



Tour of Islamabad 2007

International Cycle Race

Competitor Feedback



Britta Martin
Germany
April 5, 2007

Hey Khurram!

How are you doing? I hope you took a few days off and went to the mountains to start getting fit again. Otherwise it will be very hard for you at the beginning, once I come over and start your trainings programme :) I guess after all this trouble around the race it would be good to take a few days off?

Well, I am back in Germany and have a really hard time starting a normal life again. Every time when I come back from Pakistan, it is hard to start again, because it has been a wonderful time over there. I just want to thank you and all the others again for a great event!!

Faris wrote a long really nice article about the race and published it on the biggest Triathlon Homepage in Germany. It is all in German, so it probably doesn't make sense to send it to you? And Timo wrote an article as well, which was published in the newspaper. There will be some more articles in the German cycle and triathlon magazines, Isabel and me talked to a few people.

I really hope that this event raised good money or was good for the reputation, because it was a great event and I can just guess how hard you worked for it.

Well, I wish you a good time and don't work too much. I hope your plans, to work a little bit less are still reality? I hope I will see you again and have the opportunity to come back to Pakistan. Ok, I wish you all good. See You,

Bye,

Britta



Heinz Leemann
Switzerland
April 4, 2007

Hello Khurram

First I would like to say thank you very much.

The Tour of Islamabad was a excellent experience for all of us and we are so proud that we were able to share this unique sports event. We was enthused by the civility, hospitality and the gladness, that we was received in Pakistan.

Unfortunately always the negative news from your wonderful country drifts to us in the west. Now, after we could visit you, we saw all the beautiful sides from your country, so that I can tell with great enthusiasm to my family and all my friends here in Switzerland from this wonderful and unique week.

One of my aim in life in anytime is to cross the Himalaya massive with the mountain bike, and now I know where I'll start this tour... from Islamabad! But until then it will pass some time.

In the name of the whole Swiss Team I would like to say sincerely thank to you. It will be always rest in our very best memories.

Thank you Khurram. Also a big thank you to Raza and all the other people, who helped us in any cases through the whole week.... until the bitter end ;-)

Sincerely regards from Switzerland.

Heinz



Amanda Lawrence
USA
April 3, 2007

Khurram-- Just wanted to drop you a quick note to thank you for all you did for me/us at the Tour and the camp. I arrived home safely, albeit tired. Your friends in Lahore were wicked fun-- we had a crazy night and it is a beautiful city. I want to know what I can do state-side to help in Kaghan. Please let me know. And, again, thank you. I had a wonderful time and it is clear to me now, upon returning, that I went for a reason.

Amanda Lawrence



Robin Reid
New Zealand
April 4, 2007

Hi Khurram,

Back home and back at work now and not as much fun as Pakistan. Thanks again for the last couple of days there at your place. I had a great time. Remember, let me if there is anything I can do to help with the organising of the mtb race.

Regards,
Robin



Remko Kramer and Frances Cerny
Holland and Germany
April 1, 2007

Hello Khurram,

On behalf of the Dutch Team, Nils and Discovery Channel Marco Polo Team, we would like to thank you very much for the great time we had again in Pakistan! Our compliments for the great organisation of the event and good luck with the Kaghan Memorial Trust.

I had one idea regarding the school and maybe other projects in the valley. You should contact Right to Play. That is a huge organisation to create play and sports opportunities for children. I am sure they will donate something, maybe for the school, or for playing for the children in the valley. Maybe that you even could get Johan Olav Koss, the president of the organisation, Olympic gold in speedskating(!) excited about joining a training camp or joining the MTB competition. That would attract a lot of publicity.

Take care! Greetings from all!

Francis and Remko



Timo Scholz
Germany
March 29, 2007

Hey Khurram!

I meet today in the afternoon (german time) some Journalists. I know one like write about your Race. This is Feedback what you want in Europa. Please, please send me fastest is possible some fotos from the Race with the Germans & me, Timo Scholz. So we can make your Race more public! Was a great time for me in your country, thank you! Of course I like to come again.

Timo Scholz



Anna Van Leemputten
Great Britain
March 29, 2007

Hello Khurram,

I hope all is well now we have mostly trickled away....
I'd love to race again and there will be an article on the trip in the local paper next week. I'll also try to get the editor of shecycles.com to put something up.

If I can't come and race again then maybe just a shopping trip would be possible.

Big hug and a big thank you. I will be making every effort I can to get the publicity you need.

Regards,
Anna



Danielle Bekkering
Holland
April 7, 2007

Hello Khurram,

As we already told you before we left, we were very happy to come over to Pakistan and take part in the Tour of Islamabad. It was very special and we really want to come back in the future!

When Eyelien came up with the idea of racing in Pakistan I first had my doubts. For most of the Dutch Pakistan sounds a bit scary, as we only get to read or see about Pakistan if something is wrong. But it really was a great experience and the country is very beautiful.

Back in Holland we had some nice publicity in the papers and I will have a few meets in companies to tell about the KMT. The school is a great project and I will do my best to get good publicity for KMT and the school and raise some more funding. Pakistan is worth some good publicity!

Take care and get your self in shape for the next event...

Big hug, Daniëlle



Eyelien Bekkering
Holland
April 7, 2007

Hi Khurram,

To get back to normal life in Holland wasn't that easy after the Pakistan trip, but after some days of good sleep I'm back on the track.

For me it was a nice challenge to race in Pakistan and see some of the country, it is really beautiful over there and I tell everybody here about it!

Thank you for taking so good care of us during the Tour of Islamabad and especially for making it possible for us to see some more of the country. Even if we had not so much time.

Most surprising for me and really encouraging for the country was the fact that the Pakistani women took part in the race. I think this race and sports in general are a really good opportunity to pay attention to women rights in Pakistan!

I will try to come back in September and take part in MTB race, would love to do it! However I might not be able to do so, because of some road races in Europe.

Take care, Eyelien



Marie-Claude Gagnon
Canada
April 8, 2007

Khurram

Thanks for the opportunity to come race and discover Pakistan. I had a fantastic time and memories that will last a lifetime. Let me know if I can help in any way with KMT.

Regards
Marie Claude

April 14, 2007

Hi Khurram,

I want to thank you for your hospitality and generosity while we were in Pakistan. I had an amazing time in Islamabad, at the lake and in Shogran. I've been home for a few days now and still struggling to readjust to my day to day life. My thoughts keep drifting back to Pakistan and the friendships I made there. It was really an eye opening experience for me and in hindsight – although the race was great, it seems incidental when I look at the bigger picture.

It was a pleasure meeting you and I hope we can keep in touch.

Yours,
MC



Joe Cruz
USA
April 9, 2007

Khurram -- I'm home after too many hours of twilight sleep and murky minded transfers. I hardly know what day or hour it is, and I'll need to get back to bed, but I do know that I had a terrific time again in Pakistan. Thanks for everything, and I'll talk to you soon.

Joe



Isabel Puchinger
Germany
April 13, 2007

Hello Khurram,

how are you? Hope you are already recovered from the exertion with organizing the TOI. I want to say thank you again for the very nice days in Islamabad and the hospitality of you and all the other people in Pakistan. It was really a great time and I think a lot of these days. And I'm telling everyone here in Germany how nice it was in Pakistan.

Hope you feel good.

Regards.
Isabel



Josh Mallan
USA
April 14, 2007

Hey Khurram,

Well I made it back to the good old USA in one piece, more or less. I can't express my gratitude to and respect for you adequately, but please know that I so appreciated the efforts and generosity you showed me and us over our entire stay in Pakistan. The TOI and the "camp" were so much fun and gave me/us such a different perspective on Pakistan then our preconceptions as they are framed by the western media.

Please know I'm committed to getting some liaison established with the Shogran School and our kids' school to help facilitate its building and future success, ensha'llah. Also know that you can count on me for any ad hoc diplomatic boosterism of Pakistan and its people I can muster and my help for whatever cause you feel worthy. I was so impressed with the Pakistanis and your entire country--at least what we were able to see in such a short visit, but thanks again for your time, energy, and brute stubbornness, don't change.

Cheers,
Josh



Soren Petersen
Denmark
April 14, 2007

Hi Khurram and Nathan

We would like to thanx very much for the Tour of Islamabad.
It was very exiting for us and we all enjoyed every second.

Regards the Danish team



Giel Nabben
Holland
April 16, 2007

Hi Nathan,

It already has been a while ago we stayed in Islamabad, but I still (better late than never) wanted to thank you guys for the great event you organized. We really had a good time, and although I had a chance already to see some great places in the world with Marco Polo, Pakistan for sure has been the best one up till now! Thanks! Furthermore the reason behind the race made it for me extra special to come over.

I wish you all the best with the project and hope to see you again in September at the MTB event!

Regards,

Giel Nabben



Larry Zimich
Canada
May 3, 2007

Hi Khurram.

Sorry to have taken so long to send a thank you to you for having us in Pakistan for the races.

I wanted to let you know how welcomed we were in Pakistan and how much we all appreciated what you did for us in doing that. Perceptions are one thing and what is reality is another. We saw a different side of Pakistan than what we though was there and were very happy to have had that opportunity.

Again a big thank you.

Larry Zimich