY  
At World Economic Conference 2007





THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON  
November 24, 2009

Mr. Naeem Tahir  
Chief Executive and Director General  
Pakistan National Council of the Arts  
Plot #5, Jinnah Avenue, F5/1  
Islamabad, Pakistan

Dear Mr. Tahir:

Thank you very much for graciously hosting the town hall meeting at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts during my recent visit to Islamabad. It was a pleasure to have this important discussion in such a beautiful setting.

I would also like to thank you for the book, *Melluhas of the Indus Valley*. Your thoughtful gift will serve as a fond reminder of my trip.

With appreciation and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Hillary*

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton,  
Secretary of State

Dear Ms Hillary Clinton,

Lahore, March 6, 2010

It was indeed a very pleasant surprise to receive your letter of Nov. 24, 2009. The letter was redirected to my Lahore address.

I am grateful for your expressed interest in my book 'Melluhas- the people of the Indus Valley.' I am also very happy that you found the National Art Gallery Islamabad, built during my tenure as the Chief Executive of Pakistan National Council of Arts, worth attention and appreciation. It was certainly an appropriate venue for your town hall meeting.

I have now shifted to Lahore and as I mentioned during the brief conversation with you at the ambassador's residence, I am busy writing a script for the film based on the research on the roots of terrorism in Pakistan. I have been encouraged by the Inter Services Public Relations of Pakistan Army to develop the script for a film, and hopefully they will find funding to make it. As a Pakistani American it is close to my heart that the great effort made by the Pakistan Army with the American support be truly understood and appreciated. The gap of understanding among the people here needs to be filled to ensure the goodwill for the American people. I hope to complete this manuscript before my return to USA later in the summer.

My sincere thanks once again, and best wishes to you for the future.

Naeem Tahir  
Tahir Haveli,

122 B, Model Town, Lahore.

Email: [nttusa@gmail.com](mailto:nttusa@gmail.com). Phone 9242 35831927 Cell 03334638010.

Note: Enclosed, a photograph.



# The Kennedy Center

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
September 21, 2006

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts  
announce launch of cultural collaboration with Pakistan  
on the World Wide Web



[www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan](http://www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts today announced the launch of a new web site—Gift of the Indus: The Arts & Culture of Pakistan ([www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan](http://www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan))—at a special ceremony with First Lady of the United States Laura Bush; First Lady of Pakistan Begum Sehaba Musharraf; Kennedy Center President Michael M. Kaiser and Kennedy Center Vice President for Education Darrell M. Ayers, as well as Washington-area high school students. The event also included a brief performance by world-renowned Pakistani tabla player, Sattar Khan "Tari" accompanied by Ghulam Farid Nizami on the sitar.

"Today we are celebrating a milestone in a relationship between the Kennedy Center and the people of Pakistan," said Mr. Kaiser, who made his first trip to Pakistan earlier this year at the suggestion of Mrs. Bush. He began discussions with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts and its leader, Mr. Naeem Tahir, about ways they could work together to strengthen the arts infrastructure of that nation. Since that first trip six months ago, a great deal has been accomplished, including: developing a plan for cooperative efforts, conducting the first arts management seminar in Islamabad, planning a collaborative children's theater project and creating the web site being launched today.

"We believed this web site was central to our joint mission of building awareness of the beauty and richness of Pakistani culture because it gives people around the world, especially young people, a look at this remarkable cultural heritage," Mr. Kaiser said.

"Learning about other cultures and countries is at the heart of diplomacy," said Mrs. Bush. "By learning about Pakistani music, literature and theater, we also learn about the people of Pakistan and their rich heritage."

"Diversity has been the essence of our people and traditions," said Mrs. Musharraf. "The people of Pakistan are making a real contribution in preserving the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the country. These can be seen in our art, architecture and literature."

"We are making a great beginning in the right direction. Thanks to the vision of President Musharraf and President Bush. I am determined to take this vision of friendship and peace forward through better understanding," said Mr. Tahir.

-more-

The site, designed for young people (especially ages 13-18) in the United States, Pakistan and around the world to learn more about the arts and culture of this South Asian nation, is the result of a unique partnership between the Kennedy Center and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

The site is divided into three main areas:

- The Arts of Pakistan; where visitors can learn about music, theater, dance and visual arts.
- The Nation, which focuses on the land and people of this diverse country.
- Culture and Daily Life, which is about life at home and public life – family, friends, school and cultural traditions.

Each section is filled with information as well as audio and video clips, text and images that bring the arts and culture of Pakistan to life. In addition, there are areas throughout the site to help visitors learn more about the Pakistani language and culture.

Finally, a special blog called *Mehlf*—the Urdu word for a gathering place—has been set up for students to blog about the arts and culture of Pakistan and the United States. With guest moderators in the U.S. and Pakistan, this online space will promote and provide opportunities for cultural exchange and awareness between students—specifically teenagers living in those countries, or with a deep interest in the arts of South Asia. The goals include giving space to the exchange of ideas and information about each culture and its arts, as well as to encourage bi-cultural students living abroad to share their perspectives.

### ARTSEGE

ARTSEGE (<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org>), a program of the Kennedy Center's Education Department, is one of the nation's leading creators of free arts education materials for teachers, students and families, producing educational media resources delivered across multiple platforms—video, audio, interactive and print—that work together to create an immersive arts experience. From media-rich interactives, innovative performance guides and Podcasts for young audiences to free, standards-based lesson plans and guidelines for arts-based instruction for educators, ARTSEGE serves teachers, students, and families by supporting teaching and learning in, through and about the arts.

### THE KENNEDY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Kennedy Center has established one of the most extensive arts education programs in the world—reaching more than 11 million people across the nation each year. Since its establishment in 1972, the Kennedy Center's Education Department has dramatically expanded its education programs. Young people, teachers, artists, and families participate in and use the Kennedy Center's many innovative and effective education standards-based resources and programs in person, in print, via satellite and on the internet through performances, classes, lecture/demonstrations, open rehearsals, residencies, seminars, master classes, professional development, and advanced training for young actors, dancers, musicians, and arts administrators. The Kennedy Center's Education Department is committed to promoting higher standards for national performing arts education programs and policy.

### PAKISTAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

The Pakistan National Council of the Arts is entrusted with the role of promoting the visual and performing arts throughout Pakistan. It safeguards the interest of the community, promotes and projects the national heritage and plays a crucial role in building a positive image for Pakistan on the domestic and international arena. Aims, objectives and functions determined by its founders are incorporated in the PNCA Act of 1973 that categorically give the council the posture of a policy-making and coordinating agency in the field of culture and the arts.

Stove Boat Productions, a media services and web development company in Washington, D.C., was a creative partner in the development of Gift of the Indus: The Arts and Culture of Pakistan.

For more information about The Gift of the Indus: The Arts and Culture of Pakistan,  
please visit [www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan](http://www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org/pakistan).

###

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With Ms. Sheila Jackson Lee Chairperson,  
Pakistan Caucus, US, Senate (At Islamabad)



CULTURAL RELATIONS DEVELOPED WITH CHINA, RUSSIA AND its STATES: UK, EGYPT, TURKEY, SYRIA, IRAN, JAPAN, KOREA, BRUNAI, JORDAN, SRI LANKA, USA, INDONESIA, SWEDEN AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES.



WITH INDIRA GANDHI IN DELHI



In Manila, with Clair Pamment, and Saba Hameed for UNESCO congress



With Marlon Brando (Godfather fame) From Hollywood



Indonesian dignitary and Mian Yasin Watoo.







With Prime Minister Meraaj Khalid



With President Farooq Laghari

CONSULATE GENERAL OF PAKISTAN  
P.O. BOX NO. 340  
DUBAI (U.A.E.)  
April 30, 1997

No. Pol-9/95/95



Dear Naam Tahir Sahib,

The Indus Valley Heritage Show conceived and presented by you at Dubai World Trade Centre on April 25, 1997 was extraordinary and splendid.

Presentations of this nature are not easy to come by. I realize that behind these ninety minutes of top quality presentation, countless hours of hard work have been put in. Your experience and your professionalism was evident throughout.

As Pakistan's representative in Dubai I felt proud when the diplomatic corps and other members of the community were equally profound in their praise. It is a tribute to your commitment to excellence. I recommend that you should explore the possibilities of presenting this show as a part of Pakistan's Golden Jubilee Year in other countries also.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations. Thanks for making us feel proud. Also convey our appreciation to each member of your troupe whether they worked on or off the stage.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sajjad Ashraf)  
Consul General

Mr Naam Tahir  
Chairman,  
Tahir Theatre Foundation  
Lahore - Pakistan  
Fax No. (92 42) 583-1927



With Begum Nusrat Bhutto



With Governor Punjab Gen. Jilani



With President Musharraf and Begum Sehba Musharraf



With President Asif Zardari





With Chief of Army Staff Gen. Raheel Sharif



The process of building relations with China continued for decades.  
Naeem Tahir represented Pakistan  
As Minister of Culture,  
At "Asian Culture Ministers Conference, 2005."







Received by Governor, Fushong Province



Nurturing the tree of friendship, with Iftikhar Raja from Pak Embassy.





## JINNAH CENTER

*For*

### Cultural understanding

A desire for the promotion of better cultural understanding between the people of Pakistan and the people of United States of America is the basis of this concept.

Looking at the current patterns of building relationships between nations several areas are explored, public diplomacy is a very effective tool i.e. reaching out to the public of host country through art and culture. All efforts can prove be short lived, unless the people learn to understand and respect and give 'space' to each other, by developing a 'cultural' understanding of each other. Relations based on business deals, defense needs, and global emergencies are likely to be short lived but relations based on cultural understanding are more durable. All countries go through waves of some short lived phenomena of love, hate, or preferences like white, yellow or black. But relations on the basis of deeper human understanding survive.

Peace and tolerance are the real essence of the Pakistani society. In this atmosphere Visual Arts, Sculpture, Music, Dance, Drama, and all related forms flourished. This is the image that Pakistan needs to continue to project in the world and remove the impressions created by recent wave of extremism.

For this objective we need to establish a "Jinnah Center for Cultural Understanding". It's an ideal time to undertake this project and we have ideal place for that i.e. the old chancery building, the building is not only of historical importance but also ideally located. It is maintained in good condition but not put to a significant use. It can be used as an annex of the embassy and dedicated to promoting Pakistan's art and culture.

My preliminary assessment is that a move to establish a cultural center will be enthusiastically supported by the Diaspora as well the local friends of Pakistan. Such a center will be the heart of intellectual discourse, place of presentation for

visual and performing arts, lectures, research, social get together at special occasions, media interaction and social media penetration. It can also be a link between the Jinnah Chairs at different universities and much more.

Beyond the minimum financial sustenance by the Pakistan Government, further financial requirements can be met by the Diaspora and friends of Pakistan.

A detailed working program and organizational system of the 'steering committee' and 'sponsors group' can be worked out later.

I shall be glad to cooperate and contribute my time for the success of this nationally important project. I am quite hopeful that we can start functioning with an appropriate program by August 14, 2016.

Naeem Tahir.

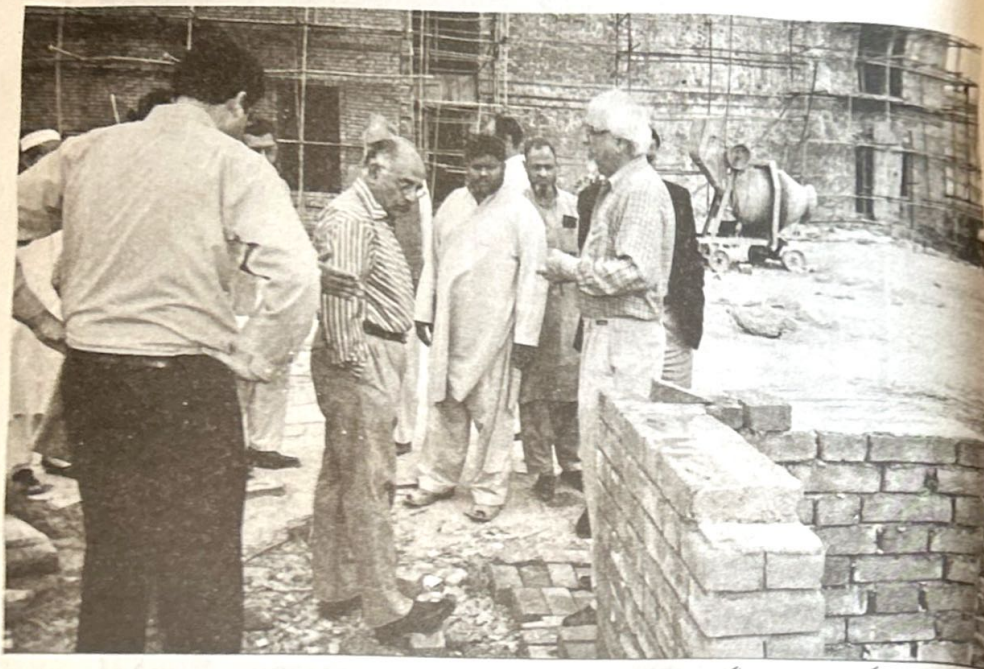
Cell Pakistan: 03334638010

Address: 122 B, B block Model Town Lahore, Pakistan

April 5th, 2016



**Note:** from 1969 – 72: Naeem Tahir was asked to join Ministry of Information as Joint Secretary and was loaned to Pakistan Television as Principal Central Television Institute at Chaklala, for training the officers/producers and technicians of the Television Network.

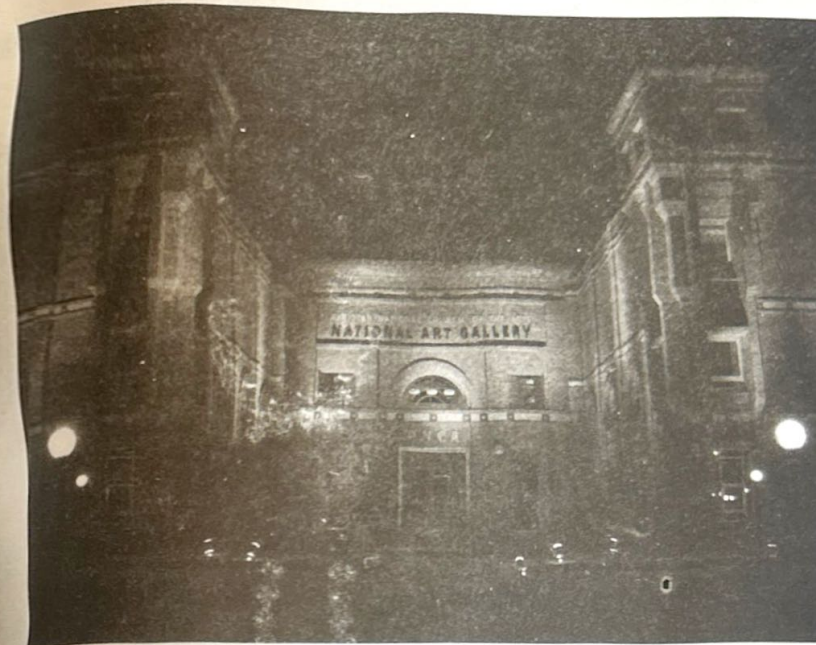


05.04.2005

این اے جی کی سائیٹ پر بریفنگ

The NATIONAL ART GALLERY and building of Pakistan National Council of the ARTS (2005 – 2007)

National Art Gallery and PNCA Art Centre inaugurated August 17, 2007, built by dedicated efforts of Naeem Tahir.

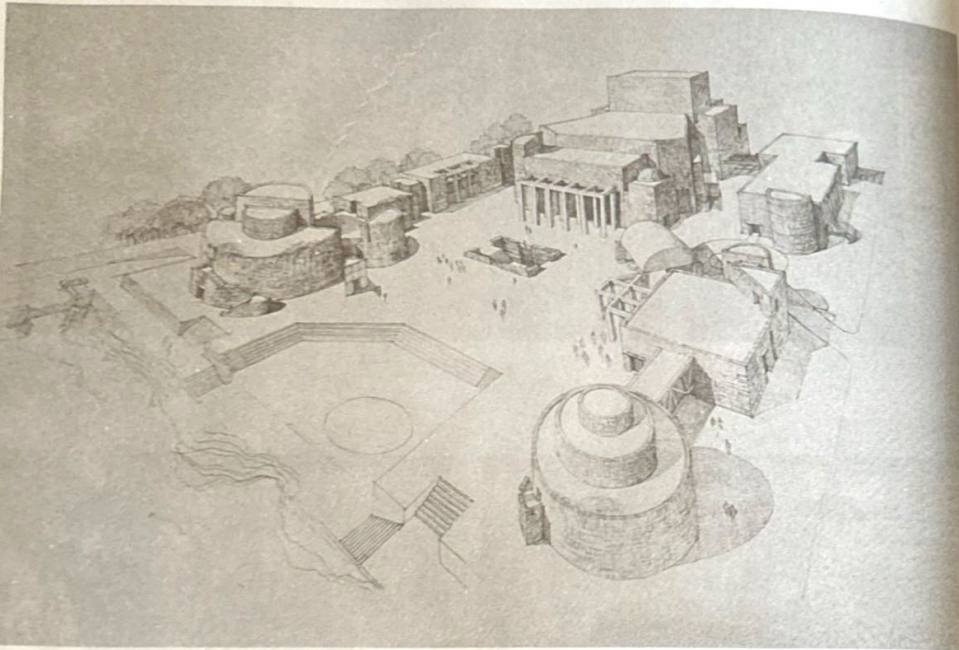




## NAEEM'S VISION FOR FUTURE:

### National Theatre Complex in Islamabad.

In 2007, Naeem Tahir succeeded in getting the approval of the Government to build a "National Theatre Complex". The project would include a National Theatre with allied facilities and a museum of Performing Arts. 7 Acres of land was allotted at Shaker Parian area. The design competition was won by Nayyar Ali Dada Architect. It is awaiting the start of construction.



Plan of National Theatre designed by Nayyar Ali Dada

Naeem Tahir has proposed that the old historical building at Washington USA owned by Pak Embassy be converted into an active organization

"JINNAH CENTRE FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING"  
Even offered to raise \$5 million for it.



### Proposed: JINNAH CENTRE FOR CULTURE

Abandoned building of Pakistan Consulate in Washington. If not turned into Jinnah Centre, it may be confiscated by USA for negligence.



1965  
On a WAR Front



Naeem Tahir dedicated himself completely to defend. He visited frontlines and supported the Jawans. He took groups of artists to show full commitment and solidarity. He wrote for radio the famous plays "Molvijee" and "Khem Karan"

1965



Glimpses of TV, Stage, Radio, Film work, and family.

1954 Radio





SEHRA: Written by Faiz Ahmad Faiz,

Sung by Nur Jehan on March 24, 1962



سہرا  
نورجہاں

میرے گھر کے باغ میں ایک لڑکہ لڑکی  
میرا کپڑا پہنے ہوئے ہے وہ لڑکہ لڑکی

سہرا سہرا وہ سے کہہ کٹھنہ کر  
اٹھو سارے طرب، اجڑا ہوا کر  
جلاؤ چاند ستارے چراغ کافی نہیں  
یہ شب ہے جشن کی شب، روشنی لپٹا کر  
سہرا سہرا کہ رنج و الم کے رزم سے  
برسات لطف و محبت پہ آج بار پلے  
دعا کو پھر اٹھو کہ رات نیک آوا  
درخ مزین پہ سہرے کے آج پھل کٹے  
اٹھو پھر کہ یہ رات خوش عام رہے  
شب نکلاؤ د برسات طرب وہاں رہے  
تہلکا مچا مچا ہو مچا مچا مچا  
اور اس مچا میں بھراؤں کا انگام رہے



Faiz Ahmad Faiz



Madam Nur Jehan

### Complete Family



Naeem Tahir with his immediate family







Faran Tahir, Halim Tahir, Margret Kelly Tahir, Yasmin & Naeem Tahir



Naeem & Yasmin and the Cat in "Begum Sahiba ki Billi" a Taj Classic

Sitting: Ms Sahir Rahim, Yasmin Tahir, Madam Shabnam, Naeem Tahir  
Standing: Aamir Qurashi, Faisal Rehman, Ali Tahir, Wajeeha Tahir



et together with Madam Shabnam on her return to Lahore

With the Great Indian Star Kamani Kaushal at Yasmin and Naeem's residence at Model Town. Zeba and Mohammad Ali also seen.





Stage Drama "Mujrim Kon?" at Alhamrah (1958)



Standing: Izhar Kazmi, Sakander Iqbal, Shoiab Hashmi, Yasmin Tahir, Kamidar, Sikander's Brother  
Sitting: Tariq Hameed, Sikander's Brother, Khalid Aziz, Naeem Tahir, Stage Manager, Chokidar

Stage Drama "App Ki Tarif" at Alhamrah and many Cities from 1961...



Naeem Tahir as "Akbar" in stage play "ANARKALI" at Alhamra HALL-1 in 1981  
Firdos Jamal, Naeem Tahir, Sabiha Khanum



With Dilip Kumar at the residence of Mr. Javed Qureshi, CS PUNJAB







Nur Jehan & Naeem Tahir in PTV  
Interview Program On Khurshid Anwer



Ahmad Rushdi Live  
with Naeem Tahir on PTV



V.O.A, Cafe DC Program



Raat Gaye Naeem Tahir  
on PTV 23/01/2018



As CEO of ICTV USA

### Cast of Khuda kae Liyae

With Actor Shan and Seemi Rahal in Film "Khuda ke Liyae"



With Fawad K and Shan in Film "Khuda ke Liyae"



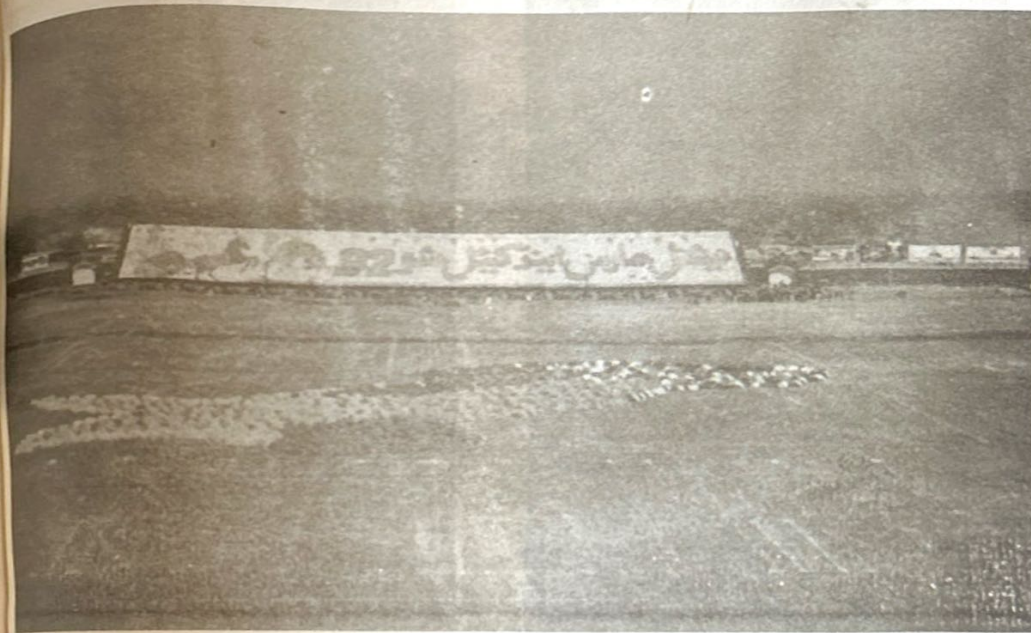
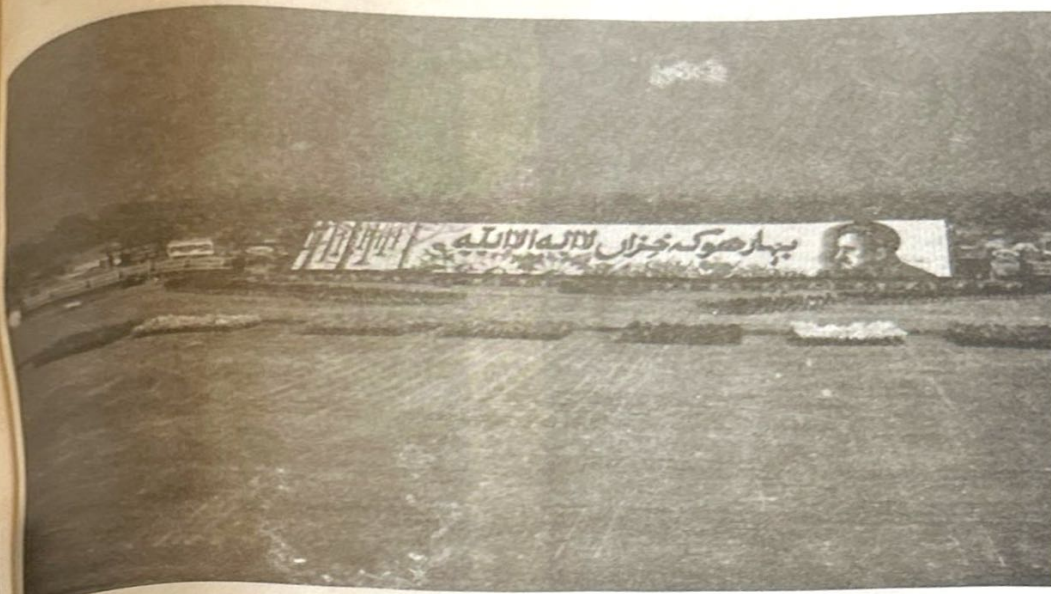
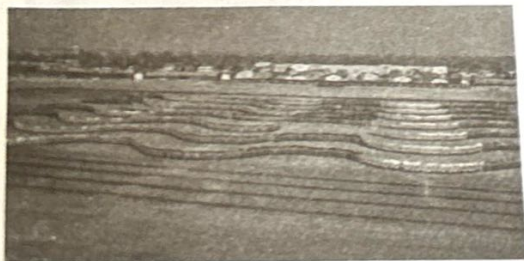


## 'FIELD BALLET'

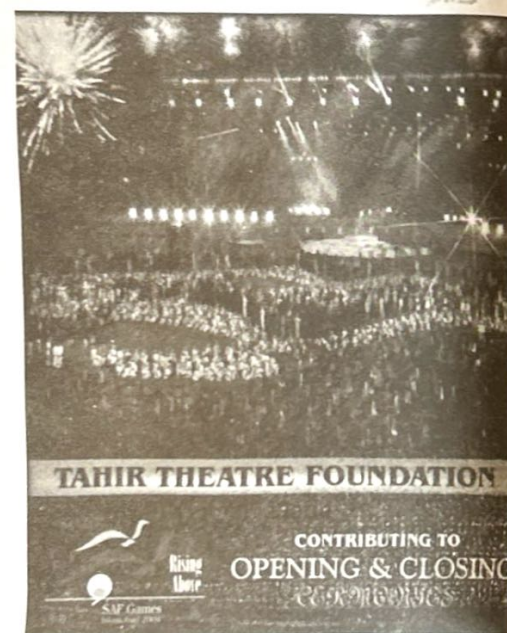
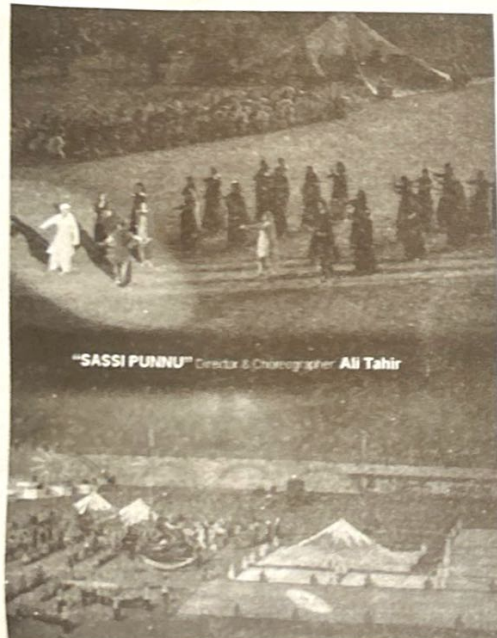
### Callesthenic Creations

An inventive Art form of Naeem Tahir, and learnt by his students. Only Chinese and Koreans tried successfully. Naeem Tahir crated several shows at National Horse and Cattle Show and at opening of South Asia Games in 1984 and 2004. He is internationally respected and admired for it.

Naeem Tahir's youngest son Ali Tahir has learnt and created "Sassi Punnoo" Field Ballet in Saf Games 2004.







**PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR "OUTSTANDING SERVICES"  
SPECIALLY CONSTITUTED AND AWARDED TO NAEEM TAHIR**







# Letter From President of Pakistan

Page No. 5



THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

General M. Zia-ul-Haq

ISLAMABAD  
2012/2/PRESIDENT  
Rajab 1407 A H  
05  
06 March 1987

Mr Naeem Tahir  
212-D Block  
Model Town  
Lahore

Dear Mr. Naeem Tahir,

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

The school children's display on the opening day of the National Horse and Cattle Show, on 01 March 1987, was most heartwarming. In fact, this event was so impressive that it actually stole the show. While I was conveying my feelings of delight and admiration, in this respect, to the Chief Minister Punjab, he informed me that the formidable task of collecting and training the large number of school children in such a short time was accomplished entirely due to your untiring effort, dedication and professional skill as an artiste. Please accept my compliments.

Although I have written to the Chief Minister Punjab separately in this connection, I shall appreciate it if you will also convey my personal appreciations to all the Headmasters/Principals of the schools whose children participated in the display.

I am enclosing a small gift of a watch for you as a token of my personal appreciations of the magnificent job done by you in arranging the display, which was a superb demonstration of physical culture, discipline, harmony and team work.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*M. Zia-ul-Haq*

General  
(M. Zia-ul-Haq)



## Receiving Awards from Dignitaries

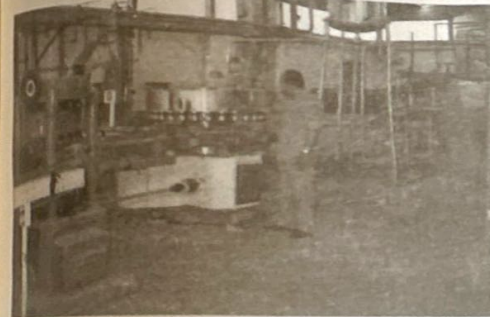


## Industry and Trade



As Chairman Fruit Processing Industries with members including Nestle, Cargill and Shezan.

Inspecting his fruit processing plant  
"Indus Fruit Products Ltd".



Leading a delegation to UK as  
Chairman Fruit Processing Industries.





Naeem Tahir, Chairman International Hand knotted Carpet Exhibition, receives Mian Nawaz Sharif, Punjab Finance Minister



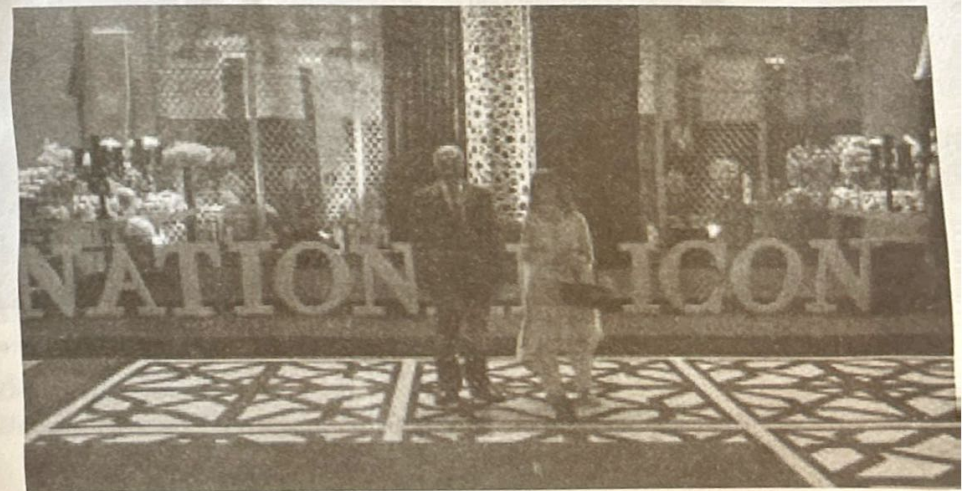
"Made in Pakistan" a PTV series of discussions to promote exports, Conducted by Naeem Tahir



## Some Public Awards



Awarded "NATIONAL ICON" by Ministry of Information in May 2018





# PUBLICATIONS:

Naeem Tahir is extensively published. Some of his books are:

1. "Aap ki Tareef" a three act play written together with Yasmin Tahir
2. Views and Comments vol.1 vol 2.
3. Sael e Ravan an historical stage play
4. Samjhota Express TV Serial
5. Mohammadi Begum research work.
6. Well known research work: "Melluhas" the people of Indus valley 8000BC to 500 BC

# Melluhas of the Indus Valley 8000 BC - 500 BC

Naeem Tahir

# COMMENTS OF:

- (1) Dr Ahmed Hasan Dani FRAS SI, HJ. Distinguish Archeologists, Historian and linguist.
- (2) Fazal Dad Kakar -DG- Archaeology
- (3) Jonathan Mark Kenoyer: Prof. Anthropology, University of WESCONSON, Madison USA.

'Melluhas of the Indus Valley' is based on ten years of research, dedication and hard work by Mr. Naeem Tahir. In the words of the author, "it is the story of the rise and fall of the People of the Indus Valley and their disappearance". It starts off 8000 years before now and covers up to 500 BC. Books hitherto written on this subject mostly uncover the city plans and highlight the architectural grandeur of our ancestors. This study for the first time speaks about the people who were instrumental in building our great past. Full of engrossing illustrations, maps, photographs and little-known facts about the ancient Indus people, this book is both valuable reference material and a readable book of general interest for all those who take pride in the international heritage. The author has based his narrative on solid researches in Archaeology, Anthropology, Prehistory and Mythologies. Mr. Tahir has been frequently in touch with me. I am happy to say that I was able to make some contribution to his study by providing materials from my personal library and answer some of his questions.

I am sure the readers will find this book a significant contribution to the subject and a good investment to understand Ancient Pakistan.

Dr. Ahmad Hasan Dani  
Professor Emeritus, Quaid-i-Azam University

Mr. Naeem Tahir has an exceptional interest and a deep study of our national heritage. He has made a thorough study of archaeological data and has also looked at many other sources to reconstruct the contribution of the people of Indus Valley Civilization. The great value of this book lies in creating a comprehensive profile of the people who developed one of the greatest civilizations of humanity. It could not have been easy to look with such depth to the prehistory of 2 million years and also to co-relate with other disciplines like anthropology, mythologies, literature, to name a few. Most interestingly, he has tried to lift the veil from a period

sometimes believed to be 'dark'. The 'dark' period covered the times when little was known of what had happened to the great people after building a great civilization and one wondered, where they disappeared to! There are valuable clues and hypotheses given by Mr. Tahir which will certainly invite further research.

It was long and hard work and no doubt his 10 years of study has produced a remarkable document. It is written in his inimitable literary style that will hold the attention of a wide readership.

Dr. Fazal Dad Kakar  
Director General, Archaeology & Museums, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad



Several years ago, in late 1990s, Mr. Tahir was present in one of the talks I gave in Sacramento. He was at that time engaged in this study. Later he sought confirmation of the dates of the Masks reproduced in my latest book "Ancient Cities of Indus Valley". I am very happy to know that he has finally completed his study and it is now available to the general public. There are not many books on the subject of the real inhabitants of the Indus Valley Civilization. There are many indications that they were recognized as "Melluhas" by the contemporary civilizations, particularly the Mesopotamians. Mr. Tahir's study and narrative of the disappearance of the Melluhas is of particular interest.

There is indeed great need of such books based on reliable data of archeological and other scientific disciplines written in a manner that makes the lay reader enjoy the contents. This book "Melluhas of the Indus Valley" fulfills this need.

Dr. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer  
Professor of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison

## Early Days.

### Making of a 'Legend'

1947



1954



1955



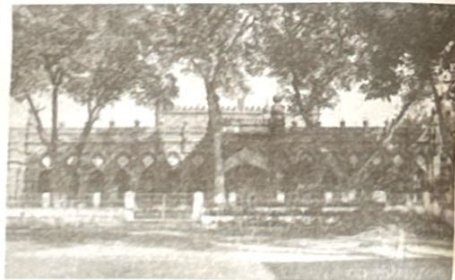
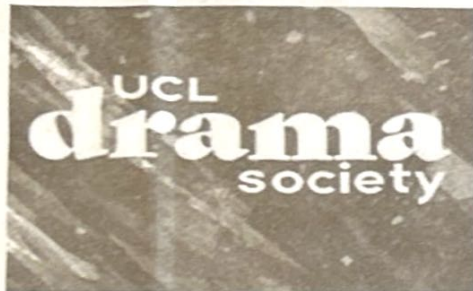


1963

MUHAMMAD NAZEM TAHIR



The actor Lahore, West Paki stars Campus Theater, Girl of the Golden West, Directed Othe People and Wind in the Ashes, SA



At British Drama League



Camera man Shafqat Mahmood, Ya'qoob Nasik, Naeem Tahir Principal, CTI, Chaklala, Anwar Khawaja, Marghoobur Rehman, Mahboob, Shaheen, Safia and rest of the students of 6th batch.



Nostalgic visits to Ali Raza Abad  
With Syed Anzar Hussain, an old friend, in front of "Darogha Haveli"



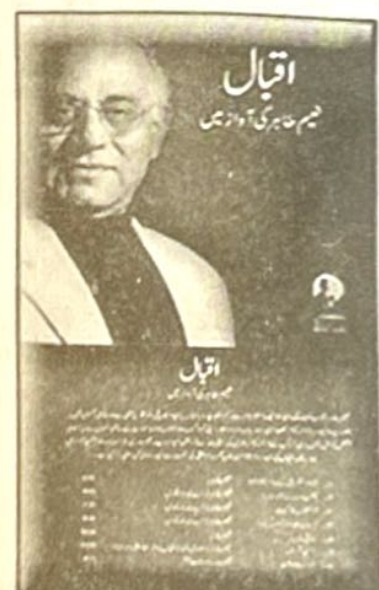
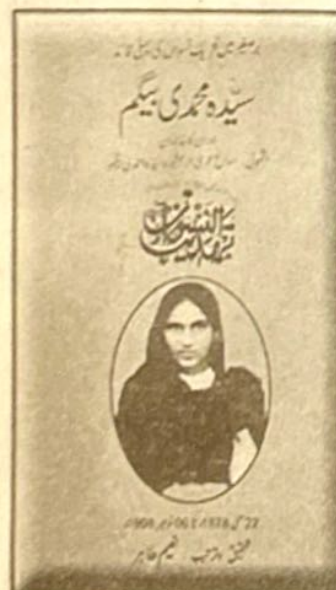
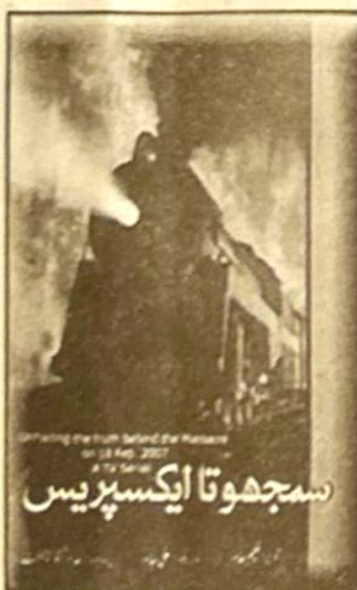
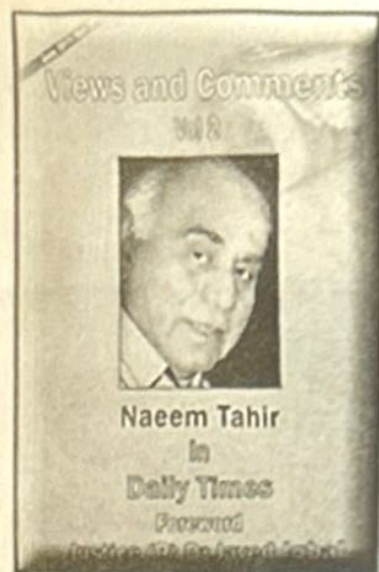
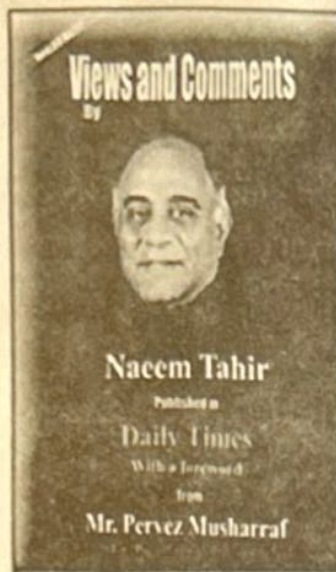
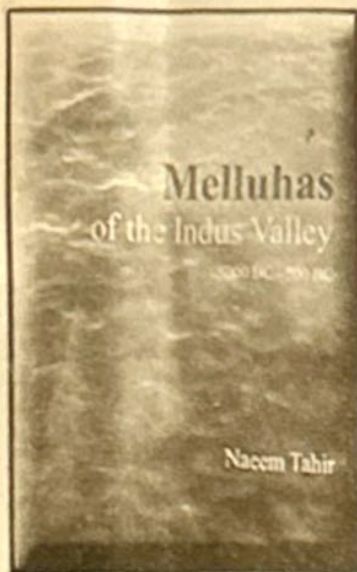
In front of the 'Hospital' set up and run by Naeem's mother Dr Mrs Sardar Azim in 1942. Dr. Mrs Azim was in the first batch of lady doctors in India in 1934.



On a visit talking to an old timer Mohammad Bashir 'Numberdar'









## Other Works

- Melluhas, The People of the Indus valley from 8000 B.C to 500 B.C. Published by National Council of the Arts, Islamabad.
- Views and Comments Vol. I& II. Published by Sang-e-Meel Publication.
- Bombay by Boat (Film script). English (Under publication)
- Earlier articles on Theater and other arts, English Version
- Scripts of stage show. (Various) English
- Aap Ki Tarif Urdu stage play. Naeem Tahir and Yasmin Tahir, published by Sang-e-Meel Publication.
- Soey Kahan'Urdu stage play. Naeem Tahir and Yasmin Tahir published by Sang-e-Meel Publication.
- Sael-e-Rawan' and 'Jalsā Urdu Dramēy Ka' Epic Plays published by Sang-e-Meel Publication.
- Plays for Radio and Television Urdu
- Samjhota Express (Television Serial) Urdu, 22 Episodes
- Dagh e Dil (Screen play) Urdu
- Order Order' (Television Serial) Urdu
- God is mine (TV Serial) Urdu
- Mulla Nasir ud Din (Episodes of TV Serial) for children. Urdu
- A bio-graphical interview of Naeem Tahir. Urdu
- Terwan Darwaza auto biography under compilation. Urdu.

## RECORDINGS

- Molevi Jee' a play, By Naeem Tahir, Recorded during 1965 War.
- Kalam-e-Iqbal in the voice of Naeem Tahir.
- Interviews with History.
- "Rozan-e-Zindan". Naeem Tahir reading Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Yasmin Tahir reading Elyse in Ajoka Theatre Production.

عکس

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