

TOURISM BULLETIN

BE INFORMED



Solutions in Time
www.alhasan.com

March 2014 - Volume: 2, Issue: 3

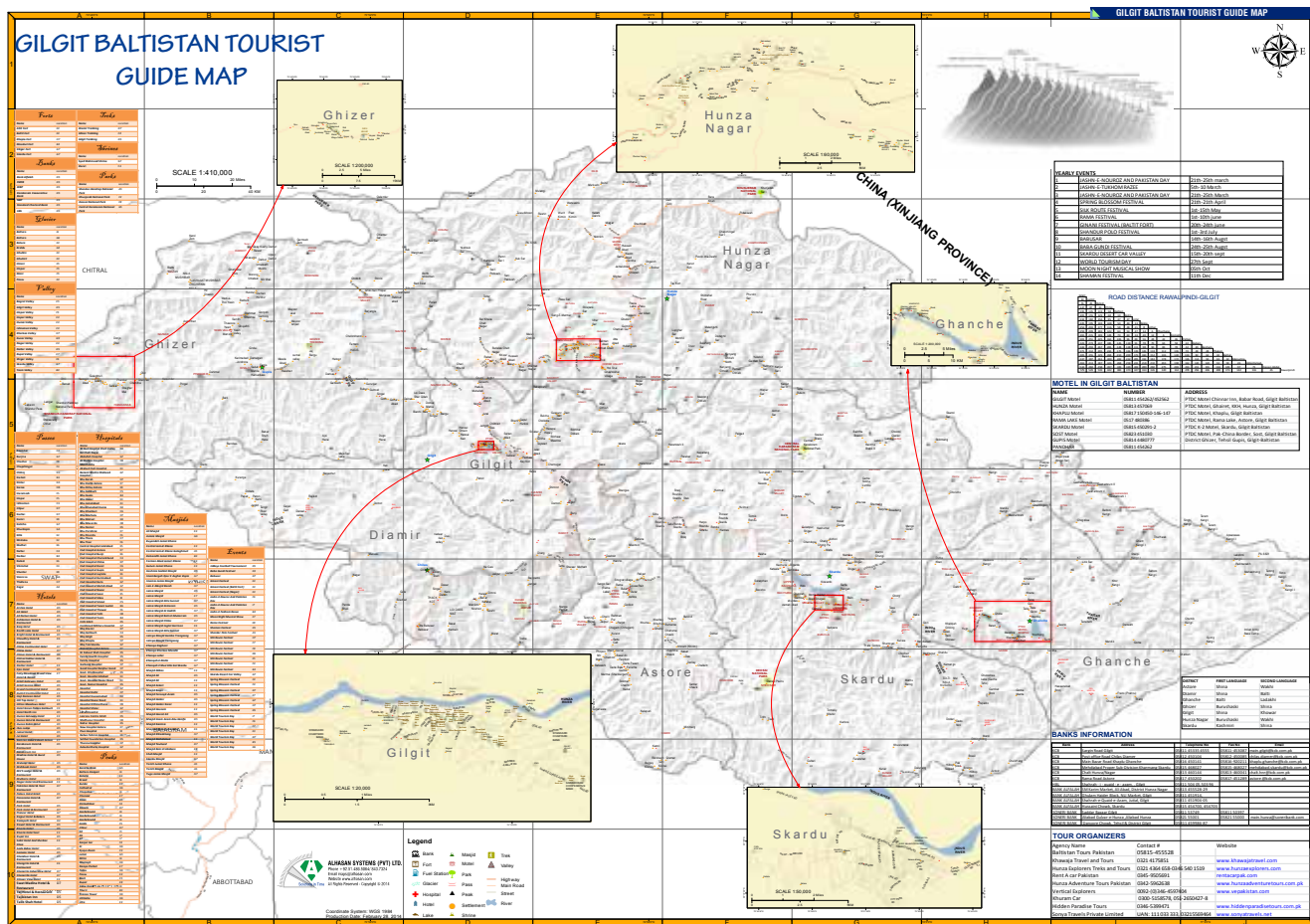
IN THIS BULLETIN

English News	3-25
Humanitarian Interventions	26
Tourism Profile: District Gilgit	27-29
Articles	31
Urdu News	35-43
Maps	30,32,34
Tourism Directory	44-48

Gondogoro La closure: Minister assures tour operators to take up issue with government
Pakistan, Turkey share common cultural heritage: Turkish MPs
Pakistan, Saudia jointly working for harmony, unity: Pervaiz
National flair: Pakistan teams show off culture at Shell Eco-marathon
Saudi Arabian Information and Culture Minister visits PNCA, Lok Virsa
Art expert Kanwal Khalid speaks on significance of Pakistani art
Lahore International Film Festival celebrates young film-makers
IFT's Neil McCartney on Pakistani cinema, SIFF and film festivals
Endangered heritage: Hindu community struggles to protect its temples
Heritage sites to be used as venue to educate young generation
Pakistan, Egypt to foster co-op in tourism sector
LCCI, Seed sign MoU for promotion of tourism
HUL approach essential for conservation of national heritage
Pakistani siblings Mirza Ali, Samina Baig scale Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro
Promotion of art, culture effective antidote to extremism: Pervaiz
Granted: Japan reiterates support for preservation of Pakistan's heritage
Lok Virsa documents Pakistani, Norwegian folk culture
Pakistan celebrates cultural awakening
Lahore Literary Festival Gets Underway Amid Tensions
Pakistan should be proud of its Buddhist heritage: Unesco chief
Protect your heritage, not for yourself but for your children

MAPS

- GILGIT TOURIST GUIDE MAP
- GILGIT BALTIKISTAN BUDGET STATISTICS 2013 - 14
- ISLAMABAD TOURIST GUIDE MAP



H/No. 4-Green, Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Road, I-8/2, Islamabad, Pakistan

Landline: +92.51.486.5064, +92.51.843.7324

E-mail: connect@alhasan.com Website: www.alhasan.com

©Copyright 2014

ALHASAN SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED

House No. 4-Green, Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Road,
Sector 1-8/2, Islamabad, 44000 Pakistan

For information:

Landline: +92.51.486.5064

Email: connect@alhasan.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/alhasan.com>

Twitter: [@alhasansystems](https://twitter.com/alhasansystems)

Website: www.alhasan.com

ALHASAN SYSTEMS is registered with the Security & Exchange Commission of Pakistan under section 32 of the Companies Ordinance 1984 (XL VII of 1984). ALHASAN is issuing this Tourism Bulletin free of cost for general public benefit and informational purposes only. Should you have any feedback or require for further details and Metadata information please call +92.51.486.5064 or Fax at +92.51.843.7324 or email at connect@alhasan.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

The information in this publication, including text, images, and links, are provided "AS IS" by ALHASAN SYSTEMS solely as a convenience to its clients and general public without any warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, or non-infringement. ALHASAN SYSTEMS assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions in this publication or other documents which are referenced by or linked to this publication. This publication could include technical or other inaccuracies, and not all information/ services referenced herein are available in all areas. Changes are periodically added to the publication, and ALHASAN may change the information or services described in this publication at any time.

Should you choose to respond directly to ALHASAN SYSTEMS with comments, questions, suggestions, ideas or the like relating to this publication and ALHASAN SYSTEMS other services and products, you agree that such information shall be deemed as non-confidential and ALHASAN SYSTEMS shall have no obligation to respond and be free to reproduce, use, disclose and distribute the information to others without limitation, including but not limited to developing, manufacturing, and marketing products incorporating such information. For further explanation of these legal notices please contact legal@alhasan.com.



Lahore International Tourism Expo

19-20 APRIL, 2014

Expo Centre, Lahore

www.tourismexpo.com.pk

Endless Opportunities... On Single Platform...

Opportunities for:

- Airlines & Travel Companies
- Hotels, Resorts & Restaurants
- Transport Companies
- Health Care, SPAs & Fitness Centres
- Hospitality & Education
- Fashion Industry
- Tour Operators & Travel Consultants

- 170+ Exhibitors |
- 150,000 Visitor expected |
- Tourism Conference |
- Cultural Performance |

**Big Success of
LITE-2013**



For Stall Booking & Branding Opportunities:

TAHIR MEHMOOD RANA

Manager Marketing-TDCP

Ph: +92-42-99231002, Mobile: +92-300-9430576

E-Mail: ranatmehmood@yahoo.com

Web: www.tourismexpo.com.pk



Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab

151-Abubakar Block, New Garden Town, Lahore.

www.tdcp.gov.pk

SPL# 2501

NEWS HEADLINES

Art expert Kanwal Khalid speaks on significance of Pakistani art

udreview.com

February 27, 2014

Lahore International Film Festival celebrates young film-makers

The Express Tribune

27 February, 2014

DETAILS

"The best art comes from troubled times," Dr. Khalid says. "And Pakistan has had no shortage of those."

While visiting the university from Pakistan, art expert Dr. Kanwal Khalid delivered a guest lecture to students and members of the art community Monday night in Willard Hall. Khalid spoke at length on both the history of Pakistani art and the country's contemporary art scene. Pakistani influences on the region's art range from Pakistani tradition to the impact 9/11 had on the Pakistani people. An accomplished Pakistani art professional hailing from Pakistan, Khalid has spent her career immersed in the artistic works of South Asia. Khalid has held a number of positions in the art world ranging from museum curator to art professor. Early in her career, Khalid says she admits she was sometimes ridiculed for her interest and fascination with the region's art. "There was as focus on European art history," Khalid says. "South Asian art history wasn't really taught." Khalid's lecture covered a great deal of Pakistani art history. Subjects ranged from ancient Priest King sculptures to post-Sept. 11 miniature style paintings. Khalid also discussed the Ajanta cave monuments and paintings in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. In Pakistan, Khalid says she often works in the city of Lahore, which is considered to be the artistic capital of the country. In her lecture, Khalid says the art of Pakistan often reflects the context in which it is created. When Europeans first started visiting the region, the local artist incorporated styles and subject matter that settlers brought with them. Following the attention the nation received following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Pakistani artists created works of art that reflected America's presence, Khalid says. Khalid made mention of many notable Pakistani artists including Imran Qureshi and Huma Mulji. Khalid says both artists work extensively in installations, which are works of art that take up entire rooms or spaces. Imran Qureshi's painted one of his most famous installations on the roof of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art last spring, Khalid says. The lecture also addressed the trend in the contemporary Pakistani art scene toward a return to older, more traditional styles. "We are all taking a U-turn and returning focus on tradition," Khalid says. "Globalization may cause a sort of identity crisis." Due to globalization, Khalid says art in Pakistan has seen a revival of older and more traditional styles of art. Khalid says miniature paintings are an area of expertise for her and are one of Pakistan's most long-standing traditions. She explained that in years past, miniature paintings were done as collective efforts by teams of artists who specialized in painting a specific part of the painting. In her lecture, Dr. Khalid detailed through Pakistani art history how it has been common for artists to use the canvas to make political statements. "If you look at Pakistani art, it is reflective of what is going on globally," Khalid says. Khalid says one of Pakistan's most recognizable art types is what is referred to as the moving canvas. Moving canvases are trucks painted by their artisan drivers in intricate, colorful and elaborate patterns, she says. As the trucks travel from place to place, shipping and delivering goods, the painted trucks are seen as a personal extension of the artist. "The trucks are painted to appear more appealing and friendlier to locals," Khalid says. Khalid also spoke about the role that women, both past and present, have played on the Pakistani art scene in her lecture. She detailed the contributions that professional female artists have made in the country's artistic community and says that many of the people teaching about Pakistani art are women, which helps to shape the dialogue.

"It was interesting to learn that women are respected as artists in Pakistan," junior Cortney Marshall says. Among those in attendance at the lecture were several members of the university's art community, including students studying issues in contemporary art. "She made very good points on the focus on European Renaissance," junior George Mickum says.

LAHORE: The growing trend of film festivals in Pakistan and their promotion of film novices have frequently been discussed and duly appreciated. An ongoing festival, which has been showcasing the true potential of young film-makers, is the inaugural Lahore International Film Festival, dated February 25 till February 28. The event, which is taking place in collaboration with Summit Entertainment and Super Cinema at the Royal Palm Golf & Country Club and Vogue Towers, is providing screen space for several short and independent films. Many young film-makers who were selected from local universities, such as the Beaconhouse National University (BNU) and National College of Arts, have been focusing on creating films that highlight social issues and are relatable for a global audience.

Lubna Khaleeq's film *Walled City Painter* offers an activist's view of the lives of renowned old city artists, like Ajaz Anwar and Saeed Akhtar. She says that she decided to make a film on her mentors, who she feels are not valued locally. She adds that young film-makers have been inspired by the likes of Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy, who received international acclaim with the Oscar success of *Saving Face*. She also highlights the challenges that new film-makers are faced with, which are not only limited to garnering local success, but also include achieving financial security. "The thing is my generation has many issues to face. I really have no secure future and the same is the case for the coming generation. We get more feedback when we focus on issues that can resonate internationally," says Khaleeq. This is where the idea of film festivals comes to good use. As they do in India and France, film festivals provide a central point for film-makers who are working on the fringe to meet members of the film fraternity. There are several other films, such as Nasir Mazari's thesis project *Life*, a ten-minute documentary on poverty near the river Ravi in Lahore. Mazari says his intent is to shed light on poverty-stricken settlers near the river bank. He says international festivals tend to favour such stories and that they remain a driving point for many young film-makers who want to be noticed.

"I think what I wanted to show was not that there was poverty, but that whatever their [the

IFT's Neil McCartney on Pakistani cinema, SIFF and film festivals

Daily Dawn
February 27, 2014

settlers'] lives are like, they are satisfied with them," says Mazari, who hails from Rahim Yar Khan and was BNU's first film graduate gold medallist. He says that he is more comfortable with the documentary film-making format, which allows one to work with a smaller budget. He did, however, do a short film based on Saadat Hasan Manto's character Sugandhi, which has received recognition locally.

"We are talking about realities and Manto's writings epitomise reality and society. A lot of his stories are still banned. I think that's [because he intended] to show the real thing," adds Mazari. While issue-based film-making is on practicalities, Siyaah's producer Imran Kazmi, who is also screening his film at the festival, indicates that it's merely a trend and that he would encourage film-makers to follow their hearts rather than any formula.

"The truth is making films with social messages requires less work and money. I tell young film-makers that they have to follow their hearts and not a trend," says Kazmi. The festival's format is focused primarily on screening films and bringing forth new film-makers. "I think the discussion format really just ends up being all about 'talking.' This [format allows] audiences and people who are aspiring to become film-makers to focus more on what is being screened than anything else," comments Kazmi.

It's not every day – or year – when major film events happen in Pakistan. A couple of weeks ago was one such exception, when the first Sindh International Film Festival (SIFF) was unveiled to the public. Although a haphazardly set-up event with many inconstancies (including a lack of press and public information), SIFF is perhaps one of the more concrete steps towards strengthening the foothold of Pakistan's emerging film industry. One unanticipated aspect of SIFF was its partnership with the Raindance Film Festival – one of the most recognized, independent minded film festivals in the world – and The Independent Film Trust (IFT), a local charity from the UK, closely aligned with Raindance and the British Independent Film Awards. SIFF also had the honor of inviting Neil McCartney, the chairman of IFT as a judge and representative of Raindance at the festival.

During Mr McCartney's stay, I was fortunate to have been in constant touch with him during and after the festival, thanks in no small part to Mr Zaid Aziz, who took the initiative to help create the opportunity of this interview.

How did you get involved with the Sindh International Film Festival?

I first became aware of the festival somewhere in cyberspace in late December 2013 and that led me to contact them because I am always interested in hearing more about festivals that I have not encountered before – especially in countries outside Western Europe and North America. However, we see very few films from countries such as Pakistan. Last year we did get a submission from the producers of the Pakistani feature Good Morning Karachi, directed by Sabiha Sumar, and we were very happy to select it and include in the festival programme. Most of the times, films are not submitted to us because the film-makers have not heard of our festival or because they are discouraged by the need to pay submission fees. On the other hand, we are always looking for potential partners who could help us to raise our profile among local film-makers and in some way encourage them to consider making submissions to us. So I made contact. Then, slightly to my surprise, I got a swift and positive response from the festival director Assad Zulfikar Khan. The fact that I received such a response (which does not always happen) encouraged me to look further into what was being done and the wider Sindh Festival as a whole. And things developed from there. But we all had to run very quickly, given the tight timetable. The fact that the Sindh Festival as a whole was backed by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, told me that it was a serious initiative. I could see that they had a challenging timetable given that the festival was due to start only a few weeks after it had been publicly announced. This meant that there was not as much time as one would normally have.

The association with Raindance is a big step for any festival, first time or otherwise. Is Raindance always this open for collaboration with film festivals or markets, or was this an exception?

The Independent Film Trust and the Raindance Film Festival are both very open to new associations and partnerships, and we share something of a common mindset. We like making things happen – as far as we can. Most of the organisations with which we come into contact tend to be more conservative, partly because they very often have institutional structures for all sorts of understandable reasons. In this case we got a very swift and positive reaction from Assad and were able to come to an agreement very quickly. It is very rarely like that! Of course, this is one of the very significant positive aspects of working with a new festival, as opposed to the obvious and predictable negatives I have mentioned. (With new festivals) there is no existing way of doing things that people feel the need to stick to and defend.

You've brought a select number of features and shorts to showcase at the festival. Can you tell us a little about them?

We brought eight features – five documentary features and three fiction features. We did think about bringing some shorts as well, but in the end there was no time to do this. The process of selection, getting permission and getting a screening copy can take as long for a short as it does for a feature. We started with features because we felt that these ought in any case to form the spine of the Raindance Selection. We started out by making a selection of features from among the prize-winners and nominees at the most recent edition of RFF in September/October 2013. But some of these films we had to rule out, because the producers, sales agents or distributors of these films already had other plans for their screenings in Pakistan. So we also looked at the prize-winners and nominees from September/October 2012 and other good films of which we were aware and eventually settled on the documentaries Fall and Winter (USA), Powerless

Pakistan, Turkey share common cultural heritage: Turkish MPs

enews.epakistan.com
February 27, 2014

Endangered heritage: Hindu community struggles to protect its temples

pktimes.4com.co
February 26, 2014

(India), Finding Family (UK/Bosnia and Herzegovina) – I was one of the executive producers –, Body of God (Finland) and Everybody Street (USA). In Fiction, the selected titles were Season of Mists (UK/Russia), The Empty Home (Russia/Kyrgyzstan/France/UK) and Jail Caesar (UK).

ISLAMABAD, Feb 27 (NNI): PakTurk School organised a language and cultural festival as well as an Olympiad which was heavily participated by students and their parents from different cities of Pakistan.

Besides, the visiting Turkish parliamentarians, Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, local officials and notables also participated in the event.

In 12th edition of this language festival, 200 students from Karachi, Khairpur, Quetta, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Islamabad competed in 12 different categories.

Speaking at the occasion, members of Turkish Parliament said that, "brotherly country Pakistan and the people of Pakistan always keep a special place in the hearts of Turks."

They said that Pakistan and the people of Pakistan have always protected the values of Turkey and Turkish people.

Turkish educational institutions would continue to provide quality education to Pakistani brethren and try to further improve and expand the services, they said.

The MPs vowed to further strengthen the bilateral, trade, cultural, political and economic relations between the brotherly nations.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Dashgin Shikarov said that PakTurk Educational Foundation has been performing a good job to educate the students scientifically as well as ethically. I wish to see growth of these institutions in coming days, he added.

PakTurk Chairman Unal Tosur said that the two countries stand to benefit immensely by closer interaction with each other in different fields including education.

Around 75 selected students were awarded during the event. Winners and runners-ups will represent Pakistan in International language and cultural Olympiad to be held in Turkey later this year. NNI

RAWALPINDI: For around 5,000 Hindus living in Rawalpindi, Krishna Mandir is the only place of worship left. The temple is built on a four marla plot which is not enough to accommodate the community's growing numbers during religious ceremonies. But the fact that this temple remains is also nothing short of an achievement. There was a time when its future was also bleak and even today's there are challenges to its daily existence. Its not just about religious intolerance, which many remember from amongst the community here. The attacking and burning of temples and statues of Hindu deities in 1993 are still fresh in the mind of 79 year old Mahesh. "We [the Hindus] condemned the attack on Babri Mosque just like our Muslim brothers did. We even held protests but were not spared," he recalls. Most Hindus feel that the attacks had less to do with religion and more with money. They believe that the land mafia attacked temples around which Muslim families were living so that the families would vacate the land and the land grabbers could take over, considering the commercial value. Some local politicians led mobs and attacked the temples. "There is a perception that the Hindus [who migrated] had buried their wealth in these temples. Temples on the outskirts of the city were dug but when they found nothing, they destroyed the statues and defaced the statues."

Over the years, most of the Hindu inhabitants migrated to India at the time of partition, leaving behind a good number of properties and places of worship. These properties have been up for grabs. Some allege that locals forged documents in order to occupy land around temples and construct markets. These temples are located in areas where the value of land is very high. This acts as a magnet for the land mafia. "No temple here exists that has been spared by land grabbers," claims Amarnath, a resident of Kirtarpura. The helpless community can do nothing to protect the dilapidated and plundered buildings. The security of the evacuated buildings remains a source of concern. The government established the Evacuee Trust Properties Board under the Evacuee Trust Properties (management and disposal) Act 1975 for the protection of such properties. This board now sells or rents out the property around the temples. When the board was contacted, they said that they are looking after the functioning temples around the province.

"The attached properties around these temples have been given on lease while the main buildings of the temples were destroyed or occupied after the Babri Mosque incident," said Deputy Secretary Evacuee Trust Property Board, Azhar Sulehri. According to him, the zonal offices are looking after the non-functional temples and shrines. But officials at the zonal office denied that this was their responsibility.

Look towards the temples:

Out of 11 temples only one temple, the Krishna Mandir, is being used by the Hindu community. A temple in Bhabra Bazaar is being used by the police and political workers as a rest room. The sacred images have been defaced and scriptures scribbled out. The most important part of the temple, which is the sanctuary where the statue is placed, has been turned into an office.

In the old area of Lunda Bazaar, the temple of goddess Kali no longer exists. There are temples around College Road, Bohar Bazaar, Purana Qilla, Bagh-e-Sardaran and on the outskirts of the garrison city which await protection. A temple in Lunda Bazaar, Mohan Mandir, is said to have been built in 1930 by two brothers Hakim Asa Anand and Hakim Moti. It was also ransacked by an angry mob in 1993.

The members of the Hindu community demand preservation and protection of their religious sites. President of Pakistan Hindu-Sikh Social Welfare Council, Jag Mohan Kumar Arora, said that the trust board and the Department of Archaeology can generate millions of rupees from these temples if they are properly preserved and opened for tourists. "The board is generating money by selling the attached pieces of land around the temples to land mafia. The board is least bothered about spending a penny on maintenance of these historical temples."

"The government should constitute a committee on the pattern of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee to protect its holy sites and heritage," said Dr Umer Nadeem Tarar,

History heritage

www.pakistanpressfoundation.org

February 26, 2014

The BackBencher: A culture of late lateefs

The Express Tribune

February 25, 2014

Terror war harmed regional heritage: Olson

The Nation

February 24, 2014

Director at National College of Arts.

"People take temples as nothing but mere buildings and they want to destroy them," said Muhammad Yousaf, lecturer at Islamic International University. The people who understand the importance of heritage can never think about razing them, he said, adding that heritage is what defines a people's identity and it is a page from the past. However, in Rawalpindi, heritage sites like the temples are disappearing rapidly because of negligence of authorities.

Historical heritage sites are present everywhere in the world and are constantly maintained and repaired by governments. Many famous historical sites exist in different areas of Balochistan but these are neglected. Additionally, Makran is one of the oldest parts of the Indus Valley civilisations. Mirri Fort, Damb Shahi Tump in Turbat dates back to 4000 BC. These ancient centres belong to the pre-Harappan period of the Indus Valley civilisation. However, no concrete steps have been taken to unearth the history and culture of these ancient sites. Unfortunately, neither the government nor any NGO has taken any serious action for the preservation of these ancient sites. On the other hand, the local people of these areas dig around there in search of hidden treasures and destroy these historical sites. The authorities concerned should take serious action to preserve these ancient archaeological sites.

KARACHI: A child kept blowing raspberries while sitting in the front row of the Governor's gallery at the Sindh Assembly. It was a Monday, he was bored and the only thing that seemed to amuse him involved sticking his tongue out of his mouth and producing a noise similar to that created by flatulence. At 10:45am most MPAs were missing. The speaker's helpers were running around trying to get everything in order before the session started. Reporters were busy catching up on details about families, visas and recent extortion cases. Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon walked in at 11:15am looking sharp in a dark suit and tie. After he settled in his seat, Memon noticed a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf MPA sitting in the last row of the opposition bench and asked him what maps he was drawing and what time he got there. The MPA laughed and said that he was catching up with work and unlike the rest, he had showed up at 10am on the dot. Things became a little awkward as Memon mumbled something and turned away. For an assembly newbie, it might come as a surprise that the sessions don't actually start on time. MPAs are fashionably late and Monday's session was no exception. As MPAs from the treasury benches kept piling in – women in twos and the men in suits, it looked like the session might actually start before noon and it did, right after the naat and fateha. Sharmila Faruqi, who was representing the culture department in the question-answer session walked in wearing white, carrying a bunch of heavy folders and a little black handbag stuffed with papers. If the wildlife minister had showed up for Monday's session, he would have gotten off scot-free for neglecting the turtles as this time Faruqi and her department were under fire. But she had come prepared with the big guns — she had letters, excel sheets and what not.

Pakistan Muslim League-Functional's Nusrat Seher Abbasi was really interested in why the culture department had only organised some 400 events in the last four years. Despite Faruqi's reply and insistence to check the detailed answer in the session's sheet, Abbasi was not satisfied. She wanted a reason, not a financial breakdown. When an MPA asked about arts councils in the province, Faruqi explained that there were three in the province —one each in Karachi, Khairpur and Larkana, and were not run by the government or her department. She did, however, inform the house that they received provincial grants. PTI's MPA asked how the government and department kept checks on how the money was being used. Faruqi explained that the arts council's accounts were audited every year. The questions started getting tougher when Abbasi, dressed in blue and high heels, asked Faruqi about Moen jo Daro and other heritage sites. Every MPA wanted to know why a certain site, landmark, building in their constituency was not listed as a heritage site or being taken care of as one. This went on till 1pm, which is when with heavy protocol the chief minister of Sindh entered the assembly premises and the members got ready to pass some resolutions.

Spotted at the assembly

The leader of the opposition, Faisal Subzwari looked dapper in a brown kurta and tung pyjama accessorised with Kolha-puri chappals. Nasir Shah, the star of the last session, sat in his regular spot twirling his moustache. The real spotlight, however, belonged to Pakistan Peoples Party's Murad Ali Shah, who wore a flaming orange suit.

LAHORE - US Ambassador to Pakistan Richard G Olson has said that operation against militants or holding peace negotiations with them is an eternal matter of Pakistan and the US has no position in this regard.

Talking to media after addressing the participants at Lahore Literary Festival (LLF) at Alhambra Arts Centre on Sunday, the American ambassador accepted terror war had a bad impact on historical structures in the region especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said a number of projects were underway for conservation of cultural heritage. In this regard, three different projects are also going on in Lahore including Masjid Wazir Khan, he added. Olson said Lahore was very important city of South Asia and the world also due to its cultural significance. That is why, he said, they had supported LLF.

Meanwhile, during a meeting with Punjab CM Shahbaz Sharif, he said his country highly valued Pakistan's role in war on terror and it would continue support its efforts to curb the menace of terrorism and extend assistance for development projects. Issues relating to Pak-US relations, war against terrorism, security situation of the region and other important matters of bilateral interest came under discussion during the meeting. Olson on the occasion said Pakistan had sacrificed more than any other country across the globe in war on terror and his country had respect for Pakistan for its role in tackling terrorism. The US ambassador said that his country

Call to highlight Pak culture

The News International
February 24, 2014

Promotion of art, culture effective antidote to extremism: Pervaiz

Business Recorder
February 24, 2014

Weaving back through culture

www.pakistanpressfoundation.org
February 22, 2014

would further enhance cooperation for development of different sectors especially to help Pakistan in getting rid of energy crisis and other projects of public welfare.

LAHORE: On the closing day of the Lahore Literary Festival 2014, Sunday, Pakistani photojournalist Mobeen Ansari spoke with actress Nadia Jamil in a session called 'Dharkan'. Ansari said the inspiration behind his latest book, 'Dharkan: The Heartbeat of a Nation', was negative representation of Pakistan in international media. The photojournalist felt there was an urgent need to highlight the beautiful culture and talented people of the country. Pakistani personalities featured in his pictures included the late Karachi columnist Ardesheer Cowasjee, philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi, cricketer Shahid Afridi, politician Imran Khan, Sufi singer Abida Parveen and actor Zia Mohyuddin. The book has been launched in three American cities to positive reception. Meanwhile, Fahmida Riaz and Zehra Nigah launched their books, 'Hum Log' and 'Jadeed-o-Qadeem Khawateen Ke Naam' respectively.

'Hum Log' looks at political violence in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. Fahmida Riaz said her book based on her own personal experiences of exile in foreign lands and the internal exile that she mentally experienced when her radical progressive thoughts became unacceptable to General Zia-ul-Haq government. 'Jadeed-o-Qadeem Khawateen Ke Naam,' throws light on the lives of female writers and poetess in Pakistan. Nigah, at the session, said such women had not been acknowledged properly in the literary circles. German writer and musician Peter Pannke spoke with professor at Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture Aliya Iqbal Naqvi in his book launch called 'Saints and Singers: Sufi Music in the Indus Valley.' The book is a travelogue of the German musician through the music and culture of the Indus Valley in today's Pakistan. A renowned Punjabi poet and founder of Sachal Studios in Lahore Mushtaq Soofi, Riaz Shaad, Punjabi poetess Sarwat Mohiuddin and Pakistani journalist Majeed Sheikh spoke in a session called 'Women in Classical Punjabi Literature.' Speakers at the session paid tribute to the legendary Punjabi poetess and writers, including Amrita Pritam. Soofi, Shaad, Mohiuddin and Sheikh said women through their novels and poetry in Punjabi had contributed significantly to the revival and progress of the language. They had also highlighted social issues.

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Pervaiz Rasheed Monday said the government was determined to provide relief and support to the artists as promotion of art and culture was an effective antidote to violence and extremism.

Chairing a meeting of Administrative Committee of Pakistan Culture and Art Foundation Relief Fund here, he said the art and culture was the hallmark of every civilization and artists in the country needed to be promoted so as to keep art and culture alive in the society. Pervaiz Rasheed emphasized on the need to ensure transparency in the provision of funds and directed the officials concerned to evolve a mechanism in consultation with the provinces for its effective implementation without any delay. He also directed to enhance the amount of payments, saying the artists of smaller provinces and deprived areas to be preferred. The minister underlined the need to computerize and further systemize the whole process to ensure the ethos of professionalism and fairness in the distribution of funds. He asked the officials to prefer old ones over the young artists because they might not be able to earn through others means as they had been associated with art for the whole life. Naeema Kishwar Khan, Member of the National Assembly, and Dr Nazir Saeed, Secretary Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, were also present in the meeting.

When we talk about the cultures of India and Pakistan, we always talk about the similarities that we both have. It is a fact and it is the bond that connects us. We know about Indo-Pak bonding among the Indian and Pakistani diaspora in western countries. Culture is a strong bond and this can be explained by the fact that even with fluctuating relations, fortunately any attempt to stop Indo-Pak cultural ventures has been unsuccessful. Saying so, we can see a hope for peace in this cultural bond.

During a recent South Asian conference, I received the opportunity to hear Professor Chaman Lal, who has conducted cross-border research on Bhagat Singh and has written several books on him. Professor Lal talked about the importance of culture and the dismal reality of how partition politics also brought about a cultural divide. He talked about how political division had also affected the culture of the region, a region known as Punjab. For a Punjabi, his/her cultural identity of being a Punjabi is far more important than his/her caste and religious identity. However, the political decision of partition wounded this bonding. They became Indian and Pakistani. Even after that, the culture remained the same and, therefore, it developed at almost the same pace on both sides but due to these two forced identities, both sides adopted two different scripts. On the Indian side, Punjabis started writing their script in Gurumukhi while on the Pakistani side, Punjabis started using a different script named Shahmukhi. These scripts became official after partition. The school level education on both sides also formalised this division. They do not teach the 'other' script. It may not appear to be a big issue but when we look at it from the perspective of 'what they are losing out on', we will see its importance. Having two different scripts does not just mean restricting communication between two people, two communities, but also puts restrictions on shared culture, the past and, most importantly, knowledge. Literature is a repertoire of knowledge. Having two different scripts means that the text that may have been written in either of the two scripts becomes accessible only for people who can read that script. There is a lot of literature that is not available for reading for the current generations, as they only know one of the two scripts. Before partition, people knew both scripts and quality literature was available in both scripts but, after partition, the language got divided and so did knowledge and culture. Even today, the elderly generation can read both types of scripts but their younger ones cannot. We must know that it will be an injustice if we leave them in the situation wherein they both will not be able to communicate with each other perfectly and

Lahore Literary Festival Gets Underway Amid Tensions

blogs.wsj.com
February 22, 2014

Gondogoro La closure: Minister assures tour operators to take up issue with government

The Express Tribune
February 22, 2014

'Protect your heritage, not for yourself but for your children'

The Express Tribune
February 21, 2014

will not be able to understand each other's script and the knowledge that is dependent on them. We must recognise the importance of this. We must make the effort to end this injustice that restricts knowledge and the opportunity to undo the evil of the past and create new bonds for people.

Culture can play a strong role in harnessing good relations between the two countries. Social theorist Emile Durkheim once talked about the importance of culture for social solidarity and harmony. Culture binds people together, it creates a 'we' feeling. The similar culture of the people of India and Pakistan can do wonders. This bond of similarity can make them realise that they were and are the same in their values, thoughts and vision. It can work as a platform to lessen the miscommunication, mutual hatred and suspicion. It can work to break the myth that Indians and Pakistanis are different and opposed to each other — the reason for hatred. We need to realise the importance of and make efforts to emphasise cultural similarities. "Can we think of teaching both scripts on both sides?" Professor Chaman Lal asked. I think we can and we should.

The cultural capital of Pakistan is again playing host to the Lahore Literary Festival <http://www.lahorelitfest.com/> this weekend, in another attempt to resuscitate Pakistan's rich cultural heritage. The three-day event that started on Friday is the second edition of the annual festival dedicated to Pakistani and foreign literature. It's bigger than last year with more than 100 Pakistani and foreign writers, artists, poets, journalists and historians descending on the historic Punjabi capital for a weekend of discussion and celebration of the written word. The organizers also expect the audience to be twice the size of last year's gathering. That festival was propelled to great success by the sheer momentum of the enthusiasm to make it so. It frequently felt more like a rock concert than a bookish gathering. Raucous crowds whooped and cheered, and adoring groupies mobbed writers and artists. The discussions were also deeply political and centered on what it means to be a Pakistani and a Pakistani writer. The festival came just three months before the country's general elections, and there was a huge sense of optimism that a new beginning was just around the corner.

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Friday assured tour operators that he will take up with authorities the closure of Gondogoro La, a famous pass in Baltistan for trekking expeditions. "It is our job to discuss these matters with other departments, the army and intelligence agencies," he told the tour operators at an event arranged by the Alpine Club of Pakistan in honour of brother-sister mountaineer duo Samina Baig and Mirza Ali, who are currently on an eight-month expedition to scale highest mountains on each continent. The 5,940-metre high Gondogoro La, one of the most famous and widely preferred mountain passes in the Karakoram ranges, was closed for trekking expeditions by security agencies in May 2013. Pirzada asked the tour operators to forward their concerns in writing to him so that he could take up the issue with the authorities. The issue had been raised by President Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO) Amjad Ayub. "If you provide a written demand to the inter-provincial coordination ministry, I will take care of it," the minister said. Pirzada also said that Baig's achievement was a like a drop of rain that will make the ground fertile for more Pakistani women to participate in sports.

Ayub told The Express Tribune that the closure of the pass has affected the livelihood of local tour operators and people associated with the tourism industry. "Instead of making the country tourist-friendly, we are making it difficult for tourists," Ayub said. "It is not just the pass that has been closed, but the income opportunities of tourist operators, local guides and porters have also been closed with it." The Gondogoro La trek is famous for offering a breath-taking, panoramic view of Pakistan's four 8,000-metre high peaks: K2, Gasherbrum-I, Gasherbrum-II and Broad Peak. Tour operators said that the pass is a symbol of Pakistan's adventure tourism and is a golden opportunity for Pakistan to market its mountains abroad. Meanwhile, Samina urged the people to ensure that their girls get education. "Pakistani women can work alongside the men in every profession, every field of work," Baig said. "I appeal to the people, especially in the rural areas to give their daughters their basic right to education."

Samina and Ali have so far scaled three peaks as part of the seven summits expedition, which is being financially supported by some philanthropists with logistical support from the Adventure Diplomacy Group. Ali briefed the audience about the three peaks — Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, Mount Vinson in Antarctica and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. He said that each time they faced difficult conditions but braved the challenges to raise the Pakistani flag on each peak. Ali said that during the Kilimanjaro ascent they faced unexpectedly strong winds and heavy rain, even though they had heard the mountain could be climbed in "jogging shoes". After a brief stay in Pakistan, the mountaineers will return to their expedition. They plan to climb Puncak Jaya in Indonesia. Ali will attempt Everest in April.

KARACHI: Pakistan may be lacking on many fronts but the one thing that sets it above all others is its heritage. Baela Raza Jamil's statement, declaring Pakistan's supremacy in this regard, was a no-brainer for the audience at the session, titled 'Mobilising living heritage from our literature', at the Teachers Literature Festival, on Thursday.

What was unfortunate, according to Jamil, was the lack of interest being shown to promote and protect the heritage for the future generations. "The dilemma we are faced with today is that how do we revive the respect and admiration for our heritage in classrooms?" she asked of the panellists, Ayub Blooch and Adal Soomro, in particular, and the audience in general.

When the mic was passed on to Ayub Baloch, one could tell that this man meant business when it came to protecting the heritage. "When Pakistan was formed in 1947, it was lacking in many aspects — financially, administratively and politically. The one thing we did have and will always

Umrah surge sees Pakistanis top list

*www.zawya.com
February 20, 2014*

LCCI, Seed sign MoU for promotion of tourism

*Business Recorder
February 18, 2014*

cherish is our heritage." But it was not until he started counting the blessings that we have so often heard of, that he managed to convince the participants of his argument. "Take a trip to the Quetta Museum," he invited the audience. "There are relics that have been found in Mehergarh that date as far back as 11,000 years ago. The artefacts testify that the society inhabiting Mehergarh was far more sophisticated than any other place at the time." The civilisation was so far ahead, according to Baloch, that animals were domesticated for the first time ever in Mehergarh. Baloch went on to explain that historians believe that the Sumerian Civilisation found its roots in Balochistan. "It is from here that they migrated to other places. Moen jo Daro, the famous historical site in Sindh is only 5,000 years old. Imagine, Moen jo Daro is merely the great-grandson of Mehergarh," he smiled. Baloch carried on by quoting a famous Red Indian saying, "We borrow the Earth from our children." Heritage is a gift from the past to the future, he reasoned. It is our duty to protect and preserve it and pass it on to our future generation. He pleaded to the teachers and those involved in the education sector to ensure that our future generation developed an appreciation for our heritage. "You may ask why I give so much importance to protecting our heritage," he asked of the audience with a smile. "It is because heritage is directly linked to our dignity and identity." Baloch's fellow panellist, Adal Soomro, is no novice when it comes to folk literature. The head of Sindhi department at the Shah Abdul Latif University, Soomro has authored 14 books apart from publishing various works of poetry. "Our literature, especially folk tales and stories, are a testament to our heritage," he said. Soomro was of the opinion that literature was the one platform through which we could preserve and protect our heritage. What was lamentable was that we had ignored the lessons that we could have learnt from this heritage. "The despondency lies in the fact that Moen jo Daro, 5,000 years ago, was a far better planned and urbanised community than what we have today. I even wrote a poem requesting the authorities to allow me to live in Moen jo Daro," he joked.

What the moderator and panellists agreed to was that for the protection and promotion of our heritage, it was necessary that teachers rise up to the challenge. "You have been commissioned with a cause," Soomro addressed the teachers seated in the room. "Your cause is not to bring about a revolution. Each of you must play your part and collectively, we will be able to bring about the change we seek," he advised.

Umrah pilgrims from abroad are pouring into the Kingdom, with the Ministry of Haj declaring that there has been a significant 14 percent increase in foreign pilgrims visiting Madinah already this season as compared to last year, with Pakistan accounting for the biggest chunk of pilgrims. Revealing this, Ali Al-Ghamdi of the Haj Ministry said about two million pilgrims had already visited Madinah during the current season. After Pakistan, Indonesians, Iranians and Indians accounted for the most number of pilgrims in that order, he said. The ministry was constantly monitoring the facilities and services provided to pilgrims. It had instructed Umrah companies to make special provisions for the elderly and physically weak pilgrims, he said. The ministry was also conducting inspections of transport and housing facilities for pilgrims in Jeddah, Makkah and Madinah to ensure their safety besides putting in place measures to prevent foreign middlemen from dealing in these two vital sectors, he said. Al-Ghamdi said that the ministry's inspectors had booked 39 people for involvement in pilgrims' housing that is to be dealt with only by Saudi citizens. The ministry had, last year, carried out 1,948 inspection visits and 552 raids to check housing services. The official said the ministry was also conducting inspection of pilgrims' housing for compliance with safety standards. So far, it has carried out 372 visits and detected 152 violations of safety regulations in Makkah, he said, adding the ministry in Makkah region also inspected 9,009 housing units that had accommodated 1.3 million pilgrims last year.

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Social, Economic and Environmental Development (Seed) project under the framework of the Pakistan Italian Debt-for-Development Swap Agreement (PIDSA), for the promotion of domestic and international tourism and trekking expeditions to the different parts of Gilgit-Baltistan, especially to the K-2 and surrounding areas and the Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP). LCCI President Sohail Lashari inked the MoU on behalf of the Lahore chamber while Seed was represented by its Country Operations Manager Raffael Del Cima.

Under the agreement, the LCCI would extend maximum support to Seed for a three-day festival 'The K2 and Beyond' from March 28-30, being arranged in connection with the K-2 60th anniversary at the Lahore chamber. The three-day festival includes exhibitions, music and documentaries. An exhibition of photo highlights from the researcher and scientist Filippo De Filippi (1913-1914) titled 'Rediscovering the Abode of Snow'. Exhibition of flora and fauna of the Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP), International Mountain Film Festival and Scientific Workshop to mainstream the natural resources, climatically, geologically and ecologically. The other stakeholders and partners include; Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO), Karakorum International University (KIU), WWF, Gilgit Baltistan Tourism Department, Alpine Club would be extending support to promote domestic and international tourism and trekking expeditions to the different parts of GB, especially to the K-2 and surrounding areas and the Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP).

Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Lashari said that the LCCI has partnered with this unique event to promote domestic tourism that remained untapped only because of lack of awareness. He said that tourism sector had attained the status of billion dollar industry and a little attention towards its promotion in the outer world could do miracle as far as economic well being of the country is concerned. Lashari said that there are a large number of countries in the world that earning unimaginable foreign exchange through focus on tourism but it is very unfortunate that Pakistan had failed to tap unmatched domestic tourism potential. Seed Country Operations Manager Raffael Del Cima said that the Seed is one of the most comprehensive projects developed in

Pakistan, Saudia jointly working for harmony, unity: Pervaiz

*Associated Press of Pakistan
February 17, 2014*

Saudi Arabian Information and Culture Minister visits PNCA, Lok Virsa

*The Nation
February 17, 2014*

Hyderabad culture wows Pakistan group

*Times of India
February 17, 2014*

All set for children

collaboration with the Karakorum International University (KIU) and thanks to the support of numerous Pakistani partners such as Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP), WWF, Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP), Alpine Club of Pakistan, ICIMOD, Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD), Mountain and Glaciers Protection Organisation (MGPO).

The project, fully financed by Pakistan Italian Debt-for-Development Swap Agreement since November 2009, and aspires at an interactive development of the Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP) through supporting the implementation and management of CKNP, improving well-being and livelihoods option of local people. Among its many activities, Ev-K2-CNR Committee has always been committed to the promotion of the mountain environmental world among the larger public and keen to disseminate its culture, its peculiarities and its utmost importance. That is the reason why scientific research and development co-operation activities have always been supported by a thorough communication program.

ISLAMABAD:: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would continue to work jointly in harmony and unity as their bond is established by common religion and the spirit of brotherhood. This was stated by Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage in a meeting with his Saudi counterpart Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Mohieddin Khoja, Saudi Culture and Information Minister. He said that Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia were based on solid foundations of Islamic identity, shared cultural heritage and commonality of perceptions on all issues of international importance. Senator Pervaiz said that the mutual relationship was also nurtured by love and reverence held by the people of Pakistan for Saudi Arabia, the country of holy land. The minister said that the media can be used as an effective tool in countering negative propaganda about Islam and building the true image of Ummah as a whole. He also emphasized on the need to formalize the proposed idea of Pak-Saudi media friendship forum between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. This forum will not only prove instrumental in promoting bilateral ties but would also help in understanding each other's culture, as it would create an opportunity for media persons for exchange of visits and learn from each other's experiences and best practices, the minister asserted. Senator Pervaiz said that the present democratic government believes in freedom of expression and considers media as its partner in the development of the country and in pointing out issues of public interest. He also emphasized on the need for effective implementation of existing MOUs and projects of cooperation particularly in the field of culture and media. He proposed to work on the joint productions, sharing information and news stories and making exclusive documentaries to depict the true image and culture of both countries. The minister said that mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of media, culture and information would not only enhance bilateral ties but would also prove benevolent in boosting the image of Muslim Ummah. Saudi Culture and Information Minister emphasized on the need of frequent visits by the leadership of both countries to further strengthen bilateral ties between the two brethren states. Saudi Minister also appreciated the level of independence provided to media in Pakistan and underlined the need to implement the existing level of cooperation. Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Mohieddin Khoja also invited Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Federal Minister for Information to visit Saudi Arabia for the formalization of existing cooperation in the field of media between the two countries. Earlier, the minister received his counterpart and welcomed him in the Ministry of Information. They both held an exclusive meeting in which cooperation in the field of media, information and culture was discussed.

A briefing on the working and functioning of ministry was also given to the Saudi Minister. Saudi Culture and Information Minister also paid a visit to Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) and Lok Virsa Museum, where he witnessed exhibition of paintings, Quranic calligraphy and cultural performances by the local artists. Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Mohieddin Khoja highly appreciated and commended the work of Pakistani artists. The Minister hosted a lunch in the honour of the Guest and thanked him for visiting the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage and hoped that his visit would go a long way in boosting bilateral relations between both countries.

ISLAMABAD- Saudi Minister for Information & Culture Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Mohieddin Khoja alongwith his counterpart Senator Pervaiz Rashid visited the National Art Gallery of Pakistan. Guests were welcomed by Mashood Ahmed Mirza, Director General (PNCA). Saudi minister visited the NAG and appreciated the permanent collections of Pakistan. A beautiful cultural program was presented in his honor, showcasing the rich and diverse culture of Pakistan. It started with 'Taxila Odyssey' a finely choreographed sequence depicting the cultural heritage, which lies at Taxila, a Buddhist learning centre and cradle of the Gandhara Art. Instrumental music was also part of the program. Rubab was exquisitely played by the young maestro Zafar, a celebrated exponent. He played popular melody of the mountains. Colourful Bhangra dance was very much appreciated by the guests. Young dancers with bright smiles and colorful clothes performed the Bhangra and created a beautiful aura all around. The Saudi Minister warmly appreciated the efforts made by PNCA in his honor.

HYDERABAD: A group of artistes from Pakistan, who enthralled denizens with their dance and drama performances over the last few days, said they are in awe of Hyderabad's cosmopolitan culture. "The culture of food and shopping in Hyderabad is exciting. The people are warm and ever helpful," says 26-year-old Usman Zia, an actor, whose role in the critically acclaimed Zinda Bhaag, has received wide attention.

Artistes of the Pakistani group Tehrik-e-Niswan, who were on their first visit to the city, performed at three venues over the weekend in addition to holding discussions on cross-border cultural issues and the use of art as a form of expression.

KARACHI: The 11th Children Literature Festival (CLF) along with the first Teachers Literature

literature festival

Daily Times

February 17, 2014

Festival (TLF) will take place in Karachi on February 20-22 at the Arts Council of Pakistan, for which arrangements have already been finalized. CLF Karachi will be organized by Idara-e-Taleem-O-Aagahi (ITA) and, Oxford University Press (OUP) in collaboration with Open Society Foundations (OSF), Karachi Youth Initiative (KYI), Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, and Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh. Founded by Baela Raza Jamil of Idara-e-Taleem-O-Aagahi (ITA) and co-founded by Ameena Saiyid, of the Oxford University Press (OUP) in collaboration with Open Society Foundations (OSF), it is a social movement in response to low levels of learning in Pakistan (ASER 2009-2013) to promote reading, creative writing, and critical thinking across Pakistan and beyond (www.childrensliteraturefestival.com).

In Karachi the CLF will launch the first one-day Teachers Literature Festival (TLF) on 20th February 2014 to engage with 2000 teachers on core concepts and practices of CLFs encouraging them to make their classrooms and schools implement them practically. On all each of the three days this is a free public event for all schools systems of Karachi and Sindh from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm of 14 learning multisensory programs to promote the culture of reading for creativity, imagination and stimulation beyond textbooks and tests. About 4000 teachers and 20,000 children are expected to attend the CLF/TLF. The unique poster for Karachi TLF/CLF has been designed by the artist famous artist, Khuda Bux Abro. Each hall/space of the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, has been named after classical and popular literature, authors, poets, and characters, such as Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, Kitab Ghar, Sheikh Chilli, Umro Ayyaar, Tot Batot, Koh-e-Simorgh, Qissa Saray, Tota Khanani, Bagh-e-Shehrzade, Shahi-Guzar Gah and Kahani Ghar making them come alive in the imagination of children.

Managing Director Oxford University Press Ameena Saiyid co-founder of CLF, Rumana Husain Director of the Children Literature Festival (CLF), Wajih Naqvi of Karachi Youth Initiative, Mohammad Ahmed Shah President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and Maham Ali Coordinator, Children Literature Festival have said that the primary emphasis of the festival will be on children literature and for promoting reading habits. Over 20 books will be launched on Children Literature; story-telling in Urdu, Sindhi, Balochi, Pashto, Gujarati and English from simple narration to visual stimulation. Children will meet authors of children books, and participate in creative writing, illustrations and art workshops. Its magic all the way, said Rumana Husain at the press briefing. Events such as the Children Literature Festivals and Teachers Literature Festivals are important as they promote a love of reading and books. Reading gives children different perspectives on life. It is empowering and helps them build decision-making skills, based on new information and perspectives. Reading connects children to each other and to wider worlds and ideas. It gives them insights into other cultures, and ways of thinking. It builds tolerance because it helps them understand and value the worlds diversity, heritage, and cultures. Reading makes children creative because it stimulates the imagination and encourages children to write and create their own work. Above all, reading promotes learning as it informs and develops skills of literacy, interpretation, and expression. The Children Literature Festival was founded in collaboration with like-minded stakeholders including publishers, government, CSOs and corporate partners to explore large public spaces for learning. CLF has reached the level of popularity through support of eminent authors, poets, artists, actors, musicians, trainers etc. who have given their time free of cost in the spirit of giving back to society. To date over 100 such celebrities/institutions of all ages have joined hands with CLF.

Pakistan should be proud of its Buddhist heritage: Unesco chief

Dawn.com

February 16, 2014

TAXILA: Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), Irina Bokova has said Pakistan should be proud of Buddha's heritage present on its land. Ms Bokova, who is on a state visit to Pakistan with a six-member delegation, visited the archaeological Museum Taxila on Friday.

She was talking to journalists after visiting the museum and the ancient city of Sirkap. The Unesco chief said Pakistan had a rich archeological heritage and she was satisfied with the way Gandhara civilisation sites were being preserved. She said all such sites on Unesco world cultural heritage list were well protected and the process should continue.

Responding to a question, she said Unesco was supporting Pakistan in the improvement of education and teaching facilities, and tackle illiteracy through better education. Earlier, she was received by Saleemul Haq, director, Punjab Department of Archaeology and Museum, at the museum. He briefed the visiting delegation about the history of Taxila Valley civilisation and Buddhism. He said there were 4,000 objects on display at the museum. "Most of the objects on display were from the period between 600BC to 500AD," he said. Mr Haq said Gandhara was the second holy land of the Buddhists, and it was the place from where Buddhism flourished. The director-general took keen interest in the Buddhist antiquities and sculptures especially the huge size images of the great Buddha. Later she visited Sirkap, the city that dates back to 2nd century BC. The city was heavily influenced by the Greek city planning principles introduced to the area after Alexander the Great's conquest in the 3rd century BC. ISLAMABAD: Director-General, Unesco, Irina Bokova, also visited Lok Virsa on Friday. A special cultural show and lunch was hosted by the information secretary in the honour of the visiting dignitary. Minister of State for Education Baleeghur Rehman, Secretary Ministry of Information, Dr Nazir Saeed, Executive Director Lok Virsa, Shahera Shahid and others also attended the function.

Later, Ms Bokova was taken around various three dimensional cultural displays at the Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology. She particularly took interest in the display of 'truck art'.

Other dioramas which attracted the dignitary were the hall of ballads and romances presenting four love stories from the four provinces of Pakistan — Heer Ranjha from Punjab, Adam Khan Durkhane from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhola Maro from Sindh and Hani Shah Mureed from Balochistan.

A cultural dose relieves Karachi

*Pakistan Today
February 16, 2014*

HUL approach essential for conservation of national heritage

*The News International
February 16, 2014*

Pakistan celebrates cultural awakening

*www.arabnews.com
February 15, 2014*

KARACHI: The Sindh Festival 2014 was conceived as an antidote to anti-culture! It is a celebration of the rich heritage that is Sindh, and indeed, Pakistan. It is in essence all of us. The Sindh Fashion Festival, a component of the Sindh Festival, held on February 12 and 13 at NAPA in Karachi was a treat for the senses. The event had two components, a two-day fashion extravaganza showcasing some of the country's finest talent and a fashion museum exhibit.

Day 1 opened with a dance performance choreographed by the internationally acclaimed dancer Omar Rahim followed by the showing of bridal couture legend Bunto Kazmi's incredible shawls, which truly are works of art. The shawls were worn over clothes made by the Pink Tree and complimented with jewelry by Amber Sami. This was followed by Fnk Asia's collection depicting a young fresh Sindh and Amir Adnan's collection for high achievers. Amir Adnan's showstopper was the young and dynamic Shehryar Taseer who put the entire project together.

Nauman Arfeen's collection, an ode to the black pheasant or kaala teetar drew inspiration from nature. Zaheer Abbas' ajrak collection showed the versatility of Sindh's traditional fabric and how ajrak could indeed go international. This was followed by a musical performance by Fuzon and Sherry. Undoubtedly one of the country's greatest designers, Umar Sayeed did not disappoint. His beautifully crafted collection was a delight to view. The jewelry for this segment was provided by Feathers. The evening closed with a fabulous performance by Akhtar Channar Zahri and the dance ensemble O2. The iconic Nabila is the creative genius behind the show and her teams from N-Pro and NGents have styled the models. Set design, construction, set-up and backstage by Production 021. The show, including all the dances was choreographed by Omar Rahim. The event was coordinated and managed by Tehmina Khaled of Takell who used her PR skills to get this beautiful side of Sindh out for the world to see. The second component, which runs from February 12 to 15, is a stunning museum display featuring fashion by: Shamaeel Ansari, Sania Maskatiya, Nida Azwer, Ismail Fareed, Fnk Asia, Mahin Hussain, Sofia Naveed Lari, Shamsa Hashwani, Aamina Mansoor, Adnan Pardesi, Wardha Saleem, Unbeatable, Pink Tree, Amir Adnan, EB, Shahnamay, Arsalan Iqbal. As well as a collection of fashion photographs. The display, which featured live models, had been put together by Ehtesham Ansari. The set up constructed by Ahmed Jung of Reactivate. Hair and Make-up for this component has been done by Angie Marshall.

ISLAMABAD: Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach is essential for conservation and preservation of national heritage and can improve urban planning in Pakistan, said Muhammad Anwar Chaudhary, Chief Physical Planning and Housing, Planning Commission of Pakistan. He was addressing participants of a Policy Dialogue on 'Historic urban landscape: opportunities and challenges in urban planning and local governance' here at Institute of Social and Policy Sciences (ISPS). Chaudhary said that unfortunately urban planning was not on the agenda of our policy-makers, political leadership and civil society organisations. He said that local community should also be included in the planning and decision-making processes as no plan could achieve desired results and sustainability without the ownership of the community. He called for having proper urban policy at national, provincial and district levels. He observed that the role of local government will be crucial while implementing Historic Urban Landscape approach.

Dr Ron VAN OERS, Vice Director of Unesco World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for Asia and Pacific, said that the Historic Urban Landscape codified in the 'Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape', adopted by Unesco's General Conference on Nov 10, 2011, is an approach for the management of heritage resources in dynamic, constantly changing cities. He said that HUL approach provides a set of general principles in support of sustainable urban heritage management that integrates environmental, social and cultural concerns into the planning, design and implementation of urban management programmes.

Ali Imran, District Officer, Spatial Planning, Rawalpindi, said that introduction of HUL is significant from the standpoint of the timing as we are on the threshold of introducing new local governance system which will have substantial consequences for the urban planning architecture at local level. He remarked that although urban planning is an area which affects every individual's life, it does not figure prominently in the mainstream development discourse. It is important to undertake sincere and timely measures in order to address the challenge of rapidly growing cities. He hoped that this pilot project could help bring the larger issues concerning urban planning to the policy and the development discourse and has all the potential to lead towards developing a much needed technical and political interface to address the challenges of urban planning and local governance in Pakistan.

At last, Pakistan is singing, dancing and rejoicing. Don't mistake these happy moments for a complete reversal of the country's fortunes. Pakistan is experiencing some sort of a cultural revival and celebrating the Sindh Cultural Festival. The government of Pakistan's Sindh province has organized a two-week long cultural extravaganza to highlight region's rich cultural heritage. The very familiar Superman logo, clad in traditional Sindhi ajrak, symbolizes the event, which kicked off at the historic Moenjodaro with a dazzling opening ceremony. Organizing the event required a special, superhero effort as well. The country's self-pride and self-belief has been bruised by a bleak economic and security outlook over the past decade. In such torrid times, conceptualizing an event to celebrate the country's glorious past and hidden treasures deserves great admiration. Unsurprisingly, the festival has come under criticism from different quarters. The grand opening ceremony has been lashed at for endangering the ancient ruins of Moenjodaro. Similarly, the festival is also being viewed as part of a massive public campaign to boost the political career of Bilawal Bhutto, the son of the slain ex-Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, and former President Asif Ali Zardari. Use of public funds to present Bilawal as the savior of Sindh's culture and heritage has not gone down too well with other political parties as well.

All Pakistan Mushaira: Continuing literary journey

Business Recorder
February 15, 2014

Pakistan's Bilawal Bhutto lashes out at the 'stone- age' Taliban

www.straitstimes.com
February 15, 2014

Mutual cooperation: Pakistan, Egypt to strengthen bilateral ties

The Express Tribune
February 15, 2014

Pakistan, Egypt to foster co-op in tourism sector

Further, other critics argue that the country has other critical issues like low literacy rate, sluggish economy and crippling energy crisis, that deserve immediate attention. The millions of rupees spent on the festival could have been dedicated to tackling these issues on a priority.

While some arguments provided by the skeptics remain valid, there is a need for taking a broader perspective to the event. The Sindh Festival offers Pakistan a chance of revitalizing culture and overcoming the cultural coup from foreign influences. Due to the rise of extremist forces, the country's rich culture has been shrouded in darkness. Cultural expression has been limited due to attacks on cinemas, art galleries and electronic media, which tried hard to fight these autocratic forces. Culture began to die a slow death in Pakistan as threats of violent attacks forced the countrymen to stay away from such cultural displays. Cultural decline can be witnessed in daily affairs of the state through weak political discourse, a civil society held hostage by a handful of rightists and manipulation of rules to benefit the privileged and well-connected. The highly vocal conservatives in Pakistan would also make one believe that the country's cultural woes have been exacerbated by the invasion of Indian and Turkish films and television dramas. To them, Pakistan's youth is being corrupted by these immoral and vulgar forms of art as part of a wider global conspiracy. It is hoped that the festival will help lift the spirits of Pakistanis and develop a greater sense of pride in them. Although the event is a step in the right direction, it alone would not be sufficient in shaping a cultural renaissance in Pakistan. By stirring a greater interest in the country's culture and traditions, the government can also counter ideological differences with extremists who now wield a great influence on Pakistan's society.

The Sindh Cultural Festival has been inaugurated at heritage site of the ancient city of Moenjodaro last Saturday. Many cultural events has been organised to commemorate the cultural heritage of Sindh to participate in the festival. In this connection with the objective of reviving the tradition of 'Mushaira', which has been a part of our culture since the Mughal times, a grand All Pakistan Mushaira was organised by Aaj News. The lush green gardens of the Mohatta Palace Museum were brought to life with vibrant hues and tastes of poetry at the occasion of a grand All Pakistan Mushaira. This was the first time a mushaira is held at Mohatta Palace Museum. The spectacular event was attended by renowned poets of our country who recited their poetry and collect praise from the audience. The chief guest of the Mushaira was Sehar Ansari and Fahmida Riaz and the event presided by Rasa Chughtai whereas hosted by famous poetess Nasira Zuberi. She recited poems from her latest book of poetry "Kaanch ka Chiragh" which become very popular among poetry lovers beside her earlier book "Shagoon". A large number of people attended the mushaira and appreciated and praised the poetry. The poets highlighted the social issues through their funny and sometimes, hard hitting kalaams. The poetry deals mainly with real life issues some reflects on the social life and other on contemporary issues in a light as well as harsh way. Poetry lovers were seen enjoying Mushaira with keen smiles and appreciating the poets. Guests made themselves comfortable at the lawns of Mohatta Palace Museum enjoying Kashmiri tea and snacks. The stage was decorated accordingly to reflect the Sindh's culture by placing various traditional pots and vases of unique Sindhi styles and designs.

The main objective of organising the mushaira was to revive the lost tradition of mushaira and to emphasise the fact that even today young writers from across the country choose poetry as a vehicle for their creative expression. Renowned Urdu poets of our country participated in the mushaira last week to name a few; Sabir Zafar, Saail Azad, Abdul Ghafoor Tabassum, Javed Saba, Khalid Moin, Ajmal Siraj, Fazil Jamili, Ajmal Siraj, Rehana Rohi, Aqeel Abbas Jafri, Fahim Shams Kazmi, Syed Kashif Raza, Ambreen, Haseeb Amber, Seema Ghazal, Chandar Kashwani, Bakhsh Meerani, Riaz Tasneem, Kashif Ghayar, Syed Kami Shah, Tauqeer Taqi, Masooma Sherazi and Zaheer Abbas. All in all, the event was a success and it is hoped that Aaj News continues its efforts in taking our national and regional poetry to new level of appreciation and promote and support the poets in continuing their literary journey.

KARACHI: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of Pakistan's assassinated premier Benazir Bhutto, on Saturday slammed the Taliban for trying to drag the country back to the "stone-age."

Addressing a gathering during the closing ceremony of a two-week cultural festival in his home province of Sindh, Mr Bhutto also urged the country to rise up against the threats. "The Taliban want to impose the law of terror in the country, but I want to tell them, if you have to live in Pakistan you will have to follow its constitution," he said. "We don't accept the law of terrorists" he added. "Some people are trying to bring back the stone-age era in the country in the name of Islam." The start of 2014 has seen a surge in militant violence with more than 130 people killed.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Egypt have decided to strengthen bilateral ties and promote tourism between the two countries. A memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of tourism was signed here on Friday, said a press release. The MoU was signed by Egyptian Ambassador Said Hindam and Economic Affairs Division Senior Joint Secretary Pervaiz Ahmed Junejo. The programme aims at bolstering relations between the two countries, promotion of tourism and investment. It covers multiple aspects, including the exchange of publicity material, information, brochures, statistics, participation in tourism fairs and festivals. The aim is to promote and facilitate investment and joint ventures through an exchange of information and benefit from one another's expertise by organizing training courses for personnel in the field of tourism and hotel industry. On the occasion, Hindam remarked that cooperation between the two countries in the tourism sector would further strengthen relations between them.

ISLAMABAD: Egypt and Pakistan Friday signed the executive programme on cooperation in the field of tourism for the years 2013-2015 in order to foster the existing cooperation between both

The Nation
February 15, 2014

Pakistani performers to try winning hearts
www.thehindu.com
February 14, 2014

Pakistani siblings Mirza Ali, Samina Baig scale Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro
Pakistan Today
February 13, 2014

Lok Virsa documents Pakistani, Norwegian folk culture
AAJ TV
February 13, 2012

countries in the field of tourism in implementation of the agreement signed by both countries on 16 December 1995 for cooperation in the field of tourism. The signing ceremony took place at Pak Secretariat where Ambassador of Egypt Said Hindam and Pervez Ahmed Junejo, Senior Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, signed the cooperation accord. The agreement embeds the promotion of tourism and investment including Training. The Agreement covers all tourism aspects viz exchanging publicity material, information brochures, statistics; participation in tourism fairs and festivals; promoting and facilitating investment and joint ventures vis-à-vis exchange of expertise and Training by organizing training courses for personnel in the field of tourism and hotels' management as a service industry.

12 Pakistani artistes of Tehrik-e-Niswan, a Pakistani cultural organisation, will perform Kathak, Bharatnatyam, and Odissi dances on poetry of the two nations in venues across the city from today.

India and Pakistan share the same history, and even have similar cultures, but many misconceptions exist among citizens across the borders. In an effort to bring them closer, 12 Pakistani artistes of Tehrik-e-Niswan, a cultural organisation, will perform Kathak, Bharatnatyam, and Odissi dances on poetry of the two nations, here from February 14 to 16 at different places.

Performances will be held as part of the India Pakistan Culture Connect – Joint Celebrations for Union of Hearts, and is being organised by Cova and the Centre for People's Foreign Policy in South Asia. "Art and culture have no boundaries. But we have the same history, and the people of Pakistan would like to come here," said Sheema Kermani, Tehrik-e-Niswan founder told reporters here on Thursday. Ms. Kermani, whose parents are from Hyderabad, formed her organisation in 1979 to work for the development of women through theatre and cultural work. She teaches Indian classical dances in Pakistan and said their performances were more about showing political defiance. Anwer Jafri, a playwright, said notions like fundamentalism and religious intolerance about his country were not true. The 12-member delegation includes Saima Hayat, a researcher with Tehrik-e-Niswan, Shujauddin Qureshi, a Co-Manager of the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research, Usman Zia, an actor, Atif Hayat, an human rights activist, Zahra Batool, theatre actor, Dawood Samson Bhatti, an actor & dancer, Nafees Ashraf, theatre artist, Mansoor Ahmad, training officer with the South Asia Partnership-Pakistan (SAP-P), Saima Jan, a Coordinator with SAP-P, and Sehrish Bhatti, a theatre actor and teacher. The group will perform at UoH on February 14, at Ravindra Bharati on February 15, and OU on February 16.

ISLAMABAD- Pakistani siblings Mirza Ali and Samina Baig reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (5895m) in Tanzania on Wednesday.

Mirza Ali was overjoyed when reporting this latest achievement from the top of the summit, "It feels fantastic! We made it to the top today after facing heavy snow fall and rain. It feels so good to have gotten here at last." The siblings are currently engaged in an Adventure Diplomacy Expedition, which is supported by the Embassies of Republic of Argentina, Republic of Indonesia, Nepal, Russian Federation, United States of America, and the Serena Hotels. Late last year, on December 13, 2013, the pair reached the summit of Argentina's Mount Aconcagua (6962m). This achievement was quickly followed by their summit of Mount Vinson Massif (4892m) in Antarctica.

With this third, most recent summit, the siblings are well on their way to conquering seven of the world's tallest peaks across seven continents. If they are successful, they will be the first brother-sister duo to have completed this feat. Through this expedition, Mirza and Samina hope to help build a positive image for Pakistan's tourism industry and promote women's empowerment. Samina Baig is already a national hero in Pakistan.

Originally from Shimshal Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan, she was the first Pakistani woman and the youngest Muslim in the world to climb Mount Everest in May 2013. With much of the world's media focused on Pakistan's security situation, the siblings' attempt to bring about change through this expedition is a welcome attempt to shift some of the public discourse back to the country's ambitious and talented youth. Next, the mountaineers will be heading to Bali, Indonesia to summit Mount Carstenz Pyramid (4884m). They are expected to complete the Adventure Diplomacy Expedition in August 2014.

Lok Virsa in collaboration with Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage (Riksantikvaren) has published a comprehensive book on "Children Folk Games of Pakistan and Norway" for documenting the folk culture of the two countries. National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Lok Virsa published the book under the Joint Institutional Cooperation (JIC) Programme between the Pakistan and Norway. The 100-page book contains 24 folk games along with description, number of players, preparations, steps and rules required for each game. It also comprises sketches and photographic representations so as to facilitate the readers to understand easily how to play these traditional games.

The introductory part gives the readers an idea that it is primarily a book written for children. However, it can also create interest in grownups, as all people cherish memories of childhood.

The games introduced in the book will let children know that they belong to the broad fraternity of the children of the world. A bare reading of the book provides that games played by Norwegian and Pakistani children are the same. Executive Director, Lok Virsa, Khalid Javaid, who is also a renowned folklorist and craft expert, said "the book is for all ages because we have to remember that people of the world were once happy children and as we grow old we have a duty to return the same spirit of enjoyment and harmony among our children. The book took me back to the

Lok Virsa renovates open-air transport museum

The News International
February 12, 2014

Plan to establish TFCs to promote tourism

Pakistan Observer
February 11, 2014

days of my childhood, and I found myself playing these games with friends and within my family. Some of them are lost in the wide world of opportunities and fame but they may find some bond in the games that we played together. It may remind them of the grandeur of olden times when we found happiness and quiet around everywhere we looked". The book is a welcome addition to all that Lok Virsa and Norwegian partners have done to develop better trust and understanding between our two friendly countries, he added. The Chief of Lok Virsa also praised for the contribution of the Royal Norwegian Government, in particular its mission in Pakistan for their support in documenting and preserving the rich culture and traditions of Pakistan through JIC programme. He also mentioned his own administrative ministry – National Heritage and Integration Division – for their patronage and enabling facilitation which resulted in materializing of such an important idea. He was of the view that this effort would serve a long way in creating awareness among the youth community in understanding the cultural heritage of not only Pakistan and but also Norway where a large number of Pakistani community is residing and contributing to the development of Norway.

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) has renovated the open-air transport museum located in front of Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology (Heritage Museum). The museum presents a full-size truck, a traditional houseboat from Manchar lake of Sindh province, a 'tonga' with horse, a bullock cart with two bulls and a wooden 'baradari' from Swat valley. All these displays decorated with traditional paraphernalia look like real to the visitors and they are compelled to appreciate them. New management of Lok Virsa is fully concentrating on renovation, improvement and expansion of all Lok Virsa public facilities, especially those related to Heritage Museum. The open-air transport museum displays were renovated in January 2014 within a targeted period.

Talking to media, Lok Virsa Executive Director Shahera Shahid said open-air transport museum is an integral part of Heritage Museum and its purpose is to preserve cultural traditions of Pakistan and to acquaint the younger generation about our indigenous folk heritage. Many trucks and buses in Pakistan are decorated by their owners. These adorned vehicles are considered as moving art. Because of their unique décor and style, these vehicles are quite different in layout from other trucks around the world. Each part of the vehicle is decorated differently with variations depending on the regional style. This decoration includes painting, calligraphy and ornamental décor. Mirror work on front & back and wooden carving on the door is commonly used. The exterior of the truck is often adorned with folk poetry. The traditional 'tonga', a two-wheel carrier once a popular mode of urban transportation is now becoming a thing of the past after being expelled from city streets and replaced by noisy motorcycle rickshaws.

A bullock cart or ox cart is a two-wheel vehicle pulled by oxen (draught cattle). It is a common means of transportation used since ancient times in many parts of the world. They are still used today where modern vehicles are too expensive or the infrastructure does not favour them. Used specially for carrying wood, the bullock cart is pulled by one or several oxen (bullocks). The cart is attached to a bullock team by a special chain.

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 - Islamabad—Government is revamping and remodeling Tourist Information Centres of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and plan is to establish Tourist Facilitation Centers (TFCs) in Provincial Headquarters to promote tourism. Special discounted tour packages have also been introduced to encourage students, families and groups to explore Pakistan. Besides, PTDC is reviewing National Tourism Policy and participating actively in international and domestic tourism events to attract local and foreign visitors. "A total of 28,333 foreign, 1,844,000 local tourists have visited Northern Areas during 2007-10", official sources at PTDC told APP, here today.

Government has also increased the tourist friendly countries from 2 to 26, he said. Underlining various steps for promotion of tourism, official said tourists of 26 countries have been granted one month validity and multiple entries for group travel through designated Tour Operators. Pakistani Missions abroad have been authorized to grant tourist/visit visa for three months validity and stay with double entry and other, he added. Replying to a question he said the outstanding dues of PTDC would be cleared soon. A summary has been moved to the Prime Minister Secretariat for release of funds in this regard, he added. He said PTDC's tourist resorts in northern areas Gilgit-Baltistan were including Chinnar Inn, Gilgit, PTDC Motel, Hunza, PTDC Motel, Sost (Pak-China border), K-2 Motel, Skardu, PTDC Motel, Gupis (Distt. Ghizer), PTDC Motel, Phandar (Distt. Ghizer), PTDC Motel, Stapara Lake, Skardu, PTDC Motel, Khaplu, Skardu, PTDC Motel, Astak (Gilgit-Skardu Road), PTDC Motel, Rama Lake (Astor). Meanwhile, it is also reported that around 1.88 million local and foreign tourists have visited Northern Areas (Gilgit-Baltistan) during four years, showing an increasing trend in number of tourists with each passing year. Of the total, 1.85 million local tourists visited the said areas while the number of foreign tourists was 28,333 during the period from 2007 to 2010. As per data of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation here on Monday, at present there are ten PTDC tourist resorts located at scenic and attractive places of GB. The government has taken numerous steps to promote tourism which included revamping and remodeling of PTDC's Tourist Information Centres and establishment of Tourist Facilitation Centers in Provincial Headquarters. Moreover, the tourist friendly countries have been increased from 2 to 26 for grant of visa on arrival for one month validity and multiple entries for group travel through designated tour operators while Pakistani Missions abroad have been authorized to grant tourist/visit visa for three months validity and stay with double entry.

Similarly, awareness campaigns for tourism through print and electronic media is also part of steps taken to promote the area while the authorities also introduced special discounted tour

Celebrating heritage of Pakistani community

Peterborough Today
February 10, 2014

packages to encourage students, families and group to explore Pakistan. —APP

Sixty years ago the late Choudhry Fakeer Mohammed became the first Pakistani to arrive in Peterborough. Now, six decades later, the Pakistan Community Association of Peterborough has become one of the first community groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Sharing Heritage grant. The £8,500 will be used to hold a six-week exhibition at Peterborough Museum from 15 April to 1 June 2014, recording British-Pakistani community history in the city and how the community has grown from a group of migrants to an established embedded community of an estimated 15,000 people. The association is now asking members of the community to come forward to share their experiences and photographs for the exhibition. The project, titled 60th year of arrival in the city, has been led by Raja Tahir Masood. He came to the city in 1978 with his mother and brothers, 20 years after the arrival of his late father who had served in Burma during World War II. He said: "There has been so much change in the city, and my experience of it has been very positive. We have a great relationship with people such as Gillian Beasley, who has reviewed my previous books. "I come from Pakistan, but I'm very proud to be British as well. I was asked recently on my views and I said that I would like to see more of the traditional British way of life. "Our street celebrates a couple of times a year, with garden parties and Union Jack flags, and I feel proud to be part of that." The Pakistan Community Association of Peterborough was formed in 1988 with support from the Peterborough City Council. It is an umbrella association made up of eight smaller cultural and community groups, plus two mosques Faizan-e-Madinah and Jamia Ghousia.

Commenting on the award, Association Chairman Ghulam Shabbir said: "We are delighted with the award of this grant, our project will be a unique and first to record 60 years of the community heritage history in photographs, which could become a toolkit for the future generations." He further added that the Museum exhibition will offer a great learning experience for young people, and he is actively encouraging all Peterborough schools to take their pupils to the exhibition.

For information contact Raja Tahir Masood on email: masood.raja42@yahoo.co.uk

More about the Pakistan Community Association of Peterborough

Three pioneers of the community in Peterborough

Born in the northern Punjab town of Dina in Pakistan, Haji Mohammed Afzal arrived in Britain in 1959 and lived at St Ives before coming to Peterborough in 1965. He worked in a bakery before establishing a hairdressing shop in 1969, although he is now retired and living a quiet family life. He still continues to run his barber shop part time, and he says this keeps his mind occupied. He says that it is a good city for migrants, and he has seen it expand and grow considerably. Mohammed Nazir arrived in Britain in May 1958 and found the local residents to be warm and welcoming. The same could not be said of his first night spent shivering under the Guildhall. Arriving with friends Fazal Mussain and Mohammed Yaqoob, a mutual friend provided them with transport from Bedford and informed them that Peterborough was a city of opportunity with good employment prospects. Unfortunately the trio had only been in the country for a short period and did not know how to gain accommodation, so with nightfall fast approaching they had little choice but to sleep rough in the city centre. The second night was little better, spent in the railway station waiting room. On the third day, in sheer desperation, they headed to the nearest residential area: Cromwell Road. Knocking on individual doors in a bid for desperation the three were taken in by Italian families. He worked for several employers including Perkins for 25 years, before retiring and now living a quiet family life at Clarence Road as a respected elder of the community. Abdul Rahman arrived in Britain in 1961 and worked for British Rail for more than 40 years, before retiring and now living a quiet family life.

'Culture, rich traditions reflection of Pakistan's beauty'

Daily Times
February 10, 2014

KARACHI: Pakistan has a beauty that can best be seen in its culture and rich traditions, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Karachi Dr Tilo Klinner at a dinner hosted by him for guests participating in the three-day 5th Karachi Literature Festival, said a statement issued on Sunday.

The German diplomat said that literature opens the horizons and expands the vision of the human, guiding them towards accommodation and harmony with their fellow beings and promoting peace. The Karachi Literature Festival's Peace Prize-2014 is meant to recognise and honour such achievements. Dr Klinner said the peace prize was a joint project of the Consulate General of Germany in Karachi, the Embassy of Germany in Islamabad and the Karachi Literature Festival. "It aims to recognise books promoting peace, international understanding and tolerance. It is awarded by a jury comprising eminent Pakistani academics and human rights activists and carries a cash prize of 3,000 euros," he said.

Special Envoy of the Government of Federal Republic of Germany for Afghanistan and Pakistan, who has also served as German Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr Michael Koch, said he was glad to be back among so many friends. He said that books and literature bring out the best in mankind. The literature celebrates diverse cultures and encourages tolerance of one another, he said. Oxford University Press managing director and founding member of Karachi Literature Festival Ameena Saiyid said the festival was meant to pay tribute to and celebrate authors, books, ideas and readers.

Heritage sites to be used as venue to educate young generation

Daily Times
February 10, 2014

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), plans to use the World Heritage Sites of Pakistan as venue for educating young generation and teaching them about this long human history. "These sites are wonderful venue for school visits and teaching the youngsters about history of different cultures and this is what UNESCO says about world heritage," said Irina Bokova, Director General UNESCO during her recent visit to

National flair: Pakistan teams show off culture at Shell Eco-marathon
The Express Tribune
 February 9, 2014

With tourists in mind, India relaxes visa norms
www.timesofindia.com
 February 9, 2014

Taxila. The people of Pakistan should feel proud particularly the local people to have such unique and interesting sites, they have to continue protecting and preserving their heritage and also continue with the archaeological findings, she said in an interview with APP.

In a message to people of Pakistan, Ms Bokova said, this is the side that shows the influences. There is no unique culture in the world and even there is no culture that is isolated. There exists a message about respect, dialogue and passing it on to the next generations. "It is very important to preserve the authenticity and we want to use our sites as venues to teach our young generation. Pakistan has extraordinary heritage inscribed on UNESCO's list which is all about contribution of different civilizations". "The uniqueness of the Taxila site is in different layers of cultures and civilizations as we see the influences of Buddhism, Hinduism and Greek culture also, every thing in a perspective, I believe this is so much needed today to talk about dialogue among cultures about the contribution of all these different civilizations that are here," she expressed her thoughts about the World Heritage Site of Taxila. "I am impressed by the diligent attitude of Pakistani people and authorities towards preservation of Gandhara culture and such interesting and unique sites. I have seen exposition of Gandhara culture in Paris, when it came there and visited five years ago and exposed this one of the important museum but here I have seen much more and one feels happy to be here," Ms Bokova remarked. About UNESCO's plans for promotion and protection of these sites, she said there is no culture which is isolated and it is important to preserve the authenticity of any culture. For this reason, she said, We want to preserve the archaeological sites to educate the young generation about the historical value of this region through dialogue on culture.

Taxila, one of the six World Heritage sites of Pakistan, is inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980 that comprises a vast complex of archaeological heritage, the site includes a Mesolithic cave, 4 settlement sites, a number of Buddhist monasteries of various periods and Muslim Mosques of the medieval period as well as presence of the Buddhist Stupa and monasteries at Taxila from 1st to 5th Century A.D.

To redress the issue of growing wild vegetation (bio-deterioration) at the sites of Sirkup and Sirkukh, Bhirmound, Dharmarajika and Giri causing deterioration to the structure, UNESCO Islamabad is working closely with the Department of Archaeology Punjab and Comsats Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) through capacity building and awareness raising of the staff on conservation methods against bio-deterioration for the protection of the sites.

The Museum carries the reflections connected to the chronology of Taxila, life of Gautam Buddha, glimpses of the artifacts, Buddha sculptures and historical belongings of the Buddhists made up of lead, silver and gold that date back to 3rd Century B.C.

MANILA: Thailand dominated the scoreboard at the Shell Eco-marathon Asia 2014 as the race heads into its second day today.

Competing in the "prototype" and "urban concept" models – across various energy sources ranging from electric battery to gasoline – the Thai teams demonstrated their superiority on the track that was designed after borrowing public roads.

While the alternate arrangement made it more challenging for the competing students, former champions from Thailand, team Luk Jao Mae Khlong Prapa of the Dhurakij Pundit University took the overall lead, driving the equivalent of 1,753.58 kilometres on a single litre of ethanol. Team ATE.1 of the Kong Thabok Upatham Changkol Kho So Tho Bo School, also from Thailand, led the scoreboard with a distance of 1,074.12 km on a litre of petrol. One ray of hope for Pakistan was Hammer Head ARC of the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology that drove the equivalent of 159.95 km per kilowatt hour and stood fifth in its electric battery category in the prototype model. After staying second, the team's position fell in its category after the afternoon session.

The culture display

However, Hammer Head ARC, along with PNEC-NUST from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) in Karachi, turned heads with their show of Pakistan culture in their booths inside the paddock area. Showing off tradition as they grasped the opportunity at a multi-nation event, the students were not only occupied with fine-tuning their vehicle design but also decorating their booths with the country's flags, national dress and the cricket team's jersey. Pakistan Ambassador to the Philippines Safdar Hayat visited the venue, meeting students as he looked on in intrigue at the unique nature of the competition. "There is no shortage of talent in Pakistan students," Hayat said. "They just need to be disciplined."

Commenting on the logistical issues that faced the students in reaching the venue with several teams being unable to participate and backing out at the last minute, Hayat said the restrictions would be eased out for next year's event. "This is easy to solve. For next year, support would be extended to the teams and guidance would be given. This is a new place for many people and helping them in, let's say, arranging parts for their vehicles would be done from next year. I hadn't been informed of Pakistan teams participating in the event, otherwise, we could have made arrangements."

MUSCAT: The Indian government has approved an ambitious plan to extend the visa-on-arrival facility to tourists from almost all countries, including Oman, barring a handful categorised as "sensitive" due to the security risk they pose.

The move aims to make it easier for tourists to visit India and has been extended to 180 countries. However, Pakistan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Somalia are eight countries kept out of the list. "It is a major move and we hope it will boost tourism in a big

Second Lahore Literary Festival Kicks Off Feb. 21

newsweekpakistan.com
February 08, 2014

Of old and magnificent: Youth's involvement essential in heritage preservation, says Bokova

The Express Tribune
February 8, 2014

way. We hope to implement this from the next tourist session beginning in October," India's Minister of State for Planning and Parliamentary Affairs Rajiv Shukla was quoted by the media as saying.

Currently, India extends visa-on-arrival facility to 11 countries, not including Oman. The move is expected to usher in a major revamp of India's tourist visa system. The model likely to be put in place will do away with the need to visit an Indian mission but will require tourists to make an online application before their departure. The Bureau of Immigration will set up a website for this and upon submission of an application, it will email an electronic visa/travel authorisation within 2-3 days, allowing the tourist to enter India and also facilitate easier verification at airports. Once in India, they will have to undergo just one biometric identification to get the visa, which will be valid for 30 days and would not be renewed. The facility will be available at 26 airports. "Implementation of decision hinges on boosting infrastructure and staff at the immigration counters across airports. The government hopes to have these resources in place by September so that the new system can be rolled out in time for the tourist season," the Indian government officials said.

In 2013, the Indian embassy in Oman issued a record 59,000 visas to Omani nationals in 2013, signifying a robust flow of tourists from Oman to India. Meanwhile, the government of India is also planning to issue the new-generation electronic passport, which aims to secure the data and curb the menace of fake passports, by next year, Indian media quoted a senior government official as saying. "A task force has been set up to look into the e-passport project, which has held deliberations with different stakeholders (departments). We are planning to start issuing e-passports to new applicants by next year," Joint Secretary (Passport Seva Project) and Chief Passport Officer Muktesh K Pardeshi told media.

According to him the e-passport will replace the existing passport document with a plastic card embedded with an electronic chip containing all the details of the passport holder, including biometric information, besides a digital signature of a passport officer.

The second annual Lahore Literary Festival takes place Feb. 21, 22 and 23. The three-day festival will feature over 100 Pakistani and foreign speakers across some 60 sessions. "LLF 2014 will feature over 100 delegates from eight countries over three days," said Razi Ahmed, LLF's founding director, on Friday. "We have scheduled book launches, readings, panel discussions, performances and exhibitions as part of this year's festival to celebrate the best of Lahore's varied and storied cultural traditions." Some of this year's LLF guests include Kamila Shamsie, author of *A God in Every Stone*; Zia Mohyeddin; artist Shahzia Sikander; journalist Jugnu Mohsin. LLF 2014 will feature panel discussions including on Lahore's lost daughter, Amrita Sher Gil; scholar Pierre Alain Baud on Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan; Pakistan's young new writers on creating fiction. "We bring together new ideas and themes to the program each year," said Ahmed. "This year's program reflects our abiding commitment to present a well-thought and stimulating literary festival packed with intellectually-stimulating events in both Urdu and English." "The program for LLF 2014 will be unveiled soon," said Nusrat Jamil, president of the LLF 2014 Advisory Committee. "This year's program builds on our success with the debut LLF and features the finest of Pakistan's talent and a lot more international representation." The program has been put together by LLF 2014's Advisory Committee comprising Ahmed Rashid, bestselling author and award-winning journalist; Amna Naqvi, founder of Gandhara-art, a curatorial and art publishing organization; Aysha Raja, founder of The Last Word bookstores and cofounder of The Life's Too Short Literary Review; Khaled Ahmed, author, and consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan; Mohsin Hamid, critically-acclaimed novelist; Muneeza Shamsie, critic and former regional chairperson of the Commonwealth Writers Prize; Salima Hashmi, internationally-acclaimed artist and educator; and Zareena Saeed, educator. Last year's debut event drew over 30,000 visitors and featured, among others, Tariq Ali, Bapsi Sidhwa, Ayesha Jalal, Mohammed Hanif, Daniyal Mueenuddin, Amin Jaffer, Lyse Doucet, Linda Bird Francke, Victoria Schofield, Tehmina Durrani, Jeet Thayil, William Dalrymple, Zehra Nigah. LLF is a free public event, and seating at all sessions will be on a first-come, first-served basis. LLF is an independent, not-for-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Realising the need for passing on the rich knowledge of cultural heritage to the youth, Unesco is currently working on integrating intangible cultural heritage into the curricula, said a press release. The project helps link the cultural practices of the tradition bearers and practitioners with the formal school system, besides supporting the education ministry establish a database of cultural assets. In this connection, Unesco Director General Irina Bokova during her two-day stay in Pakistan visited Taxila and Lok Virsa in Islamabad on Friday. During the guided tour of the museum, she inquired about the sculptures and other objects dating back to the Gandhara period. "People of Pakistan must be proud of its heritage," Bokova said. "Taxila is a unique site showing so many layers of civilizations, from prehistoric heritage to Greeks to Buddhist and Islamic culture. This is a wellspring of creativity, an open book for tolerance, mutual understanding and dialogue, both within the country and abroad." Later she also visited the Sirkap site.

Talking about the tourism potential of the site, she said that it can attract national and international visitors. Appreciating the efforts of the governments in the restoration and preservation of historical artefacts, she emphasised the involvement of youth in this important work.

To address the issue of bio-deterioration at the sites of Sirkap and Sirsukh, Bhirmound, Dharmarajika and Giri, Unesco is helping the Punjab Department of Archaeology by training its staff on modern conservation techniques. "The cultural richness and diversity of Pakistan is the foundation of inclusive citizenship. It shows that there is no such thing as "pure" culture in the

Director General UNESCO visits Lok Virsa

*Associated Press of Pakistan
February 7, 2014*

President confers Hilal-i-Pakistan on DG, UNESCO

*Business Recorder
February 06, 2014*

world. Cultures interact, cultures influence and talk to each other, like the Buddha with the Greek hairdo I saw in the museum. Preserving and promoting this heritage will give people the strength and confidence to promote peace and dialogue," said Bokova. Taxila is one of the six world heritage sites of Pakistan. The museum has a covered area of 60,000 square feet exhibiting nine halls or galleries.

During her visit to the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage or Lok Virsa at Shakarparian, a cultural show was presented. Artists from the Pakistan National Council of the Arts presented folk and traditional dances and songs. Bokova also took a round of National Museum of Ethnology. She was very impressed with the cultural dioramas in the museum, depicting the diversity of Pakistani culture and lifestyles. She took keen interest in the display of "Truck Art" "hall of ballads and romances" presenting four epic love stories — 'Heer Ranjha' from Punjab, 'Adam Khan Durkhane' from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, 'Dhola Maro' from Sindh and 'Hani Shah Mureed' from Balochistan. The Unesco head lauded the efforts of Lok Virsa management in documenting and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD: Director General UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova Friday paid a visit to Lok Virsa National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa). She was warmly welcomed by Lok Virsa's officials. A special cultural show and lunch was hosted in honor of the dignitary by Secretary Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Mashood Ahmed Mirza, whereas dancers and artists arranged by Pakistan National Council of the Arts presented live performances to entertain the delegate.

Later on, Director General UNESCO was taken around three dimensional cultural displays in the Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology, popularly known as Heritage Museum, depicting the living cultural traditions and lifestyles of the people of Pakistan not only from the mainstream but also from remotest regions. She was very much impressed with the cultural dioramas in the Heritage Museum displayed in the authentic and artistic way. She took keen interest in the display of "Truck Art" which is a colourful, dazzling, art work on vehicles and other means of transportation, which is found in abundance in Pakistan. Decorations are not done only on trucks and buses but on all kinds of vehicles like tankers, mini-buses, trucks, rickshaws, tongas and even donkey carts moving on the road throughout the country. Other dioramas which attracted the dignitary a lot were hall of ballads and romances presenting four love stories from four provinces of Pakistan including Heer Ranjha from Punjab, Adam Khan Durkhane from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhola Maro from Sindh and Hani Shah Mureed from Balochistan. She lauded efforts of Lok Virsa and its management in documenting and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan in such an artistic and professional manner.

Joint Secretary (Heritage), Mrs. Shahera Shahid, Executive Director Lok Virsa and Ms Amna Imran, Secretary General, Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO. Baleegh ur Rehman, Minister of State for Education, Trainings & Standards in Higher Education was also present on the occasion. A number of diplomats, high ranking officials and personalities related to culture and media also attended the event. While, a group of folk artists and musicians entertained the delegate on her way back by presenting mystic and folk songs.

ISLAMABAD: President Mamnoon Hussain on Thursday conferred the award of Hilal-i-Pakistan upon Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) during a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The President conferred the award on Ms. Irina Bokova in recognition of her services for the people of Pakistan, supporting Pakistan in various UNESCO fora and activities, promoting Pakistan's cultural heritage and Indus valley civilization and assisting the country during natural disasters. The investiture ceremony was attended among others by Zahid Hamid, Minister for Science and Technology, Baligh ur Rehman, Minister of State for Education, Training and Standards in Higher Education and other senior officials.

The citation read on the occasion said, "Ms. Irina Bokova, the first ever female Director General of UNESCO played a significant role in supporting Pakistan at various UNESCO forums, promotion of educational activities in Pakistan besides assisting the people of Pakistan in various natural calamities. She was instrumental in establishing Malala Fund for Girls Right to Education in 2012 and played a crucial role in establishing Pakistan's Tsunami Early Warning System (TEW). She has also launched Mohenjodaro exhibition during 184th UNESCO Executive Board Meeting to highlight the significance of preserving the Indus valley civilization and to revive the international interest for the preservation of the site. In recognition of her outstanding and meritorious services for the people of Pakistan, the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan has been pleased to confer on Ms. Irina Bokova, the award of Hilal-i- Pakistan", said the citation.

Later, Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO also called on the President and discussed matters related to various activities and projects being undertaken in Pakistan with the help of UNESCO. The President appreciated the UNESCO for lending its full support to the government's efforts for promoting education especially girls' education in Pakistan and assured that Pakistan would continue to work with UNESCO for promotion of education and the protection and promotion of our world heritage sites. The President thanked Director General Irina Bokova for setting up 'Malala Fund' for the promotion of Girl's education under the umbrella of UNESCO and for taking personal interest in arranging a high level advocacy event on Girl's right to education with the Government of Pakistan. He said that it would help achieve the goal of Education for all by the year 2015. The President also appreciated the efforts of Ms. Irina Bokova and her invaluable support to Pakistan at all UNESCO fora, providing assistance to the flood victims, helping the country in establishing Flood Early warning system, training of scientists and

Attique for expanding cross-LoC cooperation

www.greaterkashmir.com

February 05, 2014

Govt to help protect cultural heritage: information minister

Daily times

February 04, 2014

Pakistan-Sri Lanka Business Forum

Business Recorder

February 04, 2014

experts in Pakistan and promoting Pakistan's heritage sites. He expressed the hope that UNESCO would continue extending its support to the people of Pakistan in the education, science and cultural sectors. The President also congratulated Ms. Irina Bokova for her successful re-election as Director General, UNESCO in November, 2013 for a four year term. Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO assured continued support of the UNESCO in the fields of education, science and culture and, thanked the President and government of Pakistan for decorating her with the award of Hilal-i-Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD: Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference (MC) President Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has called for expanding cross-LoC cooperation by visits of the heads of Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK) and J&K administrations and opening of the entire Line of Control (LoC) for free travel, trade and tourism. He also urged Pakistan and India to initiate serious dialogue to resolve Kashmir issue. Attique said he was worried about the possible influx of militants from Afghanistan into Kashmir if Pakistan and India failed to start result-oriented talks before the end of 2014. "It is high time the two countries initiate meaningful dialogue as there are apprehensions that informal fighters may move towards the mountains of Kashmir after withdrawal of the bulk of foreign troops from Afghanistan by December 2014. However, it is also necessary that the Kashmiris are involved in the dialogue process," Attique said in an interview to Pakistani daily The Express Tribune. Attique twice served as the prime minister of Pakistan administered Kashmir. "The withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan will definitely encourage informal fighters who might consider it essential to continue their activities in an old war theatre such as Kashmir," Attique said. He also suggested a number of measures that could broaden the scope of understanding among the Kashmiris from both sides – PaK and J&K – to facilitate 'securing the right to self-determination'. The former AJK premier also suggested formation of a joint Kashmir self-determination forum, inter-Kashmir visits by the heads of Muzaffarabad and Srinagar administrations and opening of the entire Line of Control for free travel, trade and tourism. "Security issues in South Asia must be addressed by the political leadership of the whole region," he said while floating the idea of a dialogue among the military leaderships of both South Asian countries simultaneously alongside their political leadership.

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Pervaiz Rashid said on Monday the government was determined to support all initiatives aimed at benefiting the rural folk and projecting Pakistan's magnificent cultural heritage at national and international levels. Addressing a ceremony of handing over of video recording and editing equipment by the Japanese government to Lok Virsa, the minister said, "Preserving cultural heritage is a path towards peace, as through it we can defeat those who want to eliminate our rich cultural pluralism and diversity." The minister acknowledged the Japanese assistance in the cultural field and assured full support on behalf of his ministry and the government for effective implementation of Japan-funded cultural initiatives. He said the Japanese government was contributing significantly to the promotion of Pakistani culture through an ongoing joint institutional cooperation programme by Lok Virsa and the Japanese Embassy. The minister said investment in culture was linked with the protection and promotion of cultural heritage with a view to enhance and improve the image of country and boost tourism. "Pakistan is highly rich in culture, which contains diversity and it is also blessed with various architectural monuments that represent a symbol of excellence," he added. "Our socio-economic cultural links are rooted in the great Indus Valley civilisation, which is 5,000 years old. We are also witnessing a globalisation of culture, in which people while retaining their distinct cultural origins, are finding common grounds to interact do business and build relationships with each other." Pervaiz Rashid said Pakistan's relations with Japan had always stood the test of time since the establishment of diplomatic ties. "Both have convergence of views on practically all international issues and have supported each other at various world forums. We are thankful to Japan, which has always come to help and rescue Pakistan in times of need and natural calamities like earthquake and devastating floods."

Speaking on the occasion, Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Hiroshi Inomata said the Lok Virsa Museum had been playing a significant role in preservation and promotion of Pakistan's folk and traditional culture over the years. "We, Japanese people, also adhere to our cultural norms and values, even in this age of scientific and technological development," he added. Earlier, Executive Director of Lok Virsa Shaheera Shahid briefed the participants about the activities of her organisation.

TAREK M. KHAN (PRESIDENT, PAKISTAN-SRI LANKA BUSINESS FORUM): It gives me great pleasure to give my heartiest congratulations to the people of Sri Lanka on their National day. This supplement has come at a time when the two countries are striving to progress rapidly in friendship, trade and bilateral relationship. The basis of this friendship is already in existence when the two countries signed Free Trade Agreement in 2007 and establishment of Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Forum (PSBF) in 2008. PSBF have received a lot of encouragement by the positive feedback results from visits undertaken by members of the Pakistan business community to seek new areas of co-operation. Tourism, communication, real estate development, finance, textiles etc are just a few areas where potential for alliance and mutual co-operation is wide open. Although, the trade balance is tilted on the Pakistan side, we are striving to improve the balance through our Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Forum for a balanced trade.

As President of the Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Forum PSBF, I wish to send a message to all Pakistan Business community to use PSBF platform in expanding their business in Sri Lanka. The country has great business potential and the government is highly motivated to bring in foreign investments in various fields. We at PSBF are fully equipped to facilitate all the people aspiring for overseas business and also those who wish to expand their market share. Since the establishment of this forum, various entrepreneurs have joined various trade delegations which

Granted: Japan reiterates support for preservation of Pakistan's heritage

The Express Tribune
February 4, 2014

PSBF has arranged to visit Sri Lanka.

SUCCESS STORIES: Through this forum, we have added new commodities such as rubber which is now a regular trade item. Corporate such as General Tyre & Rubber Co are among the list of businesses which have benefited from this Forum. Hence, we feel that there still exists a tremendous potential to improve the volumes of trade to a much higher level. Till to date several delegations have been organised by the Forum and these delegations have visited Sri Lanka to enable meetings with concerned business communities and government authorities. This has given the delegates all the required information and procedures for setting up business in Sri Lanka. Likewise delegations from Sri Lanka have also visited Pakistan and the Forum provided full support to them.

OBJECTIVE: Forum will continue to work rigorously to expand bilateral trade by focusing on core areas of Sri Lanka which have great potential of growth. Tourism, infrastructural development, communication and city planning, are areas where Pakistan's experience and expertise can combine together for mutual benefits.

MISSION 2013: This year the Forum will be engaged with the local community to assist in setting up businesses such as;

- Tourism
- Restaurants
- Fashion Outlets
- Aviation
- Financial Services
- Power projects
- Real Estate Development

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: A committee of three members has been established which is assisting all business people in Pakistan who are aspiring to set up businesses in Sri Lanka. This committee identifies the opportunity for a particular business as stated above and then provides a complete business plan. This Forum stands out from other conventional forums as we also assist in arrangement of funds, acquisition of property, completion of legal procedures and processes.

FUTURE PLANS: The forum has already identified business opportunities for certain Pakistani business groups who have already starting work on the following sectors

- Real Estate Development
- Energy production
- Financial Sector
- Corporate Farming

We shall be publishing few of the business ventures which shall give the opportunity for individual and corporate investors to get higher return and yet remain fully secured. For any information and assistance please visit our website www.paklankaforum.com or the Consul General's office can also be contacted email: slcgkhi@cyber.net.pk and website www.slcgkhi.com.

ISLAMABAD: The government of Japan reiterated its support for the promotion and preservation of Pakistan's folk heritage by donating state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment to Lok Virsa. Japanese Ambassador Hiroshi Inomata handed over the equipment to the Lok Virsa administration at a ceremony at the organisation's media centre on Monday. Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Pervez Rasheed also attended the ceremony.

The equipment includes studio high-definition digital video recording and editing equipment, a field recording unit and a video projection and display unit, altogether worth ¥49 million (Rs50.8 million), according to the Japanese embassy. The equipment will help in the audiovisual documentation of Pakistani folk culture and heritage, according to Lok Virsa officials.

Ambassador Inomata said he has found Pakistan's historical monuments and heritage sites to be impressive during his travels around the country and said the government is doing a commendable job to make people aware of Pakistani culture. "This grant from the Japan government and the people of Japan will surely contribute towards preservation of folk and traditional culture of Pakistan," the ambassador said.

Minister Rasheed thanked the Japan government for its grant for Lok Virsa and said investment in culture is linked with promotion and protection of culture heritage. Rasheed said the government is determined to support all projects that benefit the country's rural communities, especially folk artists and craftspeople. "This is the path towards global peace and this is the path through which we can defeat those want to eliminate our rich cultural pluralism and diversity," he said. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, the chief representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Pakistan, said an ongoing joint institutional cooperation programme between Japan and Lok Virsa was launched in 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of Pak-Japan bilateral ties.

The handover ceremony also marks 60 years of cooperation between JICA and the Pakistani government, Kawasaki said. He said the equipment will help achieve four objectives — enriching collection and dissemination of folk culture, integrating cultural diversity for achievement of national peace, supporting folk artists and artisans, and accomplishing excellence in academic and research fields with the help of documented audiovisual records. The equipment is the third grant in aid the Japanese government has given Lok Virsa. Previous grants in 1987 and in 1994

Unesco was against holding ceremony at Moenjodaro

Daily Dawn
February 4, 2014

Culture festival opens in ancient Pakistani ruins

www.nzherald.co.nz
February 02, 2014

helped in installing the studio, a control room and analogue recording equipment. Shahera Shahid, the executive director of Lok Virsa, said the previous Japanese grants and equipment enabled Lok Virsa to record 12 hours of video and 3,500 hours of audio. Shahid said the media centre at the Lok Virsa executes audiovisual documentation of Pakistani culture including recording of oral traditions and performing arts.

The ceremony ended with a cultural programme featuring performances by rubab player Zafar Ali, alghoza player Akbar Khamiso Khan and a Balochi troupe that included singer Akhtar Channal. The performances were recorded using the new equipment. Lok Virsa is a government-run institution that also runs a heritage museum, a sound archive, a research centre and a museum.

ISLAMABAD: The Sindh Cultural Festival took off amid dazzling lights, but the din continues that it threatens Moenjodaro, the inaugural place of the festival listed with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) as a world heritage site.

About a week before the launch of the two-week festival at Moenjodaro on Friday, the director of Unesco's world heritage sites had described it as an 'improper' activity which could threaten its universal values. But adviser to the Sindh chief minister on culture Sharmila Farooqi said all precautions had been taken during the inaugural ceremony at the ancient site. Conservationists at the department of archaeology and museum said any human activity within 200 feet of any national heritage protected under the Antiquities Act 1975 was illegal. "The act states that not even an electric wire can pass above a national heritage, let alone installing floodlights and setting up stage on a site protected under the law," said a senior archaeologist in Islamabad. The technical consultative committee of National Fund for Moenjodaro had also warned that the decision to hold inaugural ceremony at the site could cause irreparable damage to the fragile remains of Moenjodaro.

Unesco official Jawad Aziz said the organisation's world heritage sites director had contacted Pakistan's permanent delegate to investigate the matter and take steps to prevent the site from any harm. "About five days ago we passed on this message to the Sindh government to safeguard the universal value of Moenjodaro," he said, adding that they were still waiting for a response from the departments concerned. Asma Ibrahim, director museum of the State Bank and member of the Heritage Management Board, criticised the holding of the ceremony at Moenjodaro and said no-one had been allowed to enter the site for three days and access to it was blocked by hundreds of policemen. "More than 500 guests were invited to the event which continued till late night. There is no way to tell the extent of damage caused to the site. The remains of Moenjodaro are already fragile. Salinity has weakened the walls to an extent that they can collapse by even loud sound," she said, adding that the mud-brick remains required extra care. Ms Ibrahim said she had tried in vain to convince Sharmila Farooqi to hold the ceremony outside the 200-foot protected area. The event had been held without obtaining a no-objection certificate from the Sindh department of archaeology, she said, adding that cases should be registered for violating the law.

Kaleemullah Lashari, Member National Fund for Moenjodaro, wrote two back-to-back letters to the Sindh secretary for culture, tourism and antiquities warning of the damage to be caused to the ruins by the opening ceremony. In a letter written on Jan 30, a copy of which is available with Dawn, Mr Lashari urged the secretary to use vast lawns of the museum and offices for the ceremony, instead of protected areas of the site. "The world community does not endorse such improper activity and it will be an embarrassment if a wall of the remains collapses or any other fragile section of the remains is damaged," the letter said. No conservation efforts have been undertaken at Moenjodaro for over 10 years. A better sense prevailed in 2010 when the government stopped the construction of a highway through the ancient remains believed to be as old as 4,000 BC.

Sharmila Farooqi claimed that no harm was caused to the world heritage site. "Arrangements for the event were meticulous. All the officials concerned and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari (PPP patron-in-chief) personally visited the site before the opening ceremony," she added. But Asma Ibrahim said the damage could be assessed only after the government allowed access to the site which was still closed to outsiders and its caretakers.

MOHENJODARO, Pakistan (AP) Folk dancers and singers wearing traditional multicolored dresses took the stage Saturday at one of the world's most ancient archaeological sites in southern Pakistan for a festival that organizers say aspires to promote peace in a nation where political violence has left some 40,000 dead in recent years. The festival at Mohenjodaro aims to publicize the cultural heritage of the country's south. But it drew controversy when some archaeologists said the event posed a threat to the site's unbaked brick ruins dating to the 3rd millennium BC. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of assassinated Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, organized the event at Mohenjodaro, associated with one of the world's first urban societies, the Indus Valley civilization. Benazir Bhutto was killed in a 2007 gun and bomb attack widely blamed on Pakistani Taliban and Bilawal has made opposition to militancy a pillar of his platform. Saturday night's event was inaugurated by the 25-year-old politician, who now heads the Pakistan People's Party. His father served one term as the country's president but it has been the younger Zardari who has become the public face of the party. It is especially strong in Sindh province, the family's homeland and the location of Mohenjodaro. The festival has been seen as part of efforts to raise the younger Zardari's profile on the national political stage. Zardari selected Mohenjodaro "to promote local culture, peace and tolerance," government official Saqib Ahmed Soomro said. About 500 guests were in attendance many flown in from the port city of Karachi. Roughly 2,000 police officers provided security although militant attacks are relatively rare in that

Iran's Cultural Week to Open in Pakistan

english.farsnews.com
February 02, 2014

Losing our culture and identity, one drama at a time

Express Tribune (Blog)
February 2, 2014

ICBC expands its network

part of Sindh province. The festival drew controversy when archaeologists said they fear the stage and other event infrastructure could damage the delicate mud ruins. "It is nothing but insanity" says archaeologist Asma Ibrahim, who is a member of the Management Board for Antiquities and Physical Heritage of the Sindh government. She says the stage and sound and light show could damage walls. But organizers say there is no risk to the ruins. "There is no risk to Mohenjodaro because of the festival. Rather, it was never decorated the way we have done now," Soomro said. He said he supervised arrangements for the festival to make sure no harm was caused to the site.

Zardari visited the site Thursday and said every step was being taken to protect it, and people would not be allowed to roam freely over the ruins. Zardari's attempts to promote culture have won praise in some quarters. "People are living in a state of depression due to continued violence, and there is a need to provide them more opportunities of entertainment," defense analyst Talat Masood said. "The world knows us in connection to acts of terrorism which routinely take place in Pakistan. Tonight, the world will see another face of the country," said 20-year-old Anwar Baluch, one of the guests. But in the nearby city of Larkana, which is considered the seat of the PPP's power, some residents questioned whether promoting culture was the best use of resources. Much of Pakistan suffers from frequent power cuts. "We have hopes for young Bilawal," said shopkeeper, Sunil Kumar. But he said there are many serious issues in the area. "We only have eight hours of electricity a day, which destroys our business." Mohenjodaro, meaning Mound of the Dead, is on UNESCO's list of world heritage sites. Excavations since 1922 have uncovered only one-third of the site, the organization's website says. A UNESCO campaign ending in 1997 raised money to protect the site from flooding and to control the ground-water table.

TEHRAN (FNA): Iran's Cultural Week will be held at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) with a number of colorful activities to mark the 35th anniversary of Islamic Revolution in Iran, Iranian Cultural Counselor in Islamabad Taqqi Sadaqi said. The Iranian official said on Saturday that the week will start work from February 4th and will continue till February 10 at the National Art Gallery (NAG) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, the Islamic republic news agency reported. He said that the cultural week is being organized by the Iranian embassy in association with the Pakistani Ministry of National Heritage and Pakistan's National Council of Arts. The Iranian official said the event would comprise a number of Iranian art and craft pieces, samples of holy Quran, a wide range of books, photographic exhibition, and calligraphic workshop. He added that a large collection of photographs is the major part of the festival based on the images of the effects of post Revolution Iranian photographers and their confrontations process up to the ultimate success of the revolution and eight years of the sacred defense (1980-1988 war between Iran and Iraq), photos of reconstruction period and industrial, scientific and technological developments. Sadaqi went on to say that along with the photo exhibition Iranian movies would also be screened at Pakistan National Council of Arts. "This exhibition is indeed a step forward not only in celebration of Iranian Revolution but to promote cultural ties between Pakistan and Iran," he said. He added that on the occasion a seminar would be held at National University of Modern Languages along with Persian poetry night at Academy of Letters in Islamabad.

Such was the appeal of these dramas that they were viewed and appreciated not only in Pakistan but also by people abroad. To me, this is sufficient evidence that even whilst staying within our social and cultural norms, we can produce content that is welcomed by a wide variety of audiences. By following in the footsteps of international media, we are intentionally or unintentionally destroying our own culture and consequently, losing our identity. This obsession with competing with something that does not represent us – as far as our social values and culture is concerned – needs to be addressed on an urgent basis because it has a direct influence on the mindset of our younger generation.

How will we stop our youngsters from doing certain things or behaving in a certain way if that is the behaviour propagated (and hence, justified) by the media?

The media industry must realise the impact such things can have on our society. All those associated with this industry have a huge responsibility on their shoulders to mend their ways for a better society. Since the Pandora's Box is already open, it won't be easy to fix the problem quickly. But one of the steps that can be taken immediately by the media is to start having Parental Guidance (PG) ratings for all the shows being aired by our TV channels so that the viewers can at least know which category the program they intend to watch falls under.

Jim Morrison once said,

"Whoever controls the media controls the mind."

While Allen Ginsberg went a step forward and said,

"Whoever controls the media, the images, controls the culture."

Hence, people need to understand that it is in their hands whether they allow the media to control their minds, their perceptions and ultimately their culture or not. It is essential for audiences – the grown up category of the masses who are mature enough to differentiate between right and wrong – to let the entertainment industry know what is acceptable and what isn't. After all, media content is based on what viewers want to see. So if viewers voice their concerns vehemently enough, if they boycott certain channels or certain programmes the ratings are bound to drop. Our channels will then have no choice but to abstain from airing content that is so unwelcome by the masses.

LAHORE: President Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) in Pakistan He Shenghu and

in Pakistan

Pakistan Observer
February 01, 2014

Pakistan's cultural festival puts Mohenjo-daro ruins at risk

www.ndtv.com
February 01, 2014

Humaima chosen to host Sindh Festival

Daily times
February 01, 2014

UNESCO to help government protect, promote Pakistan's cultural heritage

Daily times
February 01, 2014

General Manager ICBC Lahore Sales & Service Centre Wang Weiming met Provincial Minister for Education and Tourism Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan here today. Chinese Commercial Counselor in Pakistan Mr. Lee, President Pak-China Chamber of Commerce & Industry Shah Faisal Afridi and Relationship Manager ICBC Aqdas Jehanzeb were present on the occasion.

President ICBC He Shenghu informed Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan that their bank is one of the largest banks in the world and after Islamabad and Karachi; it is going to open ICBC branch in Lahore where services of Corporate Financing, Investment Banking, Foreign Deposits, Project Loans and Working Capital Loans will be available. He said that the facility of business and banking will be available to the exporters and importers in Chinese currency instead of dollars. Chinese Commercial Counselor Mr. Lee said on the occasion that Pakistan is the only friendly country of China which never deviated from its principled stance about China. He said that in future China will be the strongest super power whereas China has already proved of being an economic giant in the world.

Provincial Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan while terming the expansion of network of ICBC in Pakistan a welcome step expressed the hope that as a result of promotion of exports and imports in Chinese currency, the monopoly of dollar on Pakistan's economy will decrease gradually. He said that Pakistani businessmen importing Chinese products through banks of Dubai in dollar will be able to import Chinese products and export Pakistani products to China through ICBC in Pak rupees. He said that concrete measures have been taken for long-term cooperation with China under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif which has opened doors for investment and joint ventures in various development sectors in Pakistan.

MOHENJO-DARO: Hundreds of people arrived at the ancient ruined city of Mohenjo-daro on Saturday to attend an inaugural festival aimed at commemorating Pakistan's cultural heritage. Spearheaded by the Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, son of assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the two-week festival is part of a campaign to conserve the heritage of his home province of Sindh. But experts warned the festival could put Mohenjo-daro, a UNESCO World Heritage site built around 2600 BC, in danger. Large wooden and steel scaffolding has been erected over and around the ruin, which UNESCO describes as "the most ancient and best-preserved ruin on the Indian subcontinent", while heavy spotlights and lasers have been installed for a light show. The site has been transformed into a high security facility, with hundreds of police commandos surrounding the ruins and stood atop the stupa, a Buddhist shrine, as workers hammered nails into a stage, an AFP reporter at the site said. "We have done all the work very much to international conservation standards," Saqib Soomro, a top official at the culture department, told AFP. Zardari, clad in a black jacket over an off-white traditional Pakistani shalwar qameez dress, arrived Saturday in a caravan of four vehicles. A number of foreign visitors, some wearing traditional Sindhi Ajrak outfits, were also among the approximately 1,000 guests waiting for the grand gala to begin. Performers queued up to pass through security gates, with an equally large number of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) top leaders also waiting for entry. The PPP, led by Zardari, suffered a heavy defeat in the 2013 general election and observers say the cultural gala, which has been advertised for weeks on national television, is partly aimed at raising the 25-year-old's political profile. The ruins, discovered in 1922 by British archaeologist Sir John Marshall, are 425 kilometres (265 miles) north of the port city of Karachi and are one of the largest settlements of the Indus Valley Civilisation. They are one of Pakistan's six UNESCO World Heritage sites that are deemed places of special cultural significance. But many of the country's historical sites are endangered by vandalism and urban encroachment, as well as a booming trade in illegally excavated treasures.

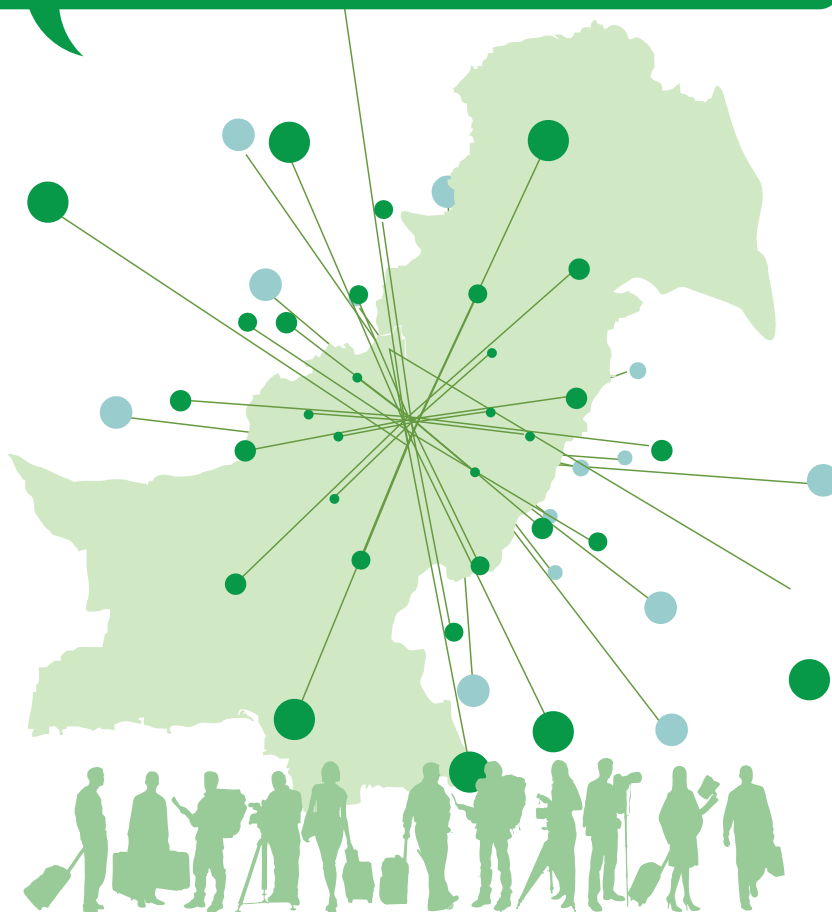
The only internationally-successful Pakistani film star, Humaima Malick, who has always turned down offers in the past to host events couldn't say no to the opening of the mega Sindh Cultural festival when approached by the organisers. The festival, which commences today at Moenjo Daro, will be hosted by Malick who sounded very excited on having given this opportunity and said, "I am very excited to be a part of this festival. I think it's a great initiative by Bilawal and I wish him all best for addressing such an important subject. As a society, this was a much needed event to broaden our outlook and own our identities."

Malick, who is currently shooting 'Shaati' alongside Emraan Hashmi for Kunal Deshmukh and bagged five international best actress awards for debut movie 'Bol', says, "I consider myself a cultural ambassador of Pakistan when I set my foot abroad for work. Unfortunately, I feel there is not much we have done to bring out our identities as a nation and specifically as a culture. Branding Pakistan on the international front has been ignored for a long time and this event is a tool to achieve that. I hope we get to see more such festivals in future. Bilawal earns my respect for his vision."

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) says it is committed to supporting the government for the protection and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritages of Pakistan. Pakistan has diverse cultural heritage, which has a great potential to contribute to promoting sustainable development in the country. These remarks were expressed by Dr Gwang-jo Kim, director of UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, on his visit to UNESCO world heritage site Rohtas Fort located at the close vicinity of Islamabad on Friday. He was accompanied by Dr Kozue Kay Nagata, director/representative of UNESCO in Islamabad, and other senior colleagues. Officials of the Rohtas Fort received Dr Gwang-Jo Kim and briefed him on the historical perspectives and the various initiatives of the government for the protection and restoration of the fort. Dr Gwang-Jo Kim showed keen interest in the fort and appreciated the rich and diverse heritage of Pakistan.

He also applauded the role of the Punjab Department of Archaeology and assured that UNESCO would continue to support protection of world heritage sites in Pakistan "which are of outstanding universal value". Rohtas Fort was inscribed on the world heritage list in 1997, and is an outstanding example of the early Muslim military architecture in the sub continent as well as Central and South Asia which blends architectural and artistic tradition from Turkey and the subcontinent. It has also a profound influence on the development of architectural style in the Mughal Empire. Situated at a distance of 16km north-west of Jhelum city, the fort was built by Sher Shah Suri in 16th century (1541) and was being used by the empire until the death of Aurangzeb in 1707AD. Later on, the fort remained under the occupation of Durrani's and Sikhs rulers during 18th and 19th centuries. UNESCO Pakistan under its cultural section is working to promote and protect the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Pakistan, with the aim of contributing towards economic growth and poverty reduction besides helping the federal government as state party responsible for fulfilling international commitments towards the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Moreover, several initiatives have also been undertaken to support the nurture creative industries, indigenous knowledge and arts, local expressions, regional languages and cultural tourism for preserving the past, promoting the present and improving the future initiatives in culture.

SPONSOR'S MESSAGE



**TO SHARE YOUR MESSAGE WITH THOUSANDS OF
TOURISM INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS**

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IN TOURISM SECTOR IN PAKISTAN

Community College Initiative Alumni Reunion Strengthens U.S.-Pakistan Ties

islamabad.usembassy.gov

February 28, 2014

The U.S. Embassy and the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) welcomed more than 150 alumni of the Community College Initiative (CCI) exchange program to its inaugural reunion in Islamabad. Principal Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) Ambassador Beth Jones from the U.S. Department of State, and Rita Akhtar, Executive Director of the U.S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan, greeted the students, who represented all regions of Pakistan.

During the three-day reunion, participants will share their experiences in the United States, participate in workshops and speaker sessions on entrepreneurship, strategic leadership, and civil society development, enjoy cultural and music performances, and brainstorm ideas for community service projects that benefit Pakistan's social and economic development. The reunion will culminate in a team-building exercise, where the participants will learn new techniques and skills to improve their own organizations. "When I look into this audience, I see talented representatives of this nation's bright future," Principal Deputy SRAP Ambassador Beth Jones said at the reunion. "You have an extraordinary collective capacity to make a lasting and positive impact in your communities and your nation." Participants in the CCI exchange program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, spend one academic year studying at a community college in the United States in one of the following fields: agriculture, applied engineering, business management, early childhood education, information technology, media, and tourism and hospitality management. CCI participants are recruited from Pakistan's rural and historically underserved populations and most are mid-career professionals. The U.S. government invests nearly \$40 million annually on exchange programs for Pakistani citizens. More than 1,200 Pakistanis participate in the various high school, undergraduate, graduate, and professional U.S.-sponsored exchange programs each year. The Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) is one of the largest U.S. alumni networks in the world. It consists of more than 13,000 students and professionals who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs and organizes a number of events in Pakistan, including community service projects, leadership trainings, roundtable discussions, and community engagement activities. Learn more about PUAN at

Trust formed to protect Sindh's ancient sites: Bakhtawar

www.pakistanpressfoundation.org

February 16, 2014

THATTA: Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari on Saturday announced the establishment of 'Sindh Heritage Trust' to raise funds to protect the Moenjodaro and other historic sites of the province.

"Climate change and environmental factors pose the biggest threats to this ancient site," said Bakhtawar, the younger sibling of PPP chairperson while speaking at the closing ceremony of the Sindh Festival.

She said that combined with the ongoing neglect and lack of resources and technical capacity, the ancient site of Moenjodaro remains in the danger of being lost forever. "The first initiative for the Trust will be to take emergency preventive action so desperately needed at Moenjodaro," she said. The young Bhutto said that funds will be spent to train workers, supervisors and technical staff needed to prevent the decaying effects of nature's hostile elements and to ensure a sustainable improvement of the conditions on the site. "It will also allow for further archaeological work to take place. This means jobs created here in Pakistan." She said that her brother Bilawal Bhutto Zardari conceived the idea of Sindh festival when he saw the plight of these ancient ruins during a visit. The funds will be used to encourage archaeology courses at universities in Sindh, she said. These courses will enable the next generation of Pakistani archaeologists to protect their heritage sites rather than banking on others, she added. "We will also seek to create partnerships and exchanges with international universities." She said the country's rich history spanning millennia and its culture remain under attack by forces that aim to make it either more Arab or more Western. "We are neither. We are Pakistan. And we are proud (of it)." "Through Sindh Festival we have begun our fight back, our battle to reclaim the cultural space which is being lost to those who seek to destroy us."

Culture, Tourism & Antiquities Department Celebrating Sindh Festival

dailymessenger.com.pk

February 07, 2014

Karachi: Culture, Tourism & Antiquities Department is celebrating Sindh Festival, 2014 throughout Sindh Province from 1-2-2014 to 15-2-2014. A Part of the said Festival, Lok Mela is also being performed in different cities including Kotri, Jamshoro, Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Tando M Khan, Sehwan, Dadu, Larkana, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Dehrki, Ghotki, Sukkur, Khairpur, Kandiaro, N'feroze, Moro, Benazirabad, Sarkand, Bhitshah, Sanghar, Umerkot, Mihti, Badin, Thatta, Gharo, Gulshan-e-Hadeed Karachi and Ibn-e-Qasim Bagh Karachi whereby well-known Artists are performing.

TOURISM PROFILE – DISTRICT GILGIT

Introduction:

Gilgit (Land of Diversity) strategically located at the most important region in the Karakorum and makes the trade center of the region for centuries. It is the capital town and administrative center of province of Gilgit-Baltistan. The area is fed by waters of Hunza, Ghizer and Indus rivers along with the several of their tributaries. Gilgit has also been an important city on the historical Silk Route, facilitating religions to spread across trans boundaries. Shina is the language spoken in Gilgit while English and Urdu is widely spoken in the region. Of particular note, Naltar is a picturesque Greenland surrounded by high peaks with accessible glacial lakes, perfect resorts for winter skiing. Furthermore, Kargah valley is only at 10km distance for Gilgit with Kargah Buddha a rock wall carved Buddha dating back to 8th century AD and ruins of a Buddhist monastery and Stupa. Other valleys include Danyore, Bagrot, Nomal and Oshikhandas.¹

Short History:

Gilgit ancient name was Sargin, later to be known as Gilit, and it is still referred to as Gilit or Sargin-Gilit by local people. In the Burushaski language, it is named Geelt and in Wakhi and Khowar it is called Gilt. Ghallata is considered its name in ancient Sanskrit literature. It was an important city on the Silk Road, along which Buddhism was spread from South Asia to the rest of Asia.²

In fourteenth century Gilgit was ruled by Shahreis who were the free Islamic rulers. The last ruler Shiri Buddutt was killed by a Muslim adventurer, and married with his daughter and founded a new Dynasty called Trakhàn Dynasty and rule for centuries. This ruling end with death of Raja Abas, the last tarkhan Raja.³ After the death of Raja Abas, Sulaiman Shah, raja of Yasin, conquered Gilgit. Then, Azad Khan, raja of Punial, killed Sulaiman Shah, taking Gilgit; then Tair Shah, raja of Buroshall (Nagar), took Gilgit and killed Azad Khan. Tair Shah's son Shah Sakandar inherited, only to be killed by Gaur Rahman, raja of Yasin of the Khushwakhte Dynasty, when he took Gilgit. Then in 1842, Shah Sakandar's brother, Karim Khan, expelled Gaur Rahman with the support of a Sikh army from Kashmir. The Sikh general, Nathu Shah, left garrison troops and Karim Khan ruled until Gilgit was ceded to Gulab Singh of Jammu and Kashmir in 1846 by the Treaty of Amritsar. Gilgit came under British rule in 1889 as Gilgit agency.⁴ After 1947 "Gilgit Agency" become the part of Pakistan and merge into northern areas of Pakistan in 1970. In December 27, 2009 it's become the fifth province of Pakistan with the name of Gilgit Baltistan.⁵ The province of Gilgit-Baltistan is divided into 7 districts. The names of the districts are as follows: Ghanche, Skardu, Gilgit, Diamir, Ghizar, Astore, Hunza and Nagar. The profile is belonging to Gilgit District.

Sect wise Population percentage:

District	G.B	Gilgit
Shia	39	54
Sunni	27	19
Ismaili	18	27
Noor Bakshi	16	

Culture:

The Karakorum and Hindukush have always been rather porous barriers, offering shorter, seasonal routes between South and Central Asia. Traders, conquerors, religion and ideas have been passing through this route over 4000 years. This region became the eastern most extent of the Greek Empire in 327 BC. This was followed by the Great Asoka Empire along with the Buddhist leanings in 272-235 BC. Consequently, we see the development of the great Gandharan civilizations as a result of fusion between Greek and Buddhist ideas.⁶ Being a strategic location and heads Quarter Gilgit is home to a number of diversified cultures, ethnic groups, languages and various backgrounds. People also have a beautiful mix of lifestyles and attitudes.

Various Fruits & Dry Fruits: Aprico, Appl. Grape, Pear, Peache, Pomegranate, Cherr, Mulberr, Walnu, Almond.

Major Communities: Ahle – Tashee, Ahle- Sunnat and Ismaili.⁷

Languages Spoken: Shina, Balti, Broshiski, Khowar, Urdu, Kashmiri, Puriki.

¹ www.visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk

² Bhan, Mona. "Counterinsurgency, Democracy and the Politics of Identity in India"

³ Biddulph, John. Tribes of the Hindoo Koosh. Sang-e-meel. p. 20

⁴ Drew, Frederic (1875) The Jummoo and Kashmir Territories: A Geographical Account E. Stanford, London, OCLC 1581591

⁵ Manzar Shigri (2009-11-12). "Pakistan's disputed Northern Areas go to polls". Reuters. Retrieved 2010-06-05.

⁶ Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed & Architect Asiya Polack, 2011

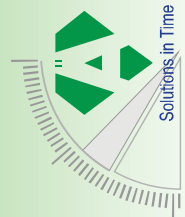
⁷ Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed & Architect Asiya Polack, 2011

DISTRICT GILGIT AT A GLANCE



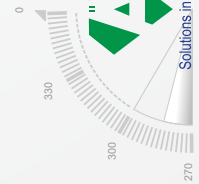
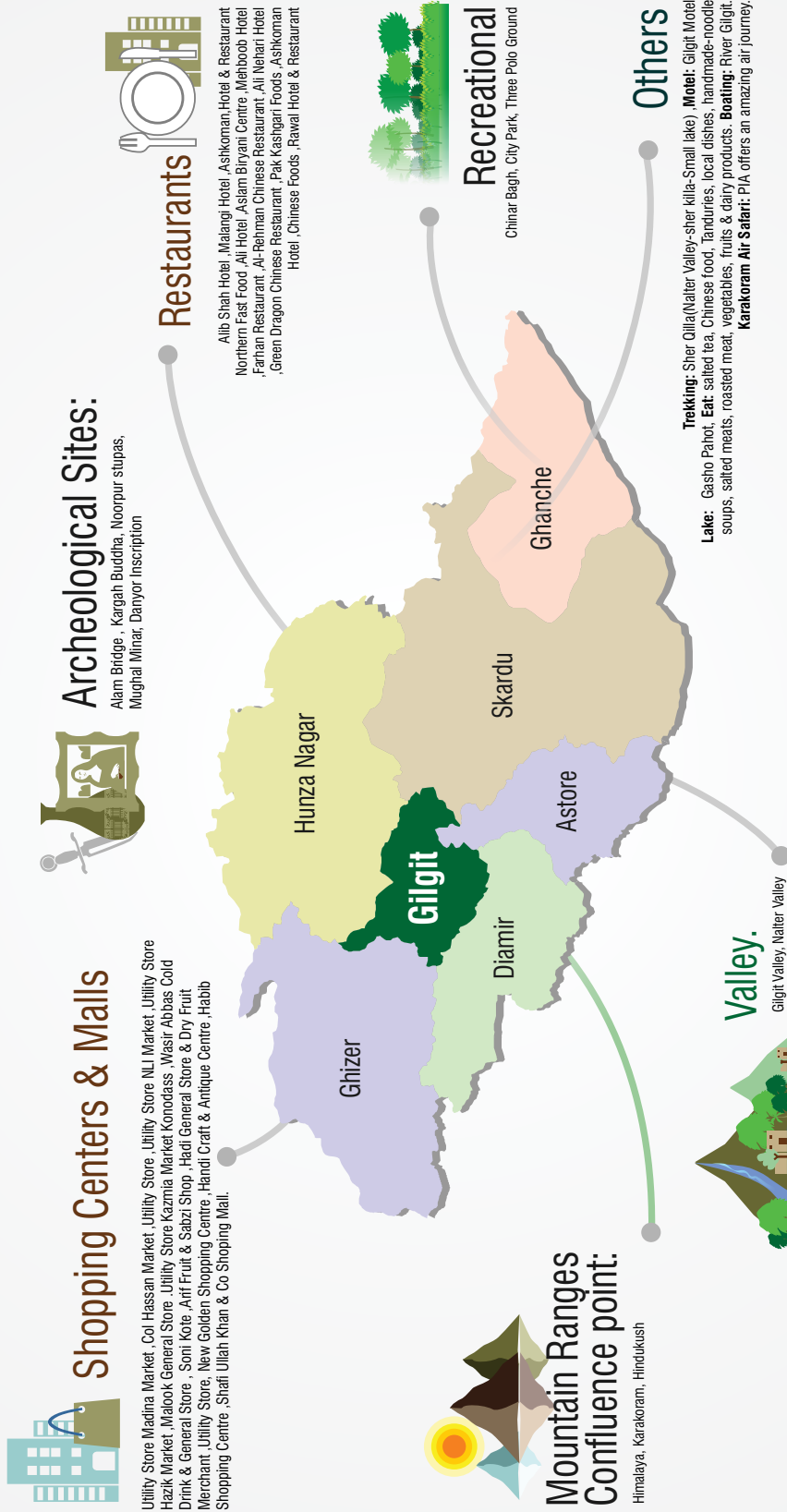
ALHASAN SYSTEMS (PVT) LTD.

Phone +92.51.486.5064/ 843.7324
Email maps@alhasan.com
Website www.alhasan.com
All Rights Reserved - Copyright © 2014



Gilgit Tourism

Major Communities: Ahle – Tashee, Ahle- Sunnat and Ismaili.
Languages Spoken: Shina, Balti, Broshiski, Khowar, Urdu, Kashmiri, Puriki



ALHASAN SYSTEMS (PVT) LTD.

Phone +92 51 486 5064/843 7324
Email maps@alhasan.com
Website www.alhasan.com

All Rights Reserved Copyright © 2014



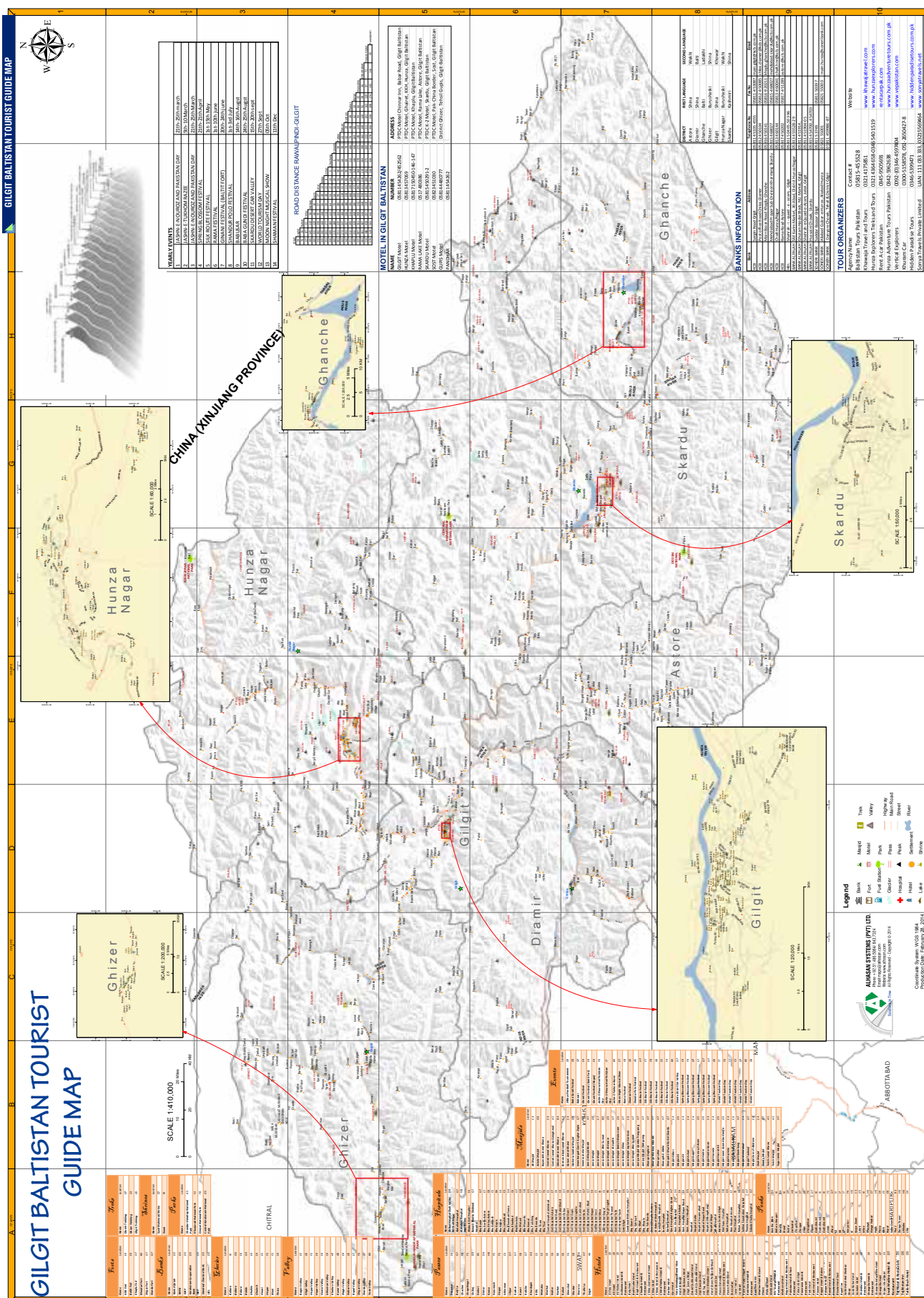
Solutions in Time

EVENTS

DATE

14 BOYS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
SHAWAN FESTIVAL
WORLD TOURISM DAY

10th-15th
11th Dec
27th Sept



When does she come home?

February 24, 2014----- [Yasmeen Aftab Ali](#)

A tree without its root will die. A nation without the knowledge and binding to its roots will change into something not represented by its roots. "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee." (King James Bible "Authorized Version", Cambridge Edition) Heritage is the legacy that was passed on to us. It is the legacy we must pass on to our children. The world as we know today has disvalued heritage. It is been destroyed by neglect or destroyed by wars.

The National Trust of Australia (WA) defines heritage as, '... something inherited from the past and valued enough today to leave for future generations.' Yes, heritage may be natural like our rivers, forests, so on and so forth. It may also have a cultural face like structures, places of worship, places of architectural magnificence and artifacts. If these artifacts are removed and taken away by other nations; as a result of war as often happens, or taken on 'loan' and not returned — they rightfully belong to the owner irrespective of the time lapsed. The stance of archaeologists under the UNESCO Convention of 1972 is that the original owner of a relic or artifacts will be deemed to be the country where the relic was discovered.

There seem to be no examples by Pakistan to make an effort to unearth where its relics are today if taken away — to retrieve them and bring them back. It was only the former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who, under the Simla Agreement in 1972, succeeded in recovering the King Priest statue back from India. According to the research paper by Elisabeth C. L. quoting S. J. Marshall 'Moenjo-daro and the Indus Civilization' (London 1931, vol 1 page 356-357) states, 'the statue was found in Room 1, Block 2 Section B of the Dk Area in the Moenjo-daro.' Besides the physical description, it adds that the statue had one eye inlaid with shell, when found. The "Priest King" is now on display at the National Museum, Karachi. The other statue is of the "Dancing Girl." Excavated from Moenjo-daro, now on display at Victoria and Albert Museum's Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata, India; the statue is said to be originally found from the ruins of a house in 1925, from the ninth row of houses of Moenjo-daro. It is 10.8 cm tall, a fine piece of art. The nude figurine, resplendent with bangles up till the elbows, smartly coiled hair, the hand placed on one leg pushed forward, the other on a hip; a saucily provocative bold stance.

Both the "Priest King" statue and the bronze one of the "Dancing Girl" of Moenjo-daro were transported by British archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler to Delhi in 1946 for an exhibition. After its creation, Pakistan sought the return of both relics. (Published Times of India Feb 3, 2014)

The "Dancing Girl" figurine never came home after that. It is only at the Sindh Festival held recently that brought the attention towards the return of this artifact. According to a local newspaper, "....the provincial government is sending a

request to Islamabad for asking India to return the famous statue of the Dancing Girl, which is in possession of the Indian authorities since 1946." (2014-02-02)

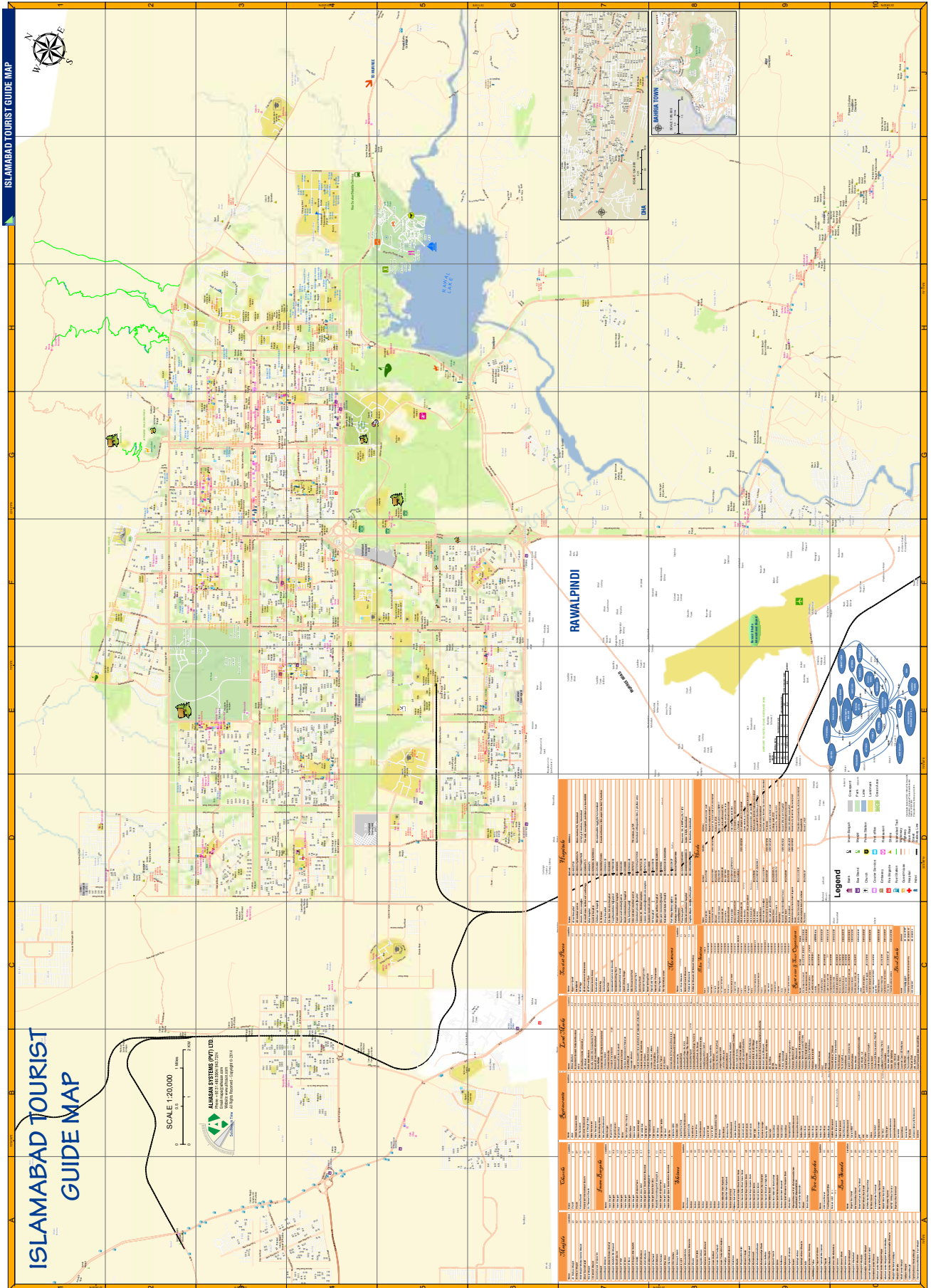
It was this very principle of owning heritage on behalf of the Brahmins that propelled Edward Law, 1st Earl of Ellenborough to prompt high caste Brahman and Rajputs of the Bengal Army to undertake the first Afghan War which was in fact a forward policy of the then British Indian Empire. As per code of the Hindus it was a taboo to cross the river Indus. Sultan Mahmood of Ghazni had taken away the Gates of Somnath Temple to Ghazni — his capital. It was suggested to the Bengal Army to go and uproot the Temple gates from Ghazni and bring them back and restore them at the Somnath Temple. Subsequently they were brought back under the supervision of the invading Bengal Army. Romila Thapar writes in her book, "The History of India, (Vol. 1 pg 232-233) "The effects of destruction of Somnath are etched in the generations of all Hindu Brahman mindset. They shudder for the day revival of Islam takes place."

Yet another example is the Indian demands to the UK government to return its Kohinoor Diamond that it was forced to hand over in to them in the colonial era. As recent as February 7, 2014, the Deccan Herald reported rejection by UK of the Indian demand citing a law "that prevents it from giving back the items". However, in a very interesting move later, in a repatriation ceremony at the New York Consulate of India, some artifacts were returned to India, reports Al-Jazeera, (16 Jan 2014). These artifacts include two sandstone sculptures. They are of the Hindu deities Vishnu and Lakshmi. The third one is reputed to be "a black stone sculpture of Buddhist icon Bodhisattava". The statues hail from 11th and 12th centuries. The newspaper goes on to state, "Reports say the idols were stolen from temples across the states of Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal."

The principle applied here then is that the original owner of a relic or artifacts will be deemed to be the country where the relic was discovered. Takers cannot be keepers. Pakistan needs a national organisation dealing with heritage preservation. To the best of my knowledge Pakistan does not boast of one. This is sad considering that out of a total of 704 cultural heritage sites listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, Pakistan has six of them on this prestigious page. But this is not all. There are gardens, old architectural houses, (those in interior Lahore are a case in point) mosques of grandeur, beautiful Hindu and Jain temples, Sikh gurdwaras; yet these beautiful sites are dilapidated and falling apart owing to negligence. Although certain laws do provide for preservation of some sites, not all buildings and places are professionally catalogued.

Coming back to the Dancing Girl Statue of Moenjo-daro;

When does she come home?



Culture in the Time of Terrorism

February 16, 2014....Sarwar Ali

Pakistan is going through a bizarre phase. On the one hand, the traditional sites, places or venues, which house and promote culture are under attack and, on the other, huge festivals are being held in the major cities of Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore and even in a place like Mohenjodaro.

A cinema has been bombed in Peshawar and this is not the first time that a cinema has been destroyed with people sitting there, dying while viewing a film. A couple of weeks back, a cinema had bombs detonated and it, too, resulted in fatalities. The mausoleum of the sufi and poet Mast Tawakali in Kohlu, Balochistan was torched last week and another site Astana of Peer Meharban Shah was also hit by bombs in Karachi, resulting in casualties.

All this has had an effect on the cultural activities where people throng in large numbers. The recently concluded Urs of Khawaja Farid in Kot Mithan was the tamest that one could remember. The cultural activities were not allowed to be held for security reasons and that resulted in a sharp drop in numbers visiting the festival.

One could not have imagined the Urs of Khawaja Farid without the singing of his kalaam. He must be the most-sung poet in the language and his kafis have been rendered in all forms, in pure folk, semi-classical and even by those assigned the status of an ustad.

It was unimaginable a few years ago that certain of the most venerated shrines have been bombed. These shrines were not touched in hundreds of years when the land was ruled by non Muslims — Hindus, Sikhs and the British.

It is said that even Ustads Fateh Ali and Ali Buksh, the duo that set up the Patiala Gharana, sang in the presence of Khawaja Farid himself. Though, the Urs of Waris Shah has been held in the last few years, the customary singing of Heer has not been held.

It was unimaginable a few years ago that certain of the most venerated shrines have been bombed — like Data Sahib in Lahore, Baba Fareed in Pakpattan, Rehman Baba in Peshawar and Abdullah Shah Ghazi in Karachi. These shrines were not touched in hundreds of years when the land was ruled by non Muslims — Hindus, Sikhs and British.

Not many years ago, the Rafi Peer International Festival was targeted in Lahore after which the festival was toned down considerably, many cinema and theatre houses, too, have been targeted across the country. It seems that there is a systematic campaign to destroy the "addas" where dance and music takes place. And so many of the performing artistes have been killed, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the last few years.

As against this, in the last few years, one has seen an explosion of festivals that have been held across the country, particularly in the three major cities: Lahore Karachi, and Islamabad. The various hugely popular literary festivals

organised both by the government and the private sector have also included dance, theatre and music performances.

The recently-concluded Sindh Festival held in Mohenjodaro and other cities of the province was a bit of an extravaganza, participated in full by the people. It included a number of shows, some of performing arts and tableaux. And the ongoing Youth Festival in Punjab, which has spread all over the province, has been held in the district headquarters, breaking away as it were from the monopoly of the three cities that usually hog in all the cultural investment.

It may be said in the same breath that all these festivals have been held in places or venues which have been secured for the purposes of safety. The venues are either controlled spaces or, as in Sindh and Punjab Youth Festivals, being government sponsored, where the law enforcing agencies have been deputed in larger numbers.

Due to security concerns, one safer way out has been to avoid public congregation and air cultural activity on television. Even now, many of the music and popular shows are no longer held in public because it is thought much safer and securer to make a video and release it on channel or stream it on the networks.

The choice now is being narrowed down to either listening to music, seeing theatre/viewing exhibitions of visual arts in full acceptance and glare of the public or none at all. Whether all this is fast becoming a proscribed activity for which injunctions will be included in the legal code, penalising offending citizen of the country if found indulging in film, theatre, music or that the public venues or platforms will cease to exist.

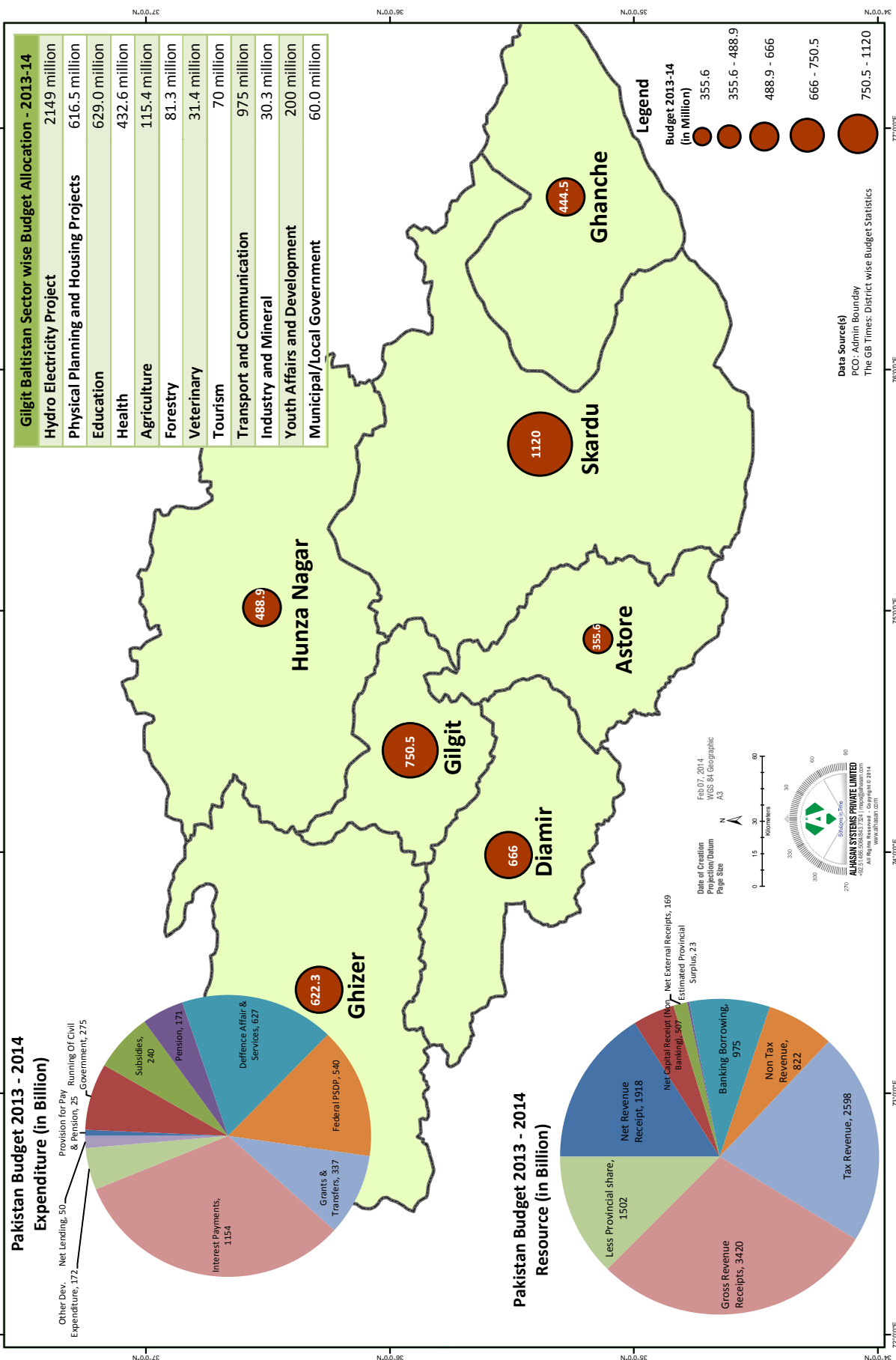
It may not be very surprising because there are many countries where such innocent acts are outlawed in public and citizens either secretly huddle in private space or have to travel abroad to see a film, listen to music and view an exhibition.

The elements of culture have always been used or exploited by advertising, whether to sell an idea or an ideology. Since the corporations now have a multinational presence, both in terms of ownership of the enterprise and the outreach of its market, the cultural elements become the tool of their advertising campaigns. Since the products that they advertise cannot be customised but are mass produced, the market, too, has to be big to offer itself to the uniformity of production. Huge corporations target an area or a region but by bringing in the local flavour they create a certain level of intimacy.

For ideological, economic, and political reasons, artistic expression is snuffed, mutilated, trimmed, tailored but the human race-cherished dream of freedom has always been rescued by the development of a parallel or counter narrative.

There might be a case for the existence of an organic culture that rests and grows surreptitiously while wars with grand gestures are fought on the surface.

GILGIT BALTISTAN BUDGET STATISTICS 2013 - 14



تفصیلات

سرخیاء

پاکستانی شہریوں کے لئے خوشی کی خبر: بحری جہاز کے ذریعے حج کرنے کے دن واپس آگئے

شفقتنا اردو بین الاقوامی شیعہ خبر رساں ادارہ

25 فروری 2014

کراچی: ایسے تمام پاکستانی شہریوں کے لئے جو سفر حج پر لاکھوں روپے خرچ کرنے کی سکت نہیں رکھتے، خوشی کی خبر یہ ہے کہ وہ اب صرف 25 سے گھبرائے نہیں۔ 30 ہزار روپے خرچ پر حج کی سعادت حاصل کر سکیں گے۔ لیکن، ایسے عازمین کو ہوائی سفر کے بجائے بحری جہاز سے سفر کرنا ہو گا۔ بحری جہاز کے ذریعے آپ صرف 6 دن میں سعودی عرب پہنچ سکیں گے۔ اس مقصد کے لئے، پاکستان کی وزارت پورٹس اینڈ شپنگ تیز ترین بحری جہاز حاصل کر رہی ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر پورٹس اینڈ شپنگ، کامران مانیکل کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیراعظم میاں محمد نواز شریف کی جانب سے منظوری کے بعد، اگلے سال، یعنی 2015ء کے حج سیزن میں، اس منصوبے کا آغاز ہو جائے گا۔ پاکستان کے مؤقر اخبارات ’ایکسپریس‘ اور ’ٹری بیون‘ نے وفاقی وزیر کے حوالے سے رپورٹ دی ہے کہ اس منصوبے سے سب سے زیادہ فائدہ غریبوں اور کم آمدنی والے طبقے کو ہو گا، کیونکہ اس وقت حج پر ساڑھے تین سے چار لاکھ روپے خرچ آتا ہے۔ لیکن، بحری جہاز سے سفر پر صرف 25 سے 30 ہزار روپے خرچ آئے گا، جبکہ اس میں کھانے پینے کا خرچ بھی شامل ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر کا کہنا ہے کہ تیز ترین بحری جہازوں کی خریداری کے لئے یورپی ممالک سے رابطہ کیا جا رہا ہے۔ کسم اور امیگریشن کے معاملات پر بات چیت آخری مراحل میں ہے۔ حج پر جانے والے جہاز کے ذریعے تجارتی سامان کی بھی ترسیل ممکن ہو سکے گی اور لئے بزنس کمیونٹی سے الحاق پر زور دیا جا رہا ہے۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں وفاقی وزیر کا یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ اگلے مرحلے میں بلوچستان سے ایران جانیوالے زائرین کو بھی بحری جہاز کے سفر کی سہولیات فراہم کی جائیں گی۔

پاکستان اور چین کے مابین زمینی تجارت سہل بنائی

جائے: شیخ امتیاز

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

25 فروری 2014

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) وفاق ہائے ایوان صنعت و تجارت کے صدر شیخ امتیاز احمد نے کہا ہے کہ زمینی راستہ سے ہونے والی پاک چین تجارت کو سہل بنانے کیلئے اقدامات کئے جائے تاکہ اس کا حجم بڑھایا جاسکے۔ گلگت بلتستان سرمایہ کاروں کی جنت بن سکتا ہے جسکے لئے حکومت اور نجی شعبہ کو اپنی ذمہ داریاں نبھانا ہوگی۔ یہ بات انھوں نے سرمایہ کاروں کے ایک وفد سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہی جس میں گلگت بلتستان چیئرمین کے صدر جوہر علی راکی، ممبر ٹینگ کمیٹی اظہار اکرم دیگر شامل تھے۔ چیئرمین میڈیا ایف پی سی آئی ملک سہیل بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔ شیخ امتیاز احمد نے کہا کہ بہتر ہزار مربع میل اور تقریباً تیرہ لاکھ آبادی کا یہ خطہ سیاحت، کانکری، خشک میوہ جات، فوڈ پراسسنگ، فارمنگ، معدنیات اور پین بجلی کے وسائل سے مالا مال ہے جن میں نجی شعبہ سرمایہ کاری کر کے خطیر منافع کما سکتا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین حالیہ معاہدوں بشمول ایئر پورٹ اور قراقرم ہائی وے کی تعمیر نو سے دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہو گئے۔ اس موقع پر گلگت بلتستان چیئرمین کے صدر جوہر علی راکی نے کہا کہ پاک چین باڈر ہفتے میں سات دن کھلا رہتا تھا مگر اب کچھ عرصہ سے دو دن بند رکھا جاتا ہے جس سے مسافروں اور کاروباری برادری کی حوصلہ شکنی ہو رہی ہے۔

کراچی میں سجا پہلا ٹیچر زلٹرچر فینٹیول

شفقتنا اردو بین الاقوامی شیعہ خبر رساں ادارہ

21 فروری 2014

کراچی: کسی بھی معاشرے کی بگاڑ اور بنانے میں استاد کا کردار اہمیت کا حامل ہوتا ہے۔ اسی اہمیت کو سمجھتے ہوئے کراچی میں ٹیچر زلٹرچر فینٹیول کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ بدھ کے روز آرٹس کو نسل آف پاکستان میں اساتذہ کیلئے سجائے گئے اس فینٹیول میں 2000 سے زائد اساتذہ نے شرکت کی۔ ٹیچر ڈرامائی کرداروں میں ڈھل گئے: ٹیچر زلٹرچر میں آنے والے اساتذہ کیلئے اپنی نوعیت کا ایک دلچسپ ورکشاپ منعقد کیا گیا جس میں اساتذہ نے ڈرامائی کرداروں میں ڈھل کر کہانیاں پیش کیں۔ کراچی میں اساتذہ کو ڈرامائی انداز سے بچوں کو سبق سکھانے کے طریقوں میں مہارت دینے کیلئے بیرون ملک نیپال سے خاتون ٹیچر شانتا ڈکشت خصوصی طور پر کراچی آئیں۔ وہ پچھلے 22 سالوں سے نیپال کے شہر کھٹمنڈو میں درس و تدریس کے شعبے سے وابستہ ہیں۔ ’وائس آف امریکہ‘ کی نمائندہ سے خصوصی گفتگو میں کہتی ہیں کہ ’پاکستان میں ڈرامائی انداز سے بچوں کو سیکھنے کی بہت ضرورت ہے۔ اس طرح، کلاس روم کا ہر بچہ اس میں شمولیت اور توجہ حاصل کرتا ہے۔‘ جب ڈرامائی اور کہانیوں کے کرداروں سے بچے سیکھتے ہیں تو ان کو سبق سیکھنے کی سادگی سیکھ جاتا ہے۔ اس طرح، وہ زیادہ سیکھتے اور سوال کرتے ہیں۔ اُن کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ ’پاکستان میں سرکاری تعلیمی اداروں میں زیر تعلیم طلباء بہت کچھ سیکھنے کی صلاحیت رکھتے ہیں۔ مگر، ایک استاد ہونے کے ناطے ہمیں اس پر بہت کچھ کرنے کی ضرورت ہے کہ بچوں میں سیکھنے کے عمل کو کس طرح پروان چڑھایا جائے۔ استاد کو اس میں محنت اور مزید ٹریننگ کی ضرورت ہے۔‘ اس ورکشاپ میں آنے والی اساتذہ نے تبادلہ خیال کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ اس طرح کی سرگرمیاں ٹیچر زلٹرچر کو بچوں کی توجہ حاصل کرنے کا ایک اچھا ذریعہ ہے، جو کہ ہر استاد کیلئے ضروری ہے۔ یہ سیکھ کر، ٹیچر بچوں کو زیادہ آسانی سے سیکھیں گے اور ساری بچے یکساں توجہ لے سکیں گے۔ ایک اور ٹیچر کا کہنا تھا کہ ’جب ہم اتنا دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں تو بچے بھی بہت اچھی طرح سے سیکھیں گے‘۔ بچوں کے مسائل میں اساتذہ کا کردار: کلاس رومز میں بچوں کے لکھنے اور پڑھنے کے مسائل پر بھی اساتذہ کیلئے ایک سیشن منعقد کیا گیا، جس میں ٹریننگ دینے والی شائینہ علوی نے بتایا کہ ’کراچی میں ہر جگہ نجی اسکولوں کی بھرمار ہے۔ وہاں تجربہ کار ٹیچر موجود نہیں ہیں۔ ہماری کوشش ہے کہ پاکستانی معیار تعلیم کے حوالے سے ٹیچر زلٹرچر کو مزید ترقیت دیں۔ ہمارے ہاں، کچھ ہی اسکول ہیں جہاں مکمل ٹرینڈ ٹیچرز ہوتے ہیں، جبکہ بہت سے ٹیچر اس پیشے کو صرف نوکری سمجھ کر کام کرتے ہیں۔ جو بات ضروری ہے وہ یہ کہ بچوں کو کس طرح پڑھایا جا رہا ہے۔ اگر بچہ صحیح نہیں سیکھتا، تو اس میں کہیں نہ کہیں استاد کی غلطی ہوتی ہے۔ ٹیچر زلٹرچر فینٹیول کی آگنا زرومانہ حسین کا کہنا تھا کہ ’جب چلڈرن فینٹیول کا انعقاد ہوا، تو محسوس ہوا کہ ایک دن ٹیچر کیلئے بھی مخصوص کیا جائے۔ وہ مزید کہتی ہیں کہ ’تعلیم میں ربط نظام کی موجودگی کے خاتمے کیلئے ضروری ہے کہ ٹیچر زلٹرچر کو ایسے طریقوں سے روشناس کرایا جائے کہ وہ بچوں میں سیکھنے کے عمل کو بہتر بنائیں۔ گھسے پٹے طریقے کی تعلیم سے بچوں میں تخلیق کا عمل ختم ہوتا جا رہا ہے۔ اس فینٹیول کا اہم مقصد بچوں کی اپنی صلاحیتوں کو اجاگر کرنے کیلئے ٹیچر زلٹرچر کو نئے طریقے سکھانا ہے۔‘

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ 'آجکل کے بچے ٹیچرز سے زیادہ ذہین معلوم ہوتے ہیں۔ وہ سوال زیادہ کرتے ہیں اس لئے، آجکل کے دور کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے، ٹیچرز کو مکمل طور پر تیار رہنا ہو گا۔ بچوں کی کتابوں کی تقریب رومنائی سلسلے میں ایک سیشن کتابوں کی رومنائی کا بھی تھا، جس میں رومانہ حسن کی لکھنوی پیدا ہوا، لیلیٰ اور مٹی گڑیا، رعنا لیاقت علی خان تصویر کی کہانی سلسلہ، سمیت دیگر مصنفوں کی کتابوں کی تقریب رومنائی کی گئی۔ بچوں کی کتابوں کے حوالے سے، رومانہ حسین کا کہنا تھا کہ 'بچے انٹرنیٹ استعمال کرنے کے باوجود، کتابیں پڑھنا چاہتے ہیں، جس میں نظمیں ہوں کہانیاں ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بچے رنگ برنگی تصاویر دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں، جب کہ پڑھنے سے دلچسپی اب بھی قائم ہے۔ کہانیاں اور نظمیں کی کتابیں بچوں کے ذہنوں پر مثبت اثرات مرتب کرتی ہیں تصورات کو ابھارتی ہیں، جس سے سوچ مضبوط ہوتی ہے، جبکہ بچوں کی طرف سے ان کتابوں کا اچھا تاثر ملتا ہے۔ فیسٹیول کے اختتام پر، اساتذہ نے اپنی رائے کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس طرح کی سرگرمیاں نجی و سرکاری اسکولوں کے اساتذہ کیلئے انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہیں۔ اس سلسلے میں، ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ٹیچرز سلیبس سے بہت کم بہت سے نئے طریقوں کی مدد سے، بچے بہت کچھ سیکھنے کی کوشش کرتے ہیں، نئے طریقوں سے معلومات حاصل کرتے ہیں۔ ساتھ ہی، کہانیوں کی نئی کتابوں سے بھی بچوں میں سلیبس کی کتابوں کے علاوہ نئی مہارتیں سکھائی جاسکتی ہیں۔ شرکاء کے بقول، غیر نصابی کتابوں سے بھی بچوں کو زیادہ معلومات حاصل ہوتی ہیں۔ اساتذہ کیلئے مختلف ٹیچرز اور نئے طریقوں اور ورکشاپ کیلئے آرٹس کونسل میں مختلف شعبے ترتیب دیے گئے تھے، جس میں داستان سرائے، شاہ عبداللطیف بھٹائی، کتاب گھر، طلسم ہوش ربا، ٹوٹ ٹوٹ، اوطاق، تو کتابی اور شاہی گزر گاہ کاروپ اور جھلک موجود تھیں۔ جہاں آرٹ آف ریڈنگ، اساتذہ کیلئے تخلیقی سرگرمیاں، کلاس روم میں نئے میڈیا کا استعمال، تعلیم میں زبانوں کے استعمال، اساتذہ یکجہری، پاکستان کا تعلیمی ورثہ کی کئی مراحل کی جھلک پیش کی گئی، اور مختلف کتابوں کے اسٹال بھی لگائے گئے۔

سبی: سبی کے چاکر اعظم اسٹیڈیم میں خود کش دھماکے میں بمبار خود ہلاک ہو گیا، ذرائع کے مطابق گراؤنڈ میں سبی میلے کی تیاریاں جاری تھیں۔ پولیس کے مطابق سبی کے چاکر اعظم اسٹیڈیم میں ایک خود کش بمبار گھس آیا تاہم لوگوں تک پہنچنے سے پہلے اس کا بارودی مواد پھٹ گیا سے حملہ آور ہلاک ہو گیا۔ پولیس کا کہنا ہے کہ اسٹیڈیم میں سبی میلے کی تیاریاں جاری تھیں اگر بمبار لوگوں تک پہنچ جاتا تو بڑی تباہی ہو سکتی تھی۔ سماء

بہاولپور (نمائندہ خصوصی) پاکستان دنیا کا سب سے خوبصورت ترین ملک ہے اس وقت پاکستان میں قیام امن کی کوششوں کی سخت ضرورت ہے۔ صوفیاء کی دھرتی جو ماضی میں امن کا گہوارہ تھی اسی روایت کو دوبارہ قائم کرنا ناگزیر ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار مانوٹ ایورسٹ سر کرنے والے پہلے پاکستانی کوہ پیما نذیر صابر نے چولستان ڈیولپمنٹ کونسل اور قائد اعظم میڈیکل کالج کے زیر اہتمام "امن میرا حق" سلسلے "لیڈر شپ سیریز" کے سیمینار میں مہمان خصوصی کے طور پر کیا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ قیام امن کے لئے سی ڈی سی، بہاولپور پولیس اور کیو ایم سی جیسے اداروں کی کوششیں قابل ستائش ہیں۔ پاکستان کی دھرتی میں ایک طرف انتہائی خوبصورت صحرا، سمندر اور دوسری جانب عظیم الشان پہاڑی سلسلے بھی موجود ہیں جو کہ دنیا کے کسی ملک میں نہیں۔ پاکستان میں سیاحت اور کوہ پیما کی کوفروغ دینے سے نہ صرف ملک کا نام روشن ہو گا بلکہ قیام امن کی کوششوں میں مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ دوسری بار بہاولپور آنا ان کے لئے اعزاز کی بات ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گزشتہ برس چولستان ایوارڈ کی نامزدگی پر وہ پہلی بار بہاولپور آئے تھے یہاں کا خلوس اور مہمان نوازی اپنی مثال آپ ہیں۔ اس موقع پر پرنسپل قائد اعظم میڈیکل کالج بہاولپور پروفیسر ڈاکٹر ہارون خورشید پاشا نے کہا کہ نذیر صابر جیسے لوگ ملک کا سرمایہ ہیں اور جس طرح انہوں نے کوہ پیما کی جیسے مشکل شعبے میں کامیابی حاصل کرتے ہوئے ملک کا نام روشن کیا بالکل اسی طرح میڈیکل کے طالب علم بھی اپنے کیریئر کی چوٹیوں کو سر کر کے ملک کی خدمت کر سکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قائد اعظم میڈیکل کالج نذیر صابر جیسے قومی ہیروز کی بے حد قدر کرتا ہے اسی اثناء میں میڈیکل کالج کی جانب سے ڈی سی او بہاولپور عمران سکندر نے نذیر صابر کو اعزازی شلیڈ پیش کی۔ ڈسٹرکٹ کو آرڈینیشن آفیسر بہاولپور عمران سکندر نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ شمال اور جنوب کے لوگوں کا ایک ہونا بہت اہم ہے۔ تہذیب و ثقافت کے اعتبار سے جہاں گلگت بلتستان بہت تاریخی اہمیت کا حامل ہے وہیں پر بہاولپور اور چولستان کی ثقافت کی بھی اپنی منفرد تاریخ ہے دونوں علاقوں کے لوگوں کے مابین رابطہ اور تعاون پاکستان کی بہتری اور ترقی میں انتہائی اہمیت رکھتے ہیں۔ نذیر صابر تمام لوگوں کے لئے مشعل راہ ہیں کہ ان کی خدمات قابل ستائش ہیں اور ان کے کاموں سے محنت اور لگن کی مثال قائم ہوئی ہے۔ ڈسٹرکٹ پولیس آفیسر ڈاکٹر سہیل حبیب تاجک نے اس موقع پر خطاب میں کہا کہ پولیس اور سی ڈی سی کے تعاون سے لیڈر شپ سیریز کی تمام تقریبات جنوبی پنجاب کے لئے بہت مفید ثابت ہو گئی۔ نذیر صابر کا آنا ہمارے لئے فخر کی بات ہے ان کی زندگی کے واقعات سے نہ صرف زندگی کے تمام عوامل کی اہمیت کا احساس ہوتا ہے بلکہ محنت سے کام کرنے کا جذبہ بھی تازہ ہو جاتا ہے۔ سیمینار کے موقع پر چولستان ڈیولپمنٹ کونسل آف پاکستان کے کمپیننگ آفیسر علیم احمد خان نے ڈائریکٹر سی ڈی سی فاروق احمد خان جو کافر نس کے سلسلے میں بیرون ملک ہیں ان کا پیغام شکر کا تکت پہنچایا جس میں انہوں نے کہا کہ نذیر صابر کا دوسری بار آکر سی ڈی سی کو میزبانی کا موقع دینا اعزاز ہے کم نہیں، اس وقت معاشرے میں نذیر صابر جیسی شخصیات کا کردار انتہائی اہم ہے۔ سی ڈی سی کی ہمیشہ سے ہی کوشش رہی ہے کہ خطے میں قیام امن کے لئے کام کرے آج کی پورا قار تقریب اس بات کا ثبوت ہے۔ ایسے تمام اقدامات کے نتائج انتہائی خوش آئند ہوں گے۔ تقریب میں نظامت کے فرانسس ڈی سی کے بورڈ آف گورنر کے ممبر اور قائد اعظم میڈیکل کالج کے پروفیسر ڈاکٹر منیر اظہر نے سرانجام دیئے۔

پاکستان کے صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا میں افغانستان کی سرحد سے چند کلو میٹر کے فاصلے پر واقع سیاحتی مقام شاہی میں جاری دورہ سنو فیسٹیول اختتام پذیر

سبی: میلے کی تیاری کے دوران خود کش دھماکا، بمبار ہلاک

samaa.tv

20 فروری 2014

پاکستان دنیا کا سب سے خوبصورت ترین ملک ہے اس وقت پاکستان میں قیام امن کی کوششوں کی سخت ضرورت ہے: پاکستانی کوہ پیما نذیر صابر

بہاولپور نیوز

15 فروری 2014

پاک افغان سرحد پر سنو فیسٹیول کا انعقاد

بی بی سی اردو

26 فروری 2014

ہو گیا۔ شدت پسندی سے متاثرہ ضلع دیر کے اس سیاحتی مقام پر پاکستان فوج کے زیر انتظام منعقد ہونے والے اس میلے میں پیر اگلائیڈنگ، رسہ کشی، والی بال اور ہمناسک کے مقابلے شامل تھے اس میلے میں ہزاروں کی تعداد میں مقامی اور غیر مقامی سیاح شریک ہوئے اور بعض سیاحوں نے ڈھول کی تھاپ پر رقص کیا جبکہ فوجی بینڈ نے بھی اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ ملک کے مختلف علاقوں سے میلے میں شرکت کرنے والے سیاحوں نے بی بی سی کو بتایا کہ افغان سرحد سے متصل اس علاقے میں فیٹیول کے انعقاد سے اندازہ ہوتا ہے کہ اب یہاں امن ہے اور کوئی خطرہ نہیں ہے۔ راولپنڈی کی ایک سیاح سجانہ نے بتایا کہ میلے میں مختلف سٹالز اور برف پر کھیلے جانے والے مختلف کھیلوں سے وہ بہت لطف اندوز ہوئی ہیں۔ فوج کے میجر تاشقین نے بتایا کہ اس قسم کے فیٹیول کے انعقاد کا مقصد یہی ہے کہ یہاں کی معیشت بہتر ہو اور سیاح اس علاقے میں آئیں جس سے دنیا کو ایک پیغام بھی ملے گا کہ اب یہاں امن ہے اور اس علاقے کے لوگ امن سے محبت کرتے ہیں شاہی کے علاقے میں لکڑی سے بنے ہوئے چھوٹے ہوٹلوں اور دکانوں پر سیاحوں کا رش رہا جس سے ہوٹلوں کے مالکان بہت خوش نظر آئے۔ چائے فروخت کرنے والی ایک دکان کے مالک علی نے بتایا کہ فیٹیول کے وجہ سے علاقے کے رونقیں لوٹ آئی ہیں اور لوگوں کی بڑی تعداد میں آمد سے ان کا روزگار بہتر ہوا ہے اور آمدنی میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا میں شدت پسندی کے واقعات کی وجہ سے سیاحت کا کاروبار بری طرح متاثر ہوا ہے۔ ضلع دیر میں طالبان شدت پسندی کے متعدد واقعات میں سکیورٹی فورسز کے علاوہ عام شہری بھی نشانہ بنے ہیں۔ اس علاقے میں سرحد پار سے آنے والے شدت پسندوں نے بھی متعدد دکارروائیاں کی ہیں جس کی وجہ سے اس خوبصورت مقام پر سیاحت نہ ہونے کے برابر تھی۔ اب سیاحتی میلے کے انعقاد سے مقامی افراد کو سیاحت کی بحالی اور معاشی حالات میں بہتری کی امید پیدا ہوئی ہے لیکن یہ اس صورت میں ہی ممکن ہو گا جب ملک کے مختلف حصوں سے سیاح بغیر کسی خوف کے یہاں کا رخ کر سکیں گے۔

عظیم سیاح ابن بطوطہ!

ڈان نیوز

25 فروری 2014

مسلمانوں کے عظیم سیاح ابن بطوطہ کا یوم پیدائش آج منایا جا رہا ہے، ان کا پورا نام عبد اللہ ابن عبد اللہ المعروف 'ابن بطوطہ' ہے۔ وہ پچیس فروری 1304 کو مراکش کے ایک چھوٹے شہر 'ٹانگیر' میں پیدا ہوئے۔ قرون وسطیٰ کے عالمی تاریخی شہرت کے حامل سیاح تھے اور انہوں نے ایک ماہ نامہ سفر نامہ 'رحالہ' بھی تصنیف کیا۔ اس کتاب میں 75,000 میل طویل سفر کی روداد نقل کی ہے، یہ سفر قافلوں کی شکل میں اور کبھی کبھی تنہا بھی کرتے رہے۔ اس دوران انہوں نے کل اسلامی ممالک دیکھے اور سارنا اور چین کے کچھ علاقوں میں بھی سیاحت کی غرض سے گئے۔ ابن بطوطہ ایک علمی گھرانے کے چشم و چراغ تھے، ان کا سارا خاندان محکمہ قضا سے متعلق تھا۔ مقامی علاقے کے قاضیوں کی اکثریت ابن بطوطہ کے خاندان سے تعلق رکھتی تھی۔ انہوں نے بھی اپنے بچپن اور آغاز شباب میں اسلامی فقہ و قضا کی تعلیم حاصل کی۔ سن 1325 میں جب ان کی عمر 21 برس کی تھی تو فریضہ حج کی ادائیگی سے انہوں نے اپنی سیاحت کا آغاز کیا۔ اس دوران انہوں نے مصر، شام اور حجاز کے متعدد شافعی المسلک کے فقہاء سے بھی علم حاصل کیا اور اس فقہی مکتب فکر سے متعلق جید علماء کے دروس میں شریک ہوئے۔ اس تعلیمی کاوش کے باعث علم فقہ و قضا میں انہیں ید طولی حاصل ہوا اور وہ کسی بھی عدالت میں منصب قضا کے اہم مقام پر بیٹھنے کے قابل ہو گئے۔ اس عظیم سیاح نے 1377 میں مراکش میں وفات پائی۔

مذاکرات یا آپریشن کا فیصلہ پاکستان نے کرنا ہے،

ہمارا کوئی کردار نہیں ہو گا: امریکی سفیر

ڈان نیوز

24 فروری 2014

لاہور (وقت نیوز + ایجنسیاں) پاکستان میں تعینات امریکی سفیر رچرڈ اولسن نے کہا ہے کہ طالبان سے مذاکرات یا آپریشن کا فیصلہ پاکستان کی حکومت نے خود کرنا ہے اور آپریشن میں امریکہ کا کوئی کردار نہیں ہو گا۔ امریکہ مستحکم پاکستان کا خواہشمند ہے اور ہمارے روابط عوام کی خوشحالی کیلئے ہیں۔ جنوبی ایشیاء میں لاہور ایک ثقافتی مرکز ہے اور یہاں کے تاریخی مقامات کی بحالی کیلئے اپنا کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں۔ گزشتہ روز لٹری فیٹیول میں شرکت کے بعد میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے امریکی سفیر نے کہا کہ جنوبی ایشیائی خطے میں لاہور ثقافت کا مرکز ہے، اسکی تاریخی عمارتیں قابل تعریف ہیں۔ امریکہ نے مسجد وزیر خان، سنہری مسجد اور عالمگیری گیٹ کی بحالی کیلئے صوبائی حکومت سے مکمل تعاون کیا ہے۔ دہشت گردی کے باعث پاکستان کی ثقافت متاثر ہو رہی ہے۔ حکومت اور طالبان کے درمیان مذاکرات کے حوالے سے سوال کے جواب میں کہا کہ امریکہ کے پاکستان سے رابطے اسکی عوام کی بہتری اور خوشحالی کیلئے ہیں۔ مذاکرات یا آپریشن کا فیصلہ پاکستان کی حکومت نے خود کرنا ہے اور آپریشن میں امریکہ کا کوئی کردار نہیں ہو گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم مستحکم پاکستان کے خواہشمند ہیں اور اس کیلئے اپنا کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ لاہور کی تاریخی عمارتیں دیکھ کر بہت خوشی ہوتی ہے۔

کیلا شیوں کو طالبان کی دھمکیوں کا از خود نوٹس

بی بی سی اردو

20 فروری 2014

پاکستان کی سپریم کورٹ کے چیف جسٹس صدیق حسین جیلانی نے پاکستان کے سیاحتی مقام چترال کے کیلاشی قبیلے اور اسماعیلی فرقے سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد کو طالبان کی جانب سے دھمکیوں کا از خود نوٹس لے لیا ہے۔ جمہرات کو اس نوٹس کی سماعت کے دوران چیف جسٹس کا کہنا تھا کہ ملکی آئین کسی کو زبردستی اور اسلحے کے زور پر مذہب تبدیل کروانے کی اجازت نہیں دیتا تھوں نے کہا کہ کسی بھی غیر مسلم پر زبردستی مذہب تبدیل کرنے اور مذہبی رسومات سے روکنے کے لیے دباؤ ڈالنا مذہبی اور نہ ہی قانونی طور پر جائز ہے۔ تصدیق جیلانی کا کہنا تھا کہ اقلیتوں کے مذہبی حقوق کی حفاظت حکومت کی ذمہ داری ہے اور ایسا نہ کر کے حکومت اپنی آئینی ذمہ داریاں پوری نہیں کرے گی۔ یاد رہے کہ مقامی میڈیا اور کیلاش کمیونٹی کی طرف سے سپریم کورٹ کو لکھے جانے والے ایک خط میں کہا گیا ہے کہ طالبان کی طرف سے چترال میں رہائش پذیر کیلاشیوں اور اسماعیلی فرقے سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد کو دھمکیاں مل رہی ہیں کہ وہ مسلمان ہو جائیں ورنہ انہیں اور ان کے اہل خانہ کو قتل کر دیا جائے گا۔ سماعت کے دوران صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا کے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل لطیف یوسف زئی نے عدالت کو بتایا کہ ان افراد کو سرحد پار افغانستان کے علاقے نورستان سے دھمکیاں مل رہی ہیں اور مقامی سطح پر ایسی کوئی صورت حال نہیں ہے چیف جسٹس نے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سے استفسار کیا کہ کیا مقامی سطح پر اس کے سدباب کے لیے کوئی اقدامات کیے گئے ہیں اور کیا قانون نافذ کرنے والے ادارے حرکت میں آئے ہیں تو لطیف یوسف زئی اس کا تسلی بخش جواب نہیں دے سکے۔ چیف جسٹس کا کہنا تھا کہ اسلام امن اور

رواداری کا مذہب ہے جبکہ انتہا پسند چاہتے ہیں کہ لوگ ان کی مرضی کا دین اپنائیں جو کہ کسی طور پر بھی قابل قبول نہیں ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ کیلاش اور اسماعیلی کیونٹی کو مذہب تبدیل نہ کرنے پر مرنے کے لیے تیار رہنے کی دھمکی دی گئی ہے جو آئین کی روح کے خلاف ہے۔ عدالت نے انٹارنی جزل سے کہا کہ وہ یہ معاملہ وفاقی حکومت کے نوٹس میں لے کر آئیں اور عدالت کو بتائیں کہ وفاقی حکومت نے ابھی تک اس ضمن میں کیا عملی اقدامات کیے ہیں۔ سپریم کورٹ نے صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا کے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سے بھی کہا کہ وہ صوبائی حکومت سے اس معاملے کی جامع رپورٹ لے کر آئیں۔ عدالت میں جمع کروائیں۔ خیال رہے کہ دو فروری کو طالبان کے میڈیا ونگ کی ویب سائٹ پر ایک ویڈیو شائع کی گئی تھی جس میں کیلاش قبیلے کے افراد کو زبردستی اسلام قبول کرنے کا کہا گیا تھا اور ایسا نہ کرنے کی صورت میں انھیں مارنے کی دھمکی دی گئی تھی۔

بہاول پور: چولستان کے صحرائیں آٹھویں جیپ ریلی آج پچپن ڈرائیو فائل راؤنڈ میں اپنی مہارت کا جادو جگا کر ریس اپنے نام کرنے کی جدوجہد میں لگے ہیں۔ پنجاب ٹورازم ڈیولپمنٹ کارپوریشن کے تحت صحرائے چولستان میں جیپ ریلی کے لئے آج فائل مقابلے ہو رہے ہیں۔ ریس میں مختلف شہروں سے آئے پچپن شوقین ڈرائیو شامل ہیں جنہیں دو سو کلو میٹر کا فاصلہ طے کرنا ہے۔ ریس میں جو ڈرائیو سب سے کم وقت میں ٹریک کو کراس کرے گا اس سے فاتح قرار دیا جائے گا۔ ریس کا آغاز قلعہ ڈیر اور کے مقام سے صبح آٹھ بجے شروع ہوا۔ آٹھ بج کر تیس منٹ پر پہلی نادر مگی اپنی جیپ کو لے کر روانہ ہوئے۔ ریس میں ڈرائیو کی چار کیٹیگری بنائی گئیں ہیں۔ اسے گروپ میں تین ہزار سے اوپر سی گاڑیاں، بی گروپ میں تین ہزار تک، سی گروپ میں پندرہ سو، ڈی گروپ میں ہزار سی گاڑیاں شامل ہیں۔

لاہور (اسے پی پی): لاہور آٹوشو کا چوتھا ایڈیشن 16 مارچ کو لبرٹی مارکیٹ میں منعقد ہو گا جس میں ایک ہزار سے زائد نایاب گاڑیوں کی نمائش کی جائے گی۔ منتظمین نے اس کو شہر کا سب سے بڑا ایونٹ بنانے کا عزم ظاہر کیا ہے۔ آٹوشو کا انعقاد پاک و ہیلز ڈاٹ کام نے پنجاب ٹورازم ڈیولپمنٹ کارپوریشن (ٹی ڈی سی پی) کے تعاون سے کیا ہے۔ کاروں کی اس بڑی تقریب کا مقصد لچسپ گاڑیوں کے ذریعے پاکستان میں آٹوموٹو صنعت کو فروغ دینا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ نوجوان شائقین سڑک اور لاپرواہ ڈرائیونگ کے خطرات سے مکمل آگاہی حاصل کریں گے۔ پاک و ہیلز ڈاٹ کام کے مارکیٹنگ منیجر رائے بلال ظفر نے کہا ہے کہ ان کا ادارہ پاکستان کے متعدد شہروں میں کامیاب آٹوشو کی نمائش کی ایک تاریخ رکھتی ہے جس نے زندگی کے مختلف شعبہ زندگی سے ہزاروں افراد کو اپنی طرف متوجہ کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس قسم کی عظیم الشان تقریب کے انعقاد پر ٹی ڈی سی پی کی ایک پارٹنر کی حیثیت سے تعاون پر ہم بڑے خوش ہیں۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ لاہور میں ہماری آخری شو کی کامیابی اور اس میں لوگوں کی زبردست دلچسپی نے ہمارے حوصلہ کو مزید بڑھایا ہے اور اب ہم نے لبرٹی میں بھی آٹوشو کا اہتمام کیا ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ لوگوں کے بیٹھنے، گاڑیوں کی پارکنگ، خوراک اور پانی وغیرہ کی سہولیات کی فراہمی کے لئے وسیع انتظام کر دیا گیا ہے تاکہ شرکاء ایونٹ سے پوری طرح لطف اندوز ہو سکیں۔

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر): وزیر ایکسٹرنل ریلیشنز، خزانہ پنجاب مجتبیٰ شجاع الرحمن نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب محمد شہباز شریف کی قیادت میں ٹورازم کے فروغ کے لیے ہر ممکن اقدامات کئے جارہے ہیں اور متعلقہ اداروں کے حکام کو جدید تربیت کی فراہمی کی جائے گی جس کے لئے بین الاقوامی شہرت کے حامل اداروں سے معاہدے کئے جارہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نوجوانوں کو اندرون و بیرون ملک پروموشنل تربیت کے مواقع مہیا کئے جارہے ہیں تاکہ وہ اپنی صلاحیتوں کو پوری طرح بروئے کار لاسکیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے ٹورازم ڈیولپمنٹ کارپوریشن کے ڈپٹی ایڈمنسٹریٹو آف ٹورازم و ہوٹل مینجمنٹ اور نادر درن میلبرن انسٹیٹیوٹ آف ٹی (ایم ایم آئی ٹی) کے درمیان مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔

بہاولپور (مماسندہ خصوصی): ٹورازم ڈیولپمنٹ کارپوریشن پاکستان چولستان ترقیاتی ادارہ اور بہاولپور کی ضلعی انتظامیہ کے دعوؤں کے باوجود نوویں انٹرنیشنل چولستان جیپ ریلی کی تیاریاں مکمل نہ کی جاسکیں۔ قلعہ ڈراور کو جانویالی واحد سڑک تعمیر کے مراحل میں چولستانیوں نے اس جیپ ریلی کو یکسر مسترد کر دیا۔ تفصیل کے مطابق بہاولپور سے 80 کلو میٹر دور چولستان کے وسط میں قلعہ ڈراور کے مقام پر ہر سال منعقد کی جانویالی ٹی ڈی سی پی چولستان جیپ ریلی شروع ہونے میں چند روز باقی رہ گئے ہیں۔ 14، 15، 16 فروری کو ہونیوالی جیپ ریلی کی تیاریوں کے لئے ٹی ڈی سی پی ضلعی انتظامیہ اور چولستان ترقیاتی ادارہ کی جانب سے کئے گئے تمام دعوئے صرف دعوئے رہ گئے ڈیر انواب سے قلعہ ڈراور جانے والی واحد سڑک تعمیر کے مراحل میں ہے ذرائع کے مطابق ریلی کے انعقاد تک سڑک کے مکمل ہونے کے کوئی امکانات نظر نہیں آتے جس کے باعث میگا ایونٹ کو دیکھنے کے لئے ملک بھر سے آئیوالے لوگوں کو شدید مشکلات کا سامنا کرنا پڑے گا اس کے علاوہ جیپ ریس کے لئے بنایا جانویالا ٹریک بھی تاحال نامکمل ہے جس کے لئے ہنگامی بنیادوں پر کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ دوسری جانب مقامی چولستانیوں نے اس رنگارنگ پروگرام کو یکسر مسترد کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ریس کے انعقاد سے چولستانیوں کو فائدہ کی بجائے نقصانات اٹھانے پڑتے ہیں انکا کہنا تھا کہ قلعہ ڈراور کے قرب وجوار میں رہنے والے چولستانی بچے جیپ ریلی کو دیکھنے کے لئے آنوالے مندوبین کی غفلت کی وجہ سے حادثات کا شکار ہو جاتے ہیں اور قلعہ ڈراور کو قریب لگنے والے رہائشی کمپوں کی وجہ سے پھیلنے والے کچرے کی صفائی نہیں کی جاتی جس کو جانور کہا کر بیمار ہو جاتے ہیں گزشتہ سال بھی اس کچرے کو کھا کر 8 گائیں ہلاک ہو گئی تھیں چولستانیوں کا کہنا تھا کہ ہر سال حکومت کو اس جیپ ریلی کے انعقاد پر کروڑوں کی آمدن ہوتی ہے مگر چولستانیوں کی فلاح بہبود پر حکومت کو خرچ کرنے کی توفیق نصیب نہیں ہوتی۔

چولستان کے صحرائیں خیمہ بستی قائم، آٹھویں

جیپ ریلی کا آغاز

سائیز

17 فروری 2014

لاہور آٹوشو کا چوتھا ایڈیشن 16 مارچ کو ہو گا

روزنامہ پاکستان

14 فروری 2014

حکومت ٹورازم کے فروغ کے لئے ہر ممکن

اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے: مجتبیٰ شجاع

نوائے وقت

14 فروری 2014

ضلعی انتظامیہ کے دعوؤں کے باوجود نوویں انٹر

نیشنل چولستان جیپ ریلی کی تیاریاں مکمل نہ کی

جاسکیں

bwpupdates.com

14 فروری 2014

گجرات (بی بی آئی) یونیورسٹی آف گجرات کے انسٹیٹیوٹ آف ہوٹل اینڈ ریسٹورانٹ مینجمنٹ میں ایسوسی ایٹ ڈگری پروگرام کے لیے داخلے شروع ہو گئے۔ ڈائریکٹر پروگرام یاسر علی کے مطابق جامعہ گجرات کے ہوٹل اینڈ مینجمنٹ میں بہار سمسٹر 2014 کے لیے IHRM گئے۔ یونیورسٹی آف گجرات کے داخلے شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔ محدود نشستوں پر خواہشمند امیدواروں سے درخواستیں مطلوب ہیں۔ پاکستان میں پہلی دفعہ ٹورازم کے حوالے سے ڈگری پروگرام بھی شروع کیا گیا ہے۔ داخلہ کے لیے درخواستیں جمع کروانے کی آخری تاریخ 23 فروری ہے۔

ٹورازم کے حوالے سے ڈگری پروگرام

جیونیوز

14 فروری 2014

چولستان جیپ ریلی کے لیے 100 ڈرائیورز کی رجسٹریشن، خاتون بھی شام

نوائے وقت

10 فروری 2014

لاہور (سپورٹس رپورٹر) پنجاب یوتھ فیسٹیول کی طرح چولستان جیپ ریلی بھی دنیا میں پاکستان کا سو فٹ امیج بہتر بنانے میں معاون ثابت ہوگی جس کی تمام تیاریاں مکمل کر لی گئی ہیں۔ چولستان جیپ ریلی 14 سے 16 فروری تک منعقد ہوگی، ریلی میں حصہ لینے کے لیے 100 ڈرائیورز نے رجسٹریشن کرا دی ہے جس میں ایک خاتون ڈرائیور بھی شامل ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار صوبائی وزیر کھیل و سیاحت رانا مشہود احمد خان نے صوبائی ٹورازم کے دفتر میں پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اس موقع پر ایم ڈی ٹورازم حبیب الرحمان گیلانی بھی موجود تھے۔ رانا مشہود احمد کا کہنا تھا کہ سپورٹس کی طرح سیاحت بھی انڈسٹری کا روپ دھار چکی ہے جو پاکستان کی ترقی میں اپنا کردار ادا کر رہی ہے۔ پاکستان کو آگے لے جانے کے لیے گراس روٹ لیول پر کام کیا جا رہا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کے ویژن کے تحت نوجوانوں کو کھیلوں کے زیادہ سے زیادہ مواقع فراہم کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ چولستان میں منعقد ہونے والی جیپ ریلی کو دیکھنے کے لیے ایک لاکھ افراد وہاں موجود ہونگے اس دوران وہاں پر کلچرل پروگرام کا بھی انعقاد کیا جائے گا جو وہاں کی ثقافت کی عکاسی کریگے۔ سعودی پرنس نے بھی اپنے دورہ پاکستان میں مری، اسلام آباد، راولپنڈی اور لاہور کا دورہ کیا، انہوں نے پاکستان ٹورازم کے ماحول کو بہت زیادہ سراہا۔ چولستان جیپ ریلی کے لیے 100 سے زائد ڈرائیورز نے رجسٹریشن کرائی ہے اور پہلا موقع پر ہے کہ کوئی خاتون ڈرائیور بھی ریس میں شریک ہو رہی ہے ہماری کوشش ہوگی کہ اگلے سال ریلی میں خواتین ڈرائیورز کی تعداد میں اضافہ ہو۔ رانا مشہود احمد کا کہنا تھا کہ چولستان جیپ ریلی بین الاقوامی ڈیکار ریلی کا روپ دھار چکی ہے۔ ہماری پوری کوشش ہوگی کہ چولستان جیپ ریلی میں بین الاقوامی ڈرائیورز بھی شریک ہوں۔ ریلی کے لیے 25 لاکھ روپے کی انعامی رقم مختص کی گئی ہے جبکہ فاتح ڈرائیور کو دو لاکھ روپے نقد انعام دیا جائے گا۔ پنجاب حکومت کے زیر اہتمام منعقد ہونے والے یوتھ فیسٹیول میں 40 سے زائد انٹرنیشنل ٹیمیں حصہ لے رہی ہیں جس سے پاکستان کا سو فٹ امیج دنیا میں متعارف ہو گا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ بعض ناگزیر وجوہات کی بنا پر اس سال چھانگا گاؤں بسنت کے ایونٹ کا انعقاد نہیں ہونے جارہا ہے تاہم ہم قانون سازی کر رہے ہیں کہ اگلے سال بسنت کے ایونٹ کو لاہور میں ہی کرایا جائے گا۔ آخر میں ایم ڈی ٹورازم حبیب الرحمان گیلانی نے ریلی کے سپانسر کا شکریہ ادا کیا کہ انہوں نے ایک بڑے ایونٹ کے لیے اپنا تعاون کیا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ریلی کے موقع پر اونٹ ڈانس، لوکل فوک ڈانس سمیت علاقائی ثقافت کو متعارف کرنے کے لیے سائز لگائے جائیں گے۔

پاکستان کے صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا کے مرکزی شہر پشاور کے بارے میں یہ عام تاثر ہے کہ جو اس شہر کی سیر کے لیے آئے اور یہاں کا تاریخی قصہ خوانی بازار نہ دیکھے اور وہاں کے روایتی قبوے یعنی سبز چائے کا مزار نہ لے تو یہ بالکل ایسا ہے جیسے اس نے کچھ نہیں دیکھا۔ پشاور گذشتہ تین دہائیوں سے زائد عرصے سے دہشت گردی اور شدت پسندی کا شکار رہا ہے اور اس سے کوئی بھی شعبہ ہائے زندگی متاثر ہونے لگا ہے۔ پشاور کے تاریخی قبوہ خانے یا چائے کی دوکانیں بھی شامل ہیں جنہیں بلاشبہ شہر کی ثقافت کا درجہ حاصل ہے۔ ان میں قصہ خوانی بازار کے قبوہ خانوں کو خصوصی اہمیت حاصل ہے جن کے بارے میں یہاں تک کہا جاتا ہے کہ اس بازار کا نام بھی ان ہی چائے بیچنے والے دکانوں کی وجہ سے قصہ خوانی پڑا۔ کہا جاتا ہے کہ زمانہ قدیم میں پشاور تجارت پیشہ افراد کا مسکن ہوا کرتا تھا اور دور دراز علاقوں سے تاجر یہاں آکر شام کے وقت قبوہ خانوں میں بیٹھ کر ایک دوسرے کو قصہ کہانیاں سنایا کرتے تھے جس کی وجہ سے بعد میں یہ بازار 'قصہ خوانی' ہی کے نام سے موسوم ہوا۔ دوام پہلے قصہ خوانی بازار میں ہونے والے ہم دھماکے میں پشاور شہر کا ایک تاریخی قبوہ خانہ بھی نشانہ بننا تھا جسے اب بحالی کے بعد دوبارہ کھول دیا گیا ہے۔ اس دھماکے میں چالیس سے زیادہ افراد ہلاک ہوئے تھے۔ تقریباً چالیس سال پرانا اس علاقے کا یہ واحد قبوہ خانہ خان رازق پولیس سٹیشن کے قریب واقع ایک بالا خانے میں قائم کیا گیا ہے جس کی بالائی منزل پر ایک مسافر خانہ بھی بنایا گیا ہے جہاں دور دراز سے آنے والے غریب مسافر رات کے وقت قیام کرتے ہیں۔ قبوہ خانے کے مالک زر جان کا کہنا ہے کہ ان کا خاندان پچھلی چھ دہائیوں سے اس کاروبار سے وابستہ ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ قصہ خوانی ہم دھماکے میں ان کے قبوہ خانے کا ایک حصہ مکمل طور پر تباہ ہو گیا تھا جبکہ ان سمیت چار ملازمین بھی زخمی ہوئے تھے۔ مجھے حکومت کی طرف سے اب تک ایک پانی بھی نہیں ملی ہے۔ میں نے خود اپنی مدد آپ کے تحت قرض لے کر اس قبوہ خانے کو دوبارہ بحال کیا ہے۔ زر جان کے بقول پہلے کاروبار اچھا تھا۔ روزانہ دس سے بارہ ہزار روپے کی بکری ہوتی تھی لیکن دھماکے کے بعد سے اب ہم مسلسل نقصان میں جا رہے ہیں۔ دکان کا کرایہ بھی خود اپنی جیب سے ادا کرنا پڑ رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پشاور میں جب حالات اچھے تھے تو ان کے قبوہ خانے پر غیر ملکی بالخصوص انگریز بڑی تعداد میں آیا کرتے تھے۔ قصہ خوانی بازار میں پہلے کئی قبوہ خانے قائم تھے لیکن تیزی سے بدلتے ہوئے حالات کے باعث یہ کاروبار اب ختم ہو تا جا رہا ہے۔ قصہ خوانی بازار کے ایک باشندے ممتاز عسکری کا کہنا ہے کہ پہلے شہر میں قبوہ خانوں کی تعداد زیادہ تھی لیکن اب ان کی جگہ دو خانوں نے لے لی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ اس شہر کی روایت ہے کہ شام کے وقت لوگ گھروں سے باہر نکل کر قبوہ خانوں میں بیٹھا کرتے تھے اور وہاں گپ شپ اور ملکی حالات پر گفتگو کیا کرتے تھے لیکن اب حالات بڑے حد تک تبدیل ہو گئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے شکوہ کیا کہ قبوہ خانے اس شہر کا قومی ورثہ ہیں لیکن حکومت کی طرف سے اسے محفوظ بنانے کے لیے کوئی اقدامات نہیں کیے جا رہے۔

پشاور: قبوہ خانوں کی ثقافت خطرے میں

بی بی سی اردو

10 فروری 2014

مری: برف باری کے بعد پہاڑی علاقوں کو شدید سردی نے گرفت میں لے رکھا ہے۔ نیچے جاتے پارے نے قلعہ توجمادی۔ لیکن سیاحوں کو بھی اپنی طرف کھینچ لیا۔ مری میں سفید گالے گرے تو سیاحوں نے مال روڈ کا رخ کیا۔ ایبٹ آباد میں ٹھنڈی گولہ باری ہو رہی ہے۔ مری ایبٹ آباد سڑک پر فباری سے بلاک ہو گئی۔ برف باری نے سوات کے حسن کو چار چاند لگا دیئے۔ مالم جبہ کلام اور دیگر علاقوں میں مزید برف باری کا امکان ہے۔ قلات میں موسم کی پہلی برف باری سے سردی میں اضافہ ہو گیا۔ چمن کا بھی یہی حال ہے۔ ماحقہ علاقے بھی برف سے ڈھکے ہیں۔ پاراچنار میں برف باری کے بعد سردی کی شدت میں اضافہ ہو گیا ہے۔ ہلگت اور ہنزہ میں بھی برف باری سے سردی کی شدت بڑھ گئی ہے۔ شہری آگ پر ہاتھ تاپ کر سردی بھگتے رہے۔ ڈیرہ غازی خان کا سیاحتی مقام فورٹ منرو بھی برف باری کے بعد اور حسین ہو گیا۔ یہاں بھی سیاح کھینچ چلے آ رہے ہیں۔

سعودی عرب کے وزیر سیاحت شہزادہ سلطان بن سلمان سے باتیں کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک سیاحت کے شعبے میں تجربات کا تبادلہ کر سکتے ہیں وزیر اعظم محمد نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں سیاحوں کیلئے وسیع مواقع ہیں۔ مری میں سعودی عرب کے وزیر سیاحت شہزادہ سلطان بن سلمان سے باتیں کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک سیاحت کے شعبے میں ایک دوسرے کے تجربات سے استفادہ کر سکتے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا پاکستان اور سعودی عرب نے مشکل کی گھڑی میں ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کی مدد کی ہے اور پاکستان سعودی عرب کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتا ہے۔

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) صدر مملکت ممنون حسین نے سعودی سرمایہ کاروں کو پاکستان میں انفراسٹرکچر توانائی سیاحت و ثقافت سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں دستیاب مواقع سے بھرپور استفادہ کرتے ہوئے سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی حکومت دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے باہمی مفاد میں سٹریٹجک شراکت داری اور تمام شعبوں میں دوطرفہ تعاون کو مزید تقویت دینے کی خواہاں ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ بات سعودی کمیشن برائے سیاحت و نوادرات کے چیئرمین شہزادہ سلطان بن سلمان بن عبد العزیز السعود سے جمعہ کو ایوان صدر میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ ملاقات کے دوران پاک سعودی دوطرفہ تعلقات، دوطرفہ سیاحتی اور ثقافتی تعاون کے فروغ کے طریقوں اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال ہوا۔ باہمی تعلقات پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے صدر مملکت نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور سعودی عرب کے درمیان مشترک عقیدے، روایات اور باہمی دلچسپی کے تمام امور پر خیالات میں ہم آہنگی اور باہمی اعتماد پر مبنی قریبی اور خوشگوار تعلقات استوار ہیں۔ انہوں نے انفراسٹرکچر، توانائی، سیاحت و ثقافت، آبیاری اور دھار کی سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں دونوں اطراف کی جانب سے دوطرفہ تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کے بھرپور مواقع تلاش کرنے کے لئے مربوط اقدامات کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ صدر نے سعودی سرمایہ کاروں کو ان شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری اور موجودہ حکومت کی طرف سے ملک میں سرمایہ کاری کے لئے پیش کردہ آزادانہ مراعات کیلئے سے استفادے کی دعوت دی۔ صدر نے پاکستان میں بھرپور قدرتی سیاحتی مواقع کو اجاگر کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کے سیاحتی شعبہ جات و عجائب گھر اور ان سعودی کمیشن برائے سیاحت کے درمیان وسیع تر تعاون پر زور دیا۔ انہوں نے آبیاری فون اور دھار کی، سیاحت اور عوامی سطح پر روابط کے فروغ پر بھی زور دیا۔ صدر مملکت ممنون حسین نے ضرورت اور آزمائش کی ہر گھڑی میں پاکستان کی حکومت اور عوام کو فرائد لانے میں معاونت کرنے پر شاہ عبداللہ بن عبدالعزیز اور سعودی حکومت کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے عوام خادم الحرمین الشریفین شاہ عبداللہ بن عبدالعزیز کا بے حد احترام کرتے ہیں۔ سعودی عرب میں تقریباً 15 لاکھ پاکستانی برادری کی موجودگی کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے صدر نے کہا کہ پاکستانی برادری دونوں ممالک کے درمیان پل کا کام کرتی ہے، امید ہے کہ دونوں برادر ممالک کے باہمی مفاد میں اس پل کو وسعت اور تقویت دی جاتی رہے گی۔ صدر نے پاکستان میں تعلیمی شعبے سلطنت فاضل نیشن کے کردار کو بھی سراہا۔ صدر مملکت نے اس موقع پر خادم الحرمین الشریفین شاہ عبداللہ بن عبدالعزیز کی صحت و درازی عمر اور سعودی عرب کے عوام کی ترقی و خوشحالی کے لئے اپنی جانب سے اور پاکستان کے عوام کی جانب سے نیک خواہشات کا بھی اظہار کیا۔ ملاقات کے دوران شہزادہ سلطان بن سلمان بن عبدالعزیز السعود کے ہمراہ ان کا بیٹا عبداللہ الشیخ اور پاکستان میں سعودی سفیر عبدالعزیز بن ابراہیم بن صالح الغدیر بھی موجود تھے۔

سندھ کی ثقافت کے تحفظ کے حوالے سے سابق وزیر اعظم پاکستان بے نظیر بھٹو کے صاحبزادے بلاول بھٹو زرداری کی جانب سے شروع کی جانے والی مہم پر پاکستان کے متعدد ماہرین آثار قدیمہ نے شدید تنقید کی ہے۔ بلاول بھٹو زرداری چاہتے ہیں کہ کئی ہزار سال پرانے موہن جوڈارو میں ثقافتی میلے کا انعقاد کریں، تاہم ماہرین کے مطابق اس سے اس قدر بڑی ثقافتی ورثے کو شدید نقصان پہنچے گا خدشہ ہے۔ خبر رساں ادارے ایسوسی ایٹڈ پریس نے پاکستان کے چیدہ ماہرین آثار قدیمہ کے حوالے سے کہا ہے کہ آج بھٹو کے روز موہن جوڈارو میں منعقد کیے جانے والے اس میلے سے اس تاریخی جگہ کو خطرات لاحق ہیں۔ موہن جوڈارو کوئی ہزار برس قبل دریائے سندھ کے کنارے آباد ایک بہت بڑی تہذیب تھی، جو مٹ گئی، مگر اپنے پیچھے تاریخی نقوش چھوڑ گئی۔ اقوام متحدہ کے ادارے یونیسکو کی جانب سے عالمی تاریخی ورثہ کہلائے جانے والے موہن جوڈارو کو سندھ کی شاندار تاریخی پہچان کے طور پر دیکھا جاتا ہے۔ پیپلز پارٹی کے سربراہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری چاہتے ہیں کہ سندھ کی ثقافت کے تحفظ کے لیے عوامی آگاہی پیدا ہو۔ تاہم ماہرین آثار قدیمہ کا کہنا ہے کہ موہن جوڈارو میں اس طرح کے میلے کے انعقاد کے لیے عوام کا جم غفیر جمع کرنے اور وہاں اسٹیج تعمیر کیے جانے سے اس ثقافتی ورثے کو نقصان پہنچ سکتا ہے۔ موہن جوڈارو پہلے ہی سیم کی وجہ سے نقصانات کا شکار ہے۔ حکومت سندھ کے مینیجمنٹ بورڈ پرانے 4 سٹیکس اینڈ فیکل ہیریٹیج کی رکن اور معروف ماہر آثار قدیمہ عاصہ ابراہیم کے مطابق، یہ پاگل پن کے علاوہ اور کچھ نہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس سلسلے میں ان کے ادارے نے صوبائی حکومت کو ایک مراسلہ تحریر کیا ہے، جس میں فیصلوں کی بابت توجہ دلانے کے ساتھ ساتھ تشویش سے آگاہ کیا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اسٹیج، آواز اور روشنی اس

پاکستان کے بالائی علاقوں میں برف باری، شدید سردی کے باوجود سیاحوں کی آمد

سائیز

09 فروری 2014

پاکستان میں سیاحوں کیلئے وسیع مواقع

ہیں وزیر اعظم

ریڈیو پاکستان

08 فروری 2014

سعودی سرمایہ کار پاکستان میں انفراسٹرکچر، توانائی، سیاحت و ثقافت سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کریں حکومت سعودی عرب کے ساتھ سٹریٹجک شراکت داری اور تمام شعبوں میں دوطرفہ تعاون کو مزید تقویت دینے کی خواہاں ہے صدر مملکت ممنون حسین کی شہزادہ سلطان بن سلمان بن عبد العزیز السعود سے گفتگو

اے پی پی

07 فروری 2014

سندھ کی ثقافت بچانے کا میلہ، بلاول بھٹو زرداری

تنقید کی زد میں

جی ٹی وی

07 فروری 2014

تاریخی ورثے کی دیواروں کو نقصان پہنچا سکتے ہیں۔

لاہور (سپورٹس رپورٹر) صوبائی وزیر کھیل رانا مشہود احمد خان نے کہا ہے کہ پنجاب یوتھ فیئٹیل میں گینز ریکارڈ بنانے کا سلسلہ آج شروع ہو گا۔ تین روز میں مجموعی طور پر 29 ریکارڈ قائم کرنے کی کوشش کی جائے گی۔ آج 15 انفرادی گینز ریکارڈ قائم کرنے کیلئے پاکستانی نوجوان میدان میں اترینگے۔ ریکارڈ بنانے کا سلسلہ صبح گیارہ بجے شروع ہو گا جو رات آٹھ بجے تک جاری رہے گا۔ پہلا ریکارڈ ایک ہاتھ پر ایک منٹ میں 40 پائونڈ وزن کے ساتھ پیش اپس لگانے کا ہے جسے کیپٹن ارباب توڑنے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ یہ ریکارڈ 31 پیش اپس کا برطانیہ کے پاس ہے۔ دوسرا ریکارڈ کیلوں کے بستر پر پانچ افراد کے سینڈ ویج کی صورت میں لیٹنے کا ہو گا جسے مجتبیٰ، معراج، حسن، نعمان اور ارسلان توڑنے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ یہ ریکارڈ بھارت کا ہے۔ تیسرے ریکارڈ میں ایم راشد سر سے ایک منٹ میں 144 خروٹ توڑنے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ یہ ریکارڈ بھارت کا ہے۔ چوتھے ریکارڈ میں فرحان ایوب بیک ڈانس کے سٹائل میں ایک منٹ میں زیادہ کپ اپس لگانے کا مظاہرہ کریں گے یہ ریکارڈ 22 کپ اپس کیساتھ برطانیہ کا ہے۔ پانچویں ریکارڈ میں کیپٹن ارباب اٹلے ہاتھوں ایک منٹ میں زیادہ پیش اپس لگانے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ یہ ریکارڈ قطر کا ہے۔ چھٹے ریکارڈ میں 40 پائونڈ وزن کے ساتھ ندیم عباس اٹلے ہاتھوں پر ایک منٹ میں امریکہ کا زیادہ پیش اپس کا ریکارڈ توڑنے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ ساتویں ریکارڈ میں مجتبیٰ حسن نن چاقو کے ساتھ ایک منٹ میں 49 خروٹ توڑنے کا چیلن ہے۔ آٹھویں ریکارڈ میں علی حیدر برطانیہ کا ایک منٹ میں اٹلے ہاتھوں پر 60 پائونڈ وزن کے ساتھ پیش اپس لگانے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ نوں ریکارڈ میں ظفر اقبال ایک منٹ میں 40 پائونڈ وزن کے ساتھ پیش اپس لگا کر لبنان کا ریکارڈ توڑنے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ دسویں ریکارڈ میں کیپٹن ارباب 24 گھنٹوں میں زیادہ پیش اپس کا امریکی ریکارڈ توڑنے کیلئے میدان میں اتریں گے۔ گیارہویں ریکارڈ میں محمد اشرف 24 گھنٹوں میں زیادہ پیش اپس کا امریکی ریکارڈ توڑنے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ بارہواں ریکارڈ ایک گھنٹے میں زیادہ پیش اپس لگانے کا بھارتی ریکارڈ توڑنے کیلئے شاہد عباس میدان میں اتریں گے۔ تیرہواں ریکارڈ ایک گھنٹے میں اٹلے ہاتھوں پر زیادہ پیش اپس لگانے کا ہو گا جسے سجاد حسین توڑنے کی کوشش کریں گے یہ ریکارڈ برطانیہ کے پاس ہے۔ چودھویں ریکارڈ میں ظفر اقبال بارہ گھنٹوں میں زیادہ پیش اپس لگا کر برطانیہ کا ریکارڈ جبکہ پندرہویں ریکارڈ میں کاشف علی بارہ گھنٹوں میں زیادہ پیش اپس لگا کر برطانوی ریکارڈ توڑنے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ یکم مارچ کو انڈیا پاک گیمز کی افتتاحی تقریب میں 60 ہزار افراد ایک وقت قومی پرچم لہرانے کا ریکارڈ قائم کریں گے۔

پنجاب یوتھ فیئٹیل: آج 15 ورلڈ ریکارڈ بنانے کی

کوشش کی جائیگی

نوائے وقت

07 فروری 2014

سندھ فیئٹیل کے بعد مونجھو ڈرو 'خطرے' سے

دوچار

ڈان اخبار

07 فروری 2014

اسلام آباد: اگرچہ سندھ میں منعقد ہونے والے حالیہ سندھ کلچرل فیئٹیل کے منتظمین کی کوششوں سے اس کو بین الاقوامی توجہ حاصل تو ہو گئی تھی، لیکن یکم فروری سے عالمی تہذیبی ورثے کے کھنڈرات پر منعقد ہونے والے اس ثقافتی میلے پر ملک میں اور بیرون ملک تشریف لائے گا بھی اظہار کیا گیا تھا، سب سے پہلے اس حوالے سے اقوام متحدہ کی تعلیم، سائنس اور ثقافت سے متعلق تنظیم یونیسکو نے اپنی تشریف لائے گا اظہار کیا تھا۔ ڈان کو حاصل ہونے والی ایک دستاویز سے ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ دودن قبل یونیسکو نے پاکستان کے محکمہ آثارِ قدیمہ اور عجائب گھر سے اعتراض کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پانچ ہزار سال قدیم مونجھو ڈرو جسے 1980ء میں عالمی تہذیبی ورثہ قرار دیا گیا تھا، کے مقام پر کس طرح اس فیئٹیل کی افتتاحی تقریب منعقد کی جاسکتی ہے، اس کی تقریب کی وجہ سے کسی طرح کا کوئی نقصان پہنچنے کا اندیشہ تھا۔ یونیسکو کے پاکستان میں نمائندے غالب اقبال نے پیرس میں اس کے ہیڈ کوارٹر کو لکھا یہ درخواست کی جاتی ہے کہ اس حوالے سے بریفنگ دی جائے تاکہ ایک مناسب جواب ارسال کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ اسی لیے اس تنظیم نے اس مسئلے پر بات کی تھی۔ یونیسکو کے لیے پاکستان میں عالمی تہذیبی آثار کے چھ مقامات سے متعلق وفاقی حکومت جو ابده ہے، اختیارات کی منتقلی کے بعد اب جسے صوبے کنٹرول کر رہے ہیں۔ محکمہ آثارِ قدیمہ اور عجائب گھر کے ایک اہلکار جو محسوس کرتے ہیں کہ سندھ کلچرل فیئٹیل کے منتظمین نے انٹیکس ایکٹ 1975ء کی خلاف ورزی کی تھی، کہتے ہیں کہ ”ہم نے سندھ کے محکمہ انٹیکس اور سیاحت کو یونیسکو کی انکوائری فیدبیک کے لیے ارسال کر دی ہے۔ وہاں ایک اسٹیج بنایا گیا تھا اور لائسنس کی تنصیب کی گئی تھی، اس کی وجہ سے کچھ نقصان ہو سکتا ہے، اس میں تقریباً پانچ سو مہمانوں اور ان کی سیکورٹی کے لیے اتنی ہی تعداد میں پولیس اہلکاروں کی اس کمزور آہٹ پر تعیناتی کا ذکر نہیں ہے۔ قانونی طور پر اس آثارِ قدیمہ کی مقام سے دس سو فٹ کے اندر اندر کسی قسم کی سرگرمی کی اجازت نہیں ہے۔ تاہم سندھ کے آثارِ قدیمہ کے ڈائریکٹر قاسم علی قاسم نے کہا کہ تقریب سے پہنچنے والے کسی نقصان کے بارے میں یونیسکو کی جانب سے ارسال کیے گئے انکوائری پر مبنی کسی خط سے وہ لاعلم ہیں۔ انہوں نے ڈان کو بتایا کہ ”میں نے ایسا کوئی خط نہیں دیکھا۔ اگرچہ انٹیکس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ایک اجلاس میں اور قومی فنڈ برائے مونجھو ڈرو کے کچھ نمائندوں نے حال ہی میں یہ نتیجہ اخذ کیا تھا کہ اس تقریب سے مونجھو ڈرو کے مقام کو کوئی نقصان نہیں پہنچا تھا، لیکن محکمہ آثارِ قدیمہ اور عجائب گھر کو سندھ کے انٹیکس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی طرف سے کسی قسم کا کوئی جواب موصول نہیں ہوا ہے۔ دوسری جانب ڈاکٹر نیلو فرشیج قومی فنڈ برائے مونجھو ڈرو کی ٹیکنیکی مشاورتی کمیٹی کی چیئر پرسن کے عہدے سے بطور احتجاج استعفیٰ دے چکی ہیں۔ وہ تبصرے کے لیے دستیاب نہیں تھیں، لیکن ان کا استعفیٰ ایکس فروری کو قبول کر لیا گیا تھا۔ قومی فنڈ برائے مونجھو ڈرو کی ٹیکنیکی مشاورتی کمیٹی کی ایک رکن ڈاکٹر عاصمہ ابراہیم بھی ہیں کہ انہوں نے اس اجلاس کو چھوڑ دیا تھا جس میں سندھ کے آثارِ قدیمہ کے ڈائریکٹر قاسم علی قاسم نے یہ نتیجہ اخذ کیا تھا کہ یہ فیئٹیل عالمی تہذیبی ورثے کی سائٹ کے لیے نقصان دہ نہیں ہے۔ ڈاکٹر عاصمہ ابراہیم نے مونجھو ڈرو کے آثار پر افتتاحی تقریب کے انعقاد کی مخالفت کی تھی اور سندھ کے محکمہ ثقافت، سیاحت اور انٹیکس پر زور دیا تھا کہ وہ اس کے بجائے مونجھو ڈرو میوزیم میں اس تقریب کا انعقاد کرے۔ تحفظ کی کوششوں کا جائزہ لینے کے لیے یونیسکو کے ایک مشن کی جلد ہی پاکستان آمد متوقع ہے، محکمہ آثارِ قدیمہ اور عجائب گھر کے ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ اس بات کا خطرہ ہے کہ مونجھو ڈرو کی حیثیت کو بطور انتخابہ ایک عالمی تہذیبی ورثے سے ایک خطرے سے دوچار مقام میں تبدیل نہ کر دیا جائے۔ ذرائع نے کہا کہ اگر یونیسکو نے ایک مرتبہ یہ فیصلہ کر لیا تو یہ

اس مقام کے تحفظ اور دیکھ بھال کے لیے فنڈ کا اجراء بھی روکا جاسکتا ہے۔ پاکستان کو اسی طرح کی ناراضگی کا ذائقہ اس وقت چکھنا پڑا تھا، جب یونیسکو نے لاہور کے تاریخی شمالی بازار کو خطرے سے دوچار مقام کی فہرست میں اس وقت شامل کر لیا تھا، جب ایک لنک ورڈ کی تعمیر سے اس کے صدیوں پرانے بائیروولک سسٹم کو نقصان پہنچا تھا، اس سسٹم کے ذریعے باغ کے خوبصورت فواروں کو پانی فراہم کیا جاتا تھا۔ محکمہ آثار قدیمہ اور عجائب گھر کے ایک ماہر آثار قدیمہ نے یاد دلاتے ہوئے کہا اس کے بعد سے یہ فوارے خشک ہو چکے ہیں۔ انتہائی تحفظ کی کوششوں میں آٹھ سال کا عرصہ لگ گیا اور پھر یونیسکو کو قائل کیا جا سکا کہ ان اقدامات کے تحت عالمی ثقافتی ورثے کو مزید کسی نقصان سے محفوظ بنایا گیا ہے۔ اس کے بعد 2010ء میں یونیسکو نے خبردار کرتے ہوئے مکی کے قبرستان کو ایک خطرے سے دوچار مقام قرار دیا تھا، جب ایک بڑے سیلاب سے بے گھر ہونے والے کاشتکاروں نے اس عالمی ثقافتی ورثے کے وسیع میدان میں پناہ لے لی تھی۔ صوبے کے چیف آرکیالوجسٹ قاسم علی قاسم نے کہا ہمیں یونیسکو کو اس بات کا یقین دلانے میں دو سال کا عرصہ لگ گیا کہ مکی کو کوئی نقصان نہیں پہنچا تھا، اور اس مقام کو آئندہ نسلوں کے لیے محفوظ کیا جائے گا۔

لاہور (اردو پوائنٹ تازہ ترین اخبار- 3 فروری 2014ء) سینئر اداکارہ عذرا آفتاب نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں بسنے والے لوگ اپنی ثقافت سے بے حد پیار کرتے ہیں، اگر ہم نے دوسرے ممالک کی یلغار کو روکنا ہے تو اپنی ثقافت پر کاربند رہنا ہو گا۔ ایک انٹرویو میں سینئر اداکارہ نے کہا کہ پاکستانی ایک قوم ہیں انکے جذبے اور حب الوطنی کی پوری دنیا میں مثالی دی جاتی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ موجودہ حالات میں ملک جن مشکلات کا شکار ہے ان سے نمٹنے کے لئے مزید متحد ہو کر آگے بڑھنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جو قومیں اپنی ثقافت کو بھلا دیتی ہیں دنیا میں ان کا نام و نشان مٹ جاتا ہے ہمیں اس کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے اپنی ثقافت پر ہر صورت کاربند رہنا ہو گا۔ اگر ہم اس میں کامیاب رہیں گے تو کوئی بھی ملک ہمیں شکست نہیں دے سکتا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ بھی ضروری ہے کہ ہم اپنی ثقافت کو بھلائے بغیر جدت بھی اپنائیں تاکہ دنیا کے ساتھ قدم سے قدم ملا کر چل سکیں۔

سندھ فیئٹول کی افتتاحی تقریب مونٹ جوڈو میں ہوئی، جس میں صوبے کی ثقافت کو خوبصورتی سے اجاگر کیا گیا۔ آثار قدیمہ رنگ برنگی روشنیوں سے جگمگا اٹھے۔ راحت فتح علی خان کی خوبصورت آواز اور لوک فنکاروں کے صوفیانہ کلام پر حاضرین جھوم اٹھے۔ سندھ کے ثقافتی ورثے کی علامت مونٹ جوڈو میں سندھ فیئٹول کی تقریبات کا باقاعدہ آغاز پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئرمین بلاول بھٹو نے کیا۔ افتتاحی تقریب کے موقع پر پانچ ہزار سال پرانی تہذیب مونٹ جوڈو کو بڑی خوبصورتی سے سجایا گیا۔ تقریب میں آصف، بختاور بھٹو زرداری، سابق وزیراعظم یوسف رضا گیلانی، راجا پرویز اشرف، وزیراعلیٰ سندھ، پیپلز پارٹی کے رہنما اور ملکی اور غیر ملکی اہم شخصیات بھی شریک تھے۔ افتتاحی تقریب میں پاکستان کے نامور گلوکاروں عینی، راحت فتح علی خان، سندھ کے مشہور فنکار شمن علی میرا اور علی گل پیر اور دیگر نے اپنے فن کا شاندار مظاہرہ کیا۔ اور مجمع کو جھومنے پر مجبور کر دیا۔ افتتاحی تقریب کا اختتام ہو شاندار آتش بازی کے مظاہرے سے جس کے بعد ہر طرف رنگ برنگ پھیل گئے۔

کراچی: پانچویں سالانہ کراچی لٹریچر فیئٹول کا آغاز آئندہ ہفتے ہو رہا ہے اور تین دن جاری رہنے والے اس ادبی میلے میں دنیا بھر سے 200 سے زائد ادیب، مصنفین اور شعرا شرکت کریں گے۔ یہ بین الاقوامی ادبی میلہ سات سے نو فروری تک کراچی کے ایک نئی محل میں منعقد ہو گا جس کے دوران 100 کے لگ بھگ نشستیں، مذاکرے، ورکشاپس اور دیگر سرگرمیاں ہوں گی۔ ادبی میلے کے منتظمین کے مطابق سات فروری کو ہونے والی کانفرنس کی افتتاحی تقریب کے کلیدی مقرر ممتاز بھارتی تاریخ دان اور مہاتما گاندھی کے پوتے ڈاکٹر راج موہن گاندھی ہوں گے۔ جسے کراچی میں پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے کراچی لٹریچر فیئٹول کی شریک بانی اور منتظم ایند سید نے بتایا کہ فیئٹول میں 34 بین الاقوامی اور 180 سے زائد پاکستانی مصنفین اور شعرا شرکت کر رہے ہیں جب کہ فیئٹول کے تین روز کے دوران 28 کتابوں کی رونمائی ہوگی۔ ایند سید نے بتایا کہ میلے میں علاقائی زبانوں سندھی اور بلوچی کے ادب پر بھی خصوصی نشستوں کا اہتمام کیا گیا ہے جب کہ کئی معروف مصنفین اور شعرا کے ساتھ انفرادی نشستیں بھی ہوں گی جہاں ان کے مداحوں کو سوال و جواب کا موقع میسر ہو گا۔ لٹریچر فیئٹول کے دوران بین الاقوامی حالات، پاکستان کی سیاست اور سماجی مسائل، انسانی حقوق، میڈیا اور موسیقی جیسے موضوعات پر بھی مذاکرے ہوں گے۔ ادبی میلے کے پہلے روز کے اختتام پر محفل مشاعرہ جب کہ دوسرے روز داستان گوئی کی محفل سچے گی۔ ایند سید نے بتایا کہ اس سال کراچی لٹریچر فیئٹول کی تاریخ میں پہلی تین مختلف ادبی انعامات کا آغاز کیا جا رہا ہے۔ ان انعامات کا فیصلہ پاکستان کے معروف نقادوں، مصنفوں اور دانشوروں پر مشتمل پینل کرے گا جس نے پہلے ہی ہر کیٹیگری میں تین، تین کتابوں کو شارٹ لسٹ کر لیا ہے۔ دو انعامات 'مان' - فکشن اور 'فکشن' کے شعبوں میں سال کی بہترین کتب کو دیے جائیں جب کہ 'کیل ایف پیس پر انز' ایسی کتب کو دیا جائے گا جس کے نتیجے میں ملکی یا بین الاقوامی سطح پر امن، ہم آہنگی اور برداشت کو فروغ ملا ہو۔ خیال رہے کہ کراچی لٹریچر فیئٹول کا آغاز 2010ء میں ہوا تھا اور گزشتہ چار برسوں کے دوران یہ ادبی میلہ پاکستان کے علمی و ادبی حلقوں کے علاوہ بین الاقوامی سطح پر بھی اپنی ساکھ قائم کر چکا ہے۔

خوشاب نیوز ڈاٹ کام: ڈسٹرکٹ کوآرڈینیشن آفیسر عامر اعجاز اکبر نے کہا ہے کہ وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب میاں شہباز شریف کے احکامات کی روشنی میں ضلع بھر میں پنجاب یوتھ فیئٹول کے پروگرام اور کھیلوں کو کامیاب بنانے کے لیے بھرپور توجہ دی جا رہی ہے جس میں تمام ادارے اور مسلم لیگ (ن) کے عہدیداران دور کر ز بھر پور تعاون پیش کر رہے ہیں انہوں نے کہا کہ صوبہ بھر کے اضلاع میں ایونٹس اور مقابلوں کا انعقاد یک وقت کیا جا رہا ہے اور اب یہ مقابلہ جات تحصیل سطح سے نکل کر ضلعی سطح پر آگئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دلچسپ، یومین کونسل اور تحصیل سطح پر کھلاڑیوں نے اپنی اپنی صلاحیتوں کے

پاکستان میں بسنے والے لوگ اپنی ثقافت سے بے حد

پیار کرتے ہیں، عذرا آفتاب

اردو پوائنٹ

03 فروری 2014

شاندار انتہازی کے ساتھ سندھ فیئٹول کا آغاز

اب تک ٹی وی

02 فروری 2014

پانچواں کراچی لٹریچر فیئٹول 7 فروری سے شروع

ہو گا

وائس آف امریکہ

01 فروری 2014

یوتھ فیئٹول کے ضلعی مقابلہ جات 5 فروری تک

جاری رہینگے، ڈی سی او

خوشاب نیوز

1 فروری 2014

خوب جوہر دکھائے اور یہ کھلاڑی انشاء اللہ صوبائی سطح پر پوزیشن لے کر اپنے ضلع کا نام روشن کریں گے ڈی سی او کا نفرنس ہال میں پنجاب یوتھ فیسٹیول 2014 کے سلسلہ میں ضلعی سطح پر شروع ہونے والے مقابلہ جات کے انتظامات اور تحصیل سطح پر منعقد کیئے گئے مختلف ایونٹس کی کارکردگی کا جائزہ لینے کی غرض سے اجلاس کی صدارت کر رہے تھے اجلاس میں ڈسٹرکٹ فوکل پرسن پی ایم ایل این یوتھ ونگ کے صدر نذر حیات بلوچ، پی ایم ایل این کے ضلعی صدر ڈاکٹر غوث محمد نیازی، اے ڈی سی دانش افضل، ڈسٹرکٹ سپورٹس آفیسر محمد ادریس خان، تحصیل سپورٹس آفیسر زوار حسین سگو، ڈی ایس پی ہیڈ کوارٹر عبدالوحید، ڈی او سوشل ویلفیئر آفیسر امتیاز احمد مانگٹ، اور دیگر محلوں کے سربراہان، افسران اور مختلف تنظیموں کے عہدیداران شریک تھے۔

اجلاس میں بتایا گیا کہ ضلعی سطح کے مقابلہ جات 29 جنوری سے شروع ہو کر 5 فروری تک جاری رہیں گے اور مختلف ایونٹس میں حصہ لینے کے لئے رجسٹریشن ہو رہی ہے اجلاس میں پرنسپل گورنمنٹ ڈگری کالج ملک فتح محمد کے مطالبہ پر طالب علموں کی ٹیموں میں شرکت کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے ڈی سی او نے متعلقہ ادارے کو کھیلوں کا سامان مہیا کرنے کی ہدایت کی اجلاس میں ڈی او ایل نے بتایا کہ ضلعی سطح پر دیگر ام میں کیمپل ڈانس، ہارس ڈانس، بیسٹ سوار کیمپل اور ڈاگ ریس کے شو بھی منعقد ہوں گے علاوہ ازیں تمام محلوں نے ضلعی سطح پر شروع ہونے والے مختلف ایونٹس اور تحصیل سطح پر اپنی اپنی کارکردگی کی تفصیل سے صدر اجلاس کو آگاہ کیا۔ خوشاب نیوز ڈاٹ کام) ڈی او سوشل ویلفیئر خوشاب امتیاز احمد مانگٹ نے بتایا کہ پنجاب یوتھ فیسٹیول پروگرام کے تحت ڈسٹرکٹ انڈسٹریل ہوم جوہر آباد میں یکم فروری دن 12 بجے ضلعی سطح پر کوکنگ، فیمیلی کوکنگ، ڈریسنگ، فیمیلی ڈریسنگ وغیرہ کے مقابلہ جات کا انعقاد ہو گا مقابلوں میں تقریباً 300 خواتین شریک ہوں گی تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی صوبائی وزیر جنگلات ملک محمد آصف بھٹا اور ضلعی صدر مسلم لیگ ن ڈاکٹر غوث محمد نیازی ہوں گے۔ خوشاب نیوز ڈاٹ کام) ڈسٹرکٹ سپورٹس آفس خوشاب نے پنجاب یوتھ فیسٹیول 2014 کے انٹر تحصیل مقابلہ جات ضلع لیول کے مختلف ایونٹس کا شیڈول جاری کر دیا ہے شیڈول کے مطابق 29 جنوری کو سپورٹس سٹیڈیم جوہر آباد میں کرکٹ ہارڈ بال، نورپور تھل مقابلہ قائد آباد، خوشاب بمقابلہ ونر ٹیم، والی بال کا مقابلہ قائد آباد اور خوشاب کے درمیان جب کہ نورپور تھل کی ٹیم کا مقابلہ ونر ٹیم سے ہو تھا 30 جنوری کو ٹیبل ٹینس کا مقابلہ جات آفیسر زکلب جوہر آباد میں قائد آباد بمقابلہ نورپور تھل خوشاب کا ونر ٹیم، کبڈی کا کھیل صبح 10 بجے سپورٹس سٹیڈیم جوہر آباد میں نورپور تھل بمقابلہ قائد آباد جبکہ یکم فروری کو خوشاب بمقابلہ ونر ٹیم 31 جنوری کو بلنڈ، کراٹے اور ٹائیگوانڈو کے مقابلوں کا انعقاد ہوا تھا۔ اکیم فروری کو کرکٹ ٹیپ بال کے مقابلہ جات سپورٹس سٹیڈیم جوہر آباد میں قائد آباد بمقابلہ نورپور تھل جب کہ خوشاب بمقابلہ ونر ٹیم ہو گا اسی روز رسہ کشی کے مقابلہ جات خوشاب بمقابلہ نورپور تھل، قائد آباد بمقابلہ ونر ٹیم جبکہ فٹ بال کے مقابلہ جات نورپور تھل بمقابلہ قائد آباد اور خوشاب بمقابلہ ونر ٹیم ہو گا 2 فروری کو سپورٹس سٹیڈیم میں آرم ریسلنگ، اٹھلنکس، ویٹ لیفٹنگ، باسکٹ بال اور شررنگ کے مقابلہ جات جبکہ ہاکی سٹیڈیم خوشاب میں ہاکی کے مقابلہ جات کا انعقاد ہو گا 3 فروری کو واپڈا ہال میں بیڈمنٹن جبکہ اس روز ریسلنگ کے مقابلہ جات سپورٹس سٹیڈیم میں ہو گے 4 فروری کو سپورٹس سٹیڈیم میں فن ریس کے مقابلہ ہو گا۔

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 punjabtourismpk@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 Zulfikar 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

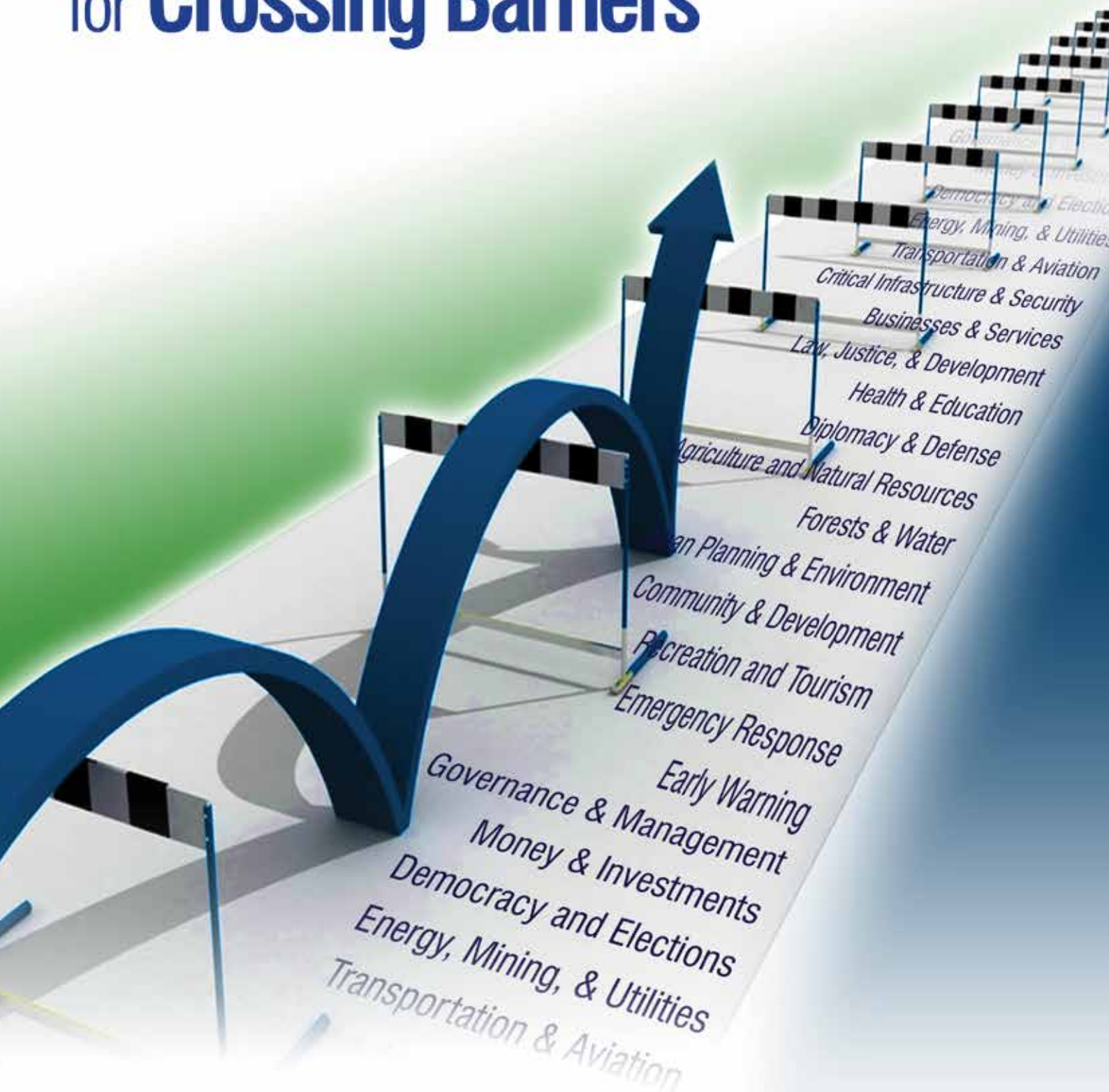
MAJOR RESTAURANTS

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.saltndpepper.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 Shahr- 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 Millienium 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/

Information & Communication Technology for **Crossing Barriers**



Solutions in Time

ALHASAN SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.

Landline: +92.51.486.5064 Fax: +92.51.843.7324

Email: connect@alhasan.com Website: www.alhasan.com

<http://www.facebook.com/alhasan.com>