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KARACHI TOURIST GUIDE MAP LAUNCHED



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Pakistan's Mohenjo Daro ruins 'threatened by festival'

BBC News
January 31, 2014

AAP celebrates 28 years, organises national show of paintings, sculpture and graphic arts : Artists, writers express resolve to protect Punjab's culture

Daily Times
January 31, 2014

DETAILS

Conservationists in Pakistan have asked Unesco to stop part of a cultural event being held on a World Heritage site. The group of scholars and archaeologists say the opening ceremony of the Sindh cultural festival could damage the ruins of Mohenjo Daro. It is the world's oldest surviving city and dates back to the pre-Hindu Indus Valley civilisation.

The festival is the brainchild of the young leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The BBC's Shahzeb Jillani in Karachi says official arrangements for the opening ceremony are in full swing - but leading conservationists are outraged. Holding the festival in Mr Bhutto Zardari's home province is seen as an attempt to strengthen his local credentials - something that critics, citing his foreign education and privileged upbringing, fault him for.

The son of former President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated six years ago, he has spent much of his life abroad. In a rare interview earlier this week with the BBC's Lyse Doucet, he spoke passionately about the need to save Pakistan's cultural heritage, including Mohenjo Daro, now crumbling and in need of restoration. But many of those treasured sites, including Mohenjo Daro, lie in his party's stronghold, and leading conservationists accuse his provincial government of disregard for preservation. They are worried that the construction work needed for the festival's opening ceremony could irreparably damage the 5,000-year-old site, and have written to the UN's heritage body, to ask it to intervene. Mr Bhutto Zardari has dismissed the criticism, saying organisers are taking the utmost care and that the event will go ahead on Saturday. Large wooden and steel scaffolding is being erected over and around the ruins, while heavy spotlights and lasers have been installed for a light show. Farzand Masih, head of the Department of Archaeology at Punjab University, said such activity was banned under the Antiquity Act. "You cannot even hammer a nail at an archaeological site," he said. "The laser and spotlights, secondly, will cause rapid decay at the site which is already exposed to many negative factors." He added that he had declined an invitation to attend.

Qasim Ali Qasim, head of the Sindh Archaeology Department that is responsible for the ruins, denied any damage was being done. "I don't think that the structure or lights would harm the site," he said. "I am personally overseeing the work and it is all in accordance with the SOPs (standard operating procedures)." Sindh's High Court later agreed to hear a case filed by lawyer Qazi Ali Azhar that seeks to stop the government building on the site. Unless "extreme care" is taken in making arrangements for the show, the site may be damaged and this would be a "great national tragedy", said the short order from the court's Chief Justice Syed Maqbool Baqir. The ruins, discovered in 1922 by British archaeologist Sir John Marshall, are 425km (265 miles) north of the port city of Karachi. They are one of Pakistan's six Unesco World Heritage sites deemed places of special cultural significance. But many of the country's historical sites are crumbling through neglect, endangered by vandalism and urban encroachment, as well as a booming trade in illegally excavated treasures.

LAHORE: The Artists' Association of Punjab (AAP) in collaboration with the Pakistan National Council of Arts held a seminar titled 'Crisis of Culture' on Thursday at the Alhamra Arts Council.

The seminar celebrated the 28 years of AAP, and the celebrations included the association's annual exhibition. A number of artists and writers spoke at the seminar. The themes and topics under discussion varied but all of them revolved around the larger theme of 'carrying on' the culture of Punjab. Various speakers, including Qudus Mirza, Dr Rahata Naveed Masud and Asim Akhtar, presented their papers on the theme. The underlying message of these papers was to convey to the people that the culture of the city and Punjab has not vanished. It is very much there and exists. But there is a need to preserve and conserve cultural practices. And for that, everyone needs to be part of it and needs to participate in it.

Lahore Arts Council Chairman Attaul Haq Qasmi was the chief guest, while Punjab University Vice Chancellor Dr Mujahid Kamran was the guest of honour at the seminar. Other renowned speakers and writers such as Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, AAP Secretary General Ghulam Mustafa, Shah Nawaz Zaidi, Nahid Raza, Rahat Naveed Masood, Qudus Mirza and Summaiya Durrani also spoke at the seminar. The speakers held an open discussion towards the end of the seminar where they discussed the critical issue of the present cultural decay within the city. Dr Rahat Naveed Masud talked about the tectonic shifts in the life of an individual and society as a whole. And for this reason, the world seems to have come full circle. She called it "the end of a time cycle".

National Show:

Meanwhile, AAP had also organised its 13th National Show. The display of paintings, sculpture and graphic arts was opened on Wednesday at the Alhamra Art Gallery. Works of renowned artists such as Mian Ijazul Hassan, Rahat Naveed Masud, Amna Pataudi, Qudus Mirza, RM Naeem, Rahat Ghulam Mustafa, Musarrat Hassan, Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi, Maliha Azmi Agha, Kehkashan Jafri, Ali Azmat, Mughees Riaz, Aftab Zafar, Jameel Baloch, Abdul Hameed Baloch Baloch, Hira Mustafa and Jahanzeb Malik have been showcased at the gallery, among others from around the country. All in all, 150 artists' work was on display and the art works numbered around 250.

With such a diverse group of artists being represented at a single show, the result was a unique mix of ideas, themes, symbolism and techniques. The artists, therefore, represented a diversity that was unique but still somehow called for a homogeneity in terms of representing all that is inherent to a Pakistani culture. Pakistan's most celebrated fiction writers, Intizar Hussain

College on rails to build bridges with Pakistan, experience life and culture

www.thehindu.com
January 31, 2014

Preserving heritage: Court instructs to take 'utmost' care in holding festival at Moen Jo Daro

Express Tribune
January 31, 2014

Sindh Festival's stage does not damage ruins of Mohenjodaro: Bilawal

samaa.tv
January 30, 2014

Direction of Pak-Korea ties

The Nation
January 30, 2014

inaugurated the exhibition. The exhibition will remain on display until February 15.

Akiljit Kaur grew up hearing stories of her grandfather's journey on the train from Pakistan; the truck ride to the railway station; the long, searing journey on a train so packed there was no room to move; the killings, how many he never counted. Like millions of Partition refugees, Sardar Gurbachan Singh struggled to build a life in India — laying the foundation for Ms. Kaur to study at Delhi University's prestigious Lady Shri Ram College. Now, 65 years later, Ms. Kaur is hoping she'll have a seat on a train to Pakistan: Delhi University's 'Gyanodaya Express,' an annual cross-country travel opportunity for students which, for the first time, will be headed across the border. Dinesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, said the visit to Pakistan was "an exercise in building bridges between the young people of both countries." Dr. Singh said the group would stay in Pakistan for a week, visiting the Lahore University of Management Studies, and the frontier town of Taxila — the cradle of the Indus Valley civilisation. The train is meant to be a kind of college-on-wheels — an opportunity to experience life and culture. Kamla Nehru college student Simple Rajra also hopes to be on the train, eager to see the country where her grandparents met, fell in love and married. Her grandparents, Ms. Rajra says, were inseparable as children, and once even ran away together, setting of a search by the entire village. Their families were separated during the chaos of Partition, as they fled across what is now the Line of Control in Poonch. The families were resettled, though, in the same village in India leading, eventually, to Ms. Rajra's birth. Her grandparents, however, never again saw the river bank where they used to meet — and Ms. Rajra hopes she will fulfil their dream. Dr. Singh said he hadn't been able to be present in the earlier Gyanodaya Express trips through India. "But I will most probably accompany the students on this trip," he said. "We will open applications on a first come, first served basis during the university's Anthardhvani Festival, which begins on February 14," the Vice-Chancellor said.

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) has ordered the culture and heritage authorities to take "utmost care" of the archaeological site of Moen Jo Daro, where the Sindh Festival is being organised by the Pakistan Peoples Party's patron-in-chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, so that no damage is caused to the remains of one of the world's earliest urban settlement.

SHC chief justice Maqbool Baqar, who headed the bench, also issued notice to the provincial chief secretary, culture and heritage department secretary and advocate-general to file their comments. Since the festival is starting on February 1 with the opening ceremony at Moen Jo Daro, the judges also directed the office to ensure that the notices are served to the respondents through all modes of communication. The directions came on a petition filed by four lawyers, who had taken the key provincial bureaucrat along with the culture and heritage secretary to the court over alleged damages to the Unesco World Heritage Site caused during preparations for the first Sindh Festival. Advocate Qazi Ali Athar, one of the petitioners, informed the judges that his grandfather was elevated as chief justice (Qazi ul Qazat) of the state of Sindh during the period of Mughal Empire, explaining his special interest in the preservation of Sindh's cultural heritage. The petitioners alleged that the culture and heritage secretary, under the control and command of the chief secretary, was destroying the archaeological site of Moen Jo Daro — a symbol of the Indus Valley civilisation (dating back to 10,000 years BC) — by holding a cultural show.

Culture Versus Heritage

"That this cultural activity may cause damages to the originality of the site is of high importance for all human beings," stated the petitioners. They expressed apprehension that if extreme care is not taken by the organiser [culture and heritage department] in making arrangements, the festival could cause irretrievable damage to the site which will be a great national tragedy. The petitioners told the judges that there is extreme urgency in the matter, as unless the official respondents are cautioned, the petition would become meaningless. They pleaded the court to order the officials to halt activity/nuisance at the world heritage site and declare it as the most precious heritage of the state. The court was also urged to pass a restraining order for future activities on governmental and public levels within and near the site. Understanding the gravity of the situation, the bench ordered issuance of notices to the chief secretary, culture and heritage secretary and Sindh AG to file their comments in reply to the allegations in the petition.

ISLAMABAD/ LARKANA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) patron-in-chief, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the stage made for the launching ceremony of upcoming Sindh Festival 2014 did not damage the ruins of Mohenjodaro, SAMAA reports. Bilawal visited the site today along with archaeology experts, who gave him briefing. It is to be mentioned here that Bilawal Bhutto was strongly criticized by the people of Sindh, including writers and journalists, for damaging the ruins of Mohenjodaro in the name of culture festival. The Sindh Festival will be held from February 1-15 and its closing ceremony will be held at Keenjhar Lake, Thatta.

The current two-day visit of Korea National Assembly Speaker Dr Kang Chang-Hee on the invitation of Chairman Senate Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari is indeed a milestone in Pakistan-Korea relations. This visit is commencing at a time when the need of collaboration in a range of fields between the two countries is more important than it has been ever before. The legacy of Korean companies like Daewoo and Sambu through their projects of Motorway and Lowari Tunnel is being taken to the next level with a range of projects by various Korean companies including the hydro-power projects for energy hit Pakistan.

H.E. Dr Kang is the highest level Korean political figure to visit Pakistan in many years and the results of this visit will definitely set the tone for the future ties of both countries. Korean companies can find a big market in Pakistan with population of almost 200 million. Likewise, Pakistan can gain

China, Pakistan to forge language cooperation

Pakistan Observer
January 30, 2014

the skills and techniques of some of the best reputed Korean companies. This visit has all the ingredients of a win-win visit for both countries. Korean brands of Samsung and LG have gained such popularity that it will be difficult to find a home without their products. Dr Kang is a veteran politician from the third largest city of Korea and has won the elections six times from his constituency making him a formidable political force. It was people like him who were the strongest aid of the late president Park Chung-Hee who laid the foundation of modern Korea. Dr. Kang has witnessed the transformation of a war torn Korea to a dynamic Korea to become world's 11th largest economy. He has depicted an excellent personal picture of over 60 years of political struggles of Korea in his over 400 pages book "Era of Passion". He has seen it all too well to understand Pakistan's current situation. I am sure the subjects of energy, trade, education, research, culture, sports etcetera will be under discussion during this visit. The aspects for a Pak-Korea direct flight may also be pondered.

Being an educationist trying to promote Korean language and culture in Pakistan ever since the inception of Department of Korean in 2006 and Islamabad King Sejong Institute in 2012 at NUML, it is call of the time to emphasize on education. Literacy rate in Korea is almost 100% and that has provided the basis of the rapid growth Korea has made over the last few decades. There are over 100 students studying with us at present to achieve their "Korean Dream". I would like to emphasize on the students' exchange program with a wide scope with special emphasis on Korean language. Students should be facilitated with the process of studying in Korea. We are facilitating Korean language and culture related activities both in and off the campus. Many schools celebrate Asian or World Culture Days and students assigned with Korean stalls are facilitated with relevant materials resulting in better awareness of Korean culture among the masses. I am not surprised at all when locals opt for Korean food instead of western during the Korean festivals where food is made available. It will be unfair not to mention the visionary personality of Korean Ambassador Dr Song Jong-hwan. Ever since we greeted Dr Song at NUML after just two days of his arrival in Pakistan to encourage the participants of "Quiz on Korea" competition, it was beyond any doubt that Pak-Korea ties were going to improve dramatically. This reason in itself was enough to elaborate his serious, productive and outreaching intentions in Pakistan. Since his arrival back in April last year he has been working tirelessly to promote cultural, educational, economic, social, political and sports ties between the two friendly nations. His ambition to expand the bilateral trade to 10 times within a decade may seem challenging but he is no stranger to setting himself tough goals and achieving them. With the little knowledge I have about him, I have all the reasons to believe he will make it happen, as well.

The writer is Head Department of Korean, NUML, Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD: China Radio International (CRI) and Roots Millennium Schools (RMS), with a view to promote cultural relationship between China and Pakistan and to forge language cooperation between the two organizations are promoting Chinese and Urdu Languages for the benefit of both Pakistan and China. Under the agreement the Promotion of Chinese language & Culture and establishment of CRI Confucius Classroom across Pakistan is the common visionary goal of the CRI-Roots Confucius Classroom. A graceful, ceremony co-hosted by CRI & RMS with 1000 as audience marking the 3rd Anniversary of CRI-Roots Confucius classroom in presence of the Chief Guest on the occasion H.E. and Madame Sun Weidong Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China in Pakistan, Mohammad Zubair Minister of State for Privatization, Honorable Senators, Members of National Assembly, Former Ambassadors to China, Think Tanks, Progressive thinkers and policy makers, H.E. Jesus Zenen Buergo Ambassador of Cuba, large number of diplomats and bureaucrats, Chinese and foreign media, Country Correspondent CRI and Qin Shengrui Correspondent CRI Islamabad.

Chief Executive and Idea Sponsor Chinese language initiative, Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq TI in his welcome note threw light on the relationship and uttered golden words further strengthening this relationship saying "we extend and pledge to renew our heartfelt commitment and support for an even prosperous relationship with the entire Nation of China. Together we can! Our future is together as partners! 21% of world population together in the 21st Century!" He further added that "Pakistan-China together makes up 21% of the world's population. This initiative will challenge the youth to think beyond, think about the challenges of tomorrow, and what must be done today, highlighting the importance of partnering for tomorrow and taking this already strong relationship further. Together hand in hand with our friends in China, we can achieve greatness." The event was indeed the realization of the aim of visionary director and being a tribute to Pakistan China Friendship it was formidable to not have invited Mr. Mushahid Hussain, Chairman Pakistan China Institute who added value to the occasion bringing in to limelight the future worth of these friendship endeavors, the need for which erupts directly from our hearts and is not limited to superficial play of love and affection.

Special performances flare to the glitterati of this mega event and were a treat to eyes for all those present witnessing the occasion live. These performances were driven by the need to promote unity and solidarity among all the provinces of Pakistan by terrific displays of Pakistani ethnic dances that included "Khattak Dance" and "Bhangra" among others. Moreover in accordance with the aim of program to celebrate Pakistan China Friendship it would have rather been unfair if the term solidarity was taken one sided, hence a glorious tribute was given to the armed forces of Pakistan and china in one of the most ravishing performances by our students leaving strong impressions of the need of strategic unity for maintaining the power balance in current world affairs. The program was driven to conclusion following the speech by the honorable Chief Guest and a thank you note by China Radio International Representatives. Awards were also distributed among participants and various stake holders of Pak/China Friendship. The ceremony ended with

PTDC employees not paid for over a year

Dawn.com
January 30, 2014

tremendous applause from the parents. There was a great sense of achievement, accomplishment and celebration amongst the students, parents, faculty and the administration which marks the success of the institution. Roots Millennium Schools aims to be a global institution committed to meeting the needs and ambitions of diverse range of students by providing challenging academic programs underpinned by innovative research scholarship and professional practices. Education is the common factor that can play a key role in unifying the youth of the two nations.

ISLAMABAD: About 1,200 employees of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) have not received salaries for over a year amid uncertainty about the organisation's future after devolution of the tourism ministry under the 18th Amendment. While the government is pondering over the corporation's future, its employees have been facing extreme hardship, an official told Dawn.

"We have not only apprised the PML-N government of our miseries but also the last government, but have got no relief," he said.

While the ministry of tourism has been devolved to the provinces along with some other federal ministries, the status of the PTDC and its employee still hangs in the balance. It had been decided that all 42 motels and resorts of the PTDC, worth billions of rupees, would be sold to the provinces through a liquidation process, but the ministry of inter-provincial coordination (IPC), which is looking after the affairs of the corporation intends to hand over the control of the assets without liquidation.

PTDC's acting Managing Director Furqan Bahadur, who is a joint secretary in the IPC ministry, said many of the employees had not received their salaries for over 16 months. He said the IPC ministry had sought an annual grant from the government to pay the salaries. "We are hopeful that we will receive the grant in a couple of days and then the salaries will be paid." Recently, the employees sought the help of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman Khursheed Shah. "On our complaints, Mr Shah called IPC Minister Riaz Pirzada and asked him to mitigate the suffering of the employees," Junaid Jadoon, an office-bearer of the PTDC employees' union, said. He said the minister had informed the PAC chairman that the incumbent MD and his deputy were incompetent to deal with the issue and he had sent a summary to the prime minister for appointment of a regular managing director and deputy MD. The employees have also filed petitions before courts to seek justice.

Terrorism extermination must for promoting tourism, says Pirzada

Pakistan Today
January 29, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada Wednesday said tourism in the country has declined significantly due to terrorism and bad law and order situation. Answering the question of Naeema Kishwar Khan, he said local police have also contributed in decline of tourism as they demand "Nikah Namas" from the tourists. Without exterminating terrorism, tourism cannot be developed in the country.

After the enactment of 18th amendment tourism alongwith subsidiaries have been placed under the ministry of inter-provincial coordination. Lahore High Court (Rawalpindi Bench) and National Industrial Relations Commission (NIRC) have halted the process of handing over the management of facilities along with employees to the provincial governments. He said the Govt needs Rs 930 million for clearing liabilities of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) employees. After the payment of liabilities of the employees the Ministry of IPC would request the court/ NIRC to vacate the restraint orders. The board of PTDC was being reconstituted. The employees of PTDC have filed a case in NIRC for getting their salaries.

Tourism takes a hit in Kashmir's Gulmarg

Al-Jazeera
January 28, 2014

Half the hotels in Indian-administered area ask guests to leave to perform mandatory sewage upgrades. Violence between India and Pakistan has always made tourism a tough sell in the disputed region of Kashmir. That situation was exacerbated after a high court ordered hotels in Indian-administered Gulmarg to upgrade their sewage treatment to preserve the area's environment. More than half the hotels had to empty out their guests to comply with the order. Most of the hotels have reopened but the rest will have to wait until spring to build the required sewage treatment units.

'Taliban may attack tourists in northern areas'

Daily Dawn
January 28, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Taliban may be planning attacks on tourists in the country's mountainous north, where 10 foreign climbers were massacred last year, officials warned on Monday. Thousands of tourists visit Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral each year, many drawn by the area's impressive mountains and glaciers, including the world's second highest peak K2.

Pakistan has seen a surge in militant attacks in recent weeks and officials are warning these may spread to the north as the spring tourist season gets under way. "The interior ministry has officially informed Gilgit-Baltistan that the Pakistani Taliban can strike the region," a senior official of the Gilgit-Baltistan administration said. "The interior ministry has warned of suicide bombings and attacks on tourists in the region." Another official, also speaking anonymously, confirmed the warning.

The tourism industry in northern Pakistan was badly hit by the attack on foreign mountaineers at the foot of the country's second highest mountain Nanga Parbat in June last year. It was the deadliest assault on foreigners in the country for a decade. Those killed were an American with dual Chinese citizenship, three Ukrainians, two Chinese, two Slovaks, one Lithuanian and a Nepalese. A Pakistani guide was also killed. Police in Gilgit-Baltistan said they were not aware of any specific threat by the Taliban but were vigilant. "We have enhanced security as part of a routine exercise, keeping in mind the latest bout of violence throughout the country," the deputy chief of Gilgit-Baltistan police, Sher Ali, said. Police have arrested 18 people over the Nanga Parbat killings but sources in the investigation team formed to probe the matter say they have

BSF officers exchange sweets with Pakistan Rangers at Wagah Border

Business Standard
January 26, 2014

Pakistan Tours gets new GM

The News International
January 25, 2014

Pakistan, Nepal have potential to enhance trade volume: envoy

Business Recorder
January 24, 2014

Mazaar, Bazaar revisited

Express Tribune
January 23, 2014

detained only three actual perpetrators.

In a bid to promote harmony, Border Security Force (BSF) officers on Sunday exchanged sweets with Pakistani Rangers to mark the 65th Republic Day at Wagah border. BSF personnel distributed sweets to Pakistan Rangers, a tradition which is practiced every year. "Today, on the occasion of the Republic Day, we presented sweets to Pakistan Rangers. This is a tradition across borders. We share such moments of happiness with our counterparts so that there is peace and harmony," said Deputy Inspector General of India's Border Security Force (BSF), M.S. Farooqui.

The 65th Republic Day was celebrated across the country in the spirit of patriotism and brotherhood to showcase unity in diversity on Sunday. President Pranab Mukherjee unfurled the tricolour, and took salute at Rajpath. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the Chief Guest at the celebrations. The Indian Air Force showcased awe inspiring flight formations in the grand finale of Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi.

ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Fayyaz Ahmed has assumed the charge as Pakistan Tours Limited (PTL-LDBS) general manager while Arshad Ali has been posted as acting deputy manager.

Sheikh Fayyaz Ahmed possesses vast experience in tourism.. While addressing the staff of PTL, he stressed on the need for making all out efforts to boost domestic and foreign tourism in the country. He also revealed that a comprehensive plan is being prepared to market tours-groups for families and students for Murree, Ayubia, Shogran, Naran, Lake Saiful Maluk, Swat Valley, Chitral (including Kalash Valley), Gilgit-Baltistan, Hunza, Skardu and Neelum Valley (Azad Jammu and Kashmir).

Nepal and Pakistan can enhance bilateral trade ties, there is vast potential of tourism in both the countries said Ambassador of Nepal in Pakistan Bharat Raj Poudyal while addressing at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) on Thursday. He emphasised that single country exhibition of Nepalese products should also be organised in Pakistan like businessmen of both the countries already organising exhibition of Pakistani products in Katmandu. Pakistan is very rich in agriculture sector so agro-based support can be enhanced to Nepal. He said it is an honour to interact with the vibrant business community of Faisalabad. Nepal and Pakistan enjoy close and friendly relations nurture by friendship co-operation and mutual respect. There exist great potentials for increase volume of trade between two countries.

The Nepal, Pakistan bilateral trade agreement provides MFN treatment with respect to custom duties and formalities, taxes, fees and charges of any kind levied on exports and imports of goods. He urged to enhance bilateral trade by utilising Finance Minister's level 'Joint Economic Commission' for mutual co-operation. In his welcome address president FCCI Engr Suhail Bin Rashid said that Nepal and Pakistan has enjoyed diplomatic and bilateral relations over a period of half century. Since then both the countries have sought to expand trade, strategic and military co-operation. Both the countries share historical similarities and Members of Saarc Block and Safta Agreement. He said that the volume of trade between Pakistan and Nepal has not reached significant levels due to limited trade operations. During Fiscal Year 2012, bilateral trade was \$3.80 million in favour of Nepal. Pakistan exported goods to Nepal worth \$1.28 million while Nepal exports were \$1.52 million which are quite low depending on the size of economies of both the countries. He further added that Nepal and Pakistan can achieve quantum leap in bilateral trade while enhancing trade in agricultural commodities as agriculture has special potential for expansion of bilateral trade. Similarly Nepal and Pakistan can explore collaboration for promoting tourism industry in both the countries. He proposed that increased exchange of business delegations and establishment of display centers in each other's countries will boost the trade ties and enable both the countries to enjoy increased profits. With the GSP Status granted to Pakistan by European Parliament, there might be increased trade for semi-finished products to have required value addition in Pakistan.

Furthermore Pakistan is one of the highest per capita tea consuming countries in the world and Nepal is one of the finest tea and coffee producers that can create opportunity for bilateral trade between the two countries. Riazul Haq Senior Vice President FCCI, Chaudhry Muhammad Asghar Vice President, Rehan Naseem Bharara, Khuram Bin Rashid and Muhammad Talha shared their views on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Bharat Raj Poudyal, Ambassador of Nepal in Pakistan along with his wife visited Saleem Campus of The University of Faisalabad (TUF). During the meeting with Pro Dr Mohammad Iqbal Tahir, Advisor to Chairman BOG, TUF and other senior faculty members, the guests were briefed about The University of Faisalabad, University Medical & Dental College, Madinah Teaching Hospital and other welfare projects running under the auspices of Madinah Foundation. Bharat Raj Poudyal said that Pakistan and Nepal have good friendly relations. He emphasised to promote bilateral co-operation in trade as well as education sector between the two countries. Poudyal showed keen interest to establish linkages of academic institutions of Nepal with the University of Faisalabad. He invited the senior faculty members of TUF to visit Nepal for this purpose. The ambassador also appreciated the services of Madina Foundation in health and education sectors. Poudyal was also presented the University memento.

KARACHI: There is a host of things that scream Pakistan — the green Pakola, Metro Milan Agarbati and Tibet Talcum Powder, to name a few.

Four years ago, Saima Zaidi, who teaches at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, published a book titled Mazaar, Bazaar; the book is an inter-disciplinary study on design and visual

Tourist train helping people explore historical places

Pakistan Observer
January 23, 2014

K-2 first ascent: year-long celebrations to mark 60th anniversary launched

Business Recorder
January 23, 2014

culture that focuses on the symbolism that explicates the diversity and visual vernacular of Pakistan. In her book discussion, which took place at the Oxford University Press bookstore on January 22, Zaidi shared why she compiled the book: "To discover who we are as a nation. Through this work and the images, I have been able to explore and communicate it [our identity]." With over 33 contributions from leading experts in one book, she delves into Pakistan's consumer culture and icons and said that, for her, compiling the book "Wasn't just a labour of love, but a labour of love and torture since it took [her] six years to assimilate all these wonderful things." Zaidi highlighted that Pakistanis are romantics to the core, "with old-world charm that significantly dictates their imagination." She pointed out the intricacies and visual impact of Tibet Talcum Powder's bottle. The bottle shows a young girl, "who epitomises purity and is looking away from the prying eyes of men." She shared a poster that sheds light on the pehwan culture in Pakistan. She shares that it is a classic case in point of masculinity as generally viewed in the country. Focusing on the confluence of art and culture, Zaidi said, "Now is when it is safe to say that the cinema culture is being revived. Look at the cinematic poster of Zinda Bhaag, for instance, "which is reminiscent of the posters of yesteryear — it provides breathing space, which is nowhere to be seen in the other cinema releases." She showed the painting of Khusrau and Shirin (from the eponymous Persian tragic romance), which makes one view Pakistani culture as "heterogeneous, with diverse people inhabiting its regions." although Khusrau was a Persian king and Shirin, an Armenian princess, the folklore is truly traditional and subcontinental. In another example, she shared the visual treat that Thatta's Shah Jahan Mosque is; it has calligraphic notes on it, but they are hardly legible. Thus, they essentially serve to showcase the beauty and opulence of calligraphic work. Books like Mazaar, Bazaar, which juxtapose historical evidence with contemporary writing, are essential in reminding us of how rich and interesting Pakistan's cultural expression is. After a thought-provoking, visually enlightening discussion, Zaidi concluded, "Our forefathers had dreams for this country. They wanted it to stand out as best amongst the rest, we were a pluralistic society that celebrated diversity in all its form. Who we were, we were so proud of!" It is indeed time to embrace our identity and be proud of it... again.

ISLAMABAD: The tourist train gives a number of people chance to have glimpse of historical places of Rawalpindi, Taxila, Attock Khurd, Rohtas Fort, Mangla Dam and Khewra. The tourist train was started in November last year on the directives of Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique on routes from Rawalpindi to different recreational points. The idea to start tourist train was given by the Pakistan Railways Advisory and Consultancy Service (PRACS) to promote use of trains as a means of exploring Pakistan as well as railway heritage, including trains, stations and sections.

According to an official source, the tourist train would help promote tourism, which could contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. Railways had earlier started running the tourist train in October 2010, which, however, could not continue due to some reasons. The present government has restored train service at different stations in line with its efforts to help Pakistan Railways stand on its feet. An official of PRACS told this agency that the tourist train service was getting overwhelming response from the people, especially the youth. Since the start of winter season, the PRACS started receiving requests from educational institutions for chartered tourist trains for different places of historic importance, the official said.

Italian technical expert, Gallo Maurizio, associated with a committee which assists mountaineers in Hindu Kush, Karakorum, Himalaya region, on Wednesday urged the foreign tourists to visit Pakistan, which is a safe destination for international tourists. "We've been working for the last 30 years in Gilgit-Baltistan, we have no security concern and security has been increased significantly in the recent years," Gallo stated this while talking to Business Recorder on the eve of celebrating the 1st Ascent of the K-2 Peak. Gallo, who is associated with Ev-K2-CNR, is an Italian non-profit association which promotes scientific and technological research in mountain, stated that a five-member group of mountaineers would be departing for K-2 peak, the second highest mountain on Earth, after Mount Everest, during this summer 2014.

To a question, he said that around 10 to 20 foreign mountaineers had cancelled their scheduled trip to Pakistan following the last year terrorists' attack in which more than 10 foreign mountaineers were killed. Earlier, speaking at a news conference to launch the year-long celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the K-2 first ascent by the Italian expedition in 1954, Agostino Da Poenza, world's one of the top mountaineers and the president Ev-K2-CNR said that K-2 is the best brand that Pakistan should market globally to promote adventure tourism, it would bring not only forex to strengthen Pakistan's economy but would also promote the country's soft image.

Raffaele Del Cima, director SEED, a climate research and mountain development project under the framework of Pakistan-Italy Debt-for-Development Swap Agreement (PIDSA), Saeed Akhtar Rizvi, Secretary Tourism Gilgit-Baltistan, Khadim Hussain, Secretary Forests and Wildlife Gilgit-Baltistan, Amjad Ayub, president Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO) and Munir Ahmed, climate communication expert were also present on the occasion.

Da Polenza said Italians had over a century-old love for the land, people and culture of the Karakorum on the Pakistan side. "Climbing up the K-2 peak is always a dream for the mountaineers, but Pakistan needs to take the concrete steps to project its treasure," he said.

To realise the dream of five mountaineers from the Gilgit-Baltistan, he said that the Ev-K2-CNR would financially support an expedition to attempt scaling of the K2 peak in the coming summer. Raffaele Del Cima, the director SEED project, said the governments of Pakistan and Italy had been investing in Gilgit-Baltistan for the last four years in climate, geology and glaciology research

**Baby Bhutto, his
superman ajrak and the
'cultural coup'... yeah
right!**

*Express Tribune (Blog "welcome to
Pakistan")
January 24, 2014*

**Sindh festival: Learn from
Bilawal, arrange culture**

besides strengthening the Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP) with requisite infrastructure to promote eco-friendly tourism. It is the high time to promote tourism to the CKNP and expeditions to K-2. The SEED-EVK2CNR has partnered with the Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO) to link the GB eco-tourism services to the mainstream markets, for that sake two festivals have been planned one each in Lahore and Karachi the month of March this year. The specially produced brochure would help market tourism itineraries to Europe and other parts of the world, Del Cima said.

Saeed Akhtar Rizvi, Secretary Tourism Gilgit-Baltistan, Khadim Hussain, Secretary Forests and Wildlife Gilgit-Batistan and Agostino Da Polenza, president EvK2CNR also signed two MoUs to promote and strengthen tourism and cultural marketing. On the occasion, Saeed Akhtar Rizvi said Gilgit-Batistan has great potential of tourism and on the other hand the locals are starved for resources to promote their culture and craft. He said that Italian co-operation has contributed significantly in the fields of research and management plans.

Amjad Ayub of Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO) said the tales about the mountains in the GB could fetch many visitors to help sustain the diminishing tourism, "we are all eager to mark the K2 first ascent celebrations and extend the traditional Gilgit-Batistan hospitality with the professional excellence of the PATO member tour operators."

It was quite entertaining to watch Bilawal Bhutto speak of Sindhi culture, dressed up in a presidential style sherwani and speak in roman Urdu. The most amusing part of the 'address' was him putting all the blame on successive governments for the destruction of Sindhi heritage.

What Bilawal did not notice, or his speech writer probably overlooked, was the fact that Sindh has predominantly been ruled by his own political party, PPP, which for the record, hasn't been able to carry out any development work in any of its strong holds in interior Sindh and has, instead, destroyed whatever little heritage was left. The main powerhouses of the province of Sindh, Karachi and Hyderabad, were severely neglected under the PPP rule. In fact, all the development witnessed in urban Sindh was during the tenure of President Pervez Musharraf led MQM-PML-Q coalition setup. Bilawal spoke of preserving the Sindhi culture by announcing a cultural coup. These statements could only have been made by someone sitting comfortably in a fortress or thousands of miles away. He spoke of sticking to the original cultural values of Sindh. On that note, what I fail to understand is how exactly the Superman t-shirt he is wearing, customised in Sindhi ajrak colours, going to preserve Sindhi culture?

Is there some new-age 'burger culture' on the rise that is replacing age old beauty and aesthetics?

Where is our exclusivity?

What message are we giving to the rest of the world about our distinct heritage?

His audience, a relatively backward yet extremely proud lot, will not be able to relate to him if he wears funky t-shirts and carries an 'I'm too cool for school' persona. His grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB) was one of the finest leaders this country ever produced. ZAB interacted with his countrymen in an 'awami' way and the masses could relate to him and the love and respect they had for him is evident even today. On the contrary, with such theatrics and comical bursts of childhood, Bilawal will certainly cause his grandpa's legacy to take a nose dive and within no time the young Bhutto's leadership qualities will be questioned within his own party tiers.

What needs to be done

What Bilawal needs to do is understand the actual values and norms of his province which he happens to visit once in a blue moon?

In order to create an impact, he will first have to recruit competent and sensible consultants and advisors who can groom him in accordance with the needs of the modern times besides striking a balance between rural and urban life styles. They can also guide him as to how he should carry himself as a politician, how he could relate to a common man in the villages and how he could mature in terms of issuing political statements.

The province of Sindh has a rich culture that needs to be preserved. Restoration of historical sites like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, organising cultural weeks, discouraging the feudal mindset and promoting hard working farmers and skilled men and women from rural Sindh can genuinely strengthen the culture of this province. What we witness in the name of cultural shows in Karachi is display of firearms and uncivilised young men from the villages roaming on the streets of Karachi, brandishing sophisticated weapons and shooting in the air at Sea View. This needs to be discouraged and rather more civilised ways of promoting culture should be adopted. The culture of the province can best be promoted by turning Sindh into a tourist friendly province with the best possible site seeing facilities and tour setups. For all of the above initiatives, the government of Sindh, led by Bilawal Bhutto, will first have to improve the law and order situation of the entire province. A complete eradication of the 'daaku' (burglar) culture in interior Sindh, fighting against the feudal mindset, eliminating extremist pockets from the province, creating jobs and spreading the message of love and peace along with an environment of co-existence among the religions and castes are the first few steps that need to be taken. Only then shall we expect true cultural promotion in the province, this time in a more systematic and civilised manner.

Regardless of whether you like or dislike Bilawal Bhutto, regardless of where your political affiliations are based, the Sindh Festival initiative deserves nothing short of unanimous praise.

festivals in every province!

Express Tribune
 Blog: Welcome to Pakistan
 January 22, 2014

The homepage of the Sindh Festival website reads, "The inaugural Sindh Festival, instigated by Patron-in-Chief of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, was conceived because Sindh's rich heritage and culture is in danger. Mohenjo-Daro, the world's oldest planned urban landscape, lies in a state of disrepair, a victim of neglect and indifference. It is but one of a myriad of sites of antiquity scattered across Sindh and Pakistan which need attention now if they are not to be lost forever." The festival will last for two weeks, starting on February 1, 2014 and ending on the 15th. There is no point getting into details of what the festival will cover. Pakistan's media has been abuzz with it for a while, ever since it was initially announced a few months back. But even for ones not familiar with the schedule, they can go through it on the mentioned website. The point here is the importance of this festival. The area that is modern day Pakistan, is one of the most culturally rich areas on the planet. It was home to civilizations such as the Bronze Age Indus Valley and the Neolithic Mehrgarh, going as back as 3300 BCE. Sindh traces its history back to the time aboriginal tribes who spoke the language of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Originally predominantly Hindu and Buddhist, fundamentalist Muslims rulers played a pivotal role in forcibly converting millions of native Sindhis to Islam. It is no surprise then that as things stand currently, the province of Sindh is Pakistan's most liberal province which is in no small part down to its diverse history. The importance of this festival is deep rooted in the current socio-political dynamics of Pakistan. The last one decade has seen the outbreak of unprecedented social suffocation in Pakistan, an era which has seen culture take a backseat. It is not just limited to culture in Sindh but culture in other parts of our country too. We remain a country with a diverse and rich history but all of that has fallen in the background of a violent spree of religious extremism that has poisoned us.

Every passing day witnesses gory stories of bloodshed screaming out of our TV screens and printed across our newspapers. If that isn't enough, political instability and a civil society in a perpetual state of confusion has given rise to more negative energy than positive. With a country effectively in a state of war for the last one decade, there have been very few instances to send a lease of new life through our veins and even fewer instances which make the air around you seem fresh. To fully appreciate the importance of this festival, one perhaps needs to understand the importance of culture. Once that is done, for a culturally rich region like Pakistan, the importance of this festival only magnifies.

Culture is one of the strongest forces binding people. It is something that brings people together across borders, backgrounds and ethnicity. The celebration of culture is healthy in a multitude of reasons, the most significant of which is celebrating your history and paying homage to your roots, s This is one of the many reasons why this initiative and its timing is so good, and why it feels like a breath of fresh air. Our other provincial governments should also take a leaf out of Bilawal and the PPP's book, and celebrate culture in other provinces too. Shahbaz Sharif has managed to organise the Punjab Youth Festival but it is primarily sports based. It needs to be expanded into a complete cultural aspect, incorporating elements of art and daily life. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and the government in Balochistan, in whatever capacity possible, need to organise events and festivals that celebrate their culture. something that has sadly dwindled from Pakistan in the recent past.

How the Sindh festival ends up is any one's guess but by the looks of it, the whole thing will be nothing short of spectacular. Even if it doesn't manage to live up to its hype, the initiative should be lauded across the country regardless of whether you are Sindhi or not.

Deepening relations: Spanish ambassador supports MoU with Pakistani chambers

Express Tribune
 January 22, 2014

FAISALABAD: Spain is anxious to promote bilateral trade with Pakistan, stating that there exists enormous potential for investment in alternative energy resources and tourism in Pakistan. Spain's Ambassador to Pakistan, Javier Carbajosa Sanchez, expressed this, while addressing members of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) here today. He said that Spain, being a developed country with the 14th largest economy in the world, and one of the world's leading countries in the development and production of renewable energy, solar power and wind energy, can help Pakistan overcome its energy crisis through technology transfer. Similarly, Spanish companies can materialise their cooperation in the telecommunication sector of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan's tourism sector has great potential which can be further promoted by improving road and rail infrastructure. He suggested that both countries should launch joint ventures in energy, infrastructure and agro-based sectors. Ambassador Sanchez said that he would try to motivate Spanish companies engaged in the infrastructure development, energy and agriculture to invest in Pakistan. He said that he would push for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the FCCI and Chambers of Commerce in Madrid and Barcelona for direct business to business contacts and linkages. The ambassador said that Pakistan is rich in natural resources and should improve its positive image in the international community. To overcome the two problems of energy and security, Pakistan can improve its economic strength, said Sanchez.

Earlier in his welcome address, FCCI President Engineer Suhail Bin Rashid said that Spain is an important trading partner for Pakistan. In fiscal 2012, bilateral trade stood at \$611.77 million in favour of Pakistan. Pakistan exported \$512.58 million worth of goods to Spain, while imports stood at \$285.93 million. He said a trade analysis shows that there is greater potential available for enhancing trade between Pakistan and Spain. Pakistan's share in Spain's imports was only 0.2% of the total \$325.84 billion in 2012. Similarly, Spain's share in Pakistan's imports was 0.1% in 2012. Rashid said that bilateral trade can grow manifold between the two countries. Spain can help project a positive image of Pakistan in the world community, said Rashid, and urged Spanish investors to invest in Pakistan.

Now, charm of Varanasi attracts tourists from

VARANASI: Political posturing apart, this millennia-old city is now finding favours with even Pakistani and Chinese tourists. Data shows that though the number of tourists from western and

Pakistan and China

India Times
January 22, 2014

Buddhist countries declined, there was an increase in foreign tourist arrival in the city during 2013. The city attracted Italians, Germans, Chinese and Pakistanis while it failed to charm visitors from the UK, the US, France and Japan during the same period.

Regional UP Tourism office, Varanasi, records show that the city, which entices visitors from across the globe, was visited by 2,85,252 foreign tourists in 2013 while the figure for 2012 was 2,78,573. Compared to 2012, altogether 6,679 more tourists visited the city last year. But what is worrying the tourism department officials is the fact that the number of tourists from key nations, including the US, the UK, South Korea and Australia reduced significantly. Even the number of Buddhists from countries like Japan and Sri Lanka reduced drastically in 2013. The number of visitors from China, Pakistan and Bangladesh registered a growth in comparison to 2012. The number of visitors categorized in 'others' category increased significantly. In 2012, the number of visitors in this category was 44,317, which grew to 1,00,457 in 2013. The tourism department is clueless about the fall in numbers of visitors from key countries. "Perhaps, the economic slump had restricted the movement of tourists from these countries," said Ravindra Kumar, the regional tourist officer. The countries which showed decreasing number of tourists to Varanasi, include the UK, the US, Sri Lanka, France, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Australia, UAE, Iran, the Netherlands, South Korea, Spain and Nepal, while a growth of tourists from Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Canada, Singapore, Switzerland, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China was seen. Seven months of 2013 (January, April, May, July, August, October and December) witnessed lesser number of foreign tourists. Maximum number of foreign tourists (2,46,190) visited the city in November of 2013 while remaining 39,062 foreigners visited the city in other 11 months of the year. The sharp decline in number of tourists from Buddhist countries is also a matter of concern particularly when the tourism development programme in Buddhist circuit of the state is in process.

Regarding the implementation of proposed World Bank-aided \$ 300 million tourism projects named as Buddhist Circuit and Agra-Braj Corridor under pro-poor tourism development programme, a WB's preparation support mission team had visited the city in November. The team had visited Sarnath, one of the most revered places of Buddhist Circuit, where Buddha had deliver his first sermon after attaining enlightenment in Bodh Gaya. The team members also met the divisional commissioner to discuss various issues related to the project. According to the RTO, the issues like strengthening of main road and other link road leading to Sarnath, beautification of the ghats along the Ganga, creation of light and sound show at Asi Ghat were discussed. It was also discussed to include the signature components of Varanasi like Banarasi sari, Banarasi paan (betel), and handloom and handicraft into this tourism project. The UP Tourism had sought WB support to begin pro-poor tourism development programme in Buddhist circuit and Agra-Braj corridor. The key feature of the programme is to disperse the geographic, temporal and economic distribution of tourism, focus on domestic and regional tourism, cluster initiatives by destination rather than by sector, target tourists with a higher inducement value and reinforce pro-poor sustainable tourism. In the primary phase of programme, the focus would be on Agra-Braj corridor that comprises of Mathura, Vrindavan and Agra and Buddhist circuit covering Varanasi, Sarnath and Kushinagar. In second phase, the focus would be on villages of Braj region and other destinations of Buddhist circuit. The Union ministry of tourism has also planned to develop tourism circuits based on religious themes during the 12th Plan in an integrated manner with Central financial assistance and appropriate involvement of state governments and private sector. The themes of identified circuits are based on Buddhism, Hinduism, Sufism, Jainism, Sikhism and Christianity. The Buddhist circuit covers major Buddhist destinations mainly in UP and Bihar. The IL&FS Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (IL&FS IDC) appointed as the national level consultant (NLC) by ministry of tourism submitted its report to the ministry on Spiritual Tourism (Buddhism) Phase-I in March 2012. According to the report, UP has various religious as well as architecturally known destinations that attract tourists, while Bihar has the asset of Buddhist destinations.

According to the report, while UP has various religious as well as architecturally known destinations which attracts tourists, the state of Bihar has an asset of having key Buddhist destinations which have great potential. Kushinagar, Sarnath, Gaya (Bodhgaya) and Rajgir are the key destinations that have registered huge number of tourist inflows both domestic and foreign. On the other side, Kapilvastu, Sravasti, Sankisa and Vaishali are the other potential destinations, which can be developed as key tourism sites. The major sites at Sarnath include Chaukhandi Stupa, Dhamek Stupa, Mulagandha Kuti Vihar, Museum, and excavation site.

Pakistan-Malaysia FTA To Be Reviewed Next Month, Says Ambassador

BERNAMA
January 19, 2014

Pakistan and Malaysia will review the current free trade agreement next month to boost the bilateral trade volume, which is currently in Malaysia's favour, says Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Hasrul Sani Mujtabar. He said this review would not only help Pakistan but also Malaysia to secure much better market access in certain areas by addressing tariffs and non-tariff measures while strengthening technical cooperation in specific industries. "I think it is very timely because Pakistan and Malaysia are looking to secure more markets for their respective export products and deepen the investment relationship," he told Bernama in an interview.

The free trade agreement between Pakistan and Malaysia was signed in Kuala Lumpur in November 2007 -- the first bilateral agreement between two member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Bilateral trade between Pakistan and Malaysia in 2012 was valued at RM6.5 billion. Commodity products imported by Pakistan include products based on palm oil valued at RM4 billion, rubber (RM76.9 million), cocoa (RM33.8 million) and pepper (RM2.42 million). Pakistan is the fifth largest importer of Malaysian palm oil and palm oil products. Pakistan's major exports to Malaysia include fish, potatoes, onion, rice, maize, cotton yarn, woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibre, bed linen, electrical apparatus for line telephones and parts and accessories.

Pakistan, Greece need to improve economic relations

The Nation
January 19, 2014

Dr Hasrul Sani has proposed to the Ministry of Plantations Industries and Commodities for the Malaysian Palm Oil Board to have a presence in Islamabad, the administrative centre of Pakistan, in order to communicate effectively with relevant agencies on palm oil trade and technical cooperation. "I hope economic ties between Pakistan and Malaysia will continue to prosper in the coming years for the benefit of Pakistanis and Malaysians," he said.

Meanwhile, the ambassador said his office in Islamabad would work closely with Tourism Malaysia to organise promotional campaigns for 'Visit Malaysia Year 2014' by bringing in cultural groups to major cities including Lahore and Rawalpindi. Tourism Malaysia should be more proactive to promote tourism here amid increasing interest from Pakistanis, he said, adding that more than 70,000 Pakistanis visited Malaysia last year.

LAHORE: Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan Petros Mavroidis has said that Pakistan and Greece need to improve their commercial and economic relations to promote bilateral trade and investment. The Ambassador was talking to LCCI President Engineer Sohail Lashari during a visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday.

Petros Mavroidis said that cooperation in solar energy, LNG, Tourism, Agriculture and Infrastructure could help strengthen economic relations between the two countries as current annual bilateral trade between Greece and Pakistan was very low that needs to be enhanced by exploring the areas of common interest. He said that the Greece enjoys great experience in the tourism sector therefore Pakistani businessmen should avail this opportunity to create win-win situation for the two countries in shortest possible time. The Ambassador said that geographically and strategically, Greece is situated at very important place and any investment made there could help open up countless business avenues.

Speaking on the occasion, the LCCI President Engineer Sohail Lashari said that this was the right time to focus on non-traditional markets, adding that frequent exchange of business delegations and establishing direct B2B contacts are the options, which should be used to exploit untapped bilateral trade and investment potential in both countries. The LCCI President was of the view that investment cooperation was another area in which both countries could collaborate for mutual benefits. Information technology, telecommunication, construction, automobile parts, food processing, fisheries, agriculture, hotel industry and real estate offer tremendous opportunities and potential for cooperation, he added. He said that organizing of joint cultural shows and frequent exchange of business delegations are the options which can bring people of both the countries closer to each other that would eventually enhance the mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Greece. The LCCI President said that the mutual trade in terms of value between Greece and Pakistan meagerly averages around USD73 million having no significant impact on the volume of trade of the two countries. Currently, Pakistan is in positive balance of trade with its exports to Greece averaging around US\$6 million and imports from Greece averaging around US\$18 million. It is required to make concerted efforts to exploit the untapped potential of each other's markets. He said that this is not a healthy state of affairs especially when this meager trade is ranging way below even USD100 million. A declining trend in exports from Pakistan is depicting that we need to critically review our strategy and come up with a solid plan. It is observed that the private sectors of the two countries are short of the desired information flow and exchange of business representatives.

Engineer Sohail Lashari said that to create a conducive atmosphere, which can set the ball rolling towards greater economic cooperation; we must identify the areas for greater trade. "We need to adopt modern and progressive marketing techniques substantiated with properly targeted research activities with result-oriented follow-up." Greek import profile suggests that Pakistan can satisfactorily cater to the requirements of the Greek market sourcing food items and consumer goods including items like frozen meat, dairy products, household electric appliances, fancy furniture and fashion industry etc. in addition to more appropriate introduction of internationally renowned Pakistani products like sports goods and variety of textile products.

To further enhance the process of flow of information, both the sides should consider organizing trade delegations composed of sector specialists. Chambers of Commerce from both countries under the umbrella of the Greek Embassy can coordinate such events more efficiently. Energy, Oil & gas exploration, infrastructure and tourism development are some sectors where Greek investors can earn profits through sector related investments. Pakistan, as you know, is rich in heritage and geographic locations. Investments and experience from Greek investors will also help our sectors to learn and improve their services. Pakistan exports to Greece comprise bed linen, woven cotton fabrics, polymers of styrene, articles of apparel & clothing, oil seeds, footwear, rice and garments, whereas the imports from Greece include cotton, ferrous waste & scrap, lifting machinery, air conditioning machines, preserved fruits and mechanical appliances etc

LAHORE: "Nearly 3 million people have participated in the first two legs of the Punjab Youth Festival," Minister for Sports, Education and Youth Affairs Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said on Thursday.

He was addressing the newsmen at a press conference at the National Hockey Stadium. He said in 2012, the festival had entered the Guinness Book of World Records for mass participation of over 3.3 million people. Sports Board Director General Usman Anwar was also present. He said this year, neighbourhood and village level participation had been recorded at over 1.8 million. He said out of those, 1.2 million people had participated at union council level. Mashhood said the 10-day activity of at union councils commenced on January 5. "Participation in Lahore division was the greatest. Nearly 350,000 youngsters exhibited their skills in different activities." He said 30

Youth festival: 'Heartening' participation at union council games

Express Tribune
January 17, 2014

IGP Sindh directs strict security for Sindh Cultural Festival

*Business Recorder
January 17, 2014*

PYF reviving sports culture in Pakistan

*The Nation
January 17, 2014*

competitions were held at union council level. He said apart from sporting events like arm-wrestling, athletics, badminton, billiard, cricket, tug-of-war, volleyball, bodybuilding, football, fun race and weightlifting, naat, qirat, cooking, family dressing, healthy baby, kitchen gardening, debate, essay writing, singing and painting competitions were held. Mashhood said the festival had revived a sporting culture in Pakistan. He said a survey of government lands to be converted into sports grounds had been completed. He praised the media for the coverage of the festival. "The media has played a positive role in portraying a soft image of the country," he said. He said sporting events were also being held in jails to encourage participation of prisoners in healthy activities. He said sentences of prisoners who had won in competitions would be reduced. He said 11 committees had been formed to ensure transparency. He said the government would welcome Transparency International's audit of the activities.

Songs and Painting Competitions

Songs and painting competitions were held at union council level at Government Girls High School on Napier Road. Dozens of students participated in the contests.

The national songs competition was won by Maha Anwar of Quest High School in Shahdara. Hafiza Ateera Mohsin of Government Secondary High School in Shah Jamal stood second and Rida Shaukat Ali from Government High School in Tajpura was third. Muhammad Bakhtawar of Society Public School of Mughalpura won the painting competition. Fatima Javed of Quest High School in Shahdara secured the second position and Saman Taseer of Government Girls High School in Samanabad was third. Government High School Principal Samina Almas distributed prizes among the winners. Ziaul Mustafa of Government High School in Gulberg won the naat competition among boys. Muhammad Saqib Jamil of Qazi Grammar School in Chungi Amar Sidhu was second and Haider Ali of Government High School Chung was third. Saher Naqvi of Government Girls High School Tajpura stood first among girls. Meshura Rashid was second and Rida Arshad third.

Mini-marathon Race

A mini-marathon was organised at Samanabad Town in the last event of the Punjab Youth Festival in the union council phase on Thursday. Farrukh Bajwa won the race which started from Gulshan-i-Ravi's Wasa Mor and concluded at Moon Market Park. Basit Hameed and Bilal Arshad finished second and third respectively. Rana Asad, brother of Rana Mashhood Ahmed, was the chief guest.

KARACHI: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Shahid Nadeem Balouch had issued directives to police officials to make phenomenal security arrangements for upcoming Sindh Cultural Festival-2014. He was chairing a high level meeting on law and order situation in connection with the event, said a statement issued here on Friday. The meeting was attended by senior police officials. The festival will commence from February 1 and would continue till February 15 under the auspices of Sindh Culture and Tourism Department. The IGP instructed that security of Sindh Cultural Festival must be provided with extra vigilance. He further directed to install CCTV to keep vigil at the festival venue. Hawkers and vendors should not be allowed in the premises of the event, he said. Deputed policemen should inform his immediate officer about presence of any suspected person or activity around him, he directed. He said that physical checking of male and female visitors must be ensured by getting the services of volunteers on designated locations of the different events of the festival. He further said that snap checking and police patrolling be enhanced during the festival days. On the occasion, strict vehicles' identification must be carried out, he ordered.

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Sports Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan Thursday revealed that the Punjab Youth Festival (PYF) 2014 broke all the previous record barriers and created history in the country's sports just at its initial two stages of neighbourhood, village and union council levels. The minister said this while speaking at a press conference held here at the Conference Hall of the National Hockey Stadium on Thursday. Sports Board Punjab (SBP) Director General Usman Anwar was also present on the occasion.

"The 2012 edition of the festival entered the Guinness Book of World (GWR) for a mass participation of over 3.3 million people during the entire activity but the Punjab Youth Festival 2014 recorded the participation of 3 million in just first two levels. The first level of the neighbourhood and village recorded participation of over 1.2 million people and now the PYF second stage registered the involvement of 1.8 million people in 2014," he said. Mashhood said that the festival had revived sports culture in Pakistan. "The youth of the country, with the maximum and disciplined participation in different events of the PYF, proved that they are civilized and sports and peace loving nation. "The survey, to convert the spare government lands into sports grounds, has been completed and soon these facilities will be provided at the grassroots level." He said the sincere efforts and hard work of all the organisers was appreciable who strived to make the event success. He added holding sporting events in the jails was also a big step taken by the govt to provide the prisoners better facilities to make them normal citizens. "The sentences of winners of different PYF events in jails will be reduced."

To a query, he stated: "For transparency of the PYF, we have formed 11 committees and we will also welcome transparency international in this regard." "We have been providing equal opportunities to all either rich or poor and I am pleased to disclose that most of the last event's winners were those who even didn't have shoes in their feet which shows true beauty of the

Lorraine Adams — celebrating Pakistani culture

Express Tribune
January 16, 2014

festival," he concluded.

LAHORE: Lorraine Adams, a Pulitzer prize-winning investigative journalist and author, is presently in Pakistan to work on a novel she is currently writing. It focuses on the archaeology of the Indus Valley Civilisation and the familial values of Pakistani people. In a tête-à-tête with The Express Tribune, Adams talks about her illustrious career and association with Pakistan.

Seated in a casual lounge at a friend's residence in Lahore, Adams looks composed and well-adapted to the local environment. "There is something so lovely in the generosity of Pakistani people, they selflessly do things for others and welcome guests with open arms," Adams says. The ease with which she carries herself in a Nida Azwer ready-to-wear patchwork kameez and shawl makes it hard to discern whether she is a foreigner or grew up here.

Adams' career took a turn in August 2001, when she gave up her job as an investigative journalist for the Washington Post. She was asked to rejoin post-9/11, but she refused. "I did not like the way the Washington Post was covering 9/11," says Adams. "The coverage was too pro-government and it seemed biased. The hysteria against Muslims was so extreme that I wanted to learn more about the people." "Investigative journalism is a limited reality," she says. "It does not allow you to connect with people and everyone is just a source." This holds true since there are some investigative journalists, who only view a country for the stories they can extract from it instead of exploring the grave realities of its residents. "Journalists abroad get embarrassed talking about the Pakistani soul. They do not want to know about the generosity of the people and the values they hold," says Adams. Thus, in the midst of potent partiality, Adams became an author, who aims at celebrating rather than rebuffing the culture of the people of South Asia. "There are so many inspiring women here. I want to write about the strength of women in Pakistan," says Adams. "The discussion in the western world needs to be broader than the [debate over] veiling and non-veiling." She talks about Dr Shehla Akram as her inspiration for one of the characters in her upcoming book. "Dr Shehla runs a hospital, a pharmaceutical company and also set up a women's chamber of commerce," states Adams. "These are the type of stories that need to come out of Pakistan to bridge this social disconnect that now exists between it and the West. The author has taken it upon herself to educate the people in her life about Pakistan. "All my friends are now well-educated about the country. My husband [screenplay writer Richard Price] is currently working on an HBO mini-series Criminal Justice and he has placed a Pakistani immigrant family at the centre of the plot." The author lightly chuckles as she shares a few fun moments with her husband regarding the mannerisms of Pakistanis. "It is now very common at home for my husband to ask me questions like 'Would a Pakistani person say this' or 'would a Pakistani person do that?'"

Of her intimate connection with Pakistan, she shares with us an interesting personal fact. She wore a Hassan Sheheryar Yasin outfit on her wedding day back in the United States, three years ago. "Oh, I love Pakistani fashion. It's fascinating to see the way it has grown during the time I have come to Pakistan," she shares. "I was mesmerised at how designers worked out of their houses back in 2006 when I first came to Lahore and now, I see these polished retail stores selling exquisite outfits." As she soaks in Pakistani family values and explores the archaeological sites of Harappa and Taxila during her short visit to Pakistan, we eagerly await her next book.

Kyrgyz tourism at the mercy of Central Asia conflicts

ETN Global Travel Industry News
January 16, 2014

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan: There are reports of increasing armed conflicts on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border and a recent conflict took place near the village of the Ak-Sai Batken region of Kyrgyzstan resulting in the injuring of people on both sides. Each side blames the other for what happened. Year 2013 indicates that border conflicts among Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan are rising day by day, and such a situation can provide a "Heaven on Earth" for Islamist terrorists who are already waiting for the withdrawal of ISAF forces from Afghanistan so they can move easily in the region as they wish to establish their base again in this "weakest and most unchecked" region of Central Asia.

In April 2013, Kyrgyz roadwork in Ak-Sai sparked a clash between villagers on both sides. In May 2013, hundreds of villagers blocked roads, after Kyrgyz border guards detained a Tajik citizen. Six were reportedly injured in the standoff. The latest conflict in December 2013 arose after Kyrgyz workers began construction of a road near the Tajik enclave of Vorukh, and Tajik border guards demanded that the work be stopped, which led to armed conflict. Such a situation is one of the main reasons for the lack of development in the region, because no big or small development project can be initiated in this area where the border between two countries is not marked and decided. This belt of land is one of the most complex border areas of the world. Vorukh, home to approximately 30,000 Tajik citizens, is surrounded entirely by Kyrgyzstan. Though the status of the enclave is not in dispute, the land surrounding it, including most of Ak-Sai, is disputed land.

Tajikis and Kyrgyzs have weak economies and the Kyrgyzs are dependent on tourism as their bread earner. Such a situation is disastrous not only for the two countries but for the whole of the Central Asian region, because tourists run away from regions where reports of conflicts are coming to the media. Neither of the two countries are taking responsibility, and it is almost impossible to find out who is right and who is wrong in the armed clashes. This land has a long history of border conflicts going back to Soviet times. Ferghana Valley, Central Asian's "trouble spot," has always been a kind of layered cake of mixing national enclaves. Post-Soviet history of inter-ethnic and inter-state demarcation in Central Asia finally cemented the existence of "Fergana enclaves" – land belonging to one country but located in the neighboring country. The conflict area is not small, but rather a huge mass of land. Eighteen villages and five rural districts, including the Batken district are on the border with fourteen densely-populated villages of the Tajik Republic. The Leilek district of the Batken region shares borders with six districts of the Republic of Tajikistan, and the length of

Student Exchange to Bolster Ties with Pakistan

Indian Express
January 12, 2014

Gwadar Port a test of Pak-China ties: Mushahid

The Nation
January 11, 2014

Train trip to promote tourism in KPK

The Nation
January 06, 2014

TCKP arranges second train trip

The News International
January 06, 2014

the land border between the villages of the district and villages of the Leilek Tajik Republic is 250 kilometers. In the Leilek area, there are 640 hectares of disputed territories between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan. The Tajik enclave of Vorukh relating to the administrative Isfara district of the Sughd region of Tajikistan is an area of about 130,000 square kilometers and home to over 20,000 people, 95 percent of whom are Tajiks and 5 percent are Kyrgyz.

Interaction is the key to end animosities. And to do so, you must catch them young or so believes India's Border Security Force (BSF). It has proposed that children of BSF personnel and Pakistani Rangers (who guard Pakistan's borders) and those from schools run by the two forces will visit each other's country on exchange programmes to learn about each other's culture and improve relations between the two countries. "This was proposed by the BSF in the first high-level meeting between BSF and Pak Rangers in Lahore recently and the Rangers accepted the suggestion immediately," said a senior BSF official.

The proposal was made during BSF DGP and other senior officers' meeting with their counterparts in Lahore from December 24 to 28 last year. Highly-placed sources said if this programme is successful, then other involving college students from both the countries might also be worked out. If all goes according to the plan, students of Class X and above who are studying in BSF-run schools will be sent to Pakistan first under the exchange programme. They will learn about the people and culture of Pakistan in the week-long trip. The number of students in each delegation is yet to be fixed.

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman Senate Defence Committee, has elucidated the dynamics of Pakistan-China nexus as being characterized by unprecedented and exemplary goodwill and mutuality.

While speaking at an in-house seminar organized by the Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS) here on Friday, Mushahid stated that China has always protected Pakistan's interests on a number of key issues that otherwise witnessed censure while extending assistance and cooperation for economic revival, energy crisis mitigation, and peace and security. Mushahid, who is also Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, was of the view that there is a complete consciousness to have friendly relations with China that is seldom observed in other areas in Pakistan. He further added that Pakistan has not been remiss in reciprocation, citing Pakistan's unflinching support to China in its core areas of interests. "We respect China's territorial sovereignty, recognize the endeavours of Communist Party of China in transforming lives of the people, perceive the rise of China to be peaceful and a source of strength for the region, and support China in its discordant issues of Taiwan, Tibet and South China Sea." The Senator emphasized on the emerging global trends that show a power shift from the West to the East with the peaceful rise of China in the Asian century, ushering in new regionalism of cooperation in energy and economy. He termed the Pak-China economic corridor to be part of that regionalism envisioned by President Xi Jinping that also incorporates Central Asia Economic Belt, BCIM etc. "Pakistan along with the whole South Asia is in an ideal position to exploit immense economic gains from this regionalism, however, speculations on a reversal to cold war tactics post 2014 to contain and encircle China would be a big blow." The Chairman also highlighted certain issues that have hindered a greater fostering of Pak-China economic cooperation. He decried the security situation that has threatened Chinese workers and proposed an "industrial security force", to be deployed on the Pak-China Economic Corridor to protect such industrial interests.

PESHAWAR: Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) organised a train trip from Peshawar to Attock Khurd in collaboration with Pakistan Railways Advisory Consultancy Service (PRACS) and Pakistan Railways. The participants of the train tour consisted of females from every walk of life including students accompanied by their teachers, educationalists, female MPAs, civil society members and representatives from Women Chamber of Commerce KPK. The second train excursion was arranged by TCKP, which began in the lush green fields of Peshawar and took riders through the old Victorian Railway station built in 1880 at the foothills of the rugged mountains of Attock Khurd. The journey also took passengers over an iron girder bridge built over the Indus River in 1883. The train passed through old train track where the visitors saw many historical sites like Nishtar Hall, High Court, Provincial Assembly, Radio Pakistan, Peshawar City Railway Station, Military Godaam, Tarnaab Farm, Akhora Khattak, Khair Abad Railway Station, Begum ki Sarai, Attok Tomb, Behram ki Baradr and The Grand Trunk Road. Attock Khurd has a rich historical significance and this regional icon will not only reassure the safety of public at large but also improve the softer image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Innovative tourism is the need of the hour and that is why great efforts are under way to revive and enhance the rich history of our province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," stated the Managing Director Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mustaq Ahmad Khan. He further stated, "TCKP along with Pakistan Railways and PRACS are working hard to bring back tourism and portray KPK as a softer and tourist friendly province." Minister Tourism Mehmood Khan commented on the activity, "TCKP has always introduced unique opportunities for females to learn about the rich heritage of the province. Females play a big role as we are always targeted in the western media as being backward. These activities highlight that females play a big role in our society and they are encouraged to enhance their skills and knowledge."

PESHAWAR: The Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) organized second journey of a special train launched with the objective of portraying softer image of terrorism of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by promoting tourism potential of the province. The special train excursion started from Peshawar Cantt culminated at historic Attock Khurd station on the foothills of Manglot mountains. The project titled as Excursion Trip to Attock Khurd Railway Heritage is jointly

Tourist train takes a women-only spin through K-P's historical sites

*Express Tribune
January 5, 2014*

NTB necessary for strengthening tourism industry

*Pakistan Observer
January 03, 2014*

Bringing back tourists in Pakistan

*Khaleej Times
January 2, 2014*

Formation of 'Tourism Advisory Board' proposed

*The Nation
January 2, 2014*

organized by TCKP and Pakistan Railways. Talking to newsmen at Kund Rest House Mustaq Ahmad said the objective of launching of Special Train excursion trip is to break the inertia being felt due to closure of Khyber Steam Safari train.

PESHAWAR: A 'women-only' tourist train ride from Peshawar to Attock Khurd was arranged on Saturday by the Tourism Corporation of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) and Pakistan Railways. The tour was initiated last year by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to provide an opportunity to women to visit and learn about the region's heritage sites. The train passes through several historically significant cities, including Akora Khattak and Khairabad.

Marking Monuments

The journey also takes passengers over Old Attock Bridge, an iron girder bridge built over the Indus River in 1883 and originally designed by Sir Guilford Lindsey Molesworth. Attock Khurd, located in Attock district of Punjab, houses the historical Attock Fort built by the Mughal king Akbar in 1581. Bahram ki Baradari is another Mughal-era monument situated at the ridge of mountains on the southern side of the Grand Trunk Road near Attock Khurd.

Akora Khattak, which the train also traverses, is the birth and burial place of famous Pukhtun poet, warrior, scholar and chief of the Khattak tribe, Khushal Khan Khattak. As part of the joy ride, the women participating also visited Kund Rest House where they enjoyed a boat ride. The tour train included students and civil society members. "We have provided women a unique opportunity to avail an outing while simultaneously becoming aware of the rich heritage of the country," said TCKP Managing Director Mushtaq Ahmad Khan. The director termed the journey a landmark initiative of the corporation. "From next month, the train journey will be open to all on weekends at very affordable tickets". "The ride helped students, especially those from government schools, to travel to historical areas of the region and learn about them," said Mahwish, a student who enjoyed the trip with her friends.

ISLAMABAD: President Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan Aftab Rana has stressed the need for establishing a National Tourism Board (NTB) by involving all key stakeholders from public and private sectors to adopt a clear policy to promote domestic and foreign tourism in the country.

Talking to APP, he said Pakistan has to overcome its weaknesses and for this purpose government's first and foremost priority should be the maintenance of peace and the elimination of terrorism that has not only crippled the economic and social life of the people but has also contributed to portray the negative image of Pakistan as a tourist destination. He said post 9/11 wave of terrorism and suicide attacks in the country in general and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular has been badly affecting tourism industry in Pakistan over the last one decade. The fresh wave of violence, especially targeted killing of ten foreign tourists at the base camp of Nanga Parbat in June 2013 has badly affected the remaining bit of adventure tourism in Gilgit Baltistan, which was still continue at low scale inspite of all the worsening law and order conditions in rest of the country, said Aftab Ran, President of Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan.

According to Aftab Rana, there is a dearth of authentic statistics on the number of international tourist arrival in Pakistan, however, based on available information Pakistan has been receiving on average 800,000 foreign tourists in different categories including overseas Pakistan travelling on foreign passports out of which the percentage of visitors coming for sightseeing (actual tourists) has been around 12 to 14 percentage over the past few years. But in 2013 this percentage has further declined to 8 to 10 percent due to deteriorating law and order situation.

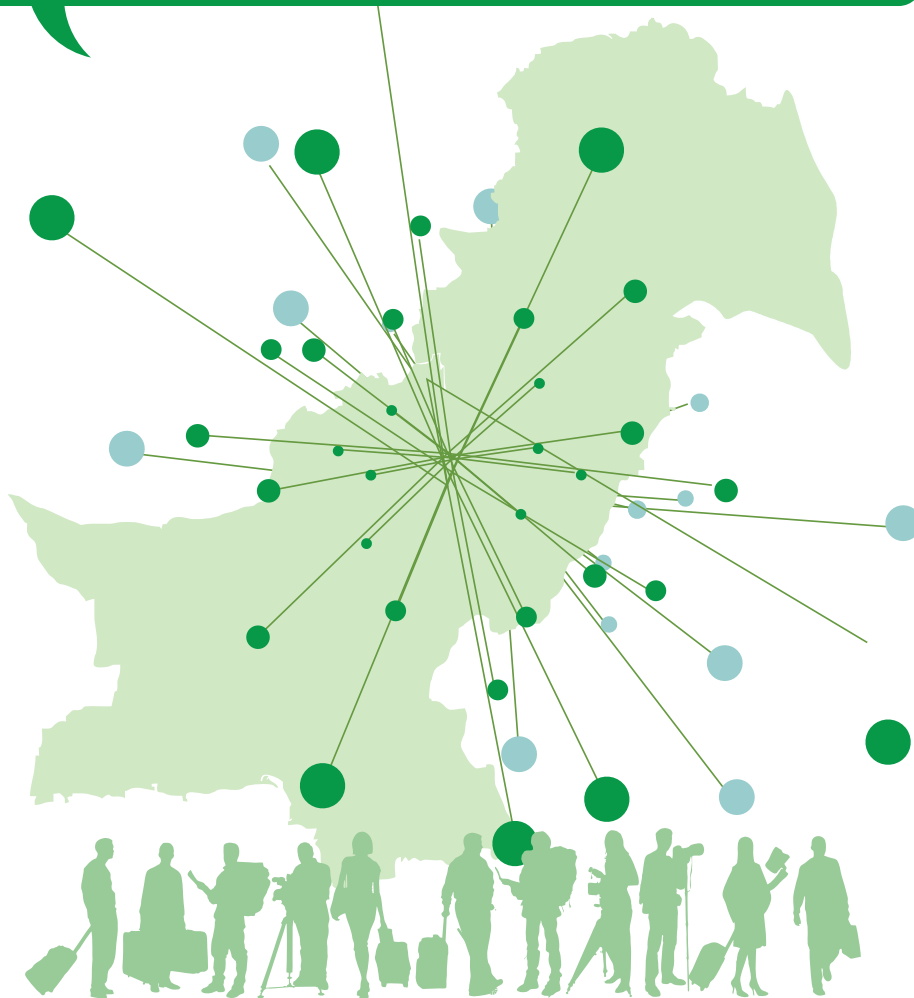
According to the biennial Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2013 published by the World Economic Forum Pakistan ranking is 122 out of 140 countries mainly due to the poor performance in policy rules and regulations, security and safety of visitors, poor tourism human resource, lack of investment in tourism sector, insufficient tourism infrastructure and lack of political will to develop and promote tourism in the country. Ironically, the previous government totally ignored this sector during its five years term and now Pakistan is almost a forgotten destination on the world tourism map. The tourism industry has been facing constant wrath of the instable law and order situation in the country, but what made matters worse in 2013 is the unnecessary restrictions on the travelling of foreign tourists to various tourist spots.

Pakistan once used to be among the top tourist destinations in the world. Then there was a flight of curious foreigners as well as the millions of rupees in revenue that these travellers brought with them. While one cannot wipe away the fears that keep potential tourists from coming to Pakistan, one can at least try to begin anew. Marketing tells us that if one market is exhausted, we should find another, but we should never stop selling. Can this be a viable solution for Pakistan's tourism industry? Perhaps if we looked to people whose countries are more like ours in terms of security conditions, we might be able to find lucrative markets in neighbouring Asian countries, where people are less susceptible to media sensationalism. Tourism is an important source of revenue for a country that has the wealth of natural beauty in abundance, as Pakistan does. It is important that we come up with solutions which rekindle the business so that our tourism industry regains some of the footing it once enjoyed.

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has proposed the formation of Pakistan Tourism Advisory Board, a successor entity of PTDC at the federal level. "The purpose of the advisory board will be to look after regulatory and international aspects of the tourism industry," an official told APP on Wednesday. He said that the formation of the board would help address several issues raised after devolution of PTDC to the provinces under 18th

Constitutional amendment. To a question he said the revenue generated by PTDC through tourism had been declined massively in recent years due to security situation. During this transitional period, international travel Pakhtunkhwa has declined. He said that the management of PTDC had been transferred to the provinces however, the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination had moved a summary to the Prime Minister in which it described two ways for payment of pending salaries of the employees. He said that one option could be that federal government might sanction onetime special grant of Rs930 million to clear pending salaries and legal benefits accrued to the employees before their transfer to the province, while the second option was that the Prime Minister might approve in principle, the sale/mortgage of PTDC properties located in Islamabad to clear the liabilities and the salaries of the employees.

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Boosting tourism

Dawn.com

January 30, 2014

There is a huge potential for attracting foreign tourism in Pakistan. If we could only manage to attract only two per cent of the total outbound Chinese tourists' market, it will bring in Pakistan more than 1.7 million foreign tourists and a foreign exchange of more than \$2bn beside creating thousands of new jobs. Pakistan's tourism industry is in great crisis these days. It is time that the government woke up and did something for the revival of tourism in Pakistan. A good tourism promotion coordination mechanism with the Chinese government can definitely produce good results.

Aftab ur Rehman Rana

Islamabad

Cultural celebration: Revelling in the colours and flavours of Hunza

www.awaztoday.com

January 27, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Hundreds of people from Hunza residing in the twin cities came together for an evening of traditional tunes and merriment to celebrate their culture. The day-long "Hunza Cultural Festival" was organised by the Hunza Cultural Forum here on Sunday.

A large canopy hosted approximately 1,500 people from up north. The stage was lit up for an enthralling show by 31 artists who had specially come in from Hunza. The crowd also enjoyed performances such as sword dances, instrumental music, songs, and various other acts. Dressed in shiny golden robes and maintaining upright postures to balance their traditional hats, the dancers were in sync with the music and did not miss a single beat. It was awe-inspiring and heart-warming to see younger performers learning about the culture of their ancestral homes and working to carry on centuries-old art forms. "Suppression, aggression and then celebration are the lessons taught through the ethics of traditional music originating from Hunza Valley," said Rehmat Karim, one of the event organisers. He said that the number of urban settlers from the northern areas was growing with each passing year. Karim is among the hundreds of settlers who feel the need to remain connected to their roots, no matter how far they may have come. However, he feels that their younger generations suffer from an identity crisis. "I moved here 20 years ago. My children are growing up here, and they are very disconnected from their roots," lamented Karim.

Soheena Ghazi, a BSc student, concurs with Karim's statement. She said that the younger generations raised in urban cities rarely visit their villages, and have little knowledge of their roots, thus, "Such events are educational and entertaining at the same time," she said.

Traditional food items were also on offer. A number of barbeque, rice and other delicacies from the north made by the locals were on sale. Safeeda Bibi, 77, who hails from Hunza, was making special 'giyal' and 'bursshapi' bread with yogurt and onion filling and special oils. Other specialties such as mantus seemed to have run out of stock due to high demand.

Taqdees Iqbal, 9, had come to the event with her family. She said that the annual event was always fun. "I always get to reconnect with my friends and enjoy good food and music," she said. "Although we move away from our cities, our culture moves with us," said another volunteer, Ashdar Ayub.

Punjab Youth Festival in full swing

The Nation

January 24, 2014

LAHORE - The Punjab Youth Festival 2014 is in full swing and at the end of the sixth day of tehsil level, around 82,880 athletes participated in different sporting events and 24,273 emerged as winners across the province.

In Lahore's Aziz Bhatti Town, 307 participants took part in various events and 111 returned as winners. In arm-wrestling event, Akbar was victorious and Waseem was second. Husnain won the athletics event, Jamal won the badminton event while Ramzan won billiard event. In Gulberg Town, out of 48 qirat and naat participants, 11 were successful. Mohammad Bin won qirat event while Shaheer won naat event. In Iqbal Town, out of 84 players, 14 remained successful. Shalamar Town involved 254 players in games and among them 43 returned home joyous. In wrestling, Sajid won the first position while Khurram won second. Data Gunj Bakhsh saw participation of 40 players where Anees XI won basketball match. Ravi Town witnessed maximum participation of players where 521 athletes showed their skills and 187 returned home as triumphant. In bodybuilding, Umar gained first position and Abid took the second. In Samanabad Town, 74 players took part in different events and 10 were winners. Mazhar won the chess event. In Nishtar Town, out of 252 players, 126 were victorious. In cricket hardball event, Azeem XI won the title.

In tehsils of Chakwal, Attock and Jhelum districts of Rawalpindi Division, 3,746 took part in various events and 274 had smiles on their faces. In tehsils of Bhakar, Khushab and Mianwali districts of Sargodha Division, out of 11,747 participants, 3,606 were triumphant. In tehsils of Hafizabad, Sialkot, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat and Narowal districts of Gujranwala Division, 4,646 were seen in action and among them, 1,742 remained successful. Tehsils of Kasur, Sheikhpura and Nankana Sahab districts of Lahore Division saw participation of 20,559 athletes and 1,276 were the winners. In Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Chiniot districts of Faisalabad Division, out of 3,099 players, 963 were victorious. In Okara and Pakpattan districts of Sahiwal Division, 4,931 players participated in various events and among them 1,082 were declared winners. In tehsils of Lodhran, Vehari and Khanewal districts of Multan Division, out of 6,238 participants, 2,946 finished the day as victorious. Tehsils of Bahawalnagar and Rahim Yar Khan districts of Bahawalpur Division involved 4,562 athletes in games and victory fell in the lap of 2,022 players. In Rajanpur, Layyah and Muzaffargarh districts of DG Khan Division, out of 1,292 players, 562 emerged as winners.

**Bilawal Bhutto Zardari
Address to Nation on
Sindh Festival 2014**

www.currentaffairspk.com

January 21, 2014

**Gwadar to be developed
for trade and tourism
alike**

customstoday.com.p

January 20, 2014

**Govt to promote tourism,
sports activities in Gilgit
Baltistan**

www.radio.gov.pk

January 06, 2014

**Pakistan Cultural Week:
Colours of Potohar bring
PM to Lok Virsa**

Express Tribune

January 2, 2013

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Speech on Sindhi Cultural Day and Sindh Festival 2014 and in his speech Bilawal Said that Today, Our Heritage, Our Nation is in Danger, so I hereby Declare Emergency. PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Against Terrorism in Pakistan on Sindh Festival 2014.

ISLAMABAD: Government is keen to develop Gwadar and several projects are in process of completion to provide modern facilities to the people visiting this area for trade and tourism activities alike.

This was stated by Gwadar Deputy Commissioner M Sajjad. He said that an international standard airport would be functional in near future to facilitate the passengers travelling to this region. He said that Civil Aviation Authority of Oman and the Government of Pakistan are providing financial assistance to complete the airport project to meet future requirements.

He said that planning is being made to establish a cargo system besides airport facility in the area. Deputy Commissioner said that short and long term planning is being made to present Gwadar a best tourism place both for domestic and foreign tourists. He said that Singhar Housing Project would provide accommodation facility to a large number of families. He said that clean drinking water would also be ensured in this area. He said that several small dam projects would be completed in near future to meet electricity and water requirement of the area. He said that the present government is making all out efforts to expedite the development work in Gwadar so that tourism and trade activities could be promoted in a befitting manner.

Tourism Department sources say nineteen events will be held in all districts. radio

Tourism Department Gilgit Baltistan has prepared a calendar of events for current year to promote tourism and sports. Tourism Department sources said that in the new calendar will contain nineteen events to be held in all districts. The events include Jashn-e-Baharan, Silk Route Festival, Jashn-e-Tukhan Razee, Jashn-e -Nouroz, Rama, Babusar Cup polo, Skardu Car Rally, Shandur Polo, moon light musical show, shaman festival.

ISLAMABAD: To promote the soft image of the country, a week-long "Pakistan Cultural Week" kicked off at Lok Virsa on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, who was the chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the event at a ceremony in Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). However, the security protocol for the PM, left many visitors disgruntled who were not allowed to join the opening ceremony. The confusion arose when the venue for the opening ceremony was shifted from Lok Virsa to PNCA at the last hour, said an official. "I was informed that the opening ceremony had been shifted due to security reasons and because of that all of us have been denied entry," said Muhammad Aftab, a visitor standing at the entrance of Lok Virsa.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said that Pakistan has a rich and diverse culture and the people of the country are proud custodians of the cultural legacy transferred to them from generation to generation over a period of times. He said that due to current wave of terrorism cultural activities like Pakistan cultural week can not only play a vital role in providing healthy entertainment to the masses but also serve to educate and young generation about their traditional culture. Meanwhile, Executive Director Lok Virsa Khalid Javed, while giving the details about the event, said that since the past four three years this cultural week is being held regularly in which artists from different parts of the country get a chance to showcase their talent. "This year's focus would be on the Potohar region," he added. Over 30 stalls have been setup by artists from different parts of the country. These include pottery, traditional cuisines and crafts bazaar.

Besides, traditional dances in colourful dresses were also performed to keep the visitors entertained. "It's a coincidence that we are holding this cultural week on the eve of New Year. Prime Minister graciously agreed to inaugurate the event as he also belongs to the Potohar region," Javed added. He said that event will continue till January 7 and artist from all provinces including Shazia Khushk, Hadiqa Kiani, Fazal Hussain Jatt, Shahzia Bano, Haseena Naz, and Akhtar Chanar will perform.

"Since the last three year, I have been participating in cultural events across the country and I am really looking forward to performing in the capital," said Haseena Naz, a famous folk sing from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

Federal Minister for National Heritage Samina Khalid Ghurki in her address said that such initiatives of the government aim at involving the masses in a campaign which can help them earn livelihood while projecting our culture. The event has been organised by the Ministry for National Heritage and Integration in collaboration with Lok Virsa.

TOURISM PROFILE – CITY DISTRICT KARACHI

Introduction:

Karachi is Pakistan's biggest as well as most populous city of Pakistan. As of 2013, according to Population Reference Bureau it is the 8th mega city of the world with an estimated population of 22.7 million. Forbes reports it as the World's fastest growing Megacity in the world and according to the Economist Intelligence Unit of The Economist; Karachi is the cheapest place to live on the list of 131 cities selected for the survey. Karachi is the backbone of Pakistan's economy, serving as a financial, trading and manufacturing hub. The city is home to the biggest international airport and the main sea port of the country. It is known as the "City of Lights", situated in the south of Pakistan along the coastline of Arabian Sea. In the absence of National Census since 1998; Karachi District population is estimated at 17 million with a growth rate of 3.75% per annum which is higher than the national growth rate of 2% per annum.¹ Some of the population rise is attributed to migration within the country, owing to migrant influx from rural areas of Pakistan due to economic reasons and also because of the conflict hit areas of Federally Administered Tribal Areas [FATA] & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last decade.

Short History:

Due to its strategic location, Karachi has always played an important role in the history of subcontinent. It is believed that Alexander the Great camped here to prepare his fleet army for Babylonia after his campaign in Indus Valley; 'Morontobara' port (probably the modern Manora Island near Karachi harbor). The first interaction of Muslims with Karachi dates back to 712 AD when Muhammad Bin Qasim conquered Sindh. When British invaded the subcontinent, Karachi was a village but its location and prominence of its natural port attracted the British. Thus the British who saw the potential of this small fisherman village to become one of the most important seaports of South Asia laid the foundations of the great vibrant Karachi that we see today. The development of paved roads, district level hospitals, railway, sanitation and the now defunct intercity trams are all credited to the British rule. After Pakistan independence in 1947, Karachi was named as the capital of the country.²

District at a Glance:

TOTAL HOUSING UNITS		SEX RATIO	
House Unit	Facility %	Male	Female
Pacca Housing Units	1394192 (95.68%)	117	100
Water Piped Housing Units	1083742 (74.38%)	Literacy Rate % 2010-2011	
Electricity Housing Units	1366638 (93.80%)	Male	Female
Gas Having Housing Units	1178620 (80.90%)	83	75
Registered Voter 2012		Electricity Demand (MWs) 2013	
Male	Female	Maximum	Minimum
3,912,589	2,939,359	2,778 Mws	1,115 Mws
Total = 6,851,948		Total Demand = 3,893 MWs	

Religions:

- Muslims - 96.45%
- Hindu - 2.42%
- Qadiani/ Ahmadi - 0.17%
- Other (Parsis, Sikhs, Bahai, Jews & Buddhist) - 0.10%

Culture:

Karachi is a cosmopolitan city in the true sense with a rich cultural diversity. The culture of Karachi embodies eastern, western and religious influences. Karachi saw the largest influx of immigrants at the time of independence. The city used to be a harmonious place where people from all walks of life came to better their lives. However, during the last decade, the law and order situation and ethnic conflicts has affected the city's vibrant lifestyle.



¹ City District Government Karachi

² Pakistan Development Perspective By ALHASAN System Pvt Ltd

Hyderabadi Cuisine , Iranian Cuisine, Balochi Cuisine, Bihari Cuisine , Turkish Cuisine , Parsi Cuisine, Gujrati Cuisine , Italian Cuisine, Kashmiri Cuisine, Sindhi Cuisine, Afghan Cuisine , Bohri Cuisine, Punjabi Cuisine ,Thai Cuisines , Bengali Cuisine, Chienese Cuisine ,Lebanese Cuisine , Pashtun Cuisine Japanese Cuisine ,Saraiki Cuisine , Mediterranean Cuisine.³

Karachi Tourism

SHRINES

Abdullah Shah Ghazi Mausoleum, Alau Shah Baba at Jama Cloth, Ghalb Shah Baba at Keman, Miri Shah Baba at Clifton, Ghulam Hussain Khusudatia Hall, Frieze Hall, Empress Market, Jhelangi Kotlari Parade, Mohammed Shah Dullah Sabzwari at Kharadar, Nuri Baba at Teen Hatty, Qari Muslehuddin Aleh Rehman

Historical Places & Buildings

Chowkandi graveyard, Karachi Port Trust, Sixth High Court, Hindu Gymkhana, KMC Head Office, Ghulam Hussain Khusudatia Hall, Frieze Hall, Empress Market, Jhelangi Kotlari Parade, St Patrick's Church, Mohatta Palace and Karachi Cantonment Railway Station buildings

Main Markets & Shopping Centers

Babur Market, Landhi, Babi Bazaar, Saddar Bazaar, Bolton Market, Chandi Lane, Chasse au, Empress Market, Hyderi Dornien Mall, North Nazimabad, Intiaz super market, Jama Cloth Market, Khadda Market (ZAMZAMA Commercial)

Hotels & Resorts

Hotel Crown Inn, Sheraton Karachi Hotel, Pearl Continental Hotel, Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi, Dream World Resort, Dreamworld Resort, Hotel and Golf Club, Gulf Hotel, Hotel Metropole, Marriott Karachi

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Solutions in Time

Water Parks & Amusement Parks

Aladdin Amusement Park, APWA Water World, Cheeku Water Park, Cosy Water Park, The Great Fiesta Water Park, Haku Water Park, Samzu Water Park, Siddiquians Water Park, Sindbad Amusement Park, Sunway Lagoon Water Park, Sunway World Park, Fiesta Water park

Beaches

Seaview, Manora Island, Sandspit Beach, Hawke's Bay Beach, Paradise Point, French Beach, Cape Monze, and Nathagali Beach

Museums

Seaview, Manora Island, Sandspit Beach, Hawke's Bay Beach, Paradise Point, French Beach, Cape Monze, and Nathagali Beach

Parks

Bagh Bina Qasim, Boat Basin Park, Mazra-e-Qasim, Karachi Zoo, Hill Park, Safari Park, Banjara-e-Jinnah, PAF Museum Park and Maritime Museum Park

Monuments and Memorials

Jhelangi Kotlari Parade, Mohatta Palace, Teen Hatty, Mohatta Palace, Teen Hatty

³ Pakistan Development Perspective by ALHASAN System Pvt Ltd

Impact of Gilgit incident on economy The Frontier Post

December 12, 2013----- Muhammad Asad

Pakistan has facing loss of 100 billion dollar against war on terror. This damage has a lot of aspects, first is the tourism industry that has irreparably been damaged. According to a statistical report by Pakistan Association of Tourism before 2000, more than 1 million tourist visited Pakistan.

But after 9/11 this number remains 10, 000 which is quite lesser. Just only in Gilgit-Baltistan before 9/11 20 to 25 thousand tourists visited Gilgit Baltistan. But after the incident of 9/11 it remains to 5 thousand per year. During effluent year this number was again reaching 10 to 12 thousand, Says Mirza Riaz, secretary general of Pakistan Economy Watch, a think tank. In 2007, revenue from tourism was \$151 million. By 2012 it had declined to \$101 million, according to data from the group. After 2007 when the situation was bit appropriate tourists from China, Russia, east Europe, east Asian countries used to visit as well.

"Our economy is already going down due to terrorism and security," says Mr. Riaz, "But this latest incident will have a grave impact. The government is doing its best to invite foreign businesses to Pakistan but the embassies in Islamabad are now giving advice not to come."

Tourism and trade with China is the only livelihood in Gilgit-Baltistan. In every season one tourist guide was earning 20 dollars (2000 rupees) per day, which is 2 times greater than normal daily wage. After Gilgit incident tour operator Ghulam Nabi, who belongs to the Fairy Meadows, said after many years ,it is the first time when tourist were reaching again to twelve thousand, but don't know Nanga Parbat is afflicted by the evil eye as now the tourist remains 5 to 6 thousand. It is a great damage for the tourism industry of Pakistan. On the other hand extremist measures of government, curfew and not giving permit on searching made the situation worse than the terrorist. Government needs to stop these unwanted acts.

Dayamar, a nightmare for lodging and tourism industry ten tourists were murdered by terrorist were wearing Gilgit Scouts uniforms, late on June 22nd, Saturday night at Nanga Parbat tourists' Base camp near Bunar Nullah in the middle heart of Karakorum. Gilgit D.I.G Ali Sher said that the incident occurred on Saturday night at around 1.00 A.M. at Fairy Meadows in Dayamar area, where unknown armed assailants killed nine foreign tourists camped at the Nanga Parbat Base Camp. The foreigners include 4 Chinese, 5 Ukrainians and 1 Russian climber.

The killing of the tourists in Gilgit Baltistan seems to be the killing of the foreigners, but this incident has a severe negative impact on the economy of Pakistan and Gilgit Baltistan.

Whatever is the cause of the incident although it seems to be the play of foreign agents or it is the sweep of terrorism but whatever it is, it has a list of detrimental impacts. Without considering the geographical importance of these specific

areas if we consider the loss of tourism, we come to know that it has been affected adversely although Gilgit Baltistan is not a point of the killing of tourists. About 300, 000 people of Gilgit Baltistan have direct or indirect relations with the tourism sector. TTP is quick enough to claim responsibility for this high profile attack, expound that their bunch, Junud-e-Hafsa, was the main assassin of the attack. According to them, the attack was in response to the drone attacks that killed Waliur Rehman, a momentous TTP leader.

But it is not always the Taliban who claim for the incident and security agencies are stop doing anything about other aspects.

They need to look all around, is their TTP involved in the incident or whether the foreign-hand. Is there any country who used to take revenge, or they want to destroy our tourism sector, not even this they can't bear any single positive implementation in Pakistan. So why don't we search out these people who are the real enemies behind it. The first fact is that know your enemy then search out and find evidence against them. in terms of current atmosphere, when it comes to such incidents, affirmation are laid on the TTP, involved in any incident, without thinking about any other odds. And even if you raise a debate acquaint towards other possibilities, it is rejected as a plotting theory.

If they are the Taliban then why did the Taliban go all the way to Nanga Parbat, kill some random foreigner tourists and then disappear into thin air? TTP said that killing was revenge against the US drone attacks and killing of TTP chief Waliur Rehman. One wonders why they have targeted Gilgit Baltistan, when they have easy targets considering their past record. Even if they decided to attack on a mountain, why did they choose foreign tourist from countries like Ukraine, China that had no connection with the war on terror or drone attacks? Why they didn't attack Americans which are greater in number in Pakistan like they have attacked them in Peshawar before? Nanga Parbat is a tough terrain peak. According to a story published by foreign news outlet, the president of the tour operator Amjad Ayub said that the spot where the incident took place was more than 4,000 meters high with no population or hiding spots in the around area. How can they disappear just a few hours of the incident? Strange!! The region has endorsed cross border infiltration from the Afghan side of the border, which thus bring the feasibility of the involvement of the Afghan Taliban in this incident.

Yes, the Taliban may be involved, but one must conclude only after answering the above questions, and who they feel would benefit from devastating the tourism industry of Gilgit Baltisatan a region whose primary source of income depends on tourism.

KARACHI TOURIST GUIDE MAP LAUNCHED



A visit to Pakistan shatters many misconceptions

wondersofpakistan.com
ASHISH SHUKLA
Dec 31, 2013

I still remember my first M. Phil. class in which Prof. Uma Singh instructed everyone to develop an objective understanding of the subject. Since that day I've had a dream of visiting Pakistan and meeting people. It took me more than four years to realise that dream. In between, so many people told me that it is almost impossible for an Indian to visit Pakistan and how even eminent scholars and faculties in reputed institutions have been denied visas.

With all this in mind, I began working towards my goal, starting with getting the necessary information for obtaining the visa. The next step was to get an invitation from Pakistan. I contacted various people in Pakistan, expressing my desire to visit and get a firsthand experience. Soon, the impossible became possible. Prof. Ishtiaq Ahmed, to whom I am greatly indebted helped me acquire a scholarship at the Lahore University of Management Sciences.

On October 1, 2013, I submitted my visa application at the Pakistani High Commission, New Delhi. The first myth, that Indians don't get visa, was broken within three days. I was pleasantly surprised to get the visa stamped on my passport on October 3, 2013. This was just the beginning. Despite tough resistance from my family, I left for Lahore, landing on December 9. Within four days so many positive things happened; I am at a loss for words to explain them. Suffice it to say that who ever I met, wherever I went, a myth was waiting to be broken.

Most people with whom I requested a meeting either came personally to pick me up or sent someone to bring me to their office or home, and dropped me back.

Many had warned me that an ISI guy would follow me everywhere. I didn't find anyone doing that. I was told that security situation in Pakistan is so bad that there are armed guards everywhere. There were some but not as many as I'd expected.

At an international conference at Forman Christian College, I was pleasantly surprised that Pakistanis were raising the same questions that we raise about Pakistan in India - questions of identity, military-mullah-terrorist nexus, over emphasis on Indian threat etc.

I was told that Indians are hated widely, which is not true. My Indian identity has in fact been an advantage for me. I've been well received wherever I went, even meeting some high profile

people without any difficulty, including high ranking retired military officials, a former ambassador and a former federal minister. And even on my last day in Lahore (Dec 17th), I have a number of appointments.

When I went to Ferozsons, wanting to buy books from a local publisher, I was given an additional discount when they learnt I was Indian. The same thing happened when I went to Vanguard.

At a shopping centre, looking for Pakistani products, when the journalist Kiran Nazish who was with me told the shopkeeper that I am an Indian and going back to my country, he refused to take the money for it. "You are my guest and you are leaving," he said. "Take this as a gift."

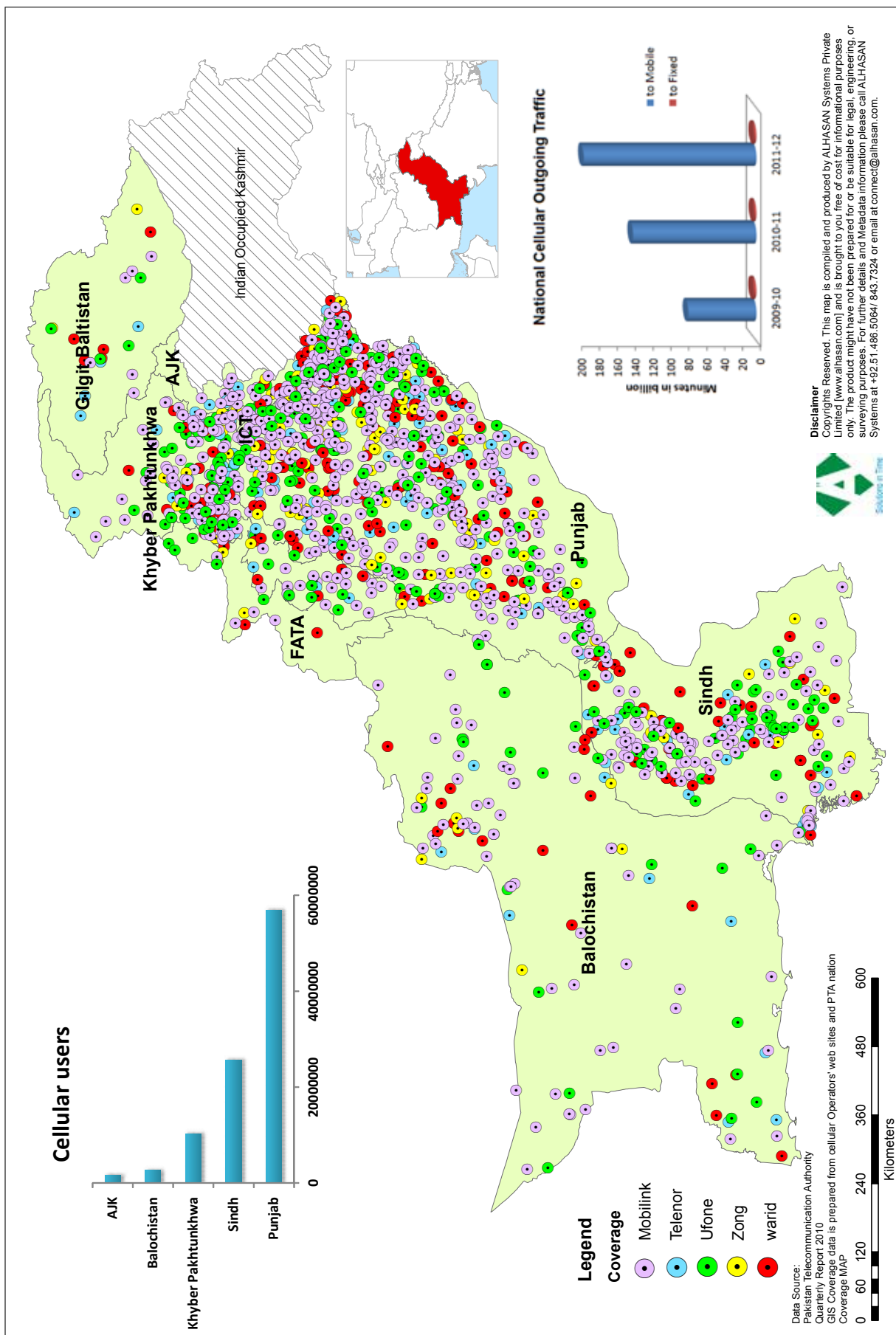
Now, after spending some time in Pakistan, I can comfortably claim that there are more similarities and fewer differences between the people of India and Pakistan. When I was roaming in Lahore, I found that in cars people were listening to either Indian radio channels or playing Bollywood music. Rickshaw drivers thought I was a Karachiite.

There are similar stories on the other side as well. Before coming to Pakistan, I discussed the issue, in great depth, with one of my hostel-mates, a Pakistani pursuing his doctoral study from JNU's Arts and Aesthetics School, who was having a very positive experience in India. We both agreed that our governments must seriously consider easing visa restrictions. The policy of granting city-specific visa should end now. I've seen many Pakistanis in Delhi who couldn't visit Taj Mahal in Agra, as their visa was for Delhi only.

It is time to take some positive steps to address the issue. I'm more than convinced that if people from both sides of the border are allowed to visit each other freely, things will improve for better. This will at least reduce the intensity of mistrust and enmity; if not fully resolve some outstanding and complicated issues.

Nehruvians in India and pragmatic liberals in Pakistan should be given a chance to make things better. I always admire people like Mani Shankar Aiyar and Javed Jabbar who are constantly engaged in working for a noble cause and often come under attack, due to their views, from the hyperrealists and radicals from both sides.

Cellular Coverage Map-Pakistan



Ode to tourism industry

AFTAB-UR-REHMAN RANA,
The Nation January 05, 2014

Many countries have created a presence on the world map by becoming great tourist destinations. Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Maldives have risen from slums to become developed nations. The post 9/11 wave of terrorism and suicide attacks in the whole country in general and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular has badly affected tourism industry in Pakistan over the past 13 years. The targeted killing of nine foreign tourists at the base camp of Nanga Parbat in June 2013 has dimmed the last small hope that the country had of attracting tourism.

Let alone foreign tourists, we have even 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 due to lack of information, poor tourism infrastructure and high cost of domestic air travel, boarding and lodging coupled with poor standard of services at tourist spots has discouraged them. Most of the people who can afford travel to Dubai or Far East for holidays instead of visiting places in Pakistan. This has not only reduced the opportunity of earning precious foreign exchange for the country but has also adversely impacted on the livelihoods of thousands of poor people across the country.

We have very low ranking among international nations who boast of tourism, this low ranking is not because we do not have much to offer but mainly due to lack of political will to develop and promote tourism in the country. Ironically, the previous government totally ignored this sector during its five years term and now Pakistan is almost a forgotten destination on the world tourism map.

To be successful in the tourism Pakistan has to overcome the law and order situation which has not only crippled the economic and social life of the people but has also contributed to portray a negative image of Pakistan as a tourist destination. After the 18th Amendment there is lack of coordination at national level to promote tourism. We need to establish a National Tourism Board by involving all key stakeholders from public and private sectors and to adopt a clear policy to create an environment for tourism in Pakistan and to promote tourism in domestic and foreign markets on an emergency basis. It is hoped that in 2014, the government of PML-N will take serious steps to give much needed support to the dying tourism industry of Pakistan.

Saidpur Village Community Map

Islamabad



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سرخیاں

تفصیلات

شمالی علاقوں میں طالبان حملوں کا

خطرہ

ڈان اردو

27 جنوری 2014

اسلام آباد: پاکستانی حکام نے پیر کے روز خبردار کیا ہے کہ پاکستانی طالبان ملک کے شمالی پہاڑی علاقوں میں سیاحوں پر حملے کر سکتے ہیں۔ خیال رہے کہ گزشتہ سال ملک کے شمالی علاقوں میں ہی غیر ملکی کوہ پیماؤں کو نشانہ بنایا گیا تھا جس کے نتیجے میں دس افراد ہلاک ہوئے تھے۔ ہر سال ہزاروں کی تعداد میں سیاح گلگت بلتستان اور چترال کا رخ کرتے ہیں جہاں دنیا کا دوسرا سب سے بڑا پہاڑ کے ٹوٹے جبکہ یہ علاقے دنیا کے کچھ اونچے ترین پہاڑوں اور گلیشیئرز کے لیے مشہور ہے۔ پاکستان میں حالیہ عرصے میں عسکریت پسندوں کے حملوں میں اضافہ ہوا ہے جبکہ شمالی علاقوں میں سیاحوں کی آمد بھی اسی موسم میں متوقع ہوتی ہے۔ گلگت بلتستان کے ایک سینئر افسر نے نام ظاہر نہ کرنے کی شرط پر اے ایف پی کو بتایا کہ وزارت داخلہ نے باضابطہ طور پر گلگت بلتستان انتظامیہ کو آگاہ کیا ہے کہ پاکستانی طالبان خطے میں حملہ کر سکتے ہیں۔ ایک اور افسر نے اسی شرط پر وارننگ کی تصدیق کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سیاحوں کو خود دش اور دیگر حملوں کے ذریعے نشانہ بنایا جاسکتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں سیاحت کی صنعت کو گزشتہ سال جون میں اس وقت شدید جھکا پہنچا جب غیر ملکی کوہ پیماؤں کو نالگہ پربت کے قریب نشانہ بنایا گیا۔ واقعے میں امریکی، چینی اور نیپالی سیاحوں سمیت دس افراد مارے گئے تھے۔ تاہم گلگت بلتستان کو کہنا ہے کہ انہیں پاکستانی طالبان کی جانب سے کسی مخصوص حملے کے بارے میں اطلاعات نہیں تھیں تاہم وہ چوکس ہیں۔ ڈپٹی چیف گلگت بلتستان پولیس شیر علی نے اے ایف پی کو بتایا کہ ہم نے ملک میں پرتشدد واقعات کے اضافے کی وجہ سے سیکورٹی کو بڑھادیا ہے۔ پولیس نے نالگہ پربت واقعے پر 18 افراد کو گرفتار کیا ہے تاہم ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ حقیقت میں صرف تین مرکزی ملزمان کو ہی حراست میں رکھا گیا ہے۔

پاکستان سیاحوں کے لیے ایک پرکشش مقام رہا ہے لیکن حالیہ برسوں میں ملک میں سلامتی کی خراب صورتحال کے باعث یہ شعبہ خاطر خواہ ترقی نہیں کر سکا۔

اسلام آباد: دنیا بھر کی طرح پاکستان میں بھی جمعہ کو عالمی یوم سیاحت منایا گیا جس کا مقصد بین الاقوامی برادری کے درمیان سیاحت کے کردار اور اس کے سیاسی، سماجی، اقتصادی اور ثقافتی اثرات سے متعلق آگاہی پیدا کرنا ہے۔ رواں سال اس دن کا موضوع ”سیاحت اور پانی، مشترکہ مستقبل کی حفاظت“ رکھا گیا جس میں سیاحتی شعبے میں ان اقدامات کو اجاگر کرنے پر توجہ دی گئی جن کا مقصد آبی وسائل کی طویل المدتی بنیادوں پر دستیابی میں مدد دینا ہے۔ اس دن کی مناسبت سے پاکستان کے وزیراعظم نواز شریف نے اپنے پیغام میں سیاحت کو ملکی اقتصادیات کے لیے اہم قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ ان کی حکومت اس شعبے کو واپس اپنے پیروں پر کھڑا کرنے کی خواہاں ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان میں سیاحتی شعبے میں ترقی کے وسیع مواقع ہیں اور اس میں صحیح معنوں میں کام کر کے لوگوں کے لیے روزگار اور آمدن کے مواقع پیدا کیے جاسکتے ہیں جس سے ان کے بقول دہشت گردانہ عناصر کو شکست دینے میں بھی مدد مل سکتی ہے۔ پاکستان سیاحوں کے لیے ایک پرکشش مقام رہا ہے لیکن حالیہ برسوں میں ملک میں سلامتی کی خراب صورتحال کے باعث یہ شعبہ خاطر خواہ ترقی نہیں کر سکا۔ خصوصاً ملک کے شمال مغربی اور شمالی علاقوں میں قدرتی حسن اور فلک بوس پہاڑوں کی سیر اور مہم جوئی کے لیے ملک بھر کے علاوہ غیر ملکیوں کی اچھی خاصی تعداد یہاں کارخ کیا کرتی تھی۔ ان علاقوں میں امن وامان کی نامناسب صورتحال کے باعث سیاحوں نے پاکستان کے زیر انتظام کشمیر کارخ کیا جہاں گزشتہ سال تقریباً 5 لاکھ لوگ مختلف مقامات کی سیر کے لیے آئے۔ پاکستانی کشمیر میں محکمہ سیاحت کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل ظہیر الدین قریشی نے وائس آف امریکہ سے گفتگو میں کہا کہ عالمی یوم سیاحت کشمیر میں بھی بھرپور انداز میں منایا گیا جس میں مختلف تقاریب اور واک کا اہتمام بھی کیا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ رواں سال ہم نے جو اندازے لگائے تھے ان اندازوں کے مطابق سیاحوں کی اچھی خاصی تعداد نے اس علاقے کا رخ کیا، لیکن پھر بھی جتنا ہونا چاہیے اتنا نہیں ہو سکا تھا۔ بین الاقوامی امداد خصوصاً 2005 کے زلزلے کے بعد مسئلہ والی امداد سے ہمارا بنیادی ڈھانچہ کافی بہتر ہوا جسکی وجہ سے رواں سال کشمیر کی سیر کرنے کے لیے آنے والوں کی تعداد اچھے سے سات لاکھ رہے گی۔ اگرچہ گزشتہ دو سالوں کے دوران وادی سوات میں سیاحوں کی تعداد میں قدرے اضافہ ہوا ہے لیکن سیاحت کے شعبے سے وابستہ افراد کا کہنا ہے کہ اس علاقے میں سیر و تفریح کے لیے آنے والے زیادہ تر افراد کا تعلق اندرون ملک ہی سے ہوتا ہے۔ گلگت بلتستان اور صوبہ خیبر پختونخواہ کی حکومتیں کہہ چکی ہیں کہ وہ امن وامان کی صورتحال کو بہتر بنانے کے علاوہ سیاحوں کو راغب کرنے کی پالیسی پر بھی کام کر رہی ہیں۔

نشر ہال میں پر جوش شائقین کے لیے

لے رحمان بابا کی زندگی کے بارے میں ڈرامہ

سنٹرل ایشیا آن لائن

18 جنوری 2014

پشاور۔ خیبر پختونخواہ کا محکمہ ثقافت ایک نئی نسل کو پشتون صوفی شاعر عبدالرحمان بابا کی امن اور محبت کے بارے میں تعلیمات سے ڈرامہ کے ذریعے متعارف کرارہا ہے۔ آٹھ خفلی خفلی (وہ خوبصورت لوگ) ڈرامہ 16-18 جنوری کو نشر ہال میں پیش کیا گیا۔ حکام 19 جنوری کو فیصلہ کرینگے کہ آیا شائقین کے پر جوش رد عمل کی وجہ سے اس شو کو مزید جاری رکھا جائے۔ اداکار اور پروڈیوسر عجب گل نے سنٹرل ایشیا آن لائن کو بتایا کہ خیبر پختونخواہ میں لوگ بڑی آس سے مثبت تفریح تلاش کر رہے ہیں۔ اس وجہ سے ہم میٹنگ میں اس بات کا جائزہ لے رہے ہیں کہ آیا ڈرامے میں چند دن مزید توسیع کی جائے۔ اعرابا سن یوسف زئی کے تحریر کردہ ڈرامے میں افتخار قیصر عبدالرحمان بابا (1653 - 1711) کے نام سے مشہور ہیں) کا کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔ مشہور فنکار جاوید باہر، سید رحمان، شیو، عمر دراز، کلیم خان، زاہدہ تنہا، مینا شمس، ایچ ایم رضا، عزیز عزیز، شیر خان، عشرت عباس اور ریاض اختر معاون کرداروں کے طور پر ڈرامے میں حصہ لے رہے ہیں۔ رحمان بابا کے شاعرانہ کلام میں ایک نعت شامل ہے، جی میمنہ خدائی پانابندی پیدا کرے جب اللہ نے میرے دل میں آپ کی محبت پیدا کی۔ ڈرامے کو پاکستان اور بیرون ملک سراہا گیا، گل نے کہا کہ اس ڈرامے کے ذریعے، ہم یہ پیغام دینا چاہتے ہیں کہ پشتون دہشتگرد نہیں ہیں اور انہوں نے ہمیشہ امن اور محبت کا پرچار کیا۔ ہم دنیا کو پشتونوں کی یہ تصویر پیش کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور بیرون ملک ڈرامے پر عوامی رد عمل نے اسے حیران کر دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ افغان یورپی یونین کے حکام نے اس ڈرامے کو کابل اور برسلز میں سٹیج کرنے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ گل نے کہا کہ لوگوں نے ہم سے اس ڈرامے کو کوئٹہ اور (پاکستان کے) دیگر کئی حصوں میں پیش کرنے کی درخواست کی ہے اور ہم موبائل تھیٹر قائم کرنے کا سوچ رہے ہیں۔ خیبر پختونخواہ میں تھیٹر کی بحالی کے

حصے کے طور پر، صوبائی محمد ثقافت پشتو کی دیگر عظیم ہستیوں جیسا کہ خوشحال خان خٹک، خان عبدالغفار خان (المعرف باچا خان) کے بارے میں ڈرامے تیار کرانے کا منصوبہ بنا رہا ہے۔ کے پی کے وزیر اطلاعات میاں افتخار حسین جو رحمان بابا ڈرامہ کی افتتاحی شب کو 600 شائقین میں سے تھے نے کہا کہ تھیں ایک طاقتور ذریعہ ہے اور ہم خوشحال خان خٹک، پیررو خان اور دیگر شخصیات کی زندگیوں کے بارے میں ڈرامے بنانا جاری رکھیں گے، تاکہ ان کے امن اور محبت کے پیغامات کو نئی نسل تک پہنچایا جاسکے۔ گل نے کہا کہ رحمان بابا کی زندگی کے بارے میں پہلا ڈرامہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تین سے زائد صدیوں میں کسی نے اس طرح کا ڈرامہ تحریر نہیں کیا۔ شائقین نے نہ صرف اس کاوش کو سراہا بلکہ انہوں نے اس کے ڈھنگ، مناظر اور شاعری کی تعریف کرنے میں بھی سخاوت کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ ڈرامے میں رحمان بابا کی تعلیمات کو اجاگر کیا گیا ہے۔ یوسفزئی نے کہا کہ ڈرامہ رحمان بابا کی شاعری، پیغام اور زندگی کو بیان کرتا ہے۔ ہم نے رحمان بابا کی شاعری میں امن، محبت اور روحانیت کو تشدد اور دہشتگردی سے متاثرہ نئی نسل کے دلوں میں اتارنے کی کوشش کی ہے۔ دو گھنٹے کے ڈرامے میں شروع سے آخر تک افتخار قیصر نے شائقین کو محسوس رکھا، شاعر کے سادہ طرز زندگی اور نرم بول چال کی عادت کو شائقین تک پہنچانے میں پوری احتیاط سے کام لیتے ہوئے۔ پشاور کے ایک صحافی ثار محمود جو ثقافتی سرگرمیوں کو کور کرتے ہیں نے کہا کہ مشہور صوفی شاعر کی زندگی اور تعلیمات کے مختلف پہلوؤں کو ڈرامے کے مختلف مناظر میں اجاگر کیا گیا ہے۔ شائقین کے جذبات ڈرامے کے موضوع کے عکاس ہیں۔ رخسانہ جس اس ڈرامے کا ایک ملاحظہ نے کیا کہ یہ لوگ ہماری زندگی میں آبیڈیل ہوتے ہیں۔ رحمان بابا کی زندگی کے بارے میں ڈرامہ انتہائی خوش کی بات ہے۔ رحمان بابا پشاور کے مضافات میں پیدا ہوئے اور ان کو حضر خوانی کے باہر دفن کیا گیا۔ اس دور میں امن، محبت اور تعلیم کے بارے میں ان کا شاعرانہ پیغام عام آدمی کے لیے بہترین تعلیم تصور کی جاتی ہے۔ تاہم، دہشتگردوں نے ان کے پیغام کو مسترد کر دیا ہے۔ مارچ 2009 میں ایک بم حملے میں ان کے مزار کو شدید نقصان پہنچا جب عورتوں نے اس کے مزار پر خراج عقیدت کے لیے آنے سے منع کرنے کے بارے میں دہشت گردوں کی دھمکیوں پر دھیان دینے سے انکار کر دیا۔ محمود نے کہا کہ ان کی آفاقی شاعری مقامی ثقافت کی پر امن اور صوفیانہ پہلو کو ظاہر کرتی ہے، جسے اسلام کی غیر متحمل اور عدم برداشت پر مبنی تشریحات سے خطرات لاحق ہیں، جیسا کہ 2009 میں ان کے مزار پر ہونے والا بم حملہ ظاہر کرتا ہے۔

علماء کا کہنا ہے کہ تصوف کے ہم آہنگی و امن پر مبنی پیغام سے طالبان خوفزدہ ہیں۔ انہوں نے اس طرح کے حملوں کو عسکریت پسندوں کی کمزوری کی ایک اور نشانی قرار دیا۔

کراچی۔ صوفیاء کے مزاروں پر طالبان کے تازہ ترین حملے عسکریت پسندی کے مخالف افراد کو ان کی مخالفت کے لیے مزید ایندھن فراہم کر رہے ہیں۔ پولیس کراچی کے علاقے گلشن معمار میں واقع ایوب شاہ بخاری مزار میں 7 جنوری کو چھ افراد کے قتل کی تحقیقات کر رہی ہے۔ مقتولین میں مزار کے تین مجاور بھی شامل تھے جبکہ دیگر افراد باہر سے آئے ہوئے تھے۔ اس مزار کو عرف عام میں پہاڑی والے بابا کا مزار بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ مقامی تھانے کے انچارج صد خان نے سینٹرل ایشیا آن لائن سے گفتگو میں کہا کہ بظاہر ان سب افراد کو تیز دھار والے خنجر سے قتل کیا گیا ہے جو کہ جائے وقوعہ پر ہی موجود تھا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ تحریک طالبان پاکستان کے عسکریت پسندوں نے ایک رقعہ چھوڑا جس میں انہوں نے اس قتل عام کی ذمہ داری قبول کی اور عوام کو خبردار کیا کہ وہ صوفیاء کے مزاروں کا رخ کرنا چھوڑ دیں۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ عسکریت پسندوں نے مزار کی دیواروں اور مذہبی بنیوں کو نقصان پہنچایا۔ رواں ماہ اسی طرح کے ایک اور حملے میں نامعلوم عسکریت پسندوں نے 10 جنوری کو صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا کے ضلع مردان میں غازی شاہ بابا مزار کے دو عاملوں کو گولی مار کر قتل کر دیا تھا۔

طالبان کی صوفیاء کے مزاروں کو نشانہ بنانے کی تاریخ

صوفی رہنماؤں کے مطابق طالبان عسکریت پسندوں نے خاص طور پر پاکستان کے پشتون خطے میں صوفیاء کے مزاروں کو اکثر ہدف بنایا ہے اور اب انہوں نے سندھ اور پنجاب میں بھی اس طرح کے حملوں میں اضافہ کر دیا ہے۔ مذہبی بیوروکاروں اور ان کے مقدس مقامات کی جانب تحریک طالبان پاکستان کے تشدد کی تاریخ کے پیش نظریہ کوئی الجھنے کی بات نہیں ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں قائم فلر گاہ پاک انسٹیٹیوٹ برائے مطالعہ امن کی سالانہ سلامتی رپورٹ کے مطابق عسکریت پسندوں نے 2013 میں کم از کم 28 عبادت گاہوں (بشمول چار صوفی مزاروں) کو نشانہ بنا کر 136 عبادت گزاروں کو قتل اور 453 کو زخمی کر دیا تھا۔ ان حملوں کی ذمہ داری تحریک طالبان پاکستان اور اس سے ملحقہ گروپوں نے قبول کر لی تھی۔ حالیہ سالوں میں ایک انتہائی ہلاکت خیز بم حملہ جولائی 2010 میں ہوا تھا جب دو خود کش بمباروں نے لاہور میں صوفی بزرگ داتا گنج بخش جویری کے مزار کو ہدف بنایا تھا۔ اس حملے میں 45 کے لگ بھگ عقیدت مند جاں بحق اور درجنوں زخمی ہو گئے تھے۔ اسلام آباد میں قائم فلر گاہ ریسرچ ایڈووکیسی اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ کے ڈائریکٹر عصمت خان وزیر نے کہا کہ مزاروں پر حملوں کا تعلق افغانستان میں عرب عسکریت پسندوں کی آمد سے جوڑا جاتا ہے۔ وزیر نے سینٹرل ایشیا آن لائن سے گفتگو میں کہا کہ یہ عسکریت پسند صوفی اسلام اور صوفیاء کے مزاروں کو حاضری مسترد کرتے ہیں کیونکہ وہ اسے وہابی اسلام کی بنیاد پرستی اور تحریک طالبان پاکستان کے نظریات سے متصادم سمجھتے ہیں۔

قتل عام کی وسیع پیمانے پر مذمت

کراچی میں 8 جنوری اور لاہور میں 10 جنوری کو احتجاجی ریلیاں نکالی گئیں جن میں کراچی میں ہونے والے قتل عام کی مذمت کی گئی۔ دینی علماء نے سنی اتحاد کو نسل کے چمڑے تلے کراچی پریس کلب کے باہر احتجاجی مظاہرہ منعقد کیا۔ سنی اتحاد کو نسل سے وابستہ اعلیٰ ترین مذہبی قائدین نے جولائی میں خود کش بم دھماکوں اور دہشت گردی کی دیگر شکلوں کے خلاف ایک فٹو جاری کیا تھا۔ سنی اتحاد کو نسل کے سیکرٹری جنرل طارق محبوب نے کہا کہ ہم کراچی اور

پاکستانی مذہبی رہنماؤں کا مزاروں پر طالبان کے حملوں پر احتجاج

سنٹرل ایشیا آن لائن
24 جنوری 2014

مردان میں مزاروں پر جانے والے افراد کے ہولناک قتل کی مذمت کرتے ہیں اور طالبان کے تشدد کی بھی مذمت کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ اسلام یا شریعت میں طالبان عسکریت پسندوں کی کوئی قانونی حیثیت نہیں ہے۔ محبوب نے سینٹرل ایشیا آن لائن سے گفتگو میں کہا کہ تصوف کے پیروکاروں نے ہمیشہ ہی طالبان کے غیر اسلامی ہتھکنڈوں کی مذمت کی ہے۔ ان ہتھکنڈوں میں بے گناہ افراد کے سر قلم کرنا اور مزاروں اور عبادت گاہوں کو بم حملوں کا نشانہ بنانا شامل ہیں۔ ان کے خیال میں عسکریت پسند تصوف کو خطرہ تصور کرتے ہیں۔ حیدر آباد میں مقیم ایک دینی عالم علامہ مقبول علی نے کہا کہ طالبان تصوف کے پیروکاروں کو خوفزدہ کرنے کی کوششیں کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پہلے تو وہ مزاروں کو حملوں کا نشانہ بناتے تھے اور صوفی قاندین کو قتل کر دیتے تھے مگر اب وہ مزاروں میں آنے والے عام افراد اور عاملوں کو ذبح کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ صوفیاء تو امن، محبت اور مذہبی ہم آہنگی کا پیغام پھیلاتے ہیں جسے طالبان بدنام کرنے کی کوششیں کر رہے ہیں۔

صوفیاء کے مزاروں کے حفاظتی انتظامات سخت

حکومت سندھ نے گزشتہ سال فروری میں صوفی مذہبی قاندین پر حملوں کے بعد صوبے بھر میں مزاروں اور مذہبی رہنماؤں کے تحفظ کی ایک حکمت عملی وضع کی تھی۔ صوبائی محکمہ اوقاف کے ایک عہدیدار محمد کلیم نے بتایا کہ سندھ حکومت نے صوبے کے تمام مزاروں میں موبائل فون جیمز، واک تھر و گیٹ اور سیکورٹی رکاوٹیں نصب کیں اور ضلعی پولیس افسران کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ مزاروں کے گرد گشت میں اضافہ کریں۔ حکام صوفیاء کے اہم مزاروں کی بھی حفاظت کر رہے ہیں جن میں شاہ عبداللطیف بھٹائی (بھٹ شاہ میں واقع)، عبداللہ شاہ غازی (کراچی) اور لال شہباز قلندر (سیہون) کے مزار شامل ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ انتہائی جتنی اداروں نے ان مزاروں کو حساس قرار دے رکھا ہے۔

حکومت نے ملک میں سیاحت کی فروغ کیلئے وفاقی ٹورزم بورڈ قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں سیاحت پر سینیٹر سے خطاب میں سیکرٹری کیز فرید اللہ خان نے کہا کہ اٹھارویں ترمیم کے بعد سیاحت کا شعبہ صوبوں کے حوالے کر دیا گیا تھا جس کے بعد سیاحت کی ترقی کیلئے خاطر خواہ اقدامات نہیں کئے گئے، انھوں نے بتایا کہ حکومت نے وفاقی ٹورزم بورڈ قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے جس کیلئے ٹورزم آپریٹرز اور ہوٹل ایسوسی ایشن سے سفارشات طلب کر لی گئی ہیں جنہیں حتمی شکل دے کر وزارت قانون کو منظوری کے لئے بھیجا جائے گا۔

لاہور (سپورٹس رپورٹر) پنجاب یوتھ فیڈرل کے تحصیل لیول مرحلے میں لاہور بھر میں ہونے والی فن ریزس نے میلڈ لوٹ لیا۔ سمن آباد ٹائون میں فن ریس کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ واسا موڈ سے لیکر پارک موڈ تک ہونیوالی ریس افضل جٹ نے جیت لی۔ ریس کا افتتاح صوبائی وزیر کھیل رانا مشہود کے بھائی رانا اسد خان ایڈووکیٹ نے کیا۔ اس موقع پر ٹی ایم او سمن آباد امتیاز اعوان، مہر عمران، میاں رزاق جتلی، اسفندیار بلوچ، ملک ذیشان اور رائے ذیشان بھی موجود تھے۔ ایک کلومیٹر فاصلے پر محیط ریس میں شہریوں کی بڑی تعداد نے شرکت کی لیکن فتح افضل جٹ کے نام رہی، محمد اشرف نے دوسری اور قاصد اسحاق نے تیسری پوزیشن حاصل کی۔ اختتامی تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی ٹی ایم او سمن آباد امتیاز اعوان نے کامیاب کھلاڑیوں میں انعامات تقسیم کئے۔

اکھیلیاں، مستیاں، دلجوئیاں، اداؤں سے کراچی کے لوگوں کا دل بھاتی ڈولفن

کراچی میں ڈولفن کی شرارتیں، بچے خوش بڑے بھی ہوئے لطف اندوز ہوئے، پانی کی بلی نے بھی کرب دیکھا سب نے کیا خوب انجوائے کراچی کے میری ٹائم میوزیم میں ڈولفن کی دیکھ دیکھ کر ادھر کوئی ہو رہا ہے فدا لگتی، مقلتی، بل کھاتی، میوزک کے سنگ جمومتی ڈولفن کھیر رہی مسکراہٹیں اور دے رہی ہے خوشیوں کا تحفہ شوخ حسینہ کی طرح ادا دکھاتی ڈولفن ناز اٹھانا بھی خوب جانتی ہے۔ ڈولفن کو صرف والی بال کھیلنے کی شوقین نہیں بلکہ مصوری کا شغف بھی رکھتی ہے۔

اسلام آباد (ساجد چوہدری + راشدہ شعیب) جنگ اور جیو گروپ اور سنٹ کے زیر اہتمام نیشنل یونیورسٹی آف سائنس اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی (نسٹ) اسلام آباد میں چار روزہ بین الاقوامی کانفرنس ”نسٹ انٹرنیشنل ماڈل یونیورسٹی شیز 2014“ جاری ہے۔ گزشتہ روز کانفرنس کے غیر ملکی شرکاء کیلئے پاکستانی میلے کا بھی انعقاد کیا گیا۔ اس رنگارنگ تقریب نے شام یادگار بنادی۔ غیر ملکی شرکاء میں سعودی عرب، نیپال، سوڈان، جرمنی، ویتنام، افغانستان، لبنان، اردن، شام اور مصر کے شامل ہیں۔ کانفرنس میں دنیا کے مسائل کا ذکر بھی جاری ہے جن میں غربت، بیروزگاری، بد امنی، عدم تحفظ، موسمیاتی تغیر کے اثرات، صنفی حقوق وغیرہ شامل ہیں۔ طلبہ مختلف سیشنز میں ان مسائل پر بحث کریں گے باہمی تجربات کے تبادلے کے بعد مسائل کا حل بھی سامنے آئے گا۔ دن بھر کے بحث و مباحثہ کے بعد شام کو خصوصی میلہ سجایا گیا تاکہ غیر ملکی شرکاء کو پاکستانی ثقافت سے آگاہی ہو سکے۔ اس دوران برقی قہقہوں سے سجے پنڈال میں پاکستان کے علاقائی رقص پیش کئے گئے۔ سب سے پہلے بلوچی رقص پیش کیا گیا اس موقع پر طالب علم فنکاروں نے فن کا شاندار مظاہرہ کر کے دکھایا اس کے بعد پنجاب کی باری آئی تو ڈھول کی تھاپ پر روایتی لاچے میں ملبوس لڑکوں اور لہنگوں میں ملبوس لڑکیوں نے لاجواب رقص کیا۔ پختون ثقافت کے مخصوص رقص ”اتھن“ نے بے اختیار قدم سے قدم ملا دیئے۔ اس کے بعد طالب علم گٹار لئے میدان میں آ گئے۔ موسیقی کی سندھر آواز کا جادو جگمگا تو ماحول کو گرما دیا۔ میلے میں کھانے پینے کیلئے چائینز، جاپانی اور پاکستانی کھانوں کی بہت سی ورائٹی موجود تھی۔ میلے میں شریک غیر ملکی طالب پاکستانی ثقافت سے بہت محظوظ ہوئے۔

لاہور: بھارت کی فلم سٹی ممبئی سے تعلق رکھنے والی گلوکارہ سمیتارائے نے کہا ہے کہ دو سال قبل ماہ رمضان میں قرآن پاک کا مطالعہ کیا جس سے ملنے والے پیغام کے

سیاحت کی فروغ کیلئے وفاقی ٹورزم

بورڈ قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ

اب تک نیوز

13 جنوری 2014

تحصیل سطح پر ہونیوالی فن ریزس نے

میلڈ لوٹ لیا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

27 جنوری 2014

پاکستان میں پہلی بار سچا ڈولفن میلہ

اے، آر، وائے نیوز

12 جنوری 2014

جنگ گروپ اور سنٹ کے

زیر اہتمام عالمی کانفرنس، غیر ملکی

شرکاء کے لیے پاکستانی میلہ

جنگ نیوز

16 جنوری 2014

پاکستان میں گزراے لمحات ہمیشہ یاد

مطابق اگر زندگی بسر کی جائے تو انسان بہت پرسکون زندگی گزار سکتا ہے۔ یہاں آنے سے قبل مجھے ڈرایا جاتا تھا کہ یہاں دہشتگردی اور قتل و غارت ہے لیکن مجھے تو ایسا کچھ نظر نہیں آیا بلکہ پاکستان تو امن پسند لوگوں کا ملک ہے، اسلام آباد دیکھ کر مجھے لگا کہ چند گھنٹے میں گھوم رہی ہوں جب کہ لاہور بالکل دہلی جیسا لگتا ہے، لاہور میں بادشاہی مسجد میں گئی جہاں پر جمعہ کی نماز بھی ادا کی اور یہ بہت تجربہ بہت اچھا لگا، اس کے پاس واقع گردوارہ میں جانے کی اجازت نہ مل سکی یہاں تاریخی ورثہ کو محفوظ دیکھ کر بہت اچھا لگا، کھانوں کی تعریف تو سن رکھی تھی لیکن جب میرے میزبان پروڈیوسر یامین ملک نے پالک گوشت کھلایا تو پھر اپنے پسندیدہ چکن کو ہاتھ تک نہیں لگایا، اس کے علاوہ حلیم بھی بہت لذیذ تھا۔ اندرون شہر کی سیر کی تو لوگ بہت چاہت اور اپنائیت سے ملے، یہ لمحات مجھے ہمیشہ یاد رہیں گے۔

فیصل آباد آرٹس کونسل میں پنجاب کے ثقافتی میلے لوہڑی کا اہتمام کیا گیا جس میں صوفیانہ کلام بھی پیش کیا گیا۔ قیام پاکستان سے قبل جب بہار کا موسم اپنے رنگ بکھیرنے کی تیاری کر رہا ہو تو محنت کش اور کسان لوہڑی کا تہوار مناتے تھے۔ ایک روایت کے مطابق لوہڑی کا لفظ سر دی سے بچاؤ کے لئے چلائی جانے والی آگ کی لو سے لیا گیا ہے۔ فیصل آباد آرٹس کونسل میں ایک ثقافتی تنظیم کے اشراف سے لوہڑی کا میلہ منایا گیا۔ میلے میں شریک وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کے معاون خصوصی رائے حیدر علی کھل کا کہنا تھا۔ میلے میں مختلف فنکاروں اور طلبہ نے صوفی شعراء شاہ حسین بابلیہ شاہ اور وارث شاہ کا کلام سن کر حاضرین کے دل موہ لئے۔ بہر سنانے والے استاد خادم حسین کا کہنا ہے، رکن پنجاب اسمبلی ڈاکٹر نجمہ افضل میلے کے انعقاد پر اپنی خوشی کا اظہار کچھ یوں کرتی ہیں۔ اس موقع پر ساندل بار کے جرات کی علامت کردار دلا بھٹی پراسٹیج ڈرامہ بھی پیش کیا گیا۔ گوجری کا کردار ادا کرنے والی طالبہ کا کہنا ہے۔ شرکانے لوہڑی میلے میں انتہائی دلچسپی ظاہر کرتے ہوئے آئندہ بھی ثقافتی میلوں کو ہر سطح پر منانے کا مطالبہ کیا۔

جیسا کہ کمزور حکومتی نگرانی اور ساتھ ہی نئی تعمیرات کے پردے میں تجاوزات قائم ہوتی ہیں، زمینوں پر قبضے کا مسئلہ پورے ملک میں عام ہے۔ سرکاری اور نجی زمینوں کو تو مال مفت سمجھ کر ہاتھ صاف کر لیا جاتا ہے لیکن یہاں تو ملک کے تاریخی ورثے تک ان سے محفوظ نہیں۔ اسلام آباد بھی ان قابضین سے محفوظ نہیں، جنہوں نے دارالحکومت کے بعض نہایت اہم تاریخی مقامات پر قبضہ جمالیا ہے۔ جیسا کہ پیر کو ڈان میں خبر شائع ہوئی، مرگلہ پہاڑوں میں واقع شاہ اللہ دتہ کے علاقے میں، بدھ مت کے قدیم دور سے تعلق رکھنے والی بعض غاروں کو زمین کے تجارتی قبضہ گیروں سے خطرات لاحق ہیں۔ بدھ مت کی یہ غاریں، جن کے اندرونی حصوں پر چوبیس سو سال پرانی تصاویر نقش ہیں، اطراف کے دلکش ماحول میں ریستورانوں اور رہائشی منصوبوں کے بے تحاشہ پھیلنے کے باعث، یہ تاریخی ورثہ بھی خطرے میں آچکا ہے۔ بعض صورتوں میں دیکھا گیا کہ اس طرح کی غیر قانونی تعمیرات کرنے والے عدالتی حکم کی آڑ لے کر اپنا کام دکھاتے ہیں۔ بظاہر کیپٹل ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی (سی ڈی اے) نے ان غاروں کو محفوظ بنانے کا منصوبہ بنایا تھا لیکن اب تک یہ بدستور برف تلے باہر ہے۔ وفاقی دارالحکومت کے اطراف میں ہر جگہ، جیسے عالمی تاریخی ورثہ نیکسلا، تاریخی ورثے کو تجاوزات اور تجارتی مفادات رکھنے والوں سے خطرات لاحق ہیں۔ ساتھ ہی پہاڑوں والے قلعے کو بھی قبضہ گیروں سے محفوظ رکھنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ صرف یہ غاریں ہی نہیں، بنایا جاتا ہے کہ شاہ اللہ دتہ میں ایک ایسی مسجد بھی ہے جو غزنوی عہد سے تعلق رکھتی ہے، ساتھ ہی اس علاقے میں، بدھ دور سے تعلق رکھنے والا ایک اسٹوپا اور درس گاہ بھی ہے۔ اگر زمین پر غیر قانونی قبضوں کو روکا نہ گیا تو پھر اگلے مرحلے میں یہ تاریخی ورثہ تجارتی مفادات کے تلے دفن ہو چکا ہو گا۔ صرف یہی نہیں کہ تاریخی ورثے خطرے میں پڑ چکے بلکہ اسلام آباد میں منصوبہ بندی کے بغیر بے لگام تعمیرات نے شہر کے قدرتی ماحول کو بھی خطرے کی زد پر ڈال دیا ہے۔ شہر میں رہائشی منصوبوں اور تفریحی مقامات تعمیر کرنے کے لیے بڑی گنجائش موجود ہے تو پھر تھوڑے سے مفاد کے واسطے کیوں تاریخی ورثے اور قدرتی ماحول کو تباہ کیا جا رہا ہے؟

سی ڈی اے، آرکیالوجیکل حکام اور حکومت کے دوسرے شعبوں کو اسلام آباد کے تاریخی ورثے کو محفوظ کرنے کے لیے زیادہ سرگرمی سے اپنا کردار ادا کرنا چاہیے۔ بدھ مت کی ان غاروں کے تحفظ کے واسطے بنائے گئے منصوبے کو دوبارہ سرگرم کیا جائے جبکہ وفاقی دارالحکومت اور اس کے اطراف جتنا بھی تاریخی ورثہ موجود ہے، اسے زمین کے قبضہ گیروں سے محفوظ رکھنے کی ضرورت ہے

کراچی: پیپلز پارٹی کے سرپرست اعلیٰ بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ **ثقافت خطرے میں** جسے بچانے کے لیے ہنگامی اقدامات کی ضرورت ہے۔ سندھ ثقافتی میلہ ہمیں ہمارے ہونے کا یقین دلانے گا۔ سندھ فیسٹیول کے بارے میں ایک وڈیو بیان دیتے ہوئے انھوں نے سندھ ثقافت کی حفاظت کیلئے ایمر جنسی کے نفاذ کا اعلان کیا اور کہا ہماری میراث خطرے میں ہے ثقافتی ورثوں کو بچانے کے لیے فیسٹیول کا انعقاد ہو رہا ہے۔ ثقافت کے لیے قوم کا ساتھ مانگتے ہوئے انھوں نے کہا کہ اسی مقصد کو سامنے رکھتے ہوئے ہم نے آپ کے لیے سندھ فیسٹیول کا آغاز کیا ہے۔ سندھ فیسٹیول کے حوالے سے انھوں نے کہا کہ یہ فیسٹیول رواں برس فردری کے پہلے ہفتے میں ہو گا جس کی تقریبات اور جشن 3 ہزار سال پرانے ثقافتی مقامات مگلی اور موہنجوداڑو سمیت پورے سندھ میں منایا جائے گا۔ اس میں شاندار جشن کا جذبہ ہو گا۔ یہ فیسٹیول ہمارے سالانہ ثقافتی میلے کا آغاز ہو گا۔ یہ ہماری ترقی اور تحفظ کی ضمانت ہے۔ یہ ہمارے ثقافتی مراکز کی حفاظت کی جانب پہلا قدم بھی ہے۔

رہیں گے، سمیت رائے

روزنامہ الاخبار

26 جنوری، 2014

فیصل آباد آرٹس کونسل میں ثقافتی میلہ، صوفیانہ کلام بھی پیش کیا گیا

اے، آر، واے نیوز

21 جنوری، 2014

ورثہ خطرے میں

ڈان اخبار

15 جنوری، 2014

شدت پسند عوام کو اپنا جیسا جنگلی بنانا چاہتے ہیں، ہم ہار نہیں مانیں گے، بلاول

ایکسپریس نیوز

08 جنوری، 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, 0092-5811-920573 info@visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk Khomer Chowk, Shahrah-e-Qaid-e-Azam, Near Rupal Inn, Khomer, 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 punjabtourismgpk@gmail.com 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,</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</p>

Tehsil Razzar, Shewa, Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa www.seswapk.org	www.heritagefoundationpak.org
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 Shahra-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.embassyin.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 Saddar 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.gulfhotel.webs.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

Sarah hotel 30-SB-6, Parr Street, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 009292-21-35211513, 35218262	Phone: 0092-21-5682378 Hotel Sarawan Raja Ghazanfar Ali Rd, Saddar, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-5216001 9
Hotel Shams Fatima Jinnah Road, Cantonment Station, Saddar Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5677322	Hotel Shaheen 44, Fatima Jinnah Road, Near Cantonment Station, 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

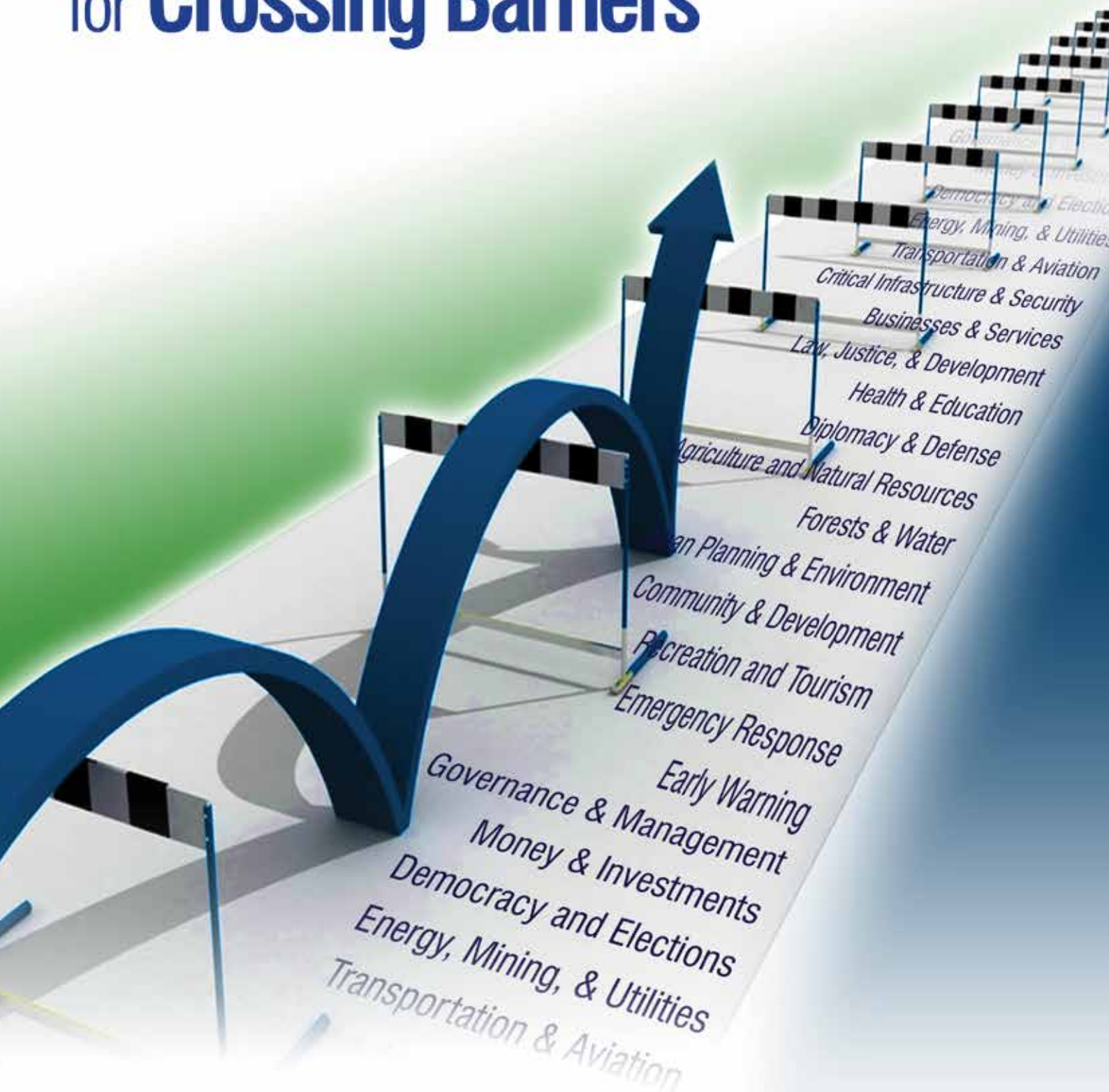
MAJOR RESTAURANTS

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	Al-Habib Restaurant Nagan Chowrangi

Burns Road Food Street, Saddar, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-111-000-606	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
Shaheen Shanwari Rashid Minhas road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 021- 34601912	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
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	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
Premier Biryani Rashid Minhas Road, Block-10, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-34975818	Mateen Foods Bhayani Cloth Market, Block M, North Nazimabad Karachi Sindh, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-36647016
Nandos KDA Scheme 5 Kehkashan, Clifton, Next to The Forum, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-111-626-367 Website: http://www.nandos.com	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
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	Pizza1 One Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi Pakistan-57600 Phone: 0092-21-34321370-74 Website: http://www.pizza1one.com/
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	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
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	Jharoka Restaurant Karachi Regent Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre Main Shakra- e-Faisal Phone: 0092-21-111-111-774
Haleem Ghar 1397, Block-14, Dastgir, F.B.Area Phone: 0092-21-6329197	Mirage Buffet Restaurant Karachi 2 Darya, Foods Street Devils Point, Phase 8 D.H.A Sea View Phone: 0092-21-32046900
Karachi Haleem Restaurant Pak Mansion, Burns Road, Shahrah-e-Liaquat, Saddar, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-32633659, 32633584	Jan'S Broasted Chicken Raja Ghazanfar Ali Road, Saddar, Karachi. Phone: 92-21-5213685 Website: http://jansbroast.com
Charcoal BBQ n Grill Restaurant Karachi Beach Avenue, Phase VIII, DHA, Karachi Phone: 0323-200104547	Daily Dubai Restaurant Karachi Badar Commercial Street 10, DHA Phase 5 Defence Phone: 0092-21-35244018
Indus Foods 11-C, Stadium Lane # 2, DHA Phase 5, Opposite DHA Zamzama Stadium Phone: 0092-21-5343100-2	Master Broast Restaurant Karachi Boat Basin Clifton Karachi Phone: 0345-2448886, 0346-2726649
Kolachi Restaurant Karachi Beach View Road, Phase VIII, DHA	Arizona Grill 20-C, 2nd Commercial Lane, Main Zamzama

Phone: 0092-021-36131113/32003628/36069645	Boulevard, Ph-V, DHA, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-5830351
Copper Kettle 3rd Commercial Lane, Mall Square Zamzama, Phase 5, Defence Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-021-35878886, 35878887	Lavish Dine Main Rashid Minhas Road, Gulshan-e-Jamal, Near Millenium mall, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-213-34601406
Subway FLURY'S FOOD PRODUCTS - 1st Floor, Karim Chamber, Merewether Road, Civil Lines, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-5682161	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
Ideal Foods 290/A, Al Freed Street, Garden West Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-2255079	Revolving Restaurant Caesars Tower 16th Floor Main Shahrah-e-Faisal Karachi, Pakistan 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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