

Free plastic surgery for Cleft Lip & Palate

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association (PCLAPA) today announced the schedule for surgical operations of people from all over the country in order to provide free medical facilities and undertake surgery of patients suffering from the major disability of cleft lip and palate.

The surgeries will be performed for nine days, from February 18 to 26 at the privately run Bashir Hospital at Gujrat. The team of internationally known eminent Specialist Consultant Plastic and other surgeons includes British and British-based Pakistani doctors.

The surgery cures and helps patients with a cut lip or palate--a disability that badly disfigure a person and his or her face, but the patient also feels difficulty in spending a normal life or taking food and drinking, besides suffering psychologically.

The British and Pakistani doctors examined 800 patients and performed 105 surgeries, with a 100 percent success rate, in the last camp held in February 2005. More than five thousand patients have been treated and over nine hundred operated upon during fourteen camps that PCLAPA has been held so far as charitable work, Dr. Ijaz Bashir, Secretary General of PCLAPA said here today.

PCLAPA, with its headquarters at the most modern surgery of Bashir Hospital, Railway Road Gujrat, was established in 1995. The team of internationally reputed British Consultant Specialist Plastic Surgeons and top Pakistani doctors, who annually visit Pakistan, perform

the surgeries.

Dr. Nick Hart, Consultant Plastic Surgeon Specialist in Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery, Royal Hull Hospital, U.K., leads the British team. The team is assisted by a group of top Pakistani doctors led by Dr. Amanullah Raja, Plastic Surgeon Specialist in Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery. The British and Pakistani doctors perform operations free of charge as part of their humanitarian work.

The surgery and treatment is free of cost to the patients. The patients are provided free accommodation at the Bashir Hospital, and are discharged after three to four days, following removal of stitches.

The PCLAPA operates as a registered charitable institution, and is funded by purely private donations.

The Islamabad Chapter of PCLAPA is Chaired by Dr. Akhtar Rehman, a former Director and Administrator of King Fahd Hospital, Taif, Saudi Arabia. He can be contacted at House 7, Street 13, F-8/3, Islamabad. His phone number is 2251275, and his e-mail address is: wanted@isd.wol.net.pk.

The Islamabad Chapter has asked patients to register themselves with Dr. Akhtar Rahman, at his Islamabad address, for medical treatment and surgery at PCLAPA's next camp, which will be held at Gujrat for nine days from February 18 to 26, 2006. Mr. Tony Bryan, Senior Operation Theater Assistant from U.K. has already arrived at Bashir Hospital Gujrat to do patients' pre-operation examination.