

TOURISM BULLETIN

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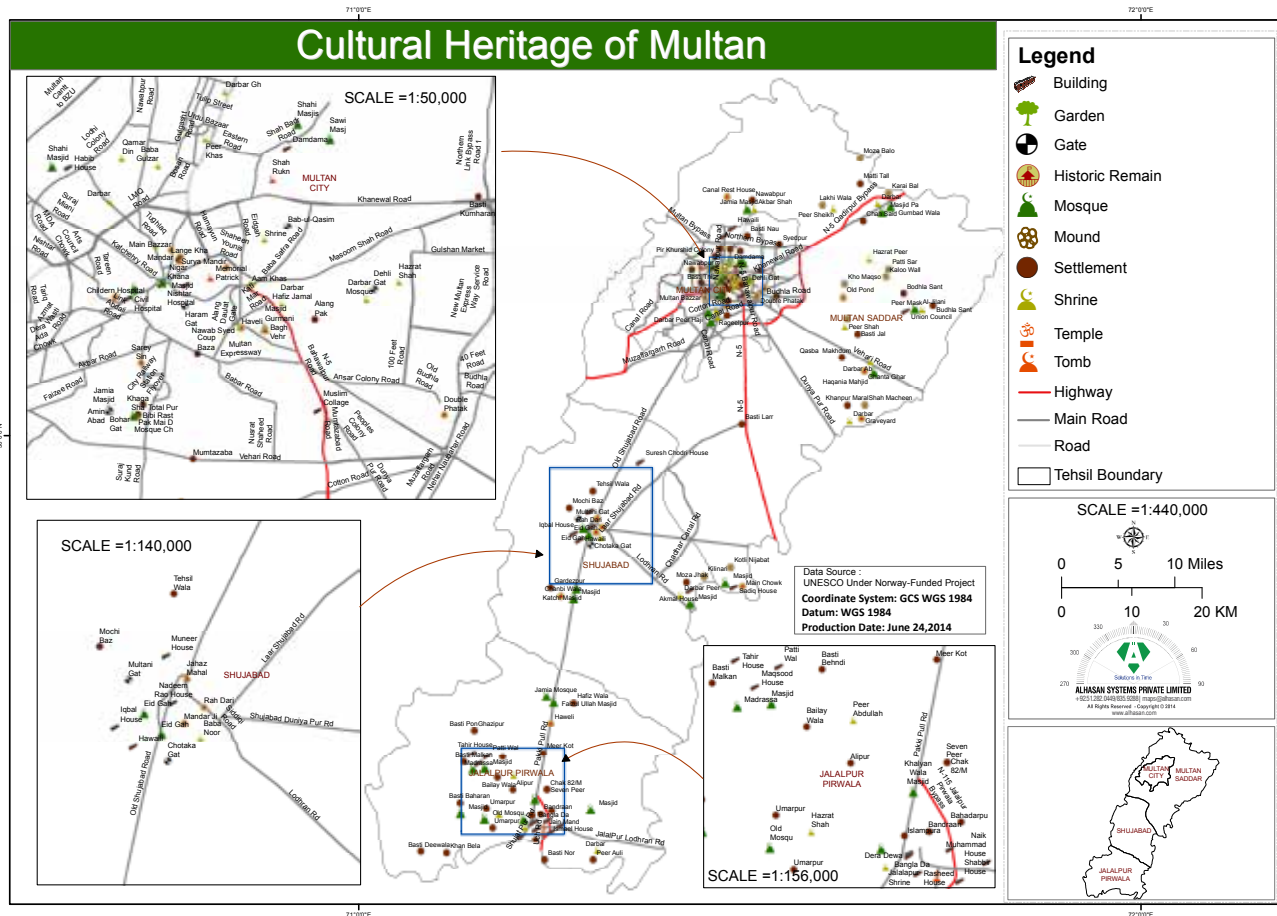
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Both reports are available at
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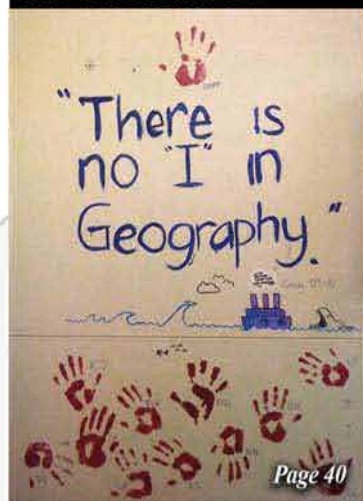
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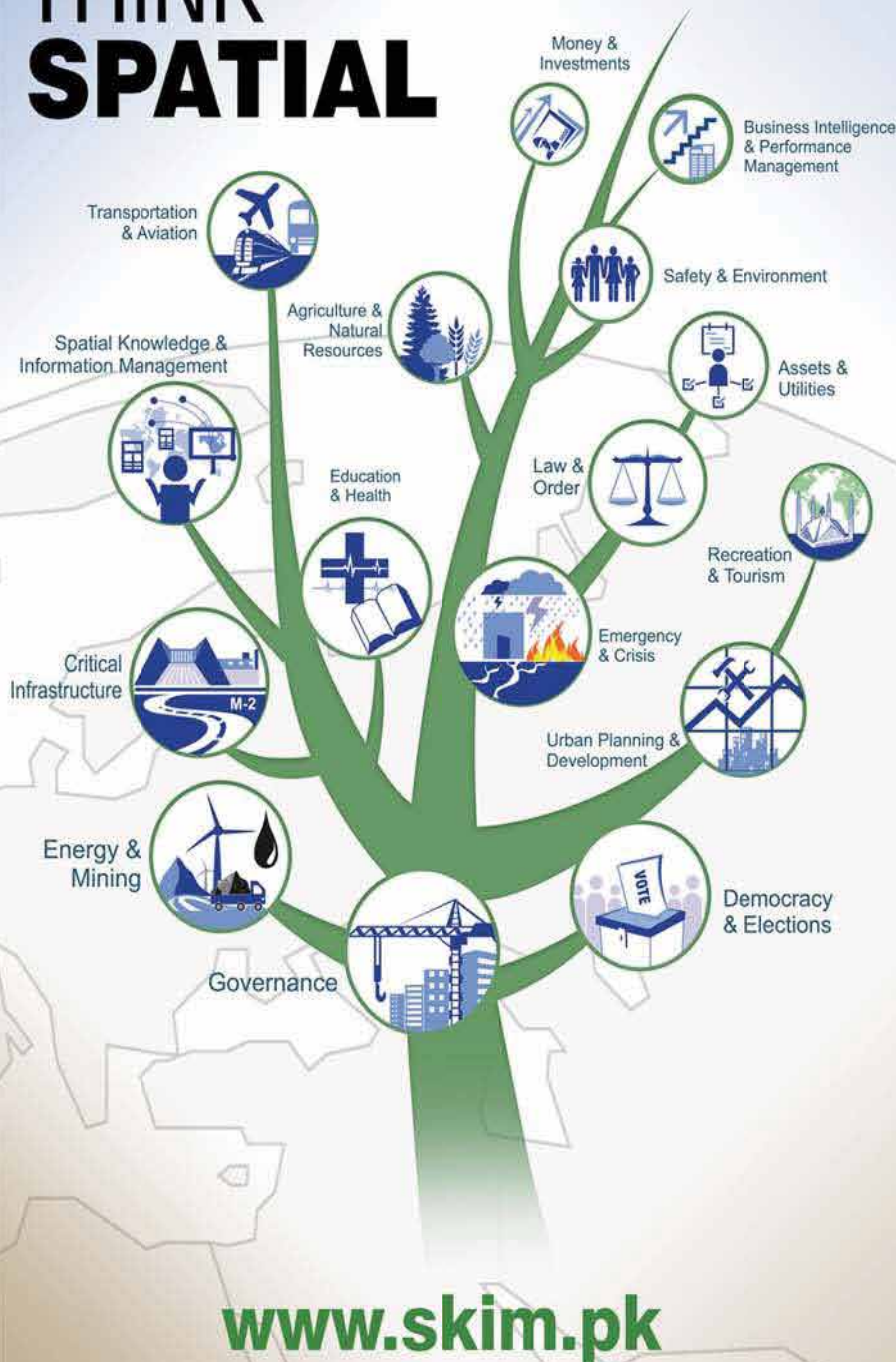
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THINK SPATIAL



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One year after shocking terrorist attack, Pakistan's peaks bereft of foreign climbers

The Washington Post
June 29, 2014

DETAILS

FAIRY MEADOWS, Pakistan — For more than five decades, locals have called it “Killer Mountain,” a reminder of the risks of trying to scale beautiful, snow-topped Nanga Parbat. More than 100 climbers and porters have died on the steep, rocky ascent up the world's ninth-highest mountain — a fact Pakistan once touted in a bid to lure thrill-seekers. Now, however, local residents are frantically trying to scrub the word “killer” from a mountain that has become a symbol of the threat posed by the Pakistani Taliban. One year ago this month, about a dozen heavily armed Pakistani Taliban militants executed 10 foreign mountain climbers, including a U.S. citizen, at the base of the mountain. It was one of the worst acts of violence to strike the international climbing community. Terrorism is hardly unusual in Pakistan; at least 3,000 people died last year alone in the country in violence attributed to Islamist extremists. But the attack at Nanga Parbat was a major blow, horrifying citizens who view the majestic northern mountains as a source of national pride. “As a Pakistani, I look at it as our Sept. 11,” said Nazir Sabir, who in 2000 became the first Pakistani to climb Mount Everest in Nepal. He now operates an Islamabad-based tour company. “We never, never, ever thought that this could happen.” The attack also crushed the remnants of Pakistan's international tourism industry, creating new hardship in a part of the country known for its tolerance and hospitality. The loss of foreign climbers was so distressing that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif cited it as one reason he ordered a military offensive against the Pakistani Taliban in North Waziristan this month. Pakistan is home to five of the world's 14 highest peaks, including K2, the second-highest mountain in the world. Nanga Parbat, at 26,660 feet, is Pakistan's second-highest mountain. After the attack, the number of foreign mountain climbers collapsed. “It may take years and years before they will consider going back to a place like Pakistan,” said Steve Swenson, past president of the American Alpine Club, who has been on 11 climbing expeditions in Pakistan over the past three decades. “I talked to a lot of people, even fairly knowledgeable people, about going there again, and their immediate response is: Is it safe? And then a not-unusual response is: Are you crazy?”

‘This is the day we take revenge’

According to local officials and residents, the Pakistani Taliban attackers hiked through the wilderness for three days to reach the base camp on the western side of the mountain, known as the Diamir Face, late on June 22, 2013. “Taliban! Al-Qaeda! Surrender!” the militants shouted as they marched into the camp, where the climbers and about three dozen porters slept. The assailants went looking for foreigners, slashing more than 40 tents with knives. They yanked people from their tents — one Lithuanian, three Ukrainians, two Slovaks, two Chinese, one American and one Nepali — tied their hands behind their backs and made them kneel in a row in the moonlight. “Then, suddenly, we heard a shot,” said one 31-year-old Pakistani climber, who was tied up by the militants nearby. He spoke on the condition of anonymity because he continues to fear for his safety. “Then we heard hundreds of ‘brrr, brrr, brrr’ sounds,” like an automatic weapon might make, he said. “Then a leader of the group came and shot all the dead bodies one by one again.” One militant then shouted, “This is the day we take revenge for Osama bin Laden,” the man recounted — an apparent reference to the United States' killing of the al-Qaeda leader in Pakistan two years earlier. Only one foreign climber — a Chinese man who hid in a steep trench clutching a pickaxe — survived. The attackers also killed a Pakistani cook, apparently because he was Shiite. Pakistani police later arrested six people who reportedly confessed to the crime.

Tourist industry collapses

Before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, hundreds of thousands of tourists traveled each year to Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan district, where the Himalayan, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges meet. There were 20,000 tourists in northern Pakistan on the day of the attacks on New York and the Pentagon alone, but afterward the country was lucky to attract half that number in an entire year, said Tayyab Nisar Mir, a manager at the Pakistan Tourism Development Corp. Those who did come were almost exclusively mountain climbers and long-distance backpackers determined to explore some of the world's most picturesque scenery. Although there were about 150 climbing expeditions a year in the country in the 1980s and 1990s, and about 75 annually after 9/11, only about 30 are likely to occur this year, officials said. And no climbers are expected this summer at Nanga Parbat. (At least two climbers made an unsuccessful attempt this past winter; no one has made it to the peak of Nanga Parbat or K2 in the winter). The number of backpackers has declined even more dramatically, Mir said. “Nanga Parbat was the last nail in the coffin of tourism in Pakistan,” he said, adding that the loss of tourism is costing the country \$100 million annually. Officials in Gilgit-Baltistan stress that the massacre was an isolated tragedy. They have been going to great lengths to reassure visitors that the region is safe. On a pull-off spot overlooking Nanga Parbat on the Karakoram Highway, a sign once read, “Look to your Left: Killer Mountain.” But Qaria Amin, 33, who operates a gem store at the spot, said that a month after the massacre, a police officer made him paint over the word “killer.” The sign now reads, “Look to your Left: Mountain.” Amin says he is lucky if he makes a \$100 a week now, compared with the \$100 a day he used to bring in selling rubies, topazes and emeralds collected from the nearby hills. At Fairy Meadows, a village that overlooks the northwest face of Nanga Parbat and the Raikot glacier, the tourism industry has “collapsed, causing hopelessness,” said Raji Rehmal, a resident. The village of about 50 extended families is so remote that there are few other economic opportunities. To get there, visitors travel an hour by jeep up what locals call “the world's most dangerous road,” a lane so narrow that vehicles' tires are inches from the ledge. The road ends at an elevation of about 8,200 feet, and visitors then must hike to the village, elevation 11,154 feet. Rehmal, who estimates that he is 50 years old, says he has walked at least 13,000 miles working as a guide or porter for foreigners. His work helped pay for the construction of a school for the

Spotlight: From the rabab strings to stardom

DAWN.com
June 29, 2014

village. A foreign climber came up with the name Fairy Meadows in the 1950s because the grassy plateau reminded him of a fairy tale, according to tour operators. "In the good days, there were doctors who used to bring medicine, and Westerners who used to linger longer just to teach the local kids," Rehmal said. "We would never, ever think of harming any tourist, any foreigner." Pakistani hikers in the area also said they miss the foreign visitors. "We have so little to be proud of, so if there is something as impressive as this, and foreigners come praise it, it's a psychological lift," said Nashreem Ghori, a 41-year-old Karachi native who was hiking near Fairy Meadows.

'Sooner or later, the people will come back'

There has also been a steep decline in the tourism business in the Hunza Valley, an oasis of cherry and apricot trees wedged between imposing snow-covered mountains. The area is one of several Himalayan locations that have been mentioned as the possible inspiration for the mythical Shangri-La in James Hilton's 1933 novel, "Lost Horizon." "Here, we have nice weather, nice mountains, nice people, but tourists are not coming," said Mohammad Karim, 34, a guide who also runs a camping store in Karimabad, a town in the valley. Ghulam Nabi, owner of a campground at Fairy Meadows, said he fears that residents may resort to mining or logging to try to earn a living if the tourists stay away. "The people of Gilgit-Baltistan have learned a lot from Western people," Nabi said. "We were taught how to protect the environment, and how to balance tourism and nature." Authorities now assign an armed police officer to any foreigner who wants to go hiking near Nanga Parbat. Pakistanis are hopeful that such measures, and the stunning scenery, will eventually draw back tourists. "Those mountains are not going anywhere," said Iqbal Walji, a Pakistani tour operator. "Sooner or later the people will come back, because it's one of the most beautiful places on earth."

"Khumariyaan is a derivative of the word khumaar (intoxication). The source could be anything — music, spiritualism, wine, love, drugs or even good food. We strive to have the same effect, if you will, with our music," said the Peshawar-based band Khumariyaan. "And hence the name." The band has quietly and surely built a cult following in Pakistan. Their popularity extends well beyond their province, as they are regularly invited on tours to perform at colleges, music festivals and so on. Soon, they will be travelling to the United States as a part of the State Department's cultural diplomacy programme, Center Stage. Through their music, which includes improvisations of well-known traditional Pashtun compositions from both Afghanistan and Pakistan, they seek to revive an interest in their cultural music and entertain audiences in the process. "We believe ours is a deeply meditative and intensely personal interpretation of traditional Pashtun music designed to relax and open new doors of realisation and understanding for our listeners," said Khumariyaan. "There is a lot of room for improvisation and creativity in our music," they continued. "No two performances are ever alike. Our mood, the venue, audience, socio-cultural milieu and many other factors contribute to the uniqueness of each one of our performances." The band is composed of Farhan Bogra (rabab), Shiraz Khan (zerbaghali), Aamer Shafiq (rhythm guitars and vocals) and Sparley Rawail (also on guitars). Rawail teaches at the National College of Arts (NCA). Bogra works for the Institute for Preservation of Arts and Culture and Crafts (IPAC). Shafiq has a promising career in disaster management and the baby of the group, Khan, holds a full-time job and is also studying for a Master's degree. "We stay busy and, consequently, out of trouble," laughed the band. Both Bogra and Khan play traditional Pashtun instruments that are deeply symbolic of their culture. Bogra plays a version of the rabab often referred to as 'Kabuli' rabab. He ended up in possession of one by accident. A friend bought a rabab, much to the displeasure of his father who did not approve of his son learning what he considered as an "old-fashioned instrument not appropriate for the scions of Pakistani bourgeoisie," related the band. His friend eventually handed the rabab over to Bogra who then taught himself to play it. The other 'Pashtun' instrument is the zerbaghali. It is similar to another African percussion instrument, the djembe. It's shaped like a wine goblet and traditionally made out of clay. In recent times, the wooden version of the zerbaghali has gained popularity among musicians as well. "We picked the instrument primarily for the richness of its sound," said the band. "There was no other instrument in the region whose sound we found equally interesting. And we don't think Shiraz Khan would have had it any other way. He is in love with it!" The band's occasional vocalist and permanent rhythm guitarist, Aamer Shafiq was a well-known musician in Peshawar before the band was formed. "He was known for his skills as a vocalist as well as a guitar player and, in his own opinion, for his good looks!" laughed the band members. Since most of the band's music is instrumental, "Aamer's focus has shifted to playing the rhythm guitar, although he continues to enjoy singing whenever he gets an opportunity to perform as a vocalist." Shafiq is not the only guitarist in the band. According to his band members, Sparley Rawail, who was the last to join the line up, plays his western stringed instrument with a lot of energy, passion and feeling. "He has an uncanny ability to improvise in unison with other band members," they said. "He was responsible for introducing solo interludes of guitar in our songs and for skillfully incorporating the sound of ghungroos and the dhol in our music. His knowledge of music and musicology has helped develop the maturity of our music." When not rehearsing or performing, the band enjoys listening to music as diverse as Sigur Rós, Pink Floyd, Bahramji and Maneesh De Moor, Metallica, and Ludovico Einaudi. They are particularly fond of Hamayun Khan's rabab-playing and Mohsen Chavoshi Hosseini's (Iran) haunting vocals. "We admit to having a bias towards Afghan, Persian and Pakistani music but truthfully we enjoy music from many regions," they said. "We are citizens of the world and listen to everything from all over the globe. Music that moves our spirit and soul is the one we all love." A tale of one city: Peshawar, in the band's own words

"We are aware of Peshawar's somewhat unfair reputation. Aamer was even once asked if people in Peshawar were 'allowed' to wear jeans! "The truth is that the city is quite progressive and modern. It may not be as cosmopolitan as Karachi or as sophisticated as Lahore, but it is

Youth parliament ideal forum to learn of cultural, ethnic diversity

*The Express Tribune
June 27, 2014*

certainly not as behind-the-times as some believe. Musicians do face difficulties in Peshawar but their problems are similar to the ones they would face in other cities. "It has not been difficult for us to make a name in music. We were born into educated and affluent families that encouraged our interest in music. We were never forced to depend on music to make a living. Had that been the case, life would have been tough. Financial independence has allowed us to pursue music the way we enjoy it, without making any compromises. "There are people who do not like our liberal views and music. They would like to silence us. We get anonymous threats on a regular basis but that comes with the territory. People who love our music and us far outnumber the haters. They keep us going."ell.

Speakers said the youth parliament provided an ideal forum to learn about different ethnicities, languages and cultures of Pakistan. They were speaking at the launching ceremony of PILDAT's 6th Youth Parliament Pakistan (YPP). Commerce Minister Khuram Dastgir Khan, Danish Ambassador Jesper Moller Sorensen, YPP patron and former NA deputy speaker Faisal Karim Kundi, former deputy speaker Wazir Ahmed Jogezeai, MNA Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Murad Saeed and around 60 young parliamentarians selected from across the country were also present.

Through its development assistance, the government of Denmark has been supporting PILDAT's Youth Parliament Programme since 2010 with the aim to promote democracy in Pakistan. Dastgir said democracy was an understanding with the citizens to take them along towards greater public good. He said the first lesson he learnt in parliament was that there exist other perspectives and prisms on Pakistan other than those coming from Punjab. He hoped that this lesson will be learnt by the young parliamentarians as well. He said that it was a tremendous privilege to represent fellow citizens in the parliament. "This privilege should not be maligned," he said, adding that in public service, good intentions alone are not sufficient, but a consistent effort was required both in making reforms and taking people along. The Danish ambassador said that the YPP aimed to provide the young members with numerous opportunities to understand, to engage in and also to question the process of democracy. Sorensen said, "Democracy starts when we learn to listen to others and give space to opinions which may differ from ours. And this is more important than ever, as the global economy is connecting us more than ever". "The future is always somewhat uncertain — but what is certain to me is that it will be the young people of Pakistan who determine what the future will be," he said. He also encouraged the young parliamentarians to get the most out of the programme to the benefit of their country. "I am strongly convinced that you cannot talk about democracy or civil empowerment without engaging the youth. This program is therefore a great opportunity for you to learn about civic responsibility, team work, tolerance and respect for other people's opinion." Kundi thanked the Danish embassy for providing support to the initiative. Khawaja advised the youth parliamentarians to strive to achieve integrity in public life. Saeed congratulated the members on their selection and advised them to use the opportunity of learning and leadership skills to the fullest. PILDAT President Ahmed Bilal Mehboob said that the organisation has completed five cycles of YPPs in seven years. "The 6th YPP marks a new phase in the life of the institution and a record 2,000 expressions of interest were received for this batch."

Mehboob said that Pakistan needed to strengthen its democratic institutions and inculcate democratic culture in the society. "We need to discourage extremist tendencies and lack of tolerance for others' beliefs and views and strengthen the rule of law." The 6th YPP will have an enhanced role as the youth standing committee will focus on reviewing critical policy issues with developing cogent policy alternatives for the Parliament and the government of Pakistan.

World medical tourism congress opens in Taipei

*Focus Taiwan News Channel
June 26, 2014*

TAIPEI, JUNE 26 (CNA): The World Medical Tourism Congress opened Thursday in Taipei, the first time it has been held in Taiwan, to discuss a variety of healthcare issues and showcase Taiwan's development in medical services. The two-day congress attracted more than 400 participants, including 100 from Japan, China, India, Singapore, Thailand, Nigeria and Pakistan, according to the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), which co-organized the event with the U.S.-based Medical Tourism Association. The congress has also invited 20 speakers from around the globe who will deliver keynote speeches on topics related to advanced technologies in medical services, innovation in healthcare and international healthcare clusters. "The advanced medical technologies and high-quality medical services available in Taiwan have been recognized internationally for many years," TAITRA President and CEO Peter Huang said during his opening remarks at the congress. "We believe that Taiwan's medical services will play an important role on the global stage in the near future," he said. "With the establishment of five international medical service liaison centers at Taiwan's major airports, coupled with other endeavors, we are determined to make Taiwan's medical services an international brand." Renee-Marie Stephano, president of the Medical Tourism Association, said Taiwan has become one of the major players in medical tourism in Asia. In 2013, Taiwan hosted more than 200,000 foreign travelers seeking medical tourism treatment, and the country's medical tourism industry is expected to reach NT\$13 billion (US\$434 million) this year, Stephano forecast. "The impact of new facilities, along with loosening of restrictions on both sides of the (Taiwan) Strait have also created the perfect conditions to extend medical tourism opportunities to our neighboring friends on the mainland," Stephano said. "Taiwanese hospitals are poised to benefit from cross-strait economic, education and research, and medical tourism traveler exchanges," she added.

Lok Virsa to document GB's indigenous folk culture

*The Dardistan Times
May 25, 2014*

GILGIT: Lok Virsa has sent a team of professionals to Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) to document and preserve its indigenous folk culture. The initiative has been launched by the new management — headed by Shahera Shahid — of the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, popularly known as Lok Virsa. Based in the federal capital, Lok Virsa focuses on research, collection, documentation, preservation and dissemination of Pakistan's traditional culture, including tangible and intangible heritage. "The purpose of the mission (in G-B) is to document and preserve indigenous folk culture with special reference to the authentication of existing craftspeople,

Sikh heritage sites in Pakistan in 'poor shape'

SikhSangat News
June 24, 2014

In Malaysia, I visited a mosque – In Pakistan, I can't

The Express Tribune (blog)
June 23, 2014

besides exploring new talent of artisans in various craft areas," Lok Virsa Deputy Director Anwaarul Haq told The Express Tribune on Tuesday. "We have done interviews in Gilgit and Skardu and have made audio and video documentation to showcase skills of traditional practitioners," said Haq, who is also part of the team. The remaining districts, including Ghanche, Hunza-Nagar, Diamer and Astor, will be covered by Saturday. The team will also collect ethnological artefacts from G-B to display them at the Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology (Heritage Museum) in Islamabad. Initiating the project, the Lok Virsa team met the chief minister's tourism and culture adviser Sadia Danish in Gilgit. The adviser proposed joint projects with G-B. "A proposal to hold a folk festival to promote arts, crafts, culture, folk music and traditional cuisine of all provinces also came under discussion. We agreed it will be held either in G-B or Islamabad," he said, adding he was pleased to see individuals volunteering to help Lok Virsa in its ongoing efforts.

Amritsar, Punjab: After his visit to Pakistan recently, UK-based Sikh historian Bobby Singh Bansal feels though Pakistan has several forts and palaces dating back to Maharaja Ranjit Singh's era, there was a dire need to restore and preserve these for the coming generations and to sensitise Pakistanis about their significance. Talking to The Tribune here, Bansal said he had visited Pakistan to gather information for his book titled "Remnants of the Sikh Empire — Historical Sikh Monuments in Pakistan and India". The book would be a catalogue of Sikh monuments connected with Maharaja Ranjit Singh's courtiers. It deals with forts, havelis and palaces that still stand in Pakistan although some are on the verge of collapsing. These include rare forts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa associated with General Hari Singh Nalwa, he claimed. He said he had visited two of these forts, Bara Fort and Jamrud Fort. Bansal, who also visited Sheikhpura Fort where Rani Raj Kaur, the Maharaja's first wife resided, was disappointed to find it in a shambles. "The fort showcases the Sikh architecture at its best. The queen lived at the fort until her death in 1838. Sadly, the fort has been partially damaged. A section of the outer portion, especially the arched entrance, has collapsed." He said it was a structure comprising three floors with an elevation of 16 metres. Though a protected monument, numerous graffiti had tarnished the rare frescoes. The walls were embellished with colourful artwork depicting scenes of the Sikh court and Hindu deities. Bansal said various heritage structures associated with Maharaja Ranjit Singh era were vandalised in Pakistan after the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992. A few were restored later. He said there was a need to sensitise the people in Pakistan about the heritage. He emphasised the need to open the doors of museums and heritage buildings for Indian pilgrims visiting Pakistan. He claimed that a number of heritage structures in Pakistan had been seized by the local mafia. On heritage structures in India, Bansal said he was not happy. He referred to the "baradari" of Maharaja Ranjit Singh at Pul Kanjari village near Attari which is in a poor state.

Monumental neglect

Various heritage structures associated with the Maharaja Ranjit Singh era were vandalised after the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992

A few were restored later to some extent

Neglected sites

Bara Fort and Jamrud Fort in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa associated with General Hari Singh Nalwa Sheikhpura Fort where Maharaja Ranjit Singh's first wife resided till her death in 1838

I am a Pakistani, but the first time I visited a mosque comfortably was in Malaysia. I was able to appreciate the house of worship without once feeling like an outsider, something I have never been able to do while living in Pakistan. As a non-Muslim tourist in an Islamic country I felt liberated to reveal my identity to everyone, and I consciously did so just to relieve that feeling again and again before I returned home. In Malaysia, however, it is not until one utters 'Assalamu alaikum' can you gauge if they are Muslim. Although over 61.3% of the populations are Muslims by law, the country has opted for a conscious uncoupling of religion from culture. With private and public lives clearly demarcated, nobody talks, dresses, breathes and broadcasts their faith in public. And it's the country's pulsating diversity of cultures that has become its asset for tourism. While living in Pakistan, it is hard to even envision the peaceful coexistence of Hindus and Muslims, in Malaysia it is a palpable reality. The country celebrates a number of major Hindu festivals each year and the festival of Thaipusam, the biggest after Deepavali, is actually a huge spectacle for which scores of Hindus fly in from around the world; this example of harmony is not evident on only a few occasions, it is intricately woven into the very fabric of society. The annual 'Colours of Malaysia' festival, popularly known as Citrawarna, is a platform where different ethnic groups in the country come together to celebrate their unique culture with dance and music. And their display of solidarity is so overwhelming it can actually put any Pakistani to shame.

Let alone a united Pakistan, can you, on your own, even imagine women participating in a dance parade dressed in a sari or shalwar kameez or a skirt in Pakistan?

But in Malaysia you can dress however you want without attracting any unwanted attention. You can go to a club and have a drink and nobody will judge or harass you because they respect the fact that everyone has a different set of beliefs and no one set of beliefs is better or truer than another. "A bubbling, bustling melting-pot of races and religions where Malays, Indians, Chinese and many other ethnic groups live together in peace and harmony," is how the country projects and promotes itself on its official tourism website. It's not the rainforest in Taman Negara, the sandy beaches in Pahang, the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur or other holiday 'surprises' with which they attract tourists, but the fact that you can explore the country freely, without having to camouflage yourself in the hues of a particular race, religion or caste. And the allure of multiculturalism is propelling the tourism market in the right direction as the country celebrates

IHC restrains govt from direct appointments in 28 PSEs

The Nation
June 21, 2014

'Visit Malaysia Year 2014' that is expected to boost their GDP by 6.8% to MYR168.9bn as reported by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC). An industry which, if Pakistan does choose to give serious thought to, can hypothetically help reduce dependency on foreign assistance to a considerable extent. For the sake of many traditionalists who might argue that beneath Malaysia's glittering 'facade' is a growing wave of disconnect from its Islamic roots and other Islamic nations, the country openly endorses itself as 'Muslim-friendly' holiday destination. An estimated 4.3 million Muslim tourists visited the country in 2013, and approximately six million more will be paying a visit this year, as pointed out Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, during a seminar in February. In fact, many non-Muslims who visit the country return home with spiritual enlightenment. At the Putra mosque, in Putrajaya, the tour guide claimed that some revisit Malaysia to convert to Islam, and this year, for the first time, a marriage ceremony will be performed at the mosque for one of the converts. Pakistan has a lot to learn from Malaysia's cultural mosaic that has not only catapulted tourism in the country but also cemented its status worldwide as a Muslim-majority nation with a progressive outlook. And while we may still be light years away from mirroring Malaysia's model for peace and tourism, I guess there is no harm in at least talking about the possibility of it for now.

ISLAMABAD - In a major blow to the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday restrained the government from making direct appointments in 28 public sector enterprises (PSEs). Such appointments in the past were made on the whims of political masters who had ignored the directives of the apex court. A single bench of IHC comprising Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui issued these directions on a petition of Barrister M Dawood Ghazanavi who had moved the court in this matter and challenged a notification of the federal government according to which about 28 public sector bodies were excluded from the purview of federal commission for selection of heads of public sector organisations (FCSHPSO). Justice Siddiqui noted in his verdict, "At the very outset learned counsel for the respondents Hafiz SA Rehman Advocate submits that he contacted the federal law division who intends to approach the Supreme Court of Pakistan for seeking appropriate order/clarification with regard to judgement passed in Khawaja Muhammad Asif case of 2013. Therefore, instant writ petition may be disposed of." The judge further wrote, "The request is reasonable, hence instant writ petition is disposed of for the time being. However, the respondents are restrained from being taken any conclusive step in pursuance of impugned notification." Talking to The Nation, M Dawood Ghazanavi who had moved the court in this matter said that he contended before the court that his fundamental rights have been infringed upon through exclusion of some 28 public sector organizations from the purview of FCSHPSO. He informed that these excluded organisations included National Insurance Company Limited, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Company, PIA, SECP, Competition Commission of Pakistan, ENAR Patrotech Services Private Limited, Pakistan Re-insurance Corporation, Pakistan Agriculture Storage & Services Corporation, National Construction Limited, Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation, Pakistan Steel Mills, National Fertilizer Corporation, State Engineering Corporation, National Fertilizer Corporation, Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan, National Fertilizer Marketing Limited, Pakistan Television Corporation, Pakistan Software Export Board, Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation, Telephone Industries of Pakistan, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, Pakistan State Oil Ltd, Lakhra Coal Development Company, OGDCL, National Refinery Limited, Pak Arab Refinery Company, Sui Northern Gas Company Limited, Thar Coal Mining Company, Sui Southern Gas Company Limited and Railway Construction Pakistan Limited, National Power Construction Private Limited, National Engineering Services of Pakistan and National Transmission and dispatch Company.

Ghazanavi informed that the notification of government dated January 13 in this regard says, "In exercise of powers conferred in terms of para 07 of the establishment division notification dated July 22, 2013 and with approval of the prime minister, on exclusion of public sector companies registered with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) under the Companies Ordinance 1984, the schedule to ED's aforementioned notification is revised." The lawyer told the court that FCSHPSO is a completely independent federal body made in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in the judgement of Khawaja Muhammad Asif case to ensure transparency in the appointments of heads of statutory bodies, autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, regulatory authorities and organisations established by or under the control of federal government. He was of the view that in recent times the appointments of blue-eyed persons in the public sector organisations have caused huge loss to the national exchequer. "For the prevention of such things to happen, FCSHPSO was established in the light of Supreme Court orders," maintained the petitioner. He argued that exclusion of these public sector bodies would affect the general public as both the institutions directly related to the economic life of the country. Therefore, the petitioner had prayed to the court to set aside the notification.

Tourist arrivals up in Nepal

Zee News
June 20, 2014

KATHMANDU: Nepal's overall tourist arrivals by air have increased by six per cent to 51,105 in May 2014 as compared to the same period last year but the number of Indian visitors decreased by seven per cent to 18,720, according to official figures released today. During the period, Nepal witnessed increase in number of tourist arrivals from other South Asian countries, namely, Bangladesh by 49 per cent, Sri Lanka by 34 per cent and Pakistan by 26 per cent, according to a data released by Nepal Tourism Board. However, arrivals from China, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea witnessed increments of 96 per cent, 108.75 per cent, 73.7 and 76 per cent respectively. European market grew by 4.68 per cent while tourist arrivals from USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have increased by 34 per cent 17 per cent, 36 per cent and 34 per cent respectively. Tourist arrivals from USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have increased by 24.50 per cent, 24.20 per cent, 35.43 per cent and 13.74 per cent respectively. However, in the month of April, the overall tourist arrival by air grew by a whopping 25.68 per cent to 68,018. In

Tourist information centres to be set up for Sikh Yatrees

The News International
June 18, 2014

April, a total of 12,871 Indian tourists visited Nepal by air.

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to set up four Tourists Information Centres (TICs) for facilitation of Sikh devotees coming to Pakistan for "Yatra" of their religious shrines spread over the province. These TICs will be set up near Wagah, Ganda Singh Wala and Sulamanki Border while another TIC will be established in Nankana Sahab, the "Janam Asthan of Guru Nanak Jee," a spiritual leader of the Sikh community. This was disclosed by the Punjab Minister for Education and Tourism, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan while presiding over a meeting to review ongoing reforms process in the tourism sector, at P&D Secretariat on Tuesday. Rana Mashhood Ahmed informed the meeting that six kanals of government land was available with the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab near the Wagah Border which would be developed into a facilitation centre for Sikh Yatrees. He said 'TDCP will establish a resort in Nankana Sahab which will be built over 15 kanals of land and will have food courts, play area and cultural centre also.' The minister directed the TDCP Managing Director Javed Akhtar Mehmood to prepare feasibility report for establishing the headquarters of Tourism Department in Johar Town, Lahore. This new building will be erected in four kanal area owned by the TDCP. The headquarters will be equipped with skilled human resource and state-of-the-art model tourism complex having marketing units with info-material, data bank, guiding maps and other online facilitation systems. Rana Mashhood directed to expand Punjab Tourism Advisory Council by adding the representatives of Trade Development Authority, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry besides inducting three representatives of Tour Operators, two representatives of Travel Agents Association of Pakistan, one representative each from Hospitality Association and Gurudawara Parbandhak Committee while eminent tourism writers should also be co-opted in the Advisory Council, the minister added. He lauded the vision of the chief minister for enhancing the budgetary allocations for tourism development sector up to the tune of 86 percent increase in total. He hinted at plying luxury bus service from Lahore to Murree which would help facilitate international tourism by showing the unique diversity of traditional culture of the Punjab. He stressed the need for holding seminars and symposia regarding religious tourism so that the culture of intolerance could be vanished and significance of promoting the culture of peaceful co-existence could be highlighted. Member Provincial Assembly Ms Tahia Noon, Vice Chairman TDCP Imran Goraya, Chairman P&D Board Irfan Elahi, Secretary Tourism, Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab, Muhammad Khan Khichi apprised the Minister about development projects of the provincial government to promote both domestic as well as international tourism in general and the religious tourism in particular. Various Sikh Yatrees accompanied by the local Sikh religious leader Sardar Sham Singh and other members of Gurudawara Parbandhak committee also attended the meeting. Raashid Bin Masud, Zulfiqar Ahmed, Sabina Ahmed, Maryam Raheem and other tour managers were also present on the occasion.

Gala celebrates Pakistani culture

The Nation
June 18, 2014

LAHORE (PR): Gala Biscuits, a leading brand of Continental Biscuits Ltd., recently launched the Gala anthem, composed by Shuja Haider and voiced by Shafqat Amanat Ali. Through this iconic song, Gala wants Pakistanis to let go of their differences and embrace the similarities to come together as one nation. Gala is the first biscuit brand to create a song for the people of Pakistan. The anthem depicts a unified Pakistan where everyone celebrates the fragrance of their homeland and rivers of Pakistan, adding their own colours to the spectacle. The anthem is sung in major regional spoken languages of Pakistan to reach out to different audiences, and explain the significance behind having such a diverse nation. The Gala anthem describes the beauty of each language and encourages Pakistani's to celebrate diversity by accepting differences and uniting against all divisions. Mustafa Hanif, Brand Manager Gala said, "Through the lyrics of the anthem, Gala, a 'Proud to be Pakistani' brand shows Pakistanis that despite different dialects, we are all one. We launched this anthem with an aim – all Pakistani's should embrace differences, different languages, different cultures, and different lives and should instead celebrate the diversity in Pakistan. The Gala anthem encourages Pakistani's of all cultures and backgrounds, to spread love, compassion and happiness rather than distancing ourselves from each other. We hope to reach out to Pakistanis from all walks of life, and we urge them to recognize and value the richness in our culture."

Chinese Tourist kidnapped near DI Khan

The Express Tribune
June 17, 2014

KARACHI: Swiss Journalist turned ethnomusicologist Thomas Burkhalter has come to Pakistan in search of experimental music and his interest is not only restricted to qawwali. Having a post doctorate in Global Niches — Music in a Transnational World, Burkhalter interacted with local musicians to understand the genesis of this part of the world's music and what they are doing with their incredibly rich heritage.

Most of the music produced in the Middle East and Africa has western influences, however, Burkhalter believes that Pakistanis are proud of their heritage and have their own genre of music. "Most of the music produced here is quite indigenous and I am not talking about Sufi music," he says, pointing at ventures like Coke Studio. "They think that to be modern is to be western. I don't think they should think like this. One should follow their own creativity, but be self-critical."

Over the past few years, Pakistan has exported many musicians and their music has revolved around Sufism. While some artistes have genuinely worked to take the Sufi kalaam forward, the others have simply capitalised on the West's thirst for the Sufi thought, which has eventually given Pakistani artistes a collective identity of Sufi musicians. "The media portrays Pakistan in a negative light; people think that it is a dangerous and extremely religious country. As a result, they take Sufi music as Pakistan's form of religious music," says Burkhalter. For him, identity matters, but that never impedes a musician's broad vision. That drive is persistent within Pakistani artistes, who he considers to be just as experimental as Europeans. "There is little investment and fewer opportunities, which is why talented people never get a bigger audience. You will see that there is

First Pakistani expedition takes off for K2

DAWN.com
June 16, 2014

PTDC offers lucrative package for Ramadan

Pakistan Observer
June 16, 2014

A cultural display

Pakistan Today
June 14, 2014

no concert culture in Pakistan, but in Europe there would be almost five to six concerts running at the same time," says Burkhalter. In a week, Burkhalter has met artistes like Ali Gul Pir, Rohail Hyatt and Usman Riaz. He watched movies with them, visited their recording sessions and went instrument shopping to Saddar. He is doing this to add more value to the features for his own online magazine, norient.com.

Referring to Ali Gul Pir's style of music, he says that protest through parody is a great strategy to engage a bigger audience. "The usage of metaphors and lyrics for protests requires a lot of courage and you only see it in the east — this is music with a message." He enjoyed watching Usman Riaz's short movies Waves and Ruckus and called them "high-quality work". He also met Waqas Abbas, the man starting a Pakistani version of iTunes. "Some people make music to sell, which ends up making it a product and not art." For him, Coke Studio was the kind that sells and is also very creative. "The world is full of sounds, why not use all different sounds around us," he says. "I am interested in art, whatever it is, the way it's created, the process of making that art and how people experiment," says Burkhalter. "After all, music is not all about the lyrics," he replies. Burkhalter feels that the music industry in Pakistan has a lot of potential to grow. There will come a time when he would visit again and see more new bands emerging and actually get some recognition. "You never know, maybe one day musicians will take over the world."

SKARDU: The first-ever expedition of Pakistani mountaineers to summit K2 peak received an overwhelming reception from the local authorities, tourist organisations and foreign mountaineers at a send-off ceremony held here the other day. The ceremony was arranged by the Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) and the Gilgit-baltistan tourism department with the support of the Ev-K2-CNR at a local hotel, said a press release issued here. GB minister Shaikh Nisar Hussain Sarbaaz was the chief guest on the occasion while the speakers included Italian mountaineering expert Murizio Gallo, deputy commissioner Raja Faisal Khaliq, CKNP director Raja Abid Ali, mountaineer Hassan Sadpara, mountaineering trainer and president Baltistan Association of Tour Operators (Bato) Mohammad Iqbal, president Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (Pato) Amjad Ayub, Pakistan K2 Expedition team Leader Mohammad Taqi, and expedition focal persons Munir Ahmed and Arif Hussain. The GB minister while speaking on the occasion said that our mountains were the best for adventure tourism and mountaineering and added that the region was very peaceful and hospitable for domestic and foreign guests. Murizio Gallo mentioned that the team was competent enough to scale the K2 peak if something harsh would not happen. "All the mountaineers are very enthusiastic and well aware of the harsh behaviour of the mountains," Mr Gallo said and added they had the requisite skills and techniques to handle any untoward situation. Two Italian mountaineering ambassadors Michele Cucchi and Simone Origone, world champion in speed skiing, would be available to the Pakistani expedition for technical support and assistance in the hour of need. Director CKNP Raja Abid Ali said we had several opportunities of tourism in park that were being developed with the support of Italian government. This expedition would mainstream CKNP and Pakistan at national and international level. Bato President Mohammad Iqbal was very happy to see the porters becoming the mountaineers. "I trained them as porters and to climb initially, now the Italian mountaineering experts have equipped them with skills and techniques to climb the harshest mountain — the K2. I believe in their skills and with the mercy of God they would be successful." President Pato Amjad Ayub urged the government to take steps to promote and mainstream internationally the mountaineering and adventure tourism.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Cooperation (PTDC) has announced a lucrative package for tourists offering 50 per cent discount for staying in its motels and hotels during the holy month of Ramadan. PTDC's General Manager Motels Sheikh Fayyaz Ahmed told APP Sunday that the offer was valid for its facilities in Ayubia, Naran, Saidu Sharif, Miandam, Chitral, Bamburet (Kalash Valley), Mastuj, Phandar, Gupis, Gilgit, Hunza, Sost (Pak-China border), Rama Lake, Skardu, Khaplu and Besham resorts. "Tourist traffic to Murree, Galiyat, Ayubia, Kaghan and Swat Valley was considerably increased in 2011 and 2012, now destinations like Gilgit, Hunza, Fairy Meadows, Rama Lake, Chitral, Kalash and Shandur valleys are also being frequented," he added. He said, "The corporation has started a bus service for Naran to facilitate the people, who want to enjoy summer vacation there." The daily air-conditioned bus service for Naran was available at Rawalpindi, he added. "Miandam, Bahrain and Kalam are also the favourite destinations for tourists visiting Swat Valley," Fayyaz added. Hill areas of Murree, Bhurban, Patriata, Ayubia and Nathiagali provided delightful summer treat to the visitors, he added. The PTDC General Manager said Pakistan was already providing visa-on-arrival facility to the tourist groups from 24 countries. "The PTDC is providing tourism services for foreign and local tourists through its information centres, publicity and promotion department, hotels, motels and tours and transport subsidiaries," he added.—APP

Lahore is the cultural heart of Pakistan as it gathers most of the arts, cuisine, festivals, film-making, music, gardening and intelligentsia of the country. This spring the city is decorated by beautiful lights and colours. The Lahore Branch Canal was constructed by the Mughals and upgraded during the British Raj. This canal is surrounded by the roads from both sides and each side is called Canal Bank Road. Canal Bank Road passes through a variety of localities including farmland (from Khaira to Mughalpura) and some of Lahore's older and most expensive residential areas including Garden Town, Gulberg, Shah Jamal and Zaman Park. Punjab University's Quaid-i-Azam Campus is also located alongside Canal Bank Road; the hostels and faculty departments afford scenic views of the canal. Canal holds importance in the culture of Lahore. Relevant to the festivals, on the local and national events such as Eid, Basant, Pakistan Day, Jashan-e-Bahar, Independence Day etc, the canal is decorated with different lights and other objects. On these occasions the canal presents a view worth watching that delights the hearts of the viewers. This

PTDC ensures comprehensive security plan for domestic and foreign tourists

Business Recorder
June 13, 2014

Religious tourism, a new economic agenda of PC

Business Recorder
June 13, 2014

Reviving train culture

Khaleej Times
June 12, 2014

year the canal in Lahore was beautifully decorated with different art pieces and historical monument to welcome Spring in the city. Masjid Wazir Khan, Bab-e-Azaadi, Quaid tomb and many other models of important buildings were on display. Models depicting a man and monkey, various animals, peacock, and women using charkha and others were in display. The poor people come to canal for their refreshment along with their families. Children especially are found to enjoy this colorful exhibition of history and culture. The canal is an essential part of Lahore's historical and cultural identity. The government should encourage such cultural activities not only to enjoy but also to promote the culture. These types of activities encourage people to like their culture.

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director (MD) Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Chaudhry Kabir Ahmad Khan said Friday that a comprehensive security plan has been made to promote the sense of protection among the domestic and foreign tourists. In an exclusive interview to APP, the Managing Director (MD) PMDC said that on the directions of the Prime Minister, PTDC has decided to initiate certain steps to facilitate tourists and enhance the revenue generation of the Corporation by taking initiatives of security provision. "The step will help make the PTDC a self-sustaining organisation" he added. Ch Kabir Ahmad Khan said that despite the unfortunate attack at Nanga Parbat base camp, more than 25 per cent increase in tourism was witnessed. He also stated that PTDC has re-launched its summer tour packages and announced special rates for hotels, motels and resorts situated in the most tourist-attractive places in the country. He added that PTDC has also started bus services, escorted with armed guards, to Naran. "Despite the negative media projection by the international media, PTDC achieved its targets to promote domestic tourism from March to June", Kabir added. He said that PTDC has increased security at all resorts including Murree, Galiyat, Ayubia, Kaghan, Swat Chitral, Kalash, Shandur. "Elaborate measures were being taken to provide security to the foreign tourists visiting different parts of the country" he added. Kabir Ahmed Khan further informed that current government was making earnest efforts to promote tourism sector and to reinstate the soft image of the country across the globe. Provincial governments and concerned district management was in a close contact with PTDC to ensure the security of the tourists, he said. The MD said in first step PTDC will introduce in near future Tourism Friends Club Card for Overseas Pakistani Tourists. Through this card, PTDC would provide incentives like discount on room rent of PTDC motels and hotels, tour packages and transport services to tourists, he said. About Tourism Friends Club Card, he said, its purpose is to promote tourism activities and provide better facilities to the public as well as national and international tourists, he informed. Kabir further said the purpose of the club is to promote tourism activities and provide better tourist facilities at affordable rates to its members, to upkeep and maintain better standard in motels and hotels of PTDC throughout the country. "A bonafide national or international citizen who could prove his or her identity would be entitled to apply for membership, subject to the conditions determined by the PTDC from time to time" he added. The PTDC MD would be empowered to nominate five card-holders as members of the advisory committee in view of their efforts in connection with promoting tourism, he said. "Other members of the committee will include managing director, deputy managing director, finance director, GM hotels, GM motels, GM PTL and controller finance & accounts (motels)" he added. Ch Kabir Ahmad Khan also announced a special Ramazan package according to which 50% discount would be given to tourists in Northern Areas, while 30% concession would be provided at Naran and Ayubia. The PTDC land at Gaddani Beach in Balochistan would be utilised for launching projects including Beach Resort, outdoor and indoor games, water-sports for couples, which would help Corporation to generate huge income, the MD added. To a query, the PTDC MD regretted that the previous administrator had illegally recruited 706 persons in PTDC against all rules and regulations which caused huge loss to the PTDC. To another question, Ch. Kabir clearly stated that PTDC has not been affected by the 18th Amendment. Only tourism ministries were handed over to the provinces, he added.

ISLAMABAD: The Planning Commission (PC) of Pakistan has decided to take up the issue of religious tourism, preserving archaeological sites and helping economy by improving tourism. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is set to chair the roundtable conference on 'Developing Pakistan's Tourism: Religious, Cultural and Ancient Civilizations' on June 18. The conference is organized by Young Development Fellows to highlight the importance of tourism in Pakistan's economy and facilitating religious pilgrims coming to Pakistan. The Conference will be attended by provincial ministers/ secretaries of tourism, several ambassadors and diplomats of relevant countries, development sector organizations, international NGOs, students and private citizens. Young Development Fellows (YDFs) of Planning Commission are organizing these roundtable conferences to highlight the issues concerning development of Pakistan but are neglected somehow. Previously, YDFs have organized two similar conferences on the issue of interfaith harmony and strengthening small and medium enterprise sector. Recommendations presented in the conference are compiled in the form of a report which is distributed in the public sphere as well as used in the public policy formulation.

Pakistan Railways has named a passenger train in Punjab after the revolutionary poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz. Mr Right thinks the gesture might revolutionise the railways that is facing huge losses due to bad management, shortage of engines and reluctance of passengers to travel by trains. "The new government is keen to help the railways regain old glory through a series of corrective measures, including launching of new trains," he opined. "A train named after the legendary poet will attract the people who love his poetry." "During the journey, the railways should also make arrangements for showing the best videos of Mehdi Hasan and Madam Noor Jahan reciting the verses of Faiz. This will definitely increase the appeal of Faiz train." "But the power of poetry is not enough to pull a train, "I interrupted. "We need strong locomotives too." "I agree, but the trains named after poets and men of letters add a touch of cultural affinity to your journey," Mr Right commented. "In my

Over 25 firms to sponsor Pakistan's food mango festival

MENAFN.COM
June 12, 2014

Central Asia Online Terrorism obliterates Peshawar's artisan trades

Central Asia Online
June 12, 2014

view, the trains named after our literary greats such as Allama Iqbal and Faiz pose a great challenge to railway authorities to show professional perfection. There is no room for failing locomotives on these trains," I said. "Well," Mr Right smiled, "If you want to ensure a hurdle-free and breezy journey, why not name a train after a sports person, a sprinter." "Actually, I am against naming trains after famous persons," I said. "Our country has produced only famous people after the Independence, all other necessary things, including oil for locomotives, are imported from abroad. We have plenty of renowned poets, famous sportsmen and great leaders. And we never hesitate to name our roads, bridges and towers after them. But now when the railways are in a loss, we can not afford to launch too many trains to honour them." "You have a point, but I am happy that despite its shortcomings, the new railway administration is taking steps to make train culture popular in the country once again," Mr Right said. "The have plans to revive old services, launch new freight trains and make train journey as comfortable and attractive as possible." "Then they must devise imaginative new schemes to make the railways a profitable entity." "What do you mean?" Mr Right asked. "The railways cannot start a helicopter service; it has to remain on the ground to serve the people." "But they can launch trains with a purpose. For example, a 'power train' will be a timely thing," I suggested. "They can set up mobile power plants in railway bogies and take the train to various cities and towns needing additional supply of electricity." "This is a unique idea, no doubt," Mr Right said. "But this might spark a battle between the ministry of railways and the ministry of power and natural resources for the possession of the 'power train'." "The railways can launch other new trains such as a 'Medical Express' to treat patients in far flung areas, a 'Folk Culture Train' to take messages of peace and harmony from one province to the other, and a 'School Mail' to spread education in areas where facilities for higher learning are not available," I said. "The idea is good, but I don't think these special trains will attract many passengers," Mr Right argued. "Our people love to join protest meetings and dharnas (sit-ins); they rarely like steps that help things move." "I know, we are blessed with many leaders who take pride in staging big rallies and blocking roads," I said. "Currently, one of the leaders has threatened to launch a 'train march' or a mobile protest." "He is not the pioneer of 'train march'," Mr Right said. "Many others in the past also have resorted to this type of 'protest tourism'." "The authorities should not oppose it," I said. "Instead, they should introduce special 'protest trains' every month to earn additional income for the railways." "Oh, yes," Mr Right grinned. "Fare for the 'protest train' must be kept high and passengers should be offered excellent lunch and dinner facilities and uninterrupted TV coverage during the journey. And those, who are found indulging in any kind of mischief, should be granted A-class when they finally land in jail."

The embassy of pakistan will host a three-day food and mango festival in riyadh which will be inaugurated on wednesday by muhammad naeem khan ambassador of pakistan. "The commercial section of the embassy is organizing the 3rd food and mango festival this time at intercontinental hotel known for its grandeur from jun 11 to 13" said waseem hayat bajwa commercial attache at the embassy. "No doubt it is another feather in the cap of our respectable ambassador muhammad naeem khan who pioneered this festival in 2012 for the first time in riyadh and always provided his active support in its organization to the commercial section" bajwa added. "The ambassador's proactive approach and our motivation to do something for our country have made this festival a success every time. a lot of credit goes to the pakistani community and business class who always participated in this event zealously and owned it by their heart" he stated. He stated that it is a self-sponsored event primarily by the pakistani food companies from the rice meat spices and cuisine sectors. He added that the festival not only promotes pakistan's rich traditional cuisine but also provides effective platform for the pakistani and local companies to advertise their products in the sector. Viewing the success of the last two festivals this year more than 25 companies from various sectors mainly food have joined hands with the commercial section to make this event a "huge" success he said adding that some of the major companies in the diamond and silver categories include mehran rice and spices saleh & abdulaziz abahsain queensway alkhobaib mitchels qarshi & jame shirin group and global mentor technologies. Even mobility and enjaz bank have come forward to sponsor the major activity on the first day of this festival bajwa said.

PESHAWAR – More than a decade of unrelenting terrorism has wrought serious damage to the artistic tradition of Peshawar, a city that in the times of Gandhara (1500 BCE to 1000 CE) was known as the "City of Artisans." For centuries, artisans from many countries and kingdoms would visit Peshawar to present their artefacts at exhibitions. The city's name comes from the word "Pehsa-war," meaning "City of Artisans" in Urdu, some historians say. Various bazaars in the city bear the names of various trades, like Misgran (copper engravers) and Sarafa (goldsmiths). The main bazaar, Qissa Khwani, became known as the "story-tellers' bazaar" because traders would gather to exchange stories of their homelands over tea.

Terrorism attacks city's legacy

However, the wave of terrorism that hit Pakistan starting in 2003 has badly eroded the city's traditional strength in those artisanal trades. In olden times, "the journey of almost every foreigner was incomplete without a visit to the traditional bazaars of Peshawar," Zahoor Durrani, a tour operator with several decades' experience. Now, though, almost no foreign tourists come to Peshawar or to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), he said. Gone are the days when someone passing through the Misgran bazaar would hear the rhythmic hammer blows of copper engravers decorating copper or brass utensils. In Misgran, "most of the craftsmen have switched over to other businesses because of falling sales," Siddiq, a shopkeeper in the bazaar, said. With a lack of visitors, the artisans have had to find other livelihoods, he said. Lahori Gate, a hub of wood engravers, has fallen on similarly hard times. Where it once had a dozen stalls selling woodwork, only two remain. Pottery also has suffered near-extinction in Peshawar. "The biggest blow by

Development of Pak to be at par with country: Pakistan PM

Authint Mail
June 11, 2014

Moving across borders with art and culture

Authint Mail
June 11, 2014

Promoting tourism or profits: Massive resort on Margallas on the cards, but to who's benefit?

The Express Tribune
June 9, 2014

terrorism on the traditional arts of Peshawar was the shutdown of the Peshawar Pottery shop," Dr. Adil Zareef, a social worker and head of the Sarhad Conservation Network (SCN), an NGO supporting the conservation of KP's heritage, said. Peshawar Pottery's earthen glazed pots used to be presented as gifts for foreign dignitaries. The 150-year-old business, though, closed in 2011 because terrorism drove away customers.

Authorities recognise the problem

Authorities recognise what Peshawar has lost and want to restore it. "The KP government realises the damage inflicted by militancy and bombings on traditional arts of the region," Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, managing director of the KP Tourism Corporation (KPTC), said. The KPTC has drawn up a plan to revive the dying artisanal trades by letting craftsmen set up stalls at the historic Gor Khatri site. Gor Khatri is perhaps the oldest citadel in the ancient city of Peshawar and Buddha's begging bowl was displayed there in the days when Buddhism flourished in the area. Products created at Gor Khatri will go on exhibition nationwide, while the KPTC will arrange for tourist visits to the site, he added. The KPTC is active on other fronts. It arranges events like the "Huner Mela" art exhibit at Nishtar Hall in Peshawar to allow craftspeople from across KP to promote their products, he said. In 2011-2012, the KP government began offering interest-free loans to local artisans under the Riwaiti Hunarmand Rozgar Scheme, with seed money of Rs. 150m (US \$1.5m), he added.

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif has said that development in Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK) would be at par with rest of the country. Nawaz Sharif said, "Kashmiris are dear to Pakistanis' hearts and souls". Sharif asked PaK President, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan to identify areas for tourism, which would be developed for tourism to boost the economy of the region. "Things are gradually shaping up for good and I would soon pay a detailed visit to Kashmir in order to personally ascertain the development needs of Kashmir," Pak Tribune quoted Sharif. President PaK told Sharif about the need of power generations in the region to overcome load shedding crisis. "Kashmir needs only 400MWs of electricity, while various hydro-powered projects generated more than 2000MWs, hence the load shedding crisis should be solved Kashmir and rest of the energy can be utilised for developing small businesses and industry.

Around 25 Pakistani students are in the city for an int'l convention of SPIC MACAY. Nothing, not even sports, has been able to escape the trappings of jingoistic one upmanship that discussions on India and Pakistan invariably invite. However, the international wing of SPIC MACAY the Society for the Promotion of World Heritage Amongst Youth (SPW HAY) has taken it upon itself to challenge this dominant rhetoric by facilitating an exchange of art, culture and music between the two countries. This time round, IIT Madras is playing host to a delegation of around 25 Pakistani students participating in the 2nd international convention of SPIC MACAY marking the tenth year of this fruitful initiative. Nineteen year old Saniya Imran, pursuing fashion design at the Beaconhouse National University (BNU) in Lahore, gushes, "I love Indian art. Kalamkari style of block printing using organic colours and learning puliattam, the traditional Tamil folk dance, are things I'm extremely excited about learning through the conference." Another student of the same college, Eemaan Kaleen, confesses to being thrilled about learning the Kerala martial art form, kalaripayattu. The person responsible for starting the project, Harsh Narayan, national coordinator and coordinator of the Pakistan initiative, says, "It was as far back in 1997 when I was a volunteer with SPIC MACAY in Bihar when I had the idea of connecting students from India and Pakistan on a cultural platform.

After all we share a common past so why should there be any animosity?"

Finally, in September 2004, his dogged efforts saw the light of day. A cultural delegation from India made its first trip to Lahore to partake in a carnival of the arts held across the city. Ten years on, the initiative has become a roaring success, growing from strength to strength. As much as the platform is about art, it also stands testimony to the bringing together of people. Twenty three year old Azeem Hamid of BMU theatre and fine arts says this is his second trip to India under the auspices of SPW HAY. On his experience on coming to India he says, "This feels like home, I feel like I just blend in here. People even tell me I look like I'm from Delhi and not from a different country!"

On another note, the forum has even lent itself to busting pre conceived notions. For instance, the 26 year old visual arts teacher at BNU, Inaam Zasar, confesses to being repeatedly asked, "How come the women are not wearing burkhas? How come you wear T shirts like us and not salwar kameez?"

Saniya effusively admits that she will keep in touch with all the friends she has made here. "One of them has even added me on Facebook," she adds.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has plans to open up a 20,000 acre section of the Margalla Hills National Park area for tourism — a move that has met opposition from environmentalists at its inception, it has been reliably learnt. Almost two-week ago, some PTI leaders shared details of a "nature-based tourism plan" in the national park with a select-group of environmentalists from Islamabad, sources informed The Express Tribune. PTI Central Information Secretary Dr Shireen Mazari confirmed the development, saying, "The idea is at its preliminary stages with a number of things yet to be finalised". Under the proposal floated by a five-member team of the PTI, to attract visitors from across the world, around 20,000 acres of land — starting some five to six kilometres from the Monal restaurant at Pir Sohawa and within K-P's territorial borders — would be developed "without cutting a single tree" under a project called "Margalla Resorts". Out of the 20,000 acres, some 8,000 are forest area while 12,000-acre is Guzara forest area — sizeable patches of wooded lands. "17,000 acre of land will not be

touched at all cost, while nature-based tourism facilities will be developed on 3,000 acres," said a PTI leader who attended the meeting, while asking not to be named. The broader theme, Margalla Resorts, will be accommodating two development models. The first involves construction of a road modeled on Mall Road in Murree, with small and medium tourism facilities on both sides. The second involves construction of buildings similar to Highland Country Club on Pir Sohawa Road. The club houses a resort, recreation centre and restaurant.

Environmentalists' opposition

An environmentalist who was part of a team that was given the briefing alleged the plan was the brainchild of some individuals in the PTI who are now playing it up as a K-P government plan. He claimed that after looking into the proposal for over two weeks, he had found that two senior PTI leaders had economic interests in the plan. "I am sure PTI Chairman Khan and the K-P government are not on board," he claimed. He claimed that during the meeting, when a PTI leader unveiled the proposal to follow the country club model, a senior PTI leader actually began shouting in opposition to it. "The club was established after cutting hundreds of trees and has massive concrete structures," he said, adding that dynamite was used on portions of the hills to prepare the terrain for construction.

According to the plans, the road leading to the proposed site would be widened, while some concrete tracks would also be carved out to make the area automobile-accessible. "Business interests of PTI leaders are involved in the project," he said, adding, "The national park was set up to protect the nature, not to serve private parties." He expressed hope that PTI chief that Khan would intervene and ensure that the final plan was feasible and eco-friendly. Talking to The Express Tribune, prominent environmentalist Dr Jawad Chistie also confirmed that he was also briefed over the plan. He said the citizens concerned were assured during the meeting that no loss would be incurred to nature while carrying out this project. "Pakistan is signatory of several international conventions. We will look the whole process in future in the backdrop of laws and regulations governing the area," Chistie said. He said national park's sanctity would be upheld at any cost and any plan involving damage to environment would be opposed at every possible forum.

PTI defends plan

Dr Mazari defended the plan while talking to The Express Tribune, categorically stating "Not a single tree will be felled" while executing the project. She said the execution process would be controlled with "stringent oversight". Mazari said the K-P government's efforts to enhance forest cover in K-P by carrying out massive plantation drives had not only been acknowledged at national level but appreciated internationally. "I can assure it will be a nature-based tourism plan, nothing else," Dr Mazari said. She said PTI was the sole political party in the country that had specific vision for the country's deteriorating environmental conditions and that the party proved it through a number of environment related initiatives in K-P. Mazari said a board to discuss the initial plan had also been formed and it will have representation from different environmental groups, citizens and internationally-renowned architects. She reiterated that the project would be executed only if found in line with rules and regulations.

Cinema is a great source of promoting culture, values and norms of a society, and also portrays the actual kind of people of a specific region and their behaviour and mindset. Bollywood is considered as one of the largest showbiz industry of world. As Indian movies are very much popular and widely watched in Pakistan, they greatly influence our society and culture. One of the main reasons is because of the downfall of Pakistani cinema, which is stooping day after day. Nonetheless, the Indian cinema is promoting its culture through movies, dramas and films, which are full of false beliefs. The most ironic thing about this very industry include the multi-billion rupees talks, unreal happenings, over-estimated fantasies and dazzling colours which catch the attention of our people and frustrate them eventually. It is getting very common among Pakistani youth to imitate their favourite actors from Indian movies/dramas, which puts the originality at risk. It is said that to rule a nation, minds be captured through propaganda. This is what Indian cinema is doing - spoiling our nation's thoughts and beliefs. It is, undoubtedly, the fault of our own people from showbiz industry who are not producing good stuff. Movies and dramas sans ideology and firm beliefs are being produced daily, though. Our youth want to know more about the issue. They want to watch well-scripted movies, but unfortunately this is not happening. Masses are left with only a few choices like 'Gujar Movies' containing substandard production and wicked dialogues.

Surprisingly, Pakistani cinema is working to regain its forbidden status. Our showbiz industry still has some great thinkers, who are working hard for reshaping the industry. But it is the need of the hour that the standards should be elevated, seeking more attention from investors and script-writers, so that our people and society turn to watch their own cinema. Movies should be magnifying our society, culture and beliefs, carrying positive messages for youth. Social issues must also be highlighted with their solutions. In addition, a check on Indian movies is essential to filter out the immorality, abusiveness and hatred against Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD: To revitalise cultural heritage, a diverse ensemble of folk musicians, storytellers and dancers from across the country enlivened an evening with a profusion of energy, movement and colour. The folk music and dance extravaganza titled "Lok Rang" was held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Friday.

Sadia Batool of Potohar region, who emulates the late folk singer Reshma, rendered three of her timeless melodies: "Hai oh rabba nai lagda dil mera," "Akhiyan nu rehn de" and "Kadi te hans bol ve." Perhaps the only time Batool smiled was while quietly cuing the instrument players to transition from one beat to the next. She was accompanied by Zahid Ali on keyboard, Amanat

The Nation Indian cinema versus Pak culture

The Nation
June 9, 2014

The Express Tribune Lok Rang: Reviving cultural heritage

The Express Tribune
June 8, 2014

Pakistan, Nepal supportive to each on world fora

Pakistan Observer
June 8, 2014

SL giant to help boost motorsport in Pakistan

The News International
June 8, 2014

Masih on tabla, Sajjad Ali on harmonium and Shahid Ali on R-8 drum. The momentum of the slow-moving evening picked up with the enthusiastic performances of the National Performing Arts Group of the PNCA. They performed the fishermen dance of Makran from Balochistan, the bhangra that is symbolic of the vigour of Punjab, the snake charmer dance and "Dawn to Dusk," a dance depicting a day in the life of the hard-working farmer and expressing joy at a good harvest. Shahid Mansoor Malangi, son of the famous Mansoor Malangi, performed his father's "Ek phul motiye da mar ke" to an appreciative audience, followed by the mellow numbers "Aaj kala jora pa" and "Keri ghalti huee." Wahid Buksh, popularly known as Alan Faqir Junior, performed mystic poetry of the poets Sachal Sarmast, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai and Bulleh Shah such as "Wah wah jiye Shah Bhittai," "Kyun chora hai saath" and "Tere ishq mein jo bhi doob gaya." Spinning like a dervish and engaging the audience with his enthusiasm, he rolled all over the stage in euphoric motion. Buksh has been participating in cultural musical programmes at home and abroad for about 15 years now. Renowned storyteller and musician Fazal Jutt energised the audience with his lively performance of "Oye dhol wajda," "Challah" a story from the famous folklore Sohni Mahewal. His powerful oratory, sporadic comic timing and the ability to break into dance amid narration were entertaining regardless of whether one could comprehend the linguistic content. His trailblazing performance inspired young boys performing bhangra near the stage. PNCA Director General Mashood Ahmed Mirza said while addressing the audience, "We have tried to promote a soft image of the country through cultural activities and enlighten our youth on the role of art and culture in the present day."

ISLAMABAD—It was one of the hottest days on Friday in Islamabad when mercury shot up to unbearable degree, but it tapered off to pleasant evening with a colourful gala held by Embassy of Nepal to celebrate its Republic and National Day.

Bharat Raj Paudyal, Ambassador of Nepal was in the central stage to put up this grand show to share happiest moments of his country with citizens of his host country. The envoy from this Himalayan state, Bharat Raj Paudyal is a seasoned diplomat, generally a quite man with a lot of wisdom and insight who is making efforts to augment trade between Pakistan and Nepal which is not satisfactorily at present. It was his day as on his invitation politicians, parliamentarians, members of Diplomatic Corps, businessmen, Nepalese nationals in Pakistan, former diplomats, and retired senior civil servants and friends of Nepal converged to make perfect setting in a local hotel for jubilation. ANP leader Haji Adeel, Former Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub, ex-diplomat Akram Zaki and former Minister Wazir Ali Jogezi were among the prominent figures who attended the jubiliations. The ceremony kicked off with the arrival of Abdul Qadir Baloch, Minister for SAFRON who represented Government of Pakistan at the reception.

After playing of national anthems and cake cutting tradition on the occasion, the participants of the show settled in groups to discuss anything on the world including Pak-Nepal relations. The moving spirit of the show was the ambassador and of course his spouse, who greeted all his guests with a smile and enthusiasm. All his companions in the embassy were also present to make this show a great success. Two screens in the hall installed in the corners were displaying documentaries on Nepal with beautiful back ground music. Nepal with Mount Everest, the highest Peak and magical sites is one of the most attractive destinations of tourists and climbers. To create awareness on tourism industry of Nepal, a stall with booklets was also arranged on the occasion. The guests were treated with tasteful traditional dishes on the occasion.

Pakistan and Nepal enjoy very close relationship. People-to-people contacts are very strong and supportive. On international fora and SAARC platform, both the countries also extend cooperation to each other. Though trade volume is not in consonance with their cordial relations and close proximity, efforts are on to strengthen connectivity. Easy access to each other's country can make the difference. Besides bilateral relations, SAARC is the forum which is needed to be activated to accelerate pace of trade and economic relations as great potential exists in both countries to achieve that end. Nepal's Tourism industry is well developed and can be made a great attraction for Pakistani tourists and climbers. Paper products, tea, Lentils, spices, ginger, Pashmina and handicrafts are exportable items from Nepal while Pakistan is strong in exporting garments, electronic and engineering goods, rice, chemicals and sports and surgical goods.

KARACHI: In a major development towards the revival of international sports in Pakistan, five years after the Sri Lankan cricket team was targeted in a terrorist attack in Lahore, a Sri Lankan based motorsport giant has decided to join hands with a local IT company in a bid to boost motorsport in Pakistan. Well-placed sources working for the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Tourism told 'The News' on Saturday that Sri Lankan based motor racing giant EZY Racing and Pakistan's leading IT and telecommunications enabler, Interactive Group are on the verge of entering into an agreement aimed at launching the well renowned brand in Pakistan. "It is now confirmed that Sri Lanka based Asia Pacific Rally Championship running team, EZY Racing, has decided to launch its motor sports activity in Pakistan", stated an official of the ministry on the condition of anonymity. The partnership between EZY racing and Interactive IT Group will lay a multi-year outline where Interactive Group will encompass in a journey with EZY Racing into multiple countries where the motor racing company will engage in developing motor sporting awareness and further strengthening their brand. "In addition to the International involvements of Interactive with EZY Racing, the Pakistani giant will introduce the Sri Lankan based team's motor sport, enthusiasm driving events focusing on Kart Racing, Drag Racing, Gymkhana Challenges and a City Wise Rally Challenge, which are trademarked brands under the EZY Motor Racing Corporation Umbrella" states an official correspondence between the two groups. It has been learnt that in a bid to showcase the partnership between the two groups, during the current week, EZY Racing Sri Lanka and Interactive Group will announce public support for a locally made sports car by the students of National University for Science and Technology (NUST). This car is

PTDC improvement assured

*Pakistan Observer
June 7, 2014*

PTDC after 18th Amendment: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government voices concern over delay in transferring assets

*Business Recorder
June 5, 2014*

PTDC sets up Tourism Friends Club

*The News International
June 4, 2014*

PTDC starts bus service to Naran

*The News International
June 2, 2014*

also expected to compete at the International Circuit known as the 'Formula Student'.

ISLAMABAD—Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Ch Kabir Ahmad Khan here pledged to improve the tourism across the country. In an event organized by PTDC hotel in the honour of biker-tourist Mohammad Iqbal Ghangla, the MD informed about certain steps and initiatives to facilitate tourists and enhance the revenue generation of the corporation to make it self-sustaining organization. To attract tourists from all over the world and to present a soft image of Pakistan, Muhammad Iqbal Ghangla has started this tour titled Peaceful Pakistan from Multan on May 20.

During his tour of Pakistan, he covered over 6500-Km and travelled to Sindh, Balochistan, coastal areas, Thar desert, and southern Punjab. The main purpose of his tour was to convey a message to the local as well as foreign tourists that anyone could move freely as Pakistan was a peace-loving country. Iqbal Ghangla said that there are many beautiful tourist spots in Pakistan, which need to be visited and admired. It will be a source giving oxygen to Pakistan's dying tourist industry. Iqbal said that during his tour, he continued uploading his pictures on many social networks so other people could also see the hidden beauty of Pakistan. These pictures could also be presented to foreign tourists so that they could be attracted to Pakistan. On the occasion, The MD PTDC informed journalists about his first step for repairing all organizations vehicles on emergency basis to provide the better and quality traveling experience for tourists. He told, "We have ensured local as tourist guides at tourists places. In addition to this the handicrafts of the locals will be exhibited free of charge in the season at PTDC hotels and resorts". He further informed the organization's initiatives for introducing Tourism Friends Club Card for tourists. Through this card, PTDC would provide incentives like discount on room rent of PTDC motels and hotels, tour packages and transport services to tourists.—APP

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has expressed concern over delay in transferring assets of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), in light of 18th constitutional amendments. "The PTDC had been devolved following the passage of the 18th constitutional amendments to control it full control by the provinces, but the Centre has failed to hand over the whole assets of the corporation, except employees, despite the lapse of several years, said Amjad Afridi, Advisor to Chief Minister on Sports, Culture and Tourism, while speaking at 'Meet the press' program, organized by Sports Writers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (SWA-KPK) here on Tuesday. The Advisor vowed the provincial government will get PTDC's control by hook or crook in next two-week. He informed the provincial government would purchase the ancestral home of legendary movie star Dilip Kumar (Mohammad Yousuf Khan) and preserve it as a national heritage site, situated in at Dunga Gali in interior city of Peshawar, where the Bollywood icon Dilip Kumar stayed till the age of 12 before moving to Mumbai with his family. Flanked by the SWAKP's President Nader Khawaja, general secretary Asim Shiraz and President KhUJ Nisar Mehmood, he informed that work is on to establish full pledge stadiums at each district level, for which, Rs 400million have already been released. Commenting on KP budget 2014-15, the PTI government allocated Rs 1324million for the year 2014-15 for sports and tourism, which is too much to the last year allocation Rs 871million for the same, he said, adding 'we want to bring revolution in sports'. A huge share of the allocation would be spent on renovation and rehabilitation of existing grounds, stadiums and other infrastructure in the province.

Approved by the previous ANP-led provincial government, Asfandiyar City project would now be called Peshawar Model Town at Ormar Maira locality near Peshawar Motorway interchange would have all sort of standard level facilities, besides an international level sports city or complex would also be built at this new city, Amjad Afridi, who has also served as a provincial housing minister in the ANP's last government said. When asked about ongoing tussle over the president-ship of KPK Olympic Association, he said that his first priority was to get the matter resolved amicably by having meetings with Haji Ghulam Ali and Aqil Shah, who were claiming of being president of the association. The government would accept the one who is legal, he explained. It is true that senior officials of housing department have been arrested by NAB in corruption cases adding those who are involved in corruption would also be apprehended, he concluded.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has set up Tourism Friends Club, and invited applications for membership to promote tourism in the country, and allure domestic and foreign tourists. Talking to APP, an official said that 20 per cent discount would be given to the members on the facilities being provided at all hotels, motels, and tourist resorts operating across the country. He said that the interested persons could get themselves registered with the club by paying Rs500, while the annual fee would be Rs1,500 for each member.

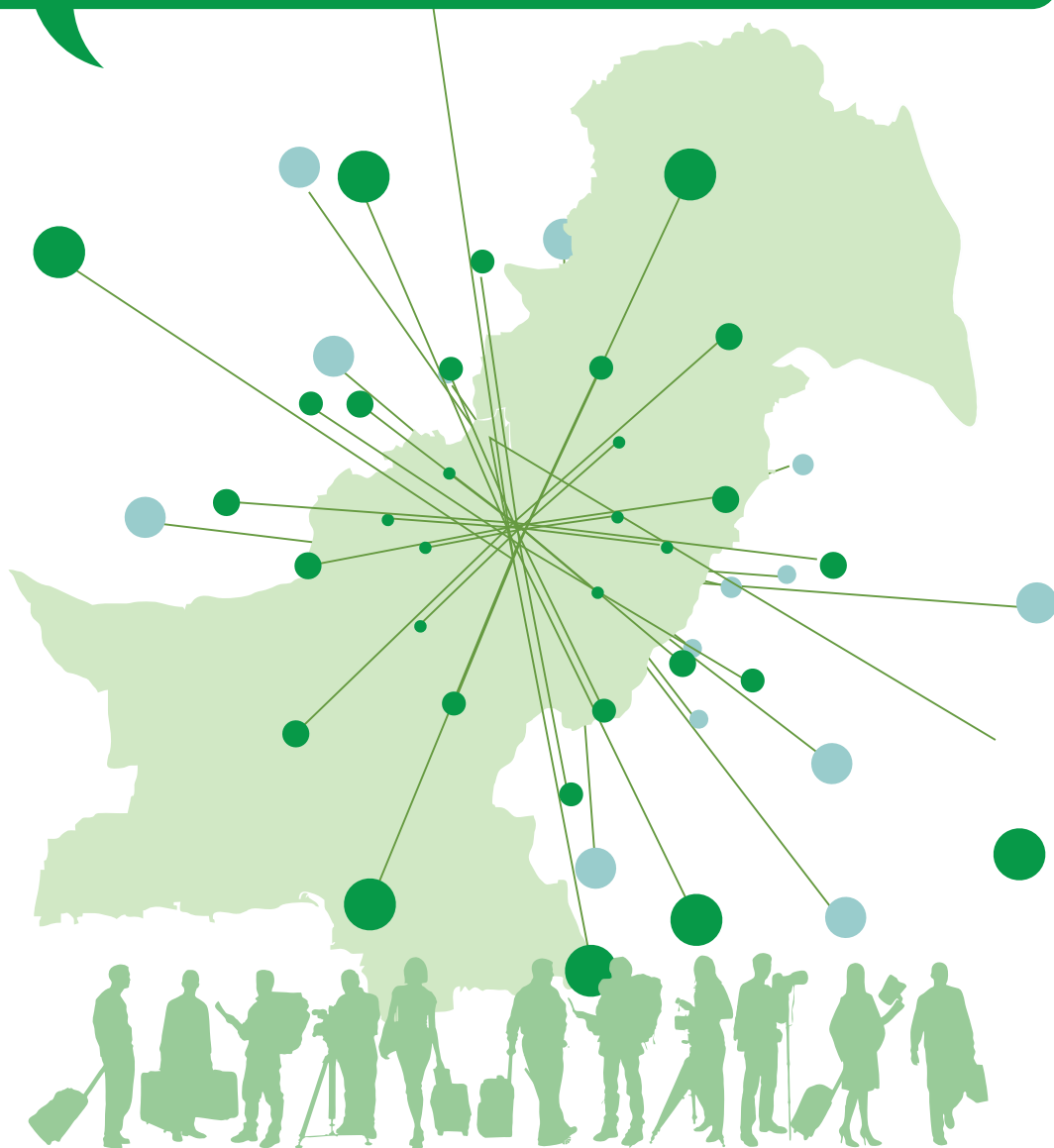
RAWALPINDI: With a view to promote tourism in the country, the PTDC Sunday started a daily bus service between Rawalpindi and Naran which was inaugurated by its Managing Director Chaudhry Kabir Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the PTDC is not only offering special discount tour packages to Pakistani families, students and tourist groups but also to foreign tourists. He said that a special counter has been established by the Pakistan Tours Limited to facilitate tourists. The PTDC managing director said that the road to Naran is open and people of Kaghan are ready to welcome tourists. The tourist flow in the area will help not only in increasing revenue but also in rehabilitating earthquake and flood affected areas. New job opportunities will be available. He said that as per instructions of the prime minister, steps are being taken to promote and develop tourism in the country and "we hope that after completion of these steps, we will be able to boost tourism in the country." He said that this is the only bus service between Rawalpindi and Naran

tourism in the country and “we hope that after completion of these steps, we will be able to boost tourism in the country.” He said that this is the only bus service between Rawalpindi and Naran and tourism is the only industry, which earns more foreign exchange than any other industry as well as increase foreign investment in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, PTDC General Manager Production and Publicity Ali Akbar briefed that the PTDC started a bus service between Rawalpindi and Naran in 1997, which has successfully been continued till date. Ali Akbar said in order to develop tourism infrastructure in the country, the PTDC has established 39 motels in far-flung areas of Pakistan, where private sector was shy to invest. The PTDC is operating 18 tourist information centres all over Pakistan by providing information, travel guides, brochures, maps and pamphlets to the tourists, which help them in planning their holidays.

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Mighty Mango Festival at Kuch Khaas!

www.kuchkhaas.org
June 26, 2014

Celebrating 10 years of Dance4Life

www.kuchkhaas.org/
June 25, 2014

Kuch Khaas invited you to its tastiest, sweetest, most awaited festival yet – The Mighty Mango Festival! Featured a cooking competition in which foodies participated with their mango dishes, and were judged by two surprise guest celebrity chefs - one internationally renowned chef and one well-loved local celebrity chef!

The judges are known for making some of the world's most creative and exciting dishes, and have hosted and successfully competed in famous international cooking shows. Do our contestants have what it takes to win them over?

The festivities also included the Mango Food Bazaar, with a wide range of products, ideas and, of course, the star of our show, the mango itself in all its mangoficence.

Dance4Life marks the 10th anniversary of dance4life around the globe and its 3rd anniversary in Pakistan. Great milestones have been achieved and it's time to celebrate our successes.

The Ambassadors4Life Abdullah Qureshi Maria Fatima Unera Qureshi and Muneeb Arshad will be performing live at this celebration. In addition to this, the youth groups will share their journey with Dance4Life and inspire you all with the Dance4Life drill on the Official International soundtrack.

To know more about the initiative follow click on the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/D4L.Pakistan?ref=br_tf

NO ENTRY CHARGE!!!

School/College/University students can collect their passes from Kuch Khaas by showing their student ID card.

Make sure you bring your School/College/University ID card and pass on the day of the event as well.

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DISTRICT MULTAN TOURISM PROFILE

Introduction:

Multan City is the 3rd largest in the Province, and is located on National Highway (N- 5) leading to Bahawalpur and Muzaffargarh/Dera Ghazi Khan enroute to Karachi, passing through core of the City. The City lies east of Chenab River, more or less in the geographic centre of the Country, at a distance of about 966 km from Karachi. Multan is known as the 'City of Sufi Saints (Pirs) and Shrines'. The City has many superbly designed mosques, shrines and tombs. A network of rails, highways and air flights connect Multan to the rest of the Country. The city offers trading facilities to the entire region for vegetables, grains and agro-based products. History once called it "city of Gold" & today it is called a cotton mine with 35,000 power looms manufacturing exported cotton goods. It's extremely talented artisans are known for their handmade beautiful blue pottery, ceramics, camel skin lamps, wooden crafts, furniture, metal handicrafts, multani khussa (embroidered leather shoes) & hand embroidered cloths, which makes the strong cottage industry of Multan adding to national exchequer.¹

Short History:

Multan is an extremely old city, which has seen a lot of warfare, because of its Location on a major invasion route of India from Central Asia. Multan is an extremely old city, which has seen a lot of warfare, because of its Location on a major invasion route of India from Central Asia. The history of Multan dates back to the time of Alexander the Great. In the mid 5th century, the city was attacked by a group of nomads led by Torman. but did not stay, and the long-standing Hindu rule over the city was reestablished. In the 7th century, Multan had its first experience with Muslim armies. Armies led by Mohalib launched numerous raids from Persia into India. A few decades later, Muhammad bin Qasim would come on behalf of the Arabs, and take Multan along with Sind. The city at that time was known as the "city of gold". Following bin Qasim's conquest, the city was securely under Muslim rule, although it was in effect an independent state. With the turn of the millennium, the city was attacked twice by Mahmood of Ghazni who destroyed the Sun Mandir, but he did not stay. After Muhammad Ghor's victories in India, and his establishment of a capital in Delhi, Multan was made a part of his empire. However, the rise of the Mongols would again give it some independence, albeit requiring it to be vigilant against Mongol raids from Central Asia. Under the Mughal Empire, Multan enjoyed over 200 years of peace, and became known as Dar-ul-Aman (Abode of Peace)².

Spoken Languages: Saraiki, Punjabi, Urdu, Haryanvi, and Majhi.

DISTRICT MULTAN AT A GLANCE	
Area	3,721 sq.km
Population – 2013 Estimated	4,348,191
	Male 344,614 (51%)
	Female 328,164 (49%)
Population 1998	3,117,000
	Urban Population 1,314,748 (42.18%)
	Rural Population 1,802,103 (57.82%)
Literacy Ratio (10 +)	43.4%
	Male 53.25%
	Female 32.28%
Population Density	837.9 per Sq.Km
Sex Ratio (males per 100 females)	110.4
Average Household Size	7.2
Average Annual Growth rate (1981-98)	2.73%
Total Housing Units (1998)	433,362
	Pacca Housing Units 215,429 (49.71%)
	Housing Units having Electricity 301,527 (69. 58%)
	Housing Units having Piped Water 93,825 (21.65%)
	Housing Units using Gas for Cooking 125,548 (28.97%)
Number of Health Facilities	721

¹ Report for Integrated Master Plane of Multan (2008-2028)

² www.citymultan.com

Number of Educational Facilities	1,873 ³
Number of Education Facilities	1,908
Administrative Units	
Tehsils	04
Towns/ TMAs	6
Union Councils	129

Historical and Architectural Heritage:

Multan Fort, Mausoleum of Sheikh Baha-ud-Din Zakariya, Mausoleum of Shah Rukn-e-Alam, Mausoleum of Musa Pak Shaheed, Mausoleum of Shah Shams Tabrez, Gardezi Shrine, Wali Muhammad Mosque, Phulhattanwali Mosque, Nawab Abdus Samad Khan Eidgah, Bakirabadi Mosque, Shrine of Baba Safra, Samadhi of Diwan Sawan Mal, The Prahladpuri Temple, Saint Mary's church, Defensive Wall, Circular Road, Lahori Gate, Haram gate, Delhi Gate, Walled City⁴.

³ Source: Alhasan System Pvt Limitid ,Islamabad ,Pakistan

⁴ Report for Integrated Master Plane of Multan (2008-2028)

District Multan Tourism Profile

Shrines and Tombs



Sakh Anwaar ul Albom, Darbar Masoom Shah, Tomb Shah Rukne Alam, Darbar Hafiz Jamal, Inaiat Wlaia, Tomb of Mosa Pak Saheed, Darbar Hazrat Qazi Mithu Sab, Khair-ul-Madaris, Pak Mai Shrine, Abu Fazail Abbas, Darbar Makhdoom Abdul Rasheed Huguani, Darbar Peer Bhule Shah, Darbar Phool Shah, Sufi Baba Afzal Shah Tomb, Shrine of Baba Naang Shah, Shrine of Hazrat Shah Muraad, Tomb Khawaja Awais Kagha, Tomb Shah Dana, Shrine Maolana, Hamid Ali Khan, Bahaudin Zakariya (R.A) Tomb, Tomb of Sher Shah, Tomb of Ali Akbar's mother, Tomb of Bibi Pakdaman, Tomb of Saeed Khan Qureshi, Shrine of Sakhi Yahya Nawab, Shrine of Hafiz Jamal, Tomb of Khawaja Awais Khagga, Tomb of Mai Meharban, Tomb of Shah Dana Shaheed, Tomb of Abu'l Fatah Shah Hussain Abdali, Tomb of Shah Muhammad Khan Badoozai, Tomb of Shedy Lal, Tomb of Qazi Muhammad Bakhsish (Qazi Mithoo), Tomb of Hazrat Khawaja Ubaidullah Multani, Tomb of Pir Inayat Ullah Shah Qahiree, Tomb of Syed Ahmad Saeed Kazmi, Tomb of Hamid Ali Khan, Shrine & Mosque of Pir Gohar Sultan, Tomb Mother Shah Ali Akbar, Tomb, Mai Maharban, Tomb Shah Shams Sabzwari Tabrez, Tomb Saeed Qureshi, Tomb M. Ibrahim, Tomb of Ahmad Saeed Kazmi, Tomb of Peer Bukhari, Tomb Khwaja Jamil-u-Din Sulman, Tomb Samadhi Sanwal Mal, Tomb Shah Ali Akbar, Tomb Shah, Yousaf Gardezi, Tomb Inayat Wilayat.

Historical Places & Buildings



Multan Fort, Town Hall, Cantt. Railway Station, Railway Club Multan, Nishtar Medical College, Mausoleum of Sheikh Baha-ud-Din Zakariya, Mausoleum of Shah Rukn-e-Alam, Mausoleum of Musa Pak Saheed, Mausoleum of Shah Shams Tabrez, Gardezi Shrine, Wali Muhammad Mosque, Phulhattanwali Mosque, Nawab Abdus Samad Khan Eidgah, Bakirabadi Mosque, Shrine of Baba Safra, Samadhi of Diwan Sawan Mal, The Prahladpuri Temple, Saint Mary's church, Defensive Wall, Circular Road, Lahori Gate, Haram gate, Delhi Gate, The Walled City and its Gates.

Famous Shopping Malls

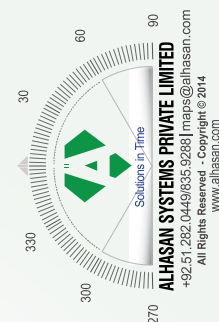
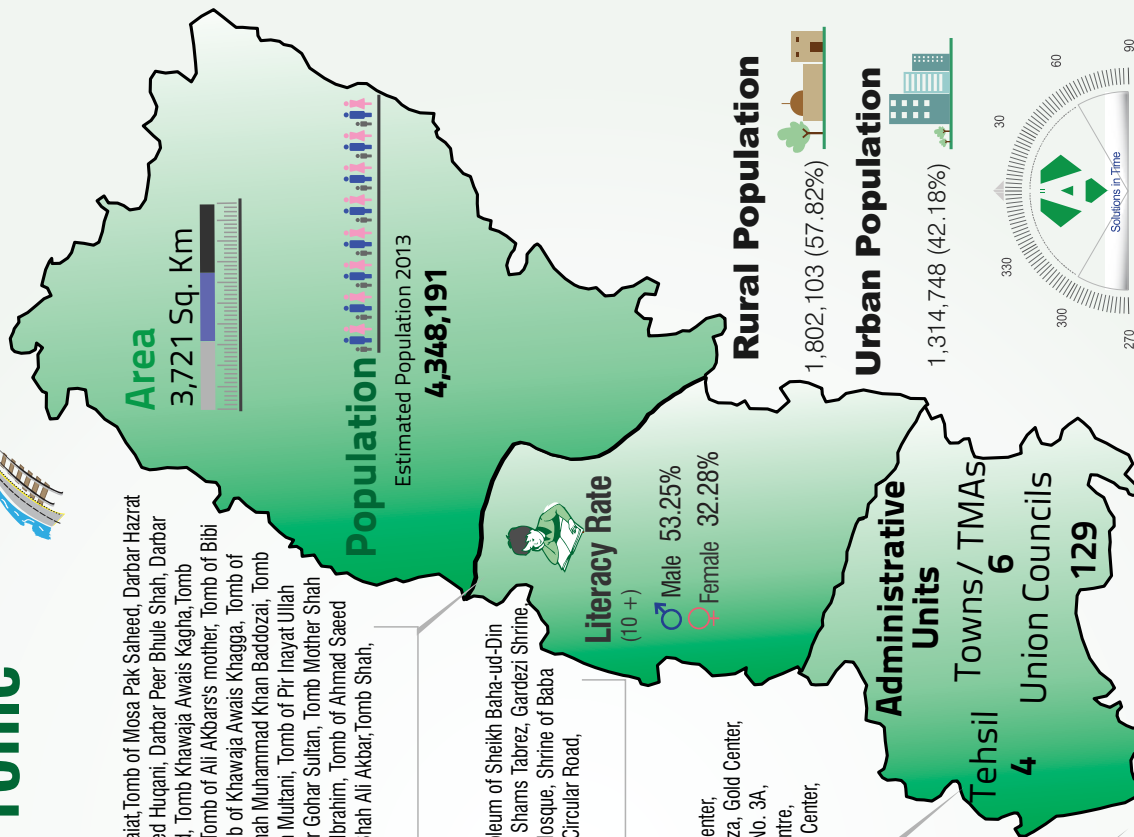


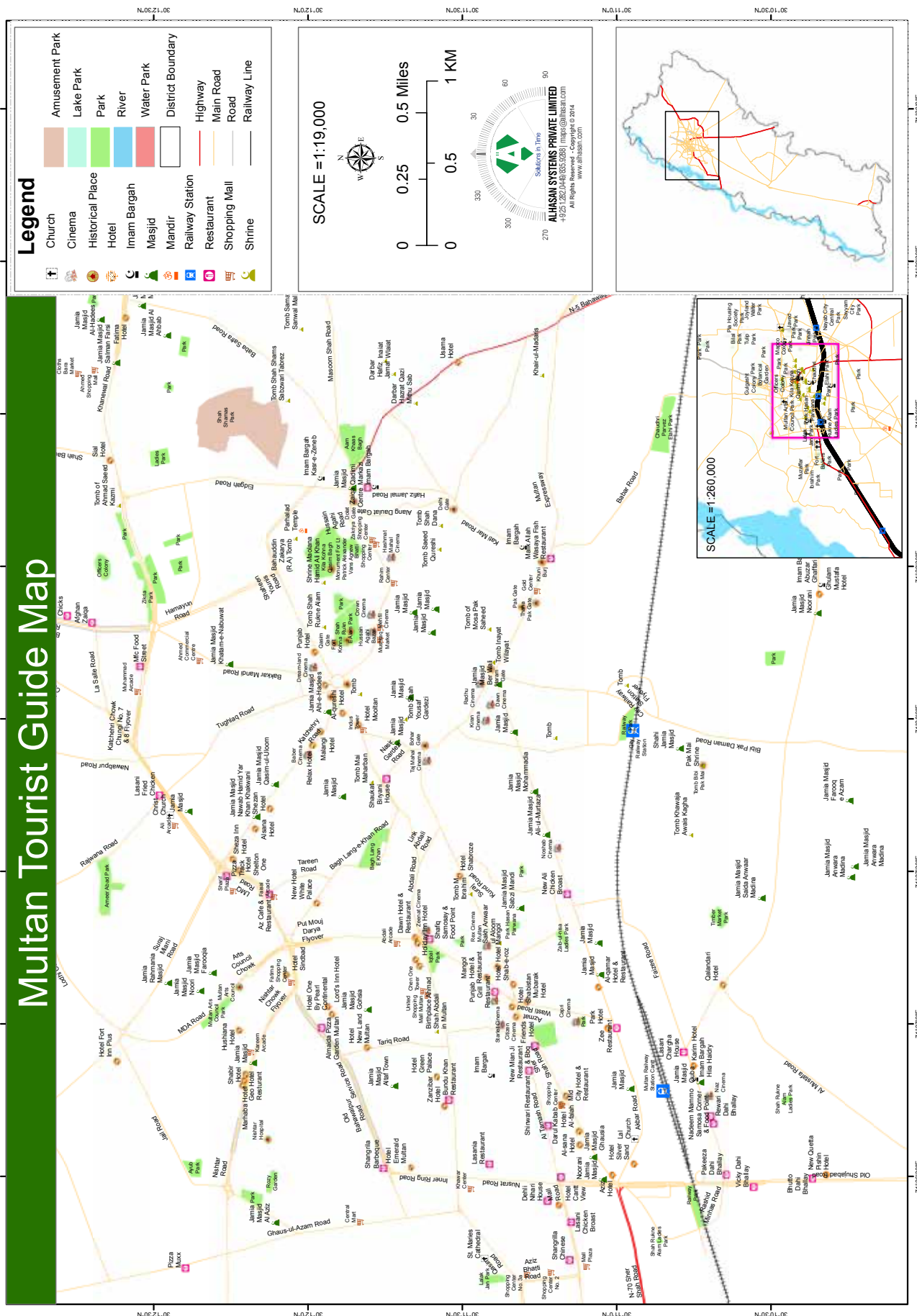
Zakriya Shopping Center, Bhatti Shopping Center, Rahim Center, Rana Shopping Center, Ali Shopping Center, City Plaza, Trend Shopping Center, Chen One Tower, United Shopping Mall Multan, Sharif Plaza, Mall Plaza, Gold Center, Multan Trade Center, Faisal Arcade, Pace Plaza, Abdali Arcade, Hafeez Center Multan, Shopping Center No. 3A, Shopping Center No. 2, Indus Tower, Mushtaq Market, Fatima Shopping Center, Ahmed Commercial Centre, Muhammad Arcade, Ali Arcade, Kareem Arcade, Central Mart, Khawar Center, Cloths Bara Market, Syal Center, Shopping Center, Sandeela Markets, Ahmed Shopping Mall, Al-Ghana, Margis Center, Hussain Agahi Bazar.

Parks



Shah Shamas Park, Jinnah Park, Chaman Zar -e- Askani Park, Joylan Water Park, Siddique Family Park.





ANALYSING THE DESI POPULAR

June 18, 2014— *Saadia Gardezi*

From Prince Biscuits to Dalda to Surf Excel, our minds and childhoods echo with TV jingles, nationalistic pop anthems from the 90s and snippets of jokes from 50-50. Pop culture is always musical. Ask someone about their favourite bit of Pakistani pop culture, and invariably the answer is Nazia Hassan, "Purani jeans aur guitar", Vital Signs and Junoon. But a deeper look brings back heart wrenching nostalgia, like watching Thundercats on STN at 7 pm as a kid, or trips to Bata before every new school year, or laughing at Moin Akhtar on PTV. Popular culture by no means is something that can be concretely measured or defined. In Pakistan such frivolity is often sidelined, but by nature of being uncontrolled and spontaneous, pop culture crawls through the cracks to become part of the national psyche.

Popular culture is a different creature from the national phenomenon of culture. It only comes into being when it has mass effect and acceptance, but with no direct control of the creator or of any form of authority. The actors of the legendary TV show 50-50 have long disappeared from the airwaves, yet the comedy skits are still part of beloved pop culture. Massive aid by the Internet, like YouTube, have ensured that such chapters in our popular history can survive. Most of quality TV from before the 80's was produced by PTV, and the state enterprise has either lost this content or has been unable to digitize obsolete mediums of film. This compounds one of the problems of popular culture in Pakistan, that it doesn't last long.

Quality makes for good popularity, but popular culture is often absolutely frivolous (like the popularity of Annie's Mahiya, or Mathira's antics on cable TV). It does not have to be art; it just has to be catchy. It is forever changing and evolving, and mostly comedic, artistic or musical. To give a very simple example, the shalwar kameez is culture; the Pierre Cardin twist to the outfit for PIA air hostesses in the 1970's is pop culture.

The problem with popular culture in Pakistan, as mentioned earlier is its extremely short lifespan. Even though pop culture is transient, Britney Spears head shaving shenanigans have lasted longer in our public memory than Dr aur Billa's hilarious take on pop music. This is probably due to the nature of our media and how it is controlled. Virtually all the fodder for pop culture in the last ten years has come not from art and music but from 24 hour news channels, like Amir Liaquat's "Ghalib film dekhi hai aap neh?", and Maya Khan's "Apnay maan baap ko dhoka mat dain" (about sitting with a member of the opposite sex in a park). In a country obsessed with national security and political drama, it is not hard to see why high culture (like fine art) and low culture (like Pushto films with buxom dancing lasses) have a minimal role in discourse. Even when high art and popular culture are as important to the construction of Pakistani identity as religion, ethnicity or politics.

In the 1990s, the heyday of pop music in Pakistan, these 24 hour news channels did not exist. In fact, it can be argued that news channels like Geo and Dunya were the death of entertainment channels like Indus music that, for a few years had captured the attention of teens across urban Pakistan (for one, it propelled Jal's Aadat into Pakistani

music's Hall of Fame). It is only in the last two to four years that we have seen the beginnings of a renaissance of entertainment channels with Hum TV.

General Zia's years were a blur of state censorship and state controlled television to the extent that even female actors sleeping in bed on TV has to have a veil on their heads. The state does have a role in creating what is popular culture, but this is hardly equal to the state controlling it. The most popular example of this from outside Pakistan was propaganda posters during World War 2. The most wonderful art and design was combined with government messages across the world including the US, Great Britain, Soviet Russia, Japan and China. One of the most popular posters was the red British "Keep Calm and Carry On" poster. Today these posters have survived because to the masses, they represent an instantly recognizable version of history, not because of state control of history.

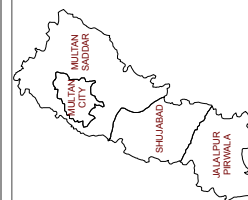
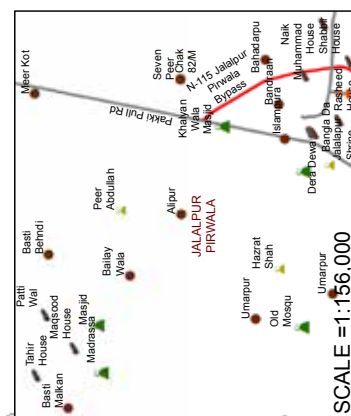
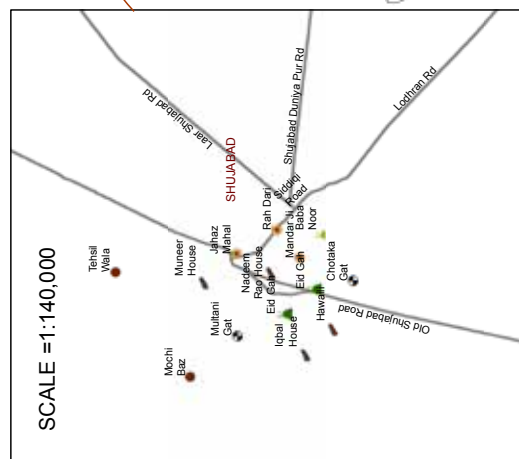
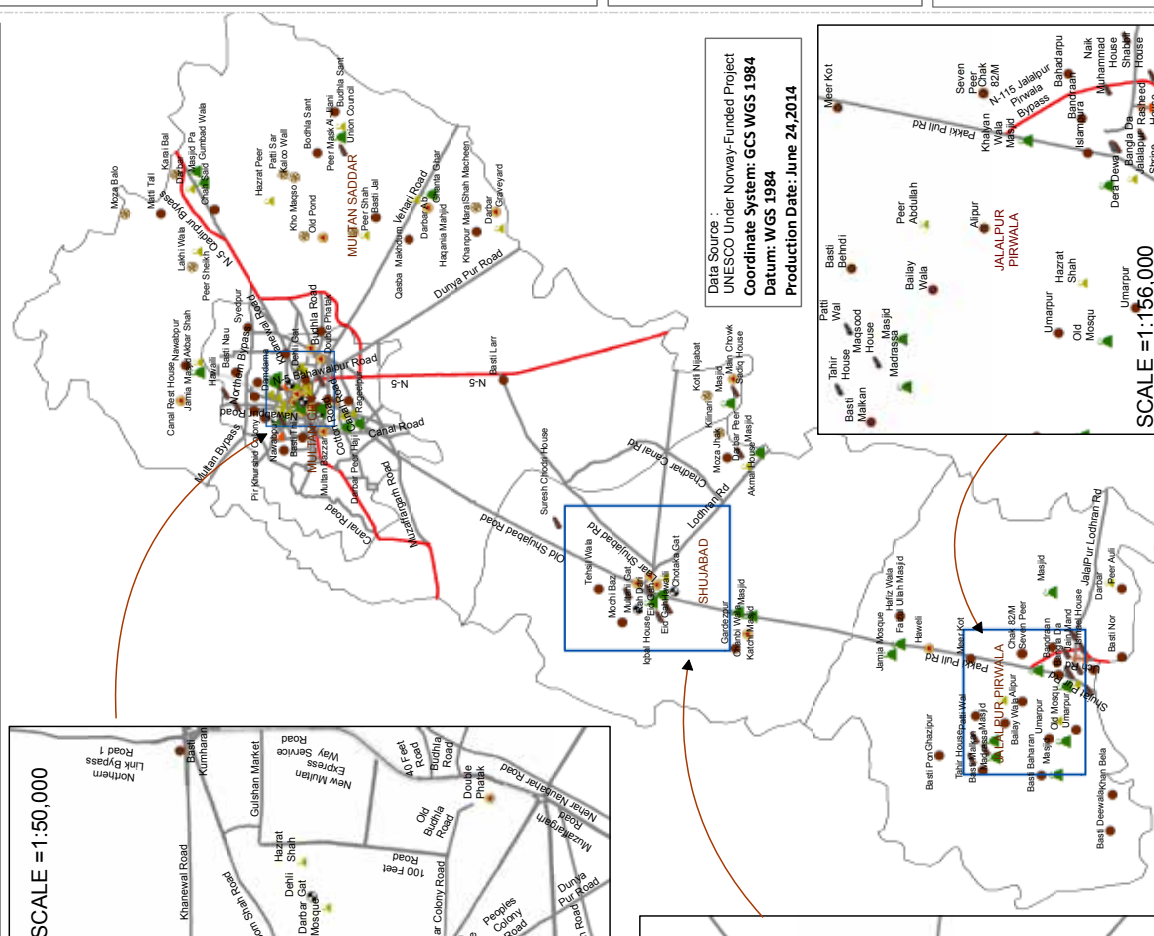
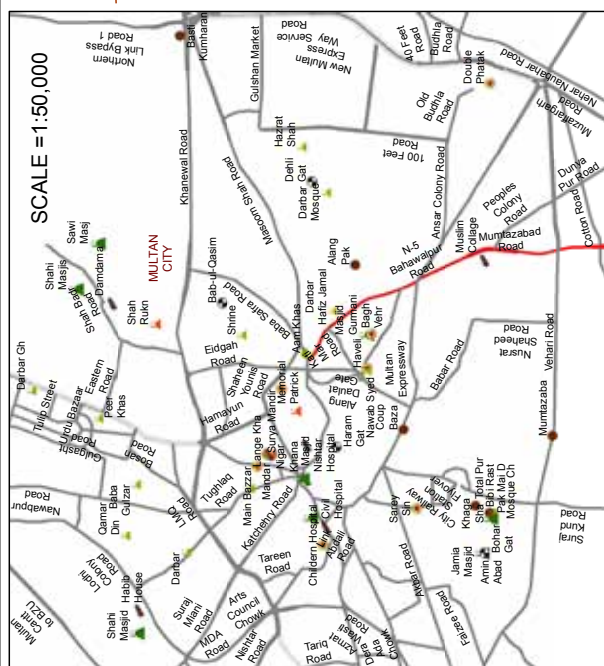
Pakistan has never had a tradition of propaganda posters but one of the bastions of national television (and even a mouthpiece for state propaganda), Shaista Zaid, is an icon today. She is instantly recognizable, and even beloved by her long standing presence on PTV, with her perfectly pinned dupatta and impeccable English accent. Again, her figure is not created by any authority, it is rather how she has been perceived and received by the masses that fixes her in our memories. Her retirement thus spawned long bouts of reminiscing about the lives and times of General Zia.

It can be argued that Humsafar was the first drama to break the stereotyping of Pakistani TV as being dull and uncreative plot wise. Other popular shows on TV like Jutt and Bond, Shashlik and Teen bata teen, were different in the sense that they targeted a young population with comedy. Interestingly, Jawad Bashir's hand was behind all three of these comedies. Including the music of Dr aur Billa, well produced music videos like Abrar-ul-Haq's Preeto, and Ufone GSM's riotous adverts, Bashir may be the single biggest contributor to Pakistani pop culture since the 90s with honorable mentions to partners-in-crime, Adeel Hashmi, Vasay Chaudhry and Faisal Qureshi. Good comedy was always popular (whether Moin Akhtar cross-dressing in Rozi in the 90s or the inane hilarity of the sitcom Bulbulay today), but quality dramas were few and far between.

The sad thing is that such changes in local culture are not given importance in dominant narratives. With a threadbare film and music industry, break throughs like Jutt and Bond or Humsafar open us to local art but are often not capitalized on because they do not feature into the power structures of society. It is sometimes argued that during Zia's time, there was a cap put on creativity, that due to government censorship and control, the quality of national TV fell. Yet there are short lived blips of renaissance here and there, for example shows like Chand Grehn in the 90s. Today the problem is not state control but societal encouragement of such projects and the people behind them.

The writer is a member of staff..

Cultural Heritage of Multan



PAKISTAN: PROSPECTS OF TOURISM

Aftabur Rehman Rana

President Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan Islamabad

FOR Pakistan, tourism can be a massive source of earning as our country possesses top-class tourist attractions from the stunning Himalayan peaks, beautiful lakes, scenic valleys, rich culture, centuries-old civilisations, vast deserts, golden beaches of Makran to all the other natural and man-made attractions.

But unfortunately Pakistan's tourism potential has largely been untapped and no serious attention has been paid by authorities concerned to make it a major engine of economic growth for the country.

Ironically, the sector was ignored during the previous government's tenure. The law and order situation in the country has hurt tourism greatly, but what made matters worse is the unnecessary restrictions on the travelling of foreign tourists to various tourist spots. Now foreign tourists need an NOC for travelling to most of the places in Pakistan and it is almost impossible to get this NOC well on time due to lengthy and tedious bureaucratic procedures.

Although security of foreign tourists is a major concern of the government, once they are issued visas, there should not be any extra hurdles in their way to visit places of tourist interest for which they have paid thousands of dollars on air travel and other ground arrangements. We need to facilitate them and provide them invisible security so that they could enjoy their holidays without any fear and worry. On the other hand, we have also not paid serious attention to facilitate our

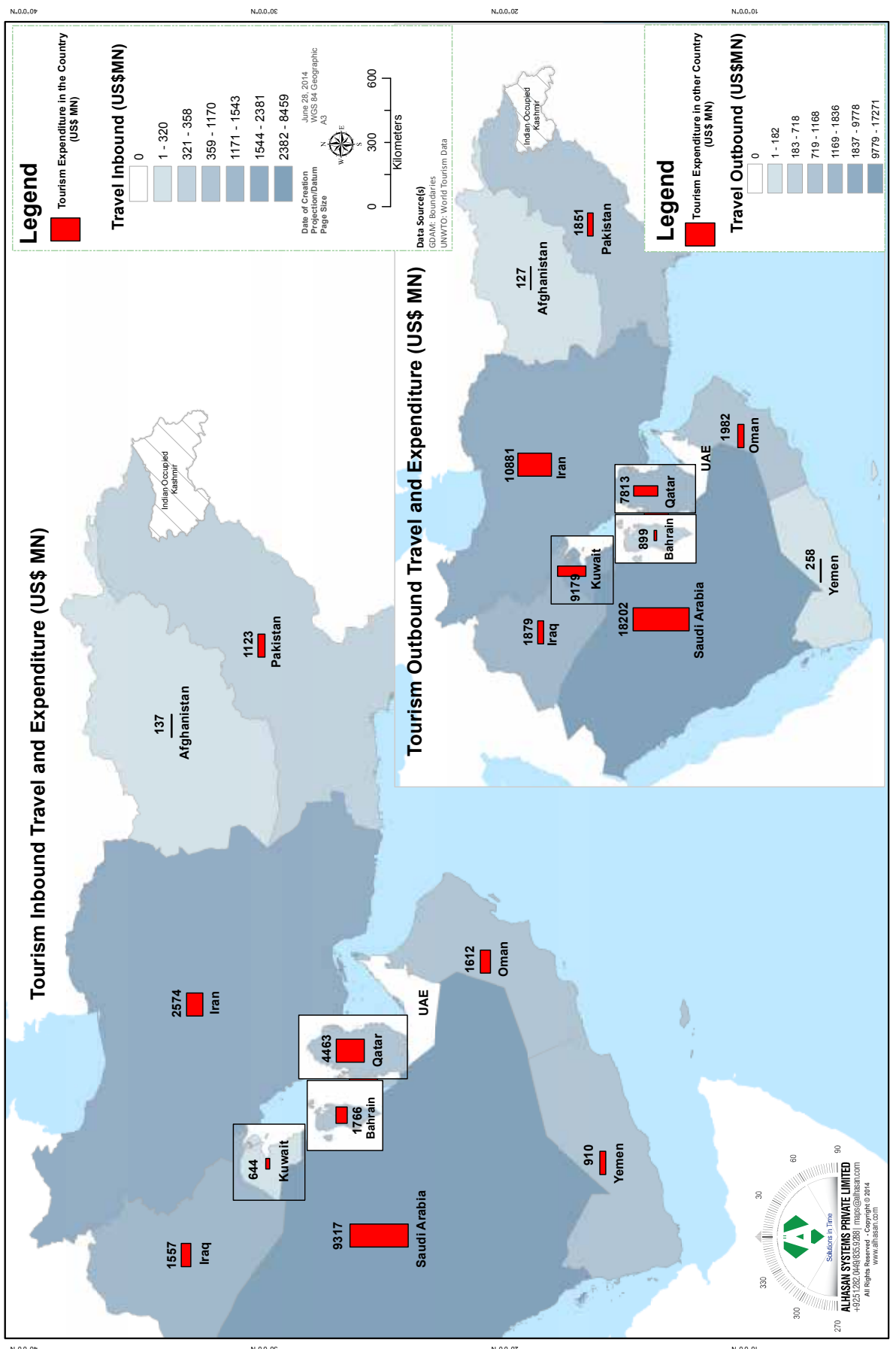
own domestic tourists. There is a large number of Pakistanis who are interested in exploring their own homeland but the dilapidated tourism infrastructure and high cost of board and lodging, coupled with poor standard of services at tourist spots, discourage them to do so.

What we need here is a good tourism policy and full government backing. The new government should prioritize tourism as a leading sector of Pakistan's economy and help bring the tourism industry back on its feet. We can easily defeat terrorism with tourism by creating income and employment generation opportunities for the insolvent people of far flung areas of KP province and GB where there are no other industries to support their livelihoods. By developing tourism industry, other businesses such as hotels, restaurants, transport, handicrafts, shopping, local recreational spots and local entrepreneurs get simultaneously boosted and it create thousands of new jobs for unskilled and skilled workforce.

A targeted investment strategy by the government, coupled with a sound tourism development policy, can do very well help in addressing these challenges and capitalising on this untapped potential.

Far-reaching policy measures would need to be adopted so that tourists who were scared away due to terrorist activities may be attracted back to revive tourism in Pakistan.

TOURISM TRAVEL & EXPENDITURE INBOUND AND OUTBOUND - 2011



سرخیاں

سوات امن میلہ

http://www.dw.de

30 جون 2014

تفصیلات

تین سالہ شورش کے بعد ملائڈ ڈویژن کے ضلع سوات میں قومی امن میلے کا انعقاد کیا جا رہا ہے۔ میٹورہ کے گراؤنڈ میں افتتاحی تقریب کیلئے سخت سیورٹی انتظامات کیے گئے ہیں۔ سوات کے مختلف تفریحی مقامات کو خوبصورتی سے سجایا گیا ہے جبکہ ہزاروں کی تعداد میں لوگ صوبے اور ملک کے دیگر علاقوں سے سوات پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ میڈیا کے قومی اور بین الاقوامی ٹیموں کی ایک بڑی تعداد بھی سوات امن میلے کی کوریج کیلئے پہنچ چکی ہے۔ یہ میلہ فوج کے تعاون سے صوبائی ادارہ برائے تعمیر نو، بجالی و آباد کاری کے زیر انتظام منعقد کیا جا رہا ہے۔ صوبائی ادارہ برائے تعمیر نو کے ترجمان عدنان خان کا کہنا ہے کہ ”یہ تقریبات انٹیس جون سے آٹھارہ جولائی تک جاری رہیں گے اس کے لئے سیورٹی کے انتظامات بھرپور ہیں۔ فوج بھرپور تعاون کر رہی ہے۔ میٹورہ میں اس وقت پچاس سال لگائے گئے ہیں اور کھیلوں کیلئے انتظامات مکمل کر دیئے گئے ہیں صبح سے لوگ جمع ہونا شروع ہو گئے تھے۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ اس میلے میں شرکت کے لئے خیبر پختونخوا سے باہر پنجاب، سندھ اور بلوچستان کے لوگوں کو بھی دعوت دی گئی ہے۔ اس سے قبل ملک کے بچپن بڑے ٹور آپریٹرز کو مدعو کیا تھا۔ انہوں نے یہاں ایک کانفرنس میں شرکت کی وہ یہاں سے مطمئن ہو کر گئے ہیں کہ اب سوات میں مکمل امن قائم ہوا ہے۔ اسی طرح ملک کے باہر سے لوگوں کو بھی دعوت دی گئی ہے کہ اب وہ سوات کے کسی بھی تفریحی علاقے میں آسکتے ہیں۔ عدنان خان کے بقول سیاحوں کیلئے تمام ہولوں میں پچاس فیصد کی رعایت کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے۔ اسی طرح ٹرانسپورٹ اور بالخصوص پاکستان ٹورازم ڈیولپمنٹ کارپوریشن بھی ہمارے ساتھ تعاون کر رہا ہے اور انہوں نے اپنی ٹرانسپورٹ پر پچاس فیصد رعایت کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ سوات کی مقامی صنعتی اشیاء پر بھی خصوصی ڈسکاؤنٹ دیا جا رہا ہے۔ سوات امن میلے کے دوران میٹورہ، بحرین، کالام اور دیگر سیاحتی مقامات پر صنعتی، ثقافتی اور تصویری نمائش کے علاوہ موسیقی، مشاعرے، کشتی رانی اور مختلف کھیلوں کے ٹورنامنٹ و دیگر تفریحی پروگرام منعقد کیے جائیں گے۔ سوات کے لاکھوں لوگ تین سال تک بد امنی کے نرنے میں رہے جہاں آئے روز بم دھماکوں اور خودکش حملے ہوتے رہے دہشت گردوں کی کارروائیوں میں تیزی آنے کے بعد صوبائی حکومت کی سفارت پر فوج نے عسکریت پسندوں کے خلاف آپریشن کا آغاز کیا تھا۔ اس دوران جہاں ہزاروں دہشت گرد گرفتار کیے گئے وہاں لاکھوں مارے گئے۔ دہشت گردی کے واقعات سوات کے عوام کے ذہنوں پر نقش ہیں۔ آج بھی حکومت اسی کوشش میں ہے کہ عوام کے دلوں سے یہ خوف نکال سکے۔ انٹیس جون سے آٹھارہ جولائی تک سوات امن میلے کا انعقاد اسی سلسلے کی کڑی ہے اس دوران جہاں ہوٹل ایسوسی ایشن نے سیاحوں کو کرایوں میں پچاس فیصد کمی کا اعلان کیا ہے وہاں ٹرانسپورٹ کے کئی اداروں نے سوات جانے والے سیاحوں کیلئے کرایوں میں کمی کی ہے۔

قائم پور (شاہد اقبال سے) معروف شاعر ادیب صحافی و کالم نگار سید مبارک علی شمس کی کتاب ”خواب ادھورے ہیں“ کی تقریب رونمائی کی ادبی تنظیم بزم شمس پاکستان کے زیر اہتمام گزشتہ روز قائم پور میں ان کی رہائش گاہ پر منعقد ہوئی، مہمان خصوصی ریاض حسین شاہد، جبکہ صدرات ملازم حسین چمن سرپرست بزم شمس نے کی، نعت گو شاعر امین ساجد سعیدی نے نظامت کے فرائض سرانجام دیئے۔ صدر علی حیدری، ریاض حسین شاہد، مہر ارشد لک، ڈاکٹر غضنفر عباس، مجاہد چاند، افتخار ساقی، خالد فاروق، مہر امین، مبشر حسن، مجید احمد جانی نے تنقیدی مضامین پیش کیئے۔ اس تقریب میں سیاسی و سماجی و ادبی شخصیات نے بھرپور شرکت کی اور سید مبارک علی شمس کی اس مفرد کاوش پر انہیں مبارک باد پیش کی۔

معروف شاعر ادیب صحافی و کالم نگار سید

مبارک علی شمس کی کتاب ”خواب

ادھورے ہیں“ کی تقریب رونما

http://universalsurdupost.com/

28 جون 2014

کالام میں سیاحت کے فروغ کے لیے میلہ

بی بی سی اردو

21 جون 2014

پاکستان کے صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا کے ضلع سوات کی وادی کالام میں سیاحت کے فروغ کے لیے چار روزہ میلہ شروع ہو گیا ہے۔ سر فیٹیول کا انعقاد صوبائی حکومت اور پاکستان فوج نے مشترکہ طور پر کیا ہے وادی کالام میں سیاحت کی حوصلہ افزائی کے لیے 23 جون تک جاری رہنے والے اس میلے میں پیراگلایڈنگ، گھر سواری، نیزہ بازی، کشتی رانی اور دیگر مقابلوں کا اہتمام کیا گیا ہے۔ صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا کے گورنر شوکت اللہ نے میلے کا افتتاح کرتے ہوئے کہا کالام میلے کا انعقاد اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ یہاں اب معمول کی زندگی بحال ہو گئی ہے، میلے میں شرکت کے لیے لاہور سے آنے والی سیاح نسیم کے مطابق وہ پہلی بار سوات آئی ہیں اور یہاں آنے سے پہلے ان کے ذہن میں امن و امان کے حوالے سے کافی غدشات تھے لیکن آنے کے بعد معلوم ہوا کہ یہاں مکمل امن ہے۔ تاہم میلے میں شرکت کرنے والے سیاح کالام روڈ کی خستہ حالی پر کافی پریشان دکھائی دے رہے تھے۔ میلے کے دوران ہر رات مقامی اور ملکی سطح کے فنکار اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہیں اور ان سے سیاحوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد رات گئے تک لطف اندوز ہوتی ہے۔ کالام کے ایک تاجر کے بقول وادی میں صرف گرمیوں کے تین سے چار ماہ تک ان کا کاروبار چلتا ہے اور سردیوں کے آغاز پر کاروبار ختم ہو جاتا ہے اور اس کے بعد سال بھر دوبارہ موسم گرما کے سیزن کا انتظار کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ میٹورہ شہر سے تعلق رکھنے والے ایک دکاندار نادر شاہ نے صحافی انور شاہ کو بتایا کہ سوات کی معیشت کا انحصار سیاحت پر ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا ’جتنے زیادہ تعداد میں سیاح آئیں گے اتنا ہی ان کا روزگار اچھا ہوگا اور یہاں کے لوگوں کی معاشی حالت بہتر ہوگی۔‘

سوات کے علاقے مٹہ سے تعلق رکھنے والے ایک شخص ناصر خان نے بتایا کہ امن کی بحالی پر وہ انتہائی خوش ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جب

طالبان نے اپنی عملداری کے بعد موسیقی پر پابندی عائد کی تھی تب وہ رات کو اپنے گھر میں موبائل فون پر گانے سنتے تھے مگر آج بغیر کسی خوف کے وہ کلام میں مقامی اور غیر مقامی گلوکاروں اور فنکاروں کے گیت سن رہے ہیں۔ میلے میں مقامی مصنوعات کے سٹال بھی لگائے گئے ہیں اور ان میں سیاح خصوصی دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں۔

برلن (شہر نیوز) پاکستان کے ثقافتی دستے نے پہلی دفعہ برلن میں ہر سال موسم گرما کے آغاز پر ہونے والے بین الاقوامی ثقافتی میلہ کی سٹریٹ پریڈ میں حصہ لیا۔ جرمنی میں مقیم پاکستانی کمیونٹی کے افراد بشمول جرمن یونیورسٹیوں میں زیر تعلیم پاکستانی طلباء اور پاکستانی سفارتخانہ کے اہلکاروں نے اپنے قومی و علاقائی لباس پہنے پورا دن پاکستانی جھنڈا لہراتے اور ڈھول کی تھاپ پر دھمال اور ڈانس کرتے رہے۔ ایک ٹرک کو خوبصورت بنیز اور پوسٹر زین پر پاکستان کے خوبصورت مقامات اور اس کے کلچر، رہن سہن کی تصویریں تھیں سجایا گیا تھا اور لاؤڈ سپیکر پر مسلسل پاکستان کے ملی نغمے و علاقائی موسیقی بج رہی تھی۔ پچھلے سالوں کی طرح پاکستان سے اس ثقافتی میلے میں شرکت کیلئے آیا تھا۔ تقریباً ایک ملین سے زائد افراد نے جو کہ پورے یورپ اور دنیا کے دیگر علاقوں سے آئے تھے اس میلے میں شرکت کی۔ پچھلے سالوں کی طرح پریڈ کے ڈھول لے روٹ پر پہلے سے طے شدہ مقامات پر وقفے وقفے سے اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کرتا رہا۔ برلن کا یہ سالانہ ثقافتی میلہ یورپ کے چند ایک بڑے ثقافتی میلوں میں شمار کیا جاتا ہے اور یہ جرمنی میں بسنے والے مختلف ممالک کے لوگوں کو یہ موقع فراہم کرتا ہے کہ وہ اپنے علاقے کے لباس، رقص، موسیقی، رسومات، ثقافت، روایات حتیٰ کہ فنون لطیفہ سے متعلقہ کوئی بھی فن اس ثقافتی میلے میں پیش کر سکتا ہے۔ دنیا بھر سے آئے ہوئے موسیقی کے بیڈ، جادوگر، شعبہ باز اور بازیگر نہ صرف اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہیں بلکہ شرکاء کو بھی دعوت دیتے ہیں کہ وہ اپنے جوہر دکھائیں گویا یہ دنیا بھر کے لوگوں کو بلا تخصیص رنگ، نسل، ذات اور مذہب کے اپنی ثقافت اور انفرادی جوہر دکھانے کیلئے پلیٹ فارم فراہم کرتا ہے۔ برلن ثقافتی میلے میں پاکستان کی شرکت میں پاکستانی سفارتخانہ نے اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ پریڈ کے آغاز پر جرمنی میں پاکستان کے سفیر سید حسن جاوید نے مختصر خطاب بھی کیا۔

یہ بات بھارتی ہائی کمشنر ڈاکٹر ٹی سی اے راگوان نے فیصل آباد چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری میں تاجروں اور صنعتکاروں کے ایک اجتماع سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ نو دس سال بعد فیصل آباد آئے ہیں۔ اس دوران فیصل آباد نے قابل تحسین ترقی کی ہے اور اس کیلئے میں آپ لوگوں کو مبارکباد پیش کرتا ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جب پاکستانی وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے بھارت کا دورہ کیا تو وہ بھی نئی دہلی میں تھے اور انہیں دونوں ملکوں کے وزرائے اعظم کو ایک ساتھ دیکھ کر بے حد خوشی ہوئی۔ انہوں نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ ہم دوستوں کا انتخاب کر سکتے ہیں مگر ہمسایوں کا نہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ معاشی ترقی نہ ہونے سے اس خطے کو صحت، تعلیم اور غربت سمیت کئی چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے۔ انہوں نے دہشتگردی کا بھی ذکر کیا اور خاص طور پر کراچی واقعے کی مذمت کی جس کی وجہ سے پہلے ہی خطے کی ترقی متاثر ہو رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گزشتہ برس پاک بھارت تجارت میں اڑھائی سے تین ارب ڈالر کا اضافہ ہوا اور ہمیں دو طرفہ تجارت کو بڑھانے کیلئے کوششوں کو مزید تیز کرنا ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بھارت نے اپنے طور پر تجارت کیلئے سہولتیں دینے کی ہر ممکن کوششیں کیں ہیں۔ بزنس ویزے کے آزادانہ اجرا کے حوالے سے انہوں نے کہا کہ اب ملٹی پل انٹری ویزے اور ملٹی پل سٹی ویزے جاری کیے جا رہے ہیں جبکہ ٹورازم کیلئے گروپ ویزے کے بارے میں بھی حال میں ہی ایک معاہدہ ہوا ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں بھارت نے اپنی کارروائی مکمل کر لی ہے اور توقع ہے کہ پاکستان کی طرف سے جلد کارروائی مکمل ہونے کے بعد اس پر عملدرآمد شروع کر دیا جائیگا۔ بھارتی ہائی کمشنر نے مزید کہا کہ زمینی تجارت کیلئے مزید روٹ کھولے جا رہے ہیں جبکہ واپگہ اٹاری بارڈر کے اوقات کار بھی بڑھائے جا رہے ہیں۔ یہاں پر دونوں ملکوں کے تاجروں کو ملنے کی بہتر سہولتیں دینے کی تجویز بھی زیر غور ہے۔ تاہم انہوں نے بتایا کہ ویزے کی بنیادی شرائط کے بارے میں تاجروں کو آگاہ کرنے کیلئے رمضان کے فوراً بعد فیصل آباد سمیت کئی دوسرے شہروں میں بھی ورکشاپوں کا اہتمام کیا جائیگا۔ مسٹر راگوان نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان تین معاہدے ہو رہے ہیں جن میں کسٹم کو آپریشن، معیارات کو تسلیم کرنے اور تجارتی مسائل کے حل کے معاہدے شامل ہیں۔ کسٹم کے حوالے سے بعض مشکلات کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے انکشاف کیا کہ اگلے ہفتے لاہور میں دونوں ملکوں کے کسٹم حکام کی ایک رابطہ میٹنگ ہو رہی ہے اس میٹنگ میں بھارتی ہائی کمیشن کا ایک نمائندہ بھی شریک ہوگا تا کہ لوگوں کی جائز شکایات کے حل کیلئے فوری اقدامات تجویز کیے جاسکیں۔ انہوں نے سرحدوں کے آر پار آنے جانے والوں کیلئے موبائل فون سروس کی سہولت اور کوریئر سروس کو بھی آسان بنانے کا یقین دلایا اور کہا کہ وہ ستمبر میں فیصل آباد میں ہونیوالے کلر اور کیم ایکسپو میں بھی ضرور شرکت کریں گے۔ آخر میں مہمان خصوصی کو فیصل آباد چیئرمین کی شیلڈ کے علاوہ تحائف بھی پیش کیے گئے۔

لاہور (خبر نگار) سکھوں کے مذہبی تہوار جوڑ میلہ کی تقریبات میں شرکت کے لیے بھارت سے سینکڑوں سکھ یاتری آج بروز اتوار بذریعہ واپگہ ریلوے اسٹیشن پاکستان پہنچیں گے جہاں پر متروکہ وقف املاک بورڈ کے ایڈیشنل سیکرٹری شراٹنز خالد علی، سکھ رہنما سردار شام سنگھ، ڈپٹی

برلن میں بین الاقوامی ثقافتی میلہ شروع پاکستان کی پہلی بار شرکت

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

10 جون 2014

فیصل آباد: نئی بھارتی حکومت بھی علاقائی تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے خاص طور پر پاکستان سے روابط بڑھانے پر یقین رکھتی ہے اور اس مقصد کیلئے تاجروں کو زیادہ سے زیادہ سہولتیں دینے، بزنس ویزے کے اجرا کو مزید آسان بنانے اور ترجیحی بنیادوں پر تجارتی رکاوٹوں کو دور کرنے کیلئے سنجیدہ کوششیں کی جا رہی ہیں۔

روزنامہ ایکسپریس

10 جون 2014

جوڑ میلہ کی تقریبات میں شرکت کیلئے سینکڑوں سکھ یاتری آج پاکستان آئیں گے

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

8 جون 2014

سفارتخانہ پاکستان ابوظہبی میں مونا شہاب کے اعزاز میں محفل شعرو سخن

http://universalurdupost.com/

2 جون 2014

سیکرٹری جنرل اظہر نذیر سلہری، ڈپٹی سیکرٹری شرائف فراز عباس، پی آر او عامر حسین ہاشمی انکا استقبال کریں گے۔

(ابوظہبی: حبیب اعجاز عاشق) پاکستان سفارتخانہ ابوظہبی میں امریکہ سے تشریف لائیں منفرد لب و لہجہ کی معروف شاعرہ مونا شہاب کے اعزاز میں ایک محفل شعرو سخن کا انعقاد کیا گیا محفل کی میزبانی ظہور الاسلام جاوید، ڈاکٹر عاصم واسطی نے کی، مسندِ صدارت پرے سفیر پاکستان جناب آصف درانی جلوہ افروز تھے۔ فرسٹ سیکرٹری سفارتخانہ پاکستان سلمان شریف، تھرڈ سیکرٹری سفارتخانہ پاکستان نعیم چیمہ، محمد رضوان، ناصر ادیب نے خصوصی شرکت کی۔ نظامت کے فرائض ظہور الاسلام جاوید اور ڈاکٹر ثروت زہرہ نے انجام دیئے۔ شعراء کرام نے اپنا کلام پیش کر کے محفل کی رونق کو چار چاند لگا دیئے۔ جن میں مونا شہاب، یعقوب تصور، ظہور الاسلام جاوید، ڈاکٹر صباحت عاصم واسطی، سعید پرسوری، ظہیر بدر، ڈاکٹر ثروت زہرہ، مقصود احمد تقسم، فقیر سائیں، سلمان خان، آصف رشید اسجد، حفیظ عامر، فہاد جبریل، سلمان جازب، رضوان راجہ، نیر نیلا، تابش زیدی اور سعد سلیمان سعدی شامل تھے۔ تقریب میں پیر آغا کیلاش، عاشق قریشی، ڈاکٹر اسجد، ڈاکٹر سلیم خان، مسز اینڈ مسز انوار شمسی، مسز سلمان خان، مسز جاوید اور منصور انعام سمیت امارات میں مقیم پاکستان کی نمایاں شخصیات نے شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر سفیر پاکستان جناب آصف درانی نے اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ مونا شہاب واشنگٹن کے حلقوں میں بہت مقبول ہیں اور ان کے اعزاز میں تقریب کا انعقاد سفارتخانہ پاکستان کے لئے باعثِ مسرت ہے۔ ہمیں قلم کے میدان میں بہت کچھ کرنے کی ضرورت ہے اور اس حوالے سفارتخانہ پاکستان یہاں پر مقیم اہل نظر کی موجودگی کا بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانے کی کوئی کسر نہیں چھوڑے گی۔ انہوں نے ظہور الاسلام جاوید کے عالمی مشاعرے ابوظہبی کے حوالے سے کہا کہ کامیاب مشاعرے کی گونج ابھی بھی کانوں کو محسوس ہو رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے اس خواہش کا بھی اظہار کیا کہ اپنے ثقافتی ورثے کے حوالے سے ایک بڑے پیمانے پر تقریب منعقد ہونی چاہیے تاکہ دنیا کو ایک پیغام پہنچ سکے کہ ہم امن پسند مہذب قوم ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ شعرو سخن کی محافل فروغِ اردو میں اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہیں اور ان کے انعقاد کا تسلسل برقرار رہنا بہت ضروری ہے۔ اور شاعری موسیقی کے بغیر ادھوری ہے امید ہے کسی شعری محفل میں موسیقی کے رنگ کو بھی شامل کیا جائیگا تاکہ شاعری کا اصل رنگ نکھر کر سامنے آ سکے۔ مونا شہاب نے اس کامیاب اور بھرپور شعری محفل کے حوالے سے اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا مجھے یہاں آکر بہت مسرت ہوئی ہے۔ اور سفارتخانہ پاکستان میں میرے اعزاز میں محفل کا انعقاد باعثِ اعزاز ہے جس کے لئے میں میزبان محفل ظہور الاسلام جاوید اور ڈاکٹر عاصم واسطی کے لئے تہہ دل سے مشکور ہوں۔ یہ قدر دانی میرے لئے کسی انمول سرمائے سے کم نہیں ہے۔ مونا شہاب نے کئی غزلیں اور نظمیں ساعتوں کی نذر کر کے خوب داد و تحسین حاصل کی ان کے پرتزم کلام کو سفیر پاکستان جناب آصف درانی نے خوب سراہا۔ ایک نظم ”چوڑیاں“ خواتین کی نذر بھی کی جو تمام سامعین نے بے حد پسند کی اور دل کھول کر داد بھی دی۔ صدر محفل سفیر پاکستان جناب آصف درانی نے مہمان خصوصی مونا شہاب کو جبکہ مہمان خصوصی نے بھی سفیر پاکستان کو پھولوں کا گلدرست پیش کیا۔ تقریب کے اختتام پر پُر محکف عشائیہ کا اہتمام بھی کیا گیا تھا۔

راولپنڈی: پاکستان ٹورازم ڈیولپمنٹ کارپوریشن نے راولپنڈی سے نارائن کیلئے بس سروس شروع کر دی، ایم ڈی کہتے ہیں امن و امان بہتر ہونے سے غیر ملکی سیاح بھی پاکستان آئیں گے۔ سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے پی ٹی ڈی سی نے کم جون سے نارائن کیلئے بس سروس شروع کی ہے، بس روزانہ راولپنڈی سے نارائن اور نارائن سے راولپنڈی آئے گی، ایک طرفہ کرایہ پندرہ سو روپے ہو گا، پی ٹی ڈی سی ہر سال تین ماہ کیلئے یہ سروس چلاتی ہے۔ بس سروس کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب میں میٹنگ ڈائریکٹر چوہدری کبیر کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے سنجیدہ اقدامات کر رہی ہے، امن و امان کا قیام حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے، امن و امان بہتر ہونے سے غیر ملکی سیاح بھی پاکستان آئیں گے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سیاحتی علاقوں کے نوجوانوں کو گائیڈ بننے کی تربیت دی جائے گی۔ چوہدری کبیر نے کہا کہ سابق ایم ڈی شاہجہان کھیتران نے من پسند لوگوں کو بھرتی کر کے کارپوریشن کو نقصان پہنچایا ان کیخلاف نیب تحقیقات کر رہی ہے، میر باز کھیتران کا نام ای سی ایل میں بھی ڈال دیا گیا ہے۔ ساء۔

محکمہ سیاحت کی راولپنڈی سے نارائن کیلئے

بس سروس شروع

سائی وی

01 جون 2014

TOURISM DIRECTORY

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WORKING IN TOURISM SECTOR

<p>Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation Govt. of Pakistan Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Satti General Manager (Hotel) 051-9272013, 0092-51-9271591-92 info@tourism.gov.pk, support@tourism.gov.pk Flashman's Hotel, The Mall, Rawalpindi www.tourism.gov.pk</p>	<p>Gilgit Baltistan Tourism Department Govt. of Pakistan Syed Akhtar Hussain Secretary akhter@visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk 0092-5811-920690-1, 0092-5811-920690-1, 0092-5811-920573 info@visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk Khomeer Chowk, Shahrah-e-Qaid-e-Azam, Near Rupal Inn, Khomeer, Gilgit www.visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk</p>
<p>Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management Govt. of Pakistan Niaz Ali Malkani Director 0092-21-99251281-3 info@pithm.edu.pk Street No. 16, Block No. 4, Scheme No. 5, Clifton, Karachi www.pithm.edu.pk</p>	<p>Planning Commission Government of Pakistan Govt. of Pakistan Ahsan Iqbal Deputy Chairman 0092-51-9211147, 0092-321-5127885, 0092-51-9211147 0092-51-9202783 deputychairman@pc.gov.pk, contact@pc.gov.pk P" block Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad., Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad www.pc.gov.pk</p>
<p>Tourism and Archeology of AJK Govt. of Pakistan Pirzada Irshad Ahmed Director 0092-5822- 921421 webmaster@ajk.gov.pk Directorate General Tourism Department B-14 Upper Chattar Housing Colony, Muzaffarabad AJK www.ajktourism.gov.pk</p>	<p>Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab Govt. of Pakistan Habib ur Rehman Gillani Managing Director 0092-42-99231647, 0092-42-99231646, 0092-42-99231644 0092-42-99231649 gilanihabib@hotmail.com, md@tdcp.gop.pk info@tdcp.gop.pk , tdcp@punjab.gov.pk punjabtourism@tdcp.gop.pk 151, Abubakar Block, New Garden Town, Lahore www.tdcp.gop.pk</p>
<p>Tourism Corporation Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (TCKP) Government of KPK 0092 91 9211091 , 0092 91 9213762 Head Office : 13-A New Block, khyber Road, Peshawar www.kptourism.com</p>	<p>Culture Department Government of Sindh Govt. of Pakistan Saqib Soomro Secretary 0092-21-99211478 secretaryculturesindh@yahoo.com 406, First Floor, Sindh Secretariat No. 3, Old KDA Building, Shara-e-Ata Turk, Karachi</p>

PRIVATE HELD COMPANIES/ NGOs WORKING IN TOURISM SECTOR

<p>Nature Tourism Services Privately Held Company Muhammad Asif Managing Partner Sales and Marketing 0092-321-9816257, 0092-992-384493, 0092-300-4046557 asif@naturetourism.info info@naturetourism.info Office No.1, Ground Floor, Mubarak Plaza, Small Industry Chowk,(KKH), Abbotabad www.naturetourism.info</p>	<p>ALHASAN Systems (Pvt) Ltd Development Organization Mehdi Bokhari Founder/ Chief Executive Officer 0092.323.929.1647, 0092-51-4865064 bokhari@alhasan.com, connect@alhasan.com House No. 4, Green Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Road, Sector: I-8/2, Islamabad www.alhasan.com</p>
<p>Shewa Educated Social Workers Association Local NGO Muhammad Faiq Chairman 0092-342 9193818 seswa@seswapk.org Parmoli Road, Mohallah Ghulam Khel,VPO Shewa, Tehsil Razzar, Shewa, Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa www.seswapk.org</p>	<p>Heritage Foundation Pakistan Local NGO Yasmeen Lari Chief Executive Officer 0092-213-5834215 , 0092-213-5837521 info@heritagefoundationpak.org E-6 Fourth Gizri Street, DHA 4, Karachi www.heritagefoundationpak.org</p>

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations
0092-51-111710745
islamabad@unesco.org
UNESCO Office, Serena Business Complex, 7th Floor,
Sector G-5, Islamabad
www.unesco.org.pk

Vershegom Area Development Organization
Local NGO
Karamat Ullah
President
0092 312 9703311
Vado.org@gmail.com
13 Latif Market Shakra-e- Quaid-i-Azam, Jatial, Gilgit
www.Vado.org

MAJOR HOTELS

Avari Towers Hotel
Fatima Jinnah Road
UAN: 0092-21-111-282747
Fax: 0092-21-3568 0310
Email: towers@avari.com

Embassy Inn
100B, Main Shahrah-e-Faisal S.M.C.H.S. Nursery
Phone: 0092-21-34535461-70
Fax: 0092-21-34526797
Website: www.embassyinn.com.pk
E-Mail: Embassyinn@cyber.net.pk

Ramada Plaza
Karachi Airport, Star Avenue Terminal 1
Jinnah International Airport
Phone: 0092-21-99242600
Fax: 0092-21-9242978

Regent Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
Main Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi
Phone: 0092-21-111 111 774

Sheraton Karachi Hotel
Club Road
Phone: 0092-021-35633333
Website: www.sheraton.com/karachi

Marriott Hotel
Karachi Marriott Hotel 9, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi
Phone: 0092-21-111-22-33-44
Fax: 0092- 21-5680981
Email: Kmh@fascom.com

Hotel Al-Mustafa
Raja Ghazanfar Ali Road, Saddar, Karachi
Phone: 0092-021-35661047/021-35661053
Fax: 021-35660500

Hotel Al-Harmain tower
Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan Road, Saddar Karachi-74400, Pakistan
Phone: 0092-213-5223970-82
Fax: 0092-213-5223983-84
Email: alharmaintower@gmail.com

Hotel Country inn
19-1-B, Block 6, P.E.C.H.S, Off Shahra e Faisal, Karachi
Phone: 0092-21-34556814/34556861/34556881
Fax: 0092-21-34556886
Email: info@countryinn.com.pk

Hotel Crown Inn Sadler
Plot no 171, Shahrah-E-iraq, Saddar, Karachi
Phone: 0092-21-35622001-6
Fax: 0092-21-35622007
Website: www.hotelcrowninn.com

Hotel De Paris
Plot No. 13, S-B/2, Mir Karamali Talpur Road, Saddar, Karachi, 74200
Phone: 0092-21-5214204

Excelsior hotel
Inverarity road Karachi, Pakistan
Phone: 0092-21-511386

Falcon Hotel
Zaibunnisa Street, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan, Pakistan
Phone: 0092-21-35215933, 35677185

Gulf Hotel
Gulf Hotel Daudpota Road Saddar Karachi-74400 Pakistan
Phone: 00 92-21-356-61235/39
Fax No: 0092-21-356-82388
Email : Gulfhtl@gmail.com, Gulfhtl@hotmail.com
Web Page: www.gulfhotelebs.com

Gillani Hotel
Fatima Jinnah Road, Near Cantonment Station, Cantonment, Karachi, Pakistan.
Phone: 0092-021-5383329

Hotel Jabees
Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar
Phone(s) : 0092-215212015/5212011/5678471
Fax(s): 0092-21-5682354

Merry Lodge Guest House
13, Sunny Side Villas, 15-CL-8, Sunny Side Road, Civil Lines, Karachi
Karachi, Sindh
Phone: 0092-21-5220114
Fax: 0092-21-5220112

Paradise Hotel
Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan, Pakistan
0092-92-21-35680321

Royal Inn
245-2-H BLOCK-6, P.E.C.H.S.
Phone: 0092-334-3101990

Royal city
Regal Chowk, Sarmad Road, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan
Phone: 0092-21-5682378

Sarah hotel
30-SB-6, Parr Street, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan
Phone: 009292-21-35211513, 35218262

Hotel Sarawan
Raja Ghazanfar Ali Rd, Saddar, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan
Phone: 0092-21-5216001 9

Hotel Shams
Fatima Jinnah Road, Cantonment Station, Saddar

Hotel Shaheen
44, Fatima Jinnah Road, Near Cantonment Station,

Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5677322	Cantonment, Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5218291
Umpire Hotel 35/36, Lilly Road, Near Cantonment Station, Cantonment, Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5213896, 5652991, 5653270	Beach Luxury Hotel Molvi Tamizuddin Khan road, Karachi, Pakistan UAN: 111-254-111 Phone: 0092-21-3561-1031 Fax: 0092-21-3561-1625 Email: beachluxury@avari.com
Carlton Hotel Carlton Hotel Resort & Club, DC-5, off Zulfiqar Street # 1, DHA Phase VIII Karachi UAN (0092) 111 72 72 72 Phone: 0092-21-5849172-86 Fax: 0092-21-5849170-71 E-Mail: reservation@carlton.com.pk	Faran Hotel Shara-e-Faisal, Nursery, P.E.C.H.S, Karachi Phones: 0092-21-34532478-85 Fax: 0092-21-3452486-34545752 Email: hotel.faran@yahoo.com, mail@hotelfaran.com.pk, web: www.hotelfaran.com.pk
Days Inn 164, B.C.H.S., Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-34388140 Website: www.daysinn.com.pk	Hotel Metropole Club Road, 75520 Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21 512051 Fax: 0092-21-514301
Hotel Hilltop Dr. Mahmood Hussain Rd, Nr. Tariq Rd. Adj Ferozabad police Station Landmark, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-4532440, 4532441, 4532442, 4532443, 4532444, 4542648 Fax: 0092-21-4539111	Mehran Hotel Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. 75530 Phone: 0092-21 3566-085
Midway house Stargate Road, Karachi Airport Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-4570371 Fax: 0092-21-4571815	Pearl Continental hotel Club Road, PO Box# 8513, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-3568-5021 [50 lines], 111-505-505 Fax: 0092-21-3568-1835, 3568-2655 Email: pchk@hashoogroup.com

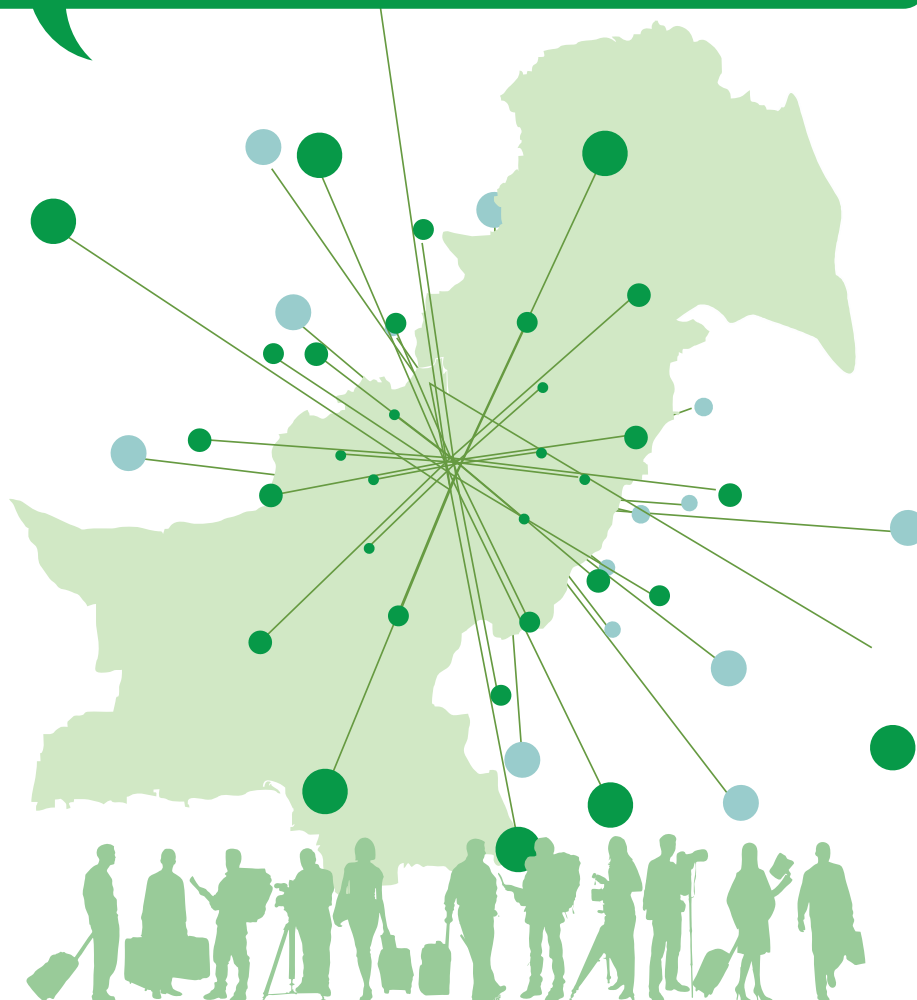
MAJOR RESTAURANTS

Del Frio Restaurant Karachi Atrium Mall, 249 Staff Lines, Zaibunnisa Street, Saddar Phone: 0321-8729919	Salt n Pepper Village 3-B, Beach Avenue, D.H.A, Opp: Khayaban-e Ittehad. Phone: 0092-21-35843121 Fax: 92-21-35840952 Website: http://www.saltnpepper.com.pk
Port Grand Food Street Jinnah Flyover, M.T. Khan Road, Karachi, Pakistan- 7400, Karachi, Pakistan-07400 Phone: 0092-21-3586 3826 Website: http://www.portgrand.com	Al Haaj Bundu Khan Main M.A. Jinnah Road, near Numaish Sindhi Muslim Roundabout Phone: 0092-21 -7780612
Hardee's Restaurant Block-D, Hyderi, North Nazimabad, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-36633853, 36633854 Website: http://www.hardees.com	Dilpasand Board Office Opp. Matric Board Office, Block-A, N. Nazimabad, Karachi 74700 Phone: 0092-021-36722441-7 Email: info@dilpasandsweets.com
Shan E Mughlia Dalmia Road, Old Driven-in Cinema, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-213- 4823604	Lal Qila Opposite Awami Markaz, Main Shahrah-e-Faisal, Block 7 & 8, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-111525745 Fax: 021-34395860 Email: marketing@lalqila.com Website: http://www.lalqila.com
Food Center Burns Road Food Street, Saddar, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-111-000-606	Al-Habib Restaurant Nagan Chowrangi R-76-77, Sector 15 A/4, Nagan Chowrangi Bufferzone Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-36952567 UAN: 111-111-230
Eaton Foods 65-C, Phase 2, D.H.A. Karachi, Pakistan. Phone: 0092-21-3-779-1027, 3-779-1032 Website: http://www.theeaton.com	BBQ Tonight Com. 5/1, Boating Basin, Clifton, Block-5, Karachi. Phone: 0092-2135824471 Fax: 021-35376963 Email: info@bbqtonight.com.pk Website: http://www.bbqtonight.com

<p>Shaheen Shanwari Rashid Minhas road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 021- 34601912</p>	<p>Ronaq Mela D-4, Block 10-A, Main Rashid Minhas Road, Near Johar Mor, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Pakistan. Phone: Tel: 0092 21-4992620, 4811146, 4226222 Website: http://www.ronaqmelarestaurant.com</p>
<p>Biryani Centre DHA PHASE V HEAD OFFICE - Plot No. 12-C, 26th Commercial Street, Tauheed Commercial Area, Phase V, DHA, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-35838582</p>	<p>Pizza Hut MCR (Pvt.) Limited Franchisee of Pizza Hut, 7th Floor, Shahnaz Arcade, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi, Pakistan. Phone: 0092-21-111-241-241 Fax: 0092-21-34916022 Email: comments@pizzahut.com.pk Website: http://www.pizzahut.net.pk</p>
<p>Premier Biryani Rashid Minhas Road, Block-10, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-34975818</p>	<p>Mateen Foods Bhayani Cloth Market, Block M, North Nazimabad Karachi Sindh, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-36647016</p>
<p>Nandos KDA Scheme 5 Kehkashan, Clifton, Next to The Forum, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-111-626-367 Website: http://www.nandos.com</p>	<p>Hot n Spice 18 -C, Lane No. 3, Stadium Commercial Area, Khayaban-e Shamsheer, Phase V DHA, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-35347335, 35843930 Email: info@hot-nspicy.com</p>
<p>Mr Burger Karachi Block 5, Service lane; Suit # 5 1st Floor FI-4/20 block 5; Gulshan-e-iqbal Nipa Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-92-21-34962830</p>	<p>Pizza1 One Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi Pakistan-57600 Phone: 0092-21-34321370-74 Website: http://www.pizza1one.com/</p>
<p>Kaybee Snacks Kaybee Terrace, Stadium Market Lane No. 3 Khyaban- e-Shamsheer, D.H.A. Authority Phase V, Karachi , Pakistan Phone: 0092-215350403, 5350404, 5343120 Website: http://kaybeesnacks.com</p>	<p>Papa Johns Pizza Karachi 30-C, lane # 3, Kh-e-Rahat PH-VI, D.H.A Phone: 0092-21-35342754, 111-46-7272 Website: http://www.papajohns.com.pk</p>
<p>Red Apple Restaurant Karachi 126-u Block 2 pechs on main Allama iqbal Road off TARIQ ROAD Phone: 0092-21-34312812-5, 021-343128125 Website: http://www.redapple.com.pk</p>	<p>Jharoka Restaurant Karachi Regent Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre Main Shahra-e- Faisal Phone: 0092-21-111-111-774</p>
<p>Haleem Ghar 1397, Block-14, Dastgir, F.B.Area Phone: 0092-21-6329197</p>	<p>Mirage Buffet Restaurant Karachi 2 Darya, Foods Street Devils Point, Phase 8 D.H.A Sea View Phone: 0092-21-32046900</p>
<p>Karachi Haleem Restaurant Pak Mansion, Burns Road, Shahrah-e-Liaquat, Saddar, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-32633659, 32633584</p>	<p>Jan'S Broasted Chicken Raja Ghazanfar Ali Road, Saddar, Karachi. Phone: 92-21-5213685 Website: http://jansbroast.com</p>
<p>Charcoal BBQ n Grill Restaurant Karachi Beach Avenue, Phase VIII, DHA, Karachi Phone: 0323-200104547</p>	<p>Daily Dubai Restaurant Karachi Badar Commercial Street 10, DHA Phase 5 Defence Phone: 0092-21-35244018</p>
<p>Indus Foods 11-C, Stadium Lane # 2, DHA Phase 5, Opposite DHA Zamzama Stadium Phone: 0092-21-5343100-2</p>	<p>Master Broast Restaurant Karachi Boat Basin Clifton Karachi Phone: 0345-2448886, 0346-2726649</p>
<p>Kolachi Restaurant Karachi Beach View Road, Phase VIII, DHA Phone: 0092-021-36131113/32003628/36069645</p>	<p>Arizona Grill 20-C, 2nd Commercial Lane, Main Zamzama Boulevard, Ph- V, DHA, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-5830351</p>
<p>Copper Kettle 3rd Commercial Lane, Mall Square Zamzama, Phase 5, Defence Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-021-35878886, 35878887</p>	<p>Lavish Dine Main Rashid Minhas Road, Gulshan-e-Jamal, Near Millenium mall, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-213-34601406</p>
<p>Subway FLURY'S FOOD PRODUCTS - 1st Floor, Karim Chamber, Merewether Road, Civil Lines, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-5682161</p>	<p>McDonald's SIZA Foods (Pvt) Ltd. Lakson Square Building # 2, Sarwar Shaheed Road, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-1112-44-622 Email: contactus@mcdonalds.com.pk Website: http://www.mcdonalds.com.pk</p>
<p>Ideal Foods 290/A, Al Freed Street, Garden West Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-2255079</p>	<p>Revolving Restaurant Caesars Tower 16th Floor Main Shahrah-e-Faisal Karachi, Pakistan</p>

	Phone: 0092-21-32785147 Email: info@therevolvingrestaurant.com Website: http://therevolvingrestaurant.com
Jamils Foods Jameels Foods 136, C.P.Berar Society, Dhoraji Colony Karachi Phone: 0092-021-34944910, 021-34920633	Usmania University Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Opposite PIA Planetarium. Phone: 0092-21-4982525
Sajjad Restaurant City Railway Colony Super Highway, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-021-8267330	Lasania D-1 Main Rashid Minhas Road, Opp: Toyota Eastern Showroom, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21- 4991157-4991156 Website: http://lasania.net/home.html
Cool 90s Shahrah-e-jahangir block L North Nazimabad, Karachi Pakistan Phone: 0092-321-2777668 Email: cool90srestaurant@gmail.com	Student Biryani ZC-57 Katrak Road Saddar, Karachi 74400, Sindh, Pakistan Phone: 0092-021-111-111-778 Fax: 0092-021-111-111-778 Email: info@studentsbiryani.com Website: http://www.studentbiryani.com.pk/

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