

TOURISM BULLETIN

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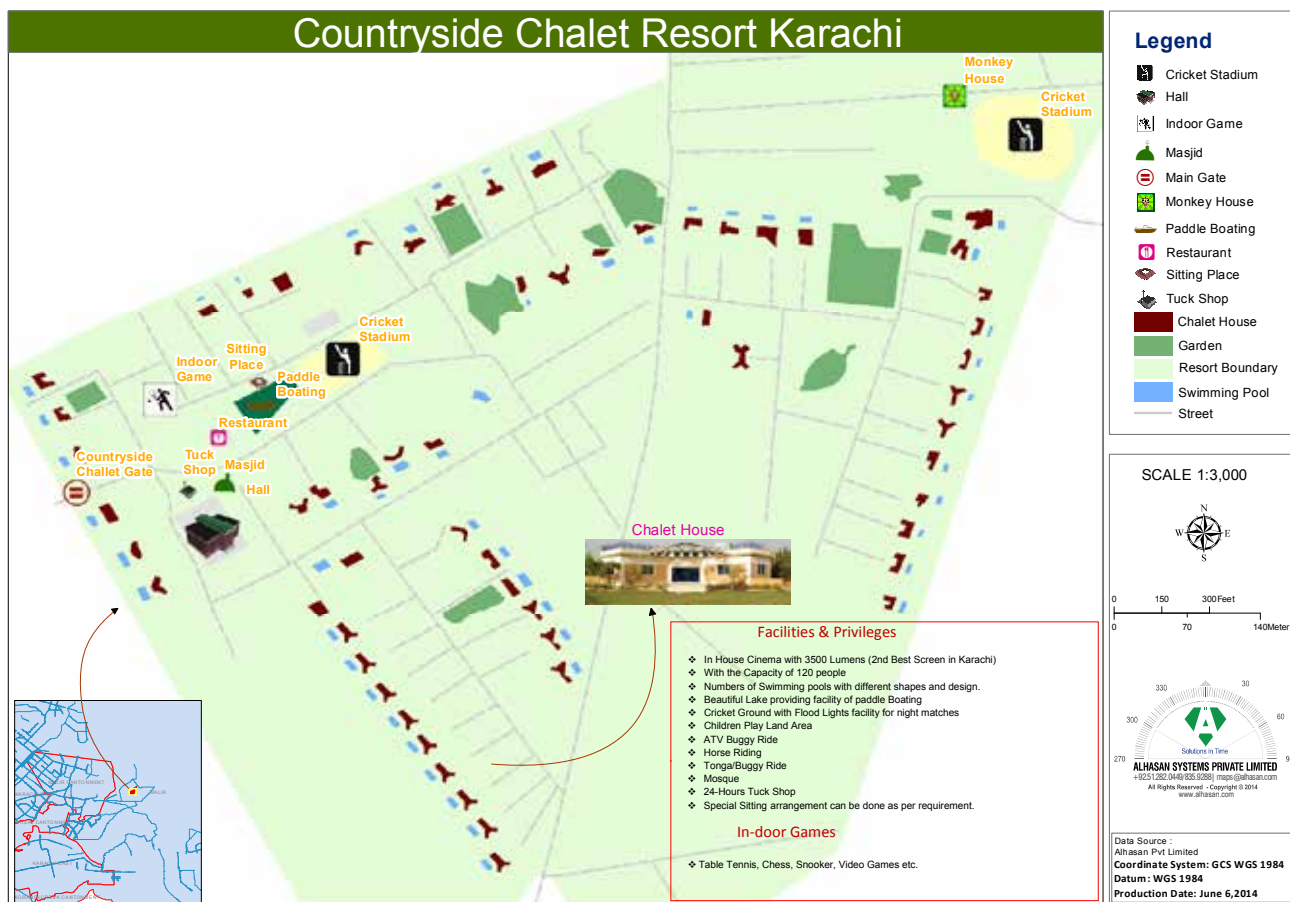
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NEWS HEADLINES

Pakistan, Jordan keen to promote cooperation in vital areas

Pakistan Observer
May 29, 2014

City of Bhangra Fest will focus on Pakistani side of Punjab culture

Vancouver Desi
May 29, 2014

Pakistani designers to showcase at Kensington Palace in London

Pakistan Today
May 29, 2014

'Pakistan, Russia to upgrade relations'

Daily Times
May 26, 2014

DETAILS

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Jordan and Mrs. Nawaf Saraireh arranged a very warm reception to celebrate the 68th Anniversary of the Independence of Jordan and the Day of Hashemite Kingdom. A large number of guests attended the reception. They included Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador Rodolfo Martin Saravia of Argentina, Ambassador of Palestine as well as envoys of other Arab and non Arab countries. Prominent Pakistani citizens also attended the function. Federal minister for information, Pervaiz Rashid was the chief guest. Air Marshal Athar represented the armed forces at the reception. Pervaiz Rashid, Air Marshal Athar, Dean of Diplomatic Corps and other guests joined the host in cutting the ceremonial cake. National anthems of Pakistan and Jordan were played to the loud applause of the guests. The Jordanian youth presented folk dance of their country. Their dance was greatly appreciated. Pakistan and Jordan enjoy close cordial and cooperative relations. The two countries have a long history of cooperation in vital areas including economic and defense. However the two countries have been taking steps to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. There are vast possibilities of enhanced cooperation between the two countries. The people of the two countries are bound together by history, religion and culture. There is goodwill on both sides not only at government level but also among the people of the two countries. Pakistan can learn much from Jordan in several fields especially tourism which is very important segment of Jordanian economy. Pakistani tourists can visit places of great historic importance in Jordan. This country offers places of unique repute to the world tourists. Wadi Rum and Aqaba are popular places of interest for the international tourists. In Wadi Rum one can hire a camel and follow in the footsteps of great explorers, climb the highest peaks and trek unexplored canyons. Wadi Rum is an ideal destination for camping. Adventure seekers visiting Jordan will be in their element when they visit Aqaba. The southern part of Aqaba is situated on the coast of the Red Sea and offers a wide range of sports and activities. There are over 30 main diving sites in Aqaba, most of them suitable for all levels of ability. Camping is also a favorite activity in Aqaba especially during the cooler seasons. Pakistan has several places of tourist interest which can be developed with the cooperation of Jordan.

The Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration Society (VIBC) is kicking off its 10th annual City of Bhangra Festival on Thursday. The vibrant 10-day music and dance festival, taking place in both Vancouver and Surrey, is not only a celebration of bhangra — the 15th century dance form performed to celebrate the Punjabi harvest time — but also a celebration of inter-cultural collaborations across the Metro area. This year's most notable collaboration is with the local Pakistani community. "In the past, we only presented aspects of Punjabi culture found in Punjab, India," said VIBC director Mo Dhaliwal. "We were presenting the aspects of Punjabi culture that we were most familiar with the stuff that we've grown up with." As a result, the festival was "missing half the picture," he said. "There's no real way of getting a complete picture of what Punjabi folk art is or what the way of life is without taking a look at the Pakistan side of Punjab." The Pakistani additions to City of Bhangra include Saieen Zahoor, who is a leading Sufi musician from Pakistan. Dhaliwal describes him as a "living artifact" of the culture, as he spent most of his life singing and performing in Sufi tombs, shrines and festivals. Another addition includes Qurat-ul-Ain Balouch (QB), a 26-year-old contemporary Pakistani pop music singer. Other communities from across Vancouver are also taking part in the festival, most notably at TransFusion, Thursday night's kickoff event that will see Native, Jewish and Bhangra performers alike take the SFU Woodward's stage. "Our intention for starting this event was that we didn't see a lot of events within the Punjabi community which did a good job of being accessible or building bridges," said Dhaliwal, adding that although multicultural events existed at the time, each event was of a single culture, rather than a collaboration. "(We wanted) to wander into spaces where not only our community but other communities haven't really gone into." "This isn't about who we are and where we come from, it's about learning and sharing and creating new things ... that's what creates understanding, that's what creates community we have people that see themselves as part of the greater whole rather than see themselves as one small sort of component."

Fashion Parade 2014 is all set to make history by showcasing Pakistani designers for the very first time in Kensington Palace Orangery, London. Organized by Mustang Productions and Encyclomedia, Fashion Parade this year is the first event of its kind showcasing Pakistani designers on such a large scale abroad. It's a fashion forward platform that celebrates Asian Culture, Asian Fashion and entrepreneurs, all set to make a mark in history. It aims to celebrate Pakistani culture showcasing designs to international audiences. This event will be showcasing some of the most celebrated designers of the Pakistan Fashion Industry. The 9 designers who are showcasing their collection in Fashion Parade 2014 are ' Faiza Samee, Ayesha Hashwani, Nomi Ansari, Aashni & Co, Bareeze, Zara Shahjehan, Seher Tareen and Nazneen Tariq'. The designers will be showcasing their couture collections with a style ethos of bringing in a fusion of the eastern and western design philosophies. The British Fashion Council Head of Event Mr Josef Jammerbund and Media Head Anna Orsini will also be attending the event to see Pakistani fashion being showcased on the ramp. The event is going to be held on the 9th of June at Kensington Palace Orangery in London.

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Sunday underlined the importance of relations between Pakistan and Russia in all fields especially in the fields of economy, culture and education. On his last visit to Russian Federation, Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq heading a parliamentary delegation, was warmly received by the Governor of St Petersburg, Georgy Polthovchenko and Speaker Legislative Assembly, Makarovs vyacheslav, here. During a round table, Ayaz emphasized on immense potential of collaboration, saying we could not realize in sixty five years, must be realized in coming few years by gearing up political will and mobilization of resources, said a press release. The speaker National assembly also assured the Russian side that the parliament through its standing committees would do

Walled City heritage hits Google cultural map

The News International
May 26, 2014

everything possible to facilitate the Russian business concerns by creating linkages between Pakistani and business communities through chambers of commerce and industries and public sector institutions and added that the convener of Pak-Russia friendship group in the parliament, Marvi Memon, MNA, would coordinate these efforts. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also underscored the need to speed up the process of declaring St Petersburg and Karachi as sister cities and proposed to hold. Russia-specific exhibitions in major cities of Pakistan to popularise Russian products in Pakistan to promote business relations at grass root level. The speaker National assembly informed the meeting that a high level Pak delegation would visit Russia in September this year to further cement the trade and business relations between the two countries.

The heritage, culture, traditions and hidden masterpieces of the Walled City will soon be displayed on the website of Google Cultural Institute, making Lahore the first Pakistani city to be officially entertained by the internet giant. Google Cultural Institute was launched in 2011 and initially it exhibited several Art and Cultural projects and till 2013 it included over 6 million photos, videos and documents. In Pakistan, Google Cultural Institute has contacted Walled City Lahore Authority (WCLA), which has agreed to make a partnership with the institute for exploring cultural treasures of Lahore in extraordinary details on its website. A senior official of WCLA said historic moments of the provincial capital such as rare views including images, paintings, sketches and videos of different events will be shared with the institute. He said Google's institute has three major components "Art Project, Historic Moments and World Wonders." In Historic Moments sections, the institute held online exhibitions detailing the stories behind significant moments in human history. In the section of World Wonders, the institute aims to bring to life the wonders of the modern and ancient world. By using Street View technology, Google has a unique opportunity to make world heritage sites available to users across the globe. A user can easily find cities and their special attractions on the map in just one click. In Art Project sections, users can discover diverse art collections from around the world. They can explore artworks at incredible detail, view exhibitions and take virtual tours. "WCLA will be putting different stories of tangible and intangible culture on this site," said Tania Qureshi, WCLA Media Manager. She said this will include life of different characters inside the Walled City including Patiala Gharana, Ghazi Ilm Din, Allama Iqbal's residence, Khalifa Khatai, Jeda Lassi Wala, Gumti Bazaar, Kasera Bazar, Akbari Mandi, Pakistan Cloth Market, Kinari Bazaar, Waan Market, Rang Mehal and Langa Mandi. A special segment related to the revival of forgotten games will be a special segment in which the Google authorities showed much interest. Tania Qureshi said WCLA is also planning to revival forgotten games through this site and will aware the general public as well as the residents of the Walled City. She said games have been a vital part of the WCL in past and children used to play games like Bandar qila, gulli danda, staapoo, kabootar bazi, kabadi, rasa kasha, kushti, bantay, laato, pitho gol garam, chobaan etc. A special awareness campaign to revive these games will be initiated soon and competitions of the past games will be carried out between the Walled City residents. WCLA is also making a list of hidden wonders of Walled City, which will be displayed on Google Cultural Institution's website in a prominent way. Tania Qureshi said these forgotten structures will be unveiled at the site. Some of these buildings are Victoria School, Noori Building, Wazir Khan Mosque, Shahi Hamam, Neevin Masjid, Pani Wala Talaab, Haveli Mian Sultan, Haveli Dhyan Singh, Ayub Ka Bangla, Baoli and Sonehri Mosque.

Indonesian Embassy inaugurates three days movie festival for students of Pakistan

Pakistan Observer
May 26, 2014

ISLAMABAD—For the festival, three movies have been selected these are "HABIBIE & AINUN", "SOEGIJA" AND "MANUSIA SETENGAH SALMON" which cover and represent different shades and segments of the Indonesian Society. The Envoy informed the audience that Indonesia is a multi ethnic, multi religious, very diverse and pluralist society and the viewers will feel this very essence of the society while watching the movies. "The objective of the program is to make students familiar with Indonesian people, language and culture with the view to promote and strengthen socio-cultural bonds between the two countries", Said Ambassador Burhan Muhammad. Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Burhan Muhammad, launched the three day Indonesian Film Festival 2014 in a ceremony held at the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad on May 24, 2014. The ceremony was attended by the diplomats, government officials, businessmen and people from cross sections of the society. In his welcome remarks, the Ambassador said that he has been in Islamabad for the last one and a half year and during this period he has strived to enhance people to people contacts by organizing a number of cultural & music shows, fashion shows and food festivals. These all activities are aimed at fostering better understanding about Indonesian people and society, he said. He noted with pleasure that there are certainly many similarities in traditions between the two nations and that is because our ties are rooted in the shared history of cultural and religious bonds. He thanked the audience for coming and expressed hope that they will enjoy the Indonesian movies at the festival. Later, the Ambassador introduced to the audience three students, namely Mashal Tehsin Khan, Rashk-il Qamar and Hooriya Khalid Gardezi of the Islamabad Grammar School and College as participants of the Embassy Home Stay Program. The Envoy said that the program is for the higher and senior level Pakistani students to study for a limited time period in the Indonesian Schools while staying with the Indonesian host families. The students on the occasion expressed their pleasure for being part of the program and said that they would avail this wonderful opportunity not only to visit Indonesia but to make their upcoming summer vacations memorable and productive. They hoped that by participating in the program they will contribute in their respective capacity to promote good will and better understanding between the two societies.

French author pushes boundaries - writing in Urdu

The Daily Star
May 25, 2014

LAHORE: Frenchman Julien Columeau came to Pakistan at the age of 30 as a humanitarian worker, but a knack for languages and love of books has made him one of the country's most innovative Urdu novelists. Writing mainly historical fiction with a prose described as vivid and forceful, critics say that Columeau, now 41, has injected fresh life into a scene considered to have grown stale. His works have featured at the country's most prominent literature festivals with three novels published and more in the pipeline. Originally from Marseilles, Columeau left France to study Hindi in India in 1993, but quickly grew disillusioned with the "clerical" form of the language he was being made to learn and switched to Urdu two years later. "I learnt it on my own -- by then I was

**Pakistan-Mauritius
Friendship Association set
up**
Daily Times
May 25, 2014

**Slowly, but surely: TCKP
working to resuscitate**

conversant in Hindi so there was a book which was about how to transliterate Urdu to Hindi," he told AFP. "Then I was practising my reading. After about one year I was able to read books," he said. He later moved to Pakistan with the International Committee of the Red Cross where he worked primarily as a translator in troubled areas.

- Poets and martyrs -

Columbeau's first Urdu short story, *Zalzala*, or "earthquake", came out after the catastrophic quake of 2005 and was set between a girls' school in Pakistani Kashmir and an apartment tower in Islamabad. But it was when he turned his attention to Pakistan's iconic 20th century poets that Columbeau came into his own as an Urdu writer. He became fascinated with 1950s poet Saghar Siddiqui, who fell into ruin and destitution and acquired a saint-like following among common people before his early death. "I wanted to explore why he became a *malang* (a wandering mystic) despite the fact he was a successful poet and wrote songs for movies," Columbeau said of his first novel, "Saghar". "I used the gaps in his biography in order to construct my own fiction." After his death Siddiqui's legend grew and a shrine was built for him in the eastern city of Lahore, now mostly frequented by the working class and those looking for blessings and inspiration -- including Columbeau himself. His second book on vagabond street poet Mira Jee was positively reviewed by 90-year-old Intizar Husain, widely seen as the greatest living Urdu writer, who is hailed for his works around partition and the 10-year dictatorship of Zia-ul-Haq. Husain told AFP Columbeau's prose -- which includes explicit sex scenes and details drug abuse -- was a break from Urdu literature's usual euphemistic style. "His expression -- it goes beyond what we normally say," said Husain. Over the past decade or so, Pakistani English-language writers have become increasingly prominent and have helped expose their country on the world stage with works like Mohsin Hamid's "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" -- which became a Hollywood film -- and Mohammed Hanif's "A Case of Exploding Mangoes". Urdu is renowned for its beauty and poetry, but its literature has diminished in recent years and become primarily the domain of Pakistan's less visible lower-middle classes. - Novelty factor - In addition to pushing boundaries in terms of acceptable prose, Columbeau has also been willing to tackle hot-button subjects such as sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. His third novel, "Martyr Munir Jaffry" concerns a firebrand Shiite preacher whose father is killed by militants. The book is written as a stream of consciousness with references to the Battle of Karbala, a seminal event in Shiite history that many modern adherents view as a metaphor for present-day tragedies. His latest collection of short stories meanwhile feature a cast of eclectic characters: a militant who later becomes a brutal pimp, an evangelical Islamic preacher from Kashmir who ends up lost in the jungles of the Amazon where he has gone to convert tribes, and a young Baluch insurgent who immigrates to France after a series of tragedies. It may sound difficult to pull off with authenticity, but Columbeau proves himself up to the task -- perhaps informed by his travels around the country for the ICRC meeting people from marginalised backgrounds. "Nobody gets Pakistan's sub-cultures like he does. Riveting," Hanif, the English-language author tweeted about the collection in January. His publisher and editor Amjad Saleem said that Columbeau's status as an outsider looking in may be an advantage. "There is a difference of civilisation, so Julian's observations about Pakistani society, his ways of understanding it and expressing it, are fascinating things for us," he said. Initially regarded as a novelty for being a foreigner writing in Urdu, Columbeau says he used to feel patronised by some readers. "That was an obstacle I had to overcome. The fact that people would not tell me about my book, its structure, its quality or defects, they would tell me about my language," he said. Now he says he hopes to turn stereotypes on their head. "You have a lot of people from Asia and Africa whose mother tongue is not a Western language but who write Western languages. The opposite you don't really get to see.

LAHORE: In a move to improve bilateral trade, tourism and people-to-people contacts, the Pakistan-Mauritius Friendship Association has been established in the provincial metropolis at a meeting chaired by Mauritius High Commissioner Rashad Daureeawo at Pearl Continental Hotel on Saturday.

Speaking on this occasion, the high commissioner said that there was a lot of potential for collaboration between the governments and people of both the countries including cooperation in tourism, business, education and other sectors. He also announced yearly celebrations of five events from the platform of the association including Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Day, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal Day, Eidul Fitar, and national days of Pakistan and Mauritius. About 30 founding members attended the meeting. The high commissioner asked the founding members to ensure membership of one member each in the next meeting and bring new members with them. "This way, we will expand and get to know each other," he said and added that the association would work as a not-for-profit NGO and on a volunteer works basis to promote relationship between both countries. Executive body: The meeting also announced members of the executive body of the association. Honorary Consul Shahid Sethi was selected as honorary chairman of the association, Pervez Shafiq Siddiqui as president, Shahjehan Khan and Prof Zahid Munir as vice presidents, Aniqah Bhayat as secretary general, Nasir Ali Khan as coordinator and Younis Kamran as treasure. Speaking on this occasion, Sethi said Pak-Mauritius friendship would be promoted through exchange of business and other delegations, organisation of events and increasing membership of the association. He also announced taking a delegation of Pakistani business community to Mauritius to explore new avenues. High Commissioner Rashad Daureeawo briefed all of the founding members regarding objectives and functioning of the association. He expressed his satisfaction on having a diverse range of founding members of Lahore chapter of the association, including businessmen, traders, exporters, artists, educationists and journalists. He expressed the hope that this network would strengthen relations and make more friends on both sides and get people of Pakistan to visit Mauritius and people of Mauritius to visit Pakistan. The meeting also discussed various options to decide the place of association's headquarters.

PESHAWAR: A quarterly magazine of Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP), titled Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Facets, was published after a gap of two years on Saturday. The 51-page

tourism in the region

The Express Tribune
May 25, 2014

PTDC to establish beach resort at Gaddani

SAMAA TV
May 22, 2014

Chinese Tourist kidnapped near DI Khan

www.pakistanherald.com
May 22, 2014

China-Pak economic corridor to boost trade, tourism, industry: NHA Chairman

Business Recorder
May 21, 2014

colourful newsletter shows beautiful photos of the scenic valleys, diverse cultures, ancient markets, indigenous sports and natives of K-P: an area that has seen its tourism crumble in the past decade. The pictures have been taken by various photographers during events arranged by TCKP. Zehra Alam, who manages media for TCKP, told *The Express Tribune* that 5,000 copies have been published and sent to national and international organisations, foreign embassies in Pakistan and media institutions with the aim to boost tourism in K-P. Alam claims that due to a lack of interest from the authorities concerned and the precarious law and order situation of the province, the newsletter was not published for the past two years. This 10th issue of the newsletter also includes events from these two years. TCKP has already received a letter of appreciation from Queen Elizabeth II and the Prince of Wales for its 2013 calendar, which also included pictures and information about various places in the province. According to TCKP, this was the third time they have received such feedback from the queen; previously in 2009 and 2010 she expressed appreciation for the vintage theme calendar. Among many other events, the current issue details the Shandur Polo Festival, Khanpur Festival, Jashn-e-Chitral, train excursions to Attock Khurd, the Indus River Water Cross, centenary of the fire engines at Gor Gathri, Karachi to Khyber Vintage Car Rally and Inoki's Wrestling for Peace Festival. There are also various shots of the Buddha of Jahanabad, Swat Valley, and the archaeological sites of Ranigat in Buner and Takht Bhair in Mardan. The newsletter also informs readers about the markhor – the national animal of Pakistan – that is found in abundance in Chitral district and reportedly brings over \$70,000 to locals through hunting licences. The publication also contains some important links related to tourism in the province. TCKP was founded in 1991 for the purpose of promoting and developing the tourism industry of K-P. "My objective is to develop the historically significant sites of the province and make them tourist-friendly destinations," writes Minister for Culture, Tourism, Archaeology and Museums Mahmood Khan in the newsletter. To develop the socioeconomic conditions of K-P residents, the note adds, four new tourist destinations will be opened including Supat Valley in Kohistan, Kumrat Valley in Dir, and Gabeen and Sultan valleys in Swat. Similarly, TCKP Managing Director Mushtaq Ahmad Khan writes that the inauguration of a ferry cruise service in DI Khan is near completion.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Cooperation (PTDC) would establish Beach Resort at Gaddani, Balochistan, to attract tourists. "We have land and would utilize it for launching projects including Beach Resort, outdoor and indoor games, water-sports for couples, which would help Corporation to generate huge income," said an official of PTDC while talking to APP. He said that tourism sector in the world was playing very important role for the flourishing of economy and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had asked the PTDC to focus attention to improve the condition of hotels and motels. He said terrorism in the country had badly affected tourism and sports. He expressed the hope that due to steps taken by the government, peace would be restored in the country and international tourists would start arriving. He said more beautiful places would be identified and made attractive for tourists.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A Chinese tourist was kidnapped yesterday (Tuesday) in Daraban near Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan), while he was on a cycling tour of the country. A faction of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for this kidnapping, claiming the act as a leverage to get their demands fulfilled. As sources from both sides, the police as well as Taliban confirmed that the kidnapped Chinese tourist is identified as Hong Xu Dong, who was abducted while on a cycling tour of the country. The details of the crime scene follows: He was kidnapped on May 19, around 2pm, while cycling 65 kilometres from DI Khan. While he was paddling away carefree, two men on a motorcycle behind him abducted him, leaving his cycle behind on the spot. The police was later informed about an abandoned cycle in Draban area believed to be that of a tourist, so the investigation began. Upon the cycle, the tourist's passport was found by the police, which confirmed that it was Hong Xu Dong's bicycle and he is the victim of this abduction. Locals helping the police to investigate the case found the path of the kidnappers by the marks of motorcycle tracks, however, the suspects had dumped their motorcycle in Kot Sultan Jungle and had taken the tourist with them. Daraban police when asked about the details of the investigation and their progress, said that they are in the process of searching for the victim. Militant commander of TTP, Abdullah Bahar claimed that they had taken the Chinese tourist hostage and have demanded the release of their prisoners in return for the tourist's release. "We kidnapped the Chinese tourist. He is now in our hands," he said. "We will demand the release of our fighters who are in government custody." As the incident came to be another blow in the already weakened position of Pakistan as a tourist attracting country, the Chinese community has yet again being targeted by the terrorists to get their demands fulfilled. This particular incident could also be the reaction of the failure of peace-talks and dialogues between the government and Taliban, which came to an abrupt stop without bearing any fruitful results and cutting down on the hopes for a peaceful solution to the ever-going and growing terrorism in Pakistan. For now, the kidnapping of Chinese tourist will enhance the bargaining power of Taliban to get their demands fulfilled since the authorities need to protect the life of the abducted tourist at all costs.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA), Shahid Ashraf Tarrar has said that Pakistan-China economic corridor will boost, trade tourism, industry and agriculture of the entire region. He expressed these views while talking to a representative delegation of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly. He said that communications sector has been the top priority of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The delegation was given a detailed briefing on Raikot-Islamabad Highway. On this occasion, Member Planning NHA Raja Noshervan, General Manager Design Asim Ameen and other high officials were also present. While highlighting the significance of the said project, the Chairman said that the Prime Minister is putting special emphasis on China-Pak Economic Corridor so that trade ties with China and Central States could be further strengthened and the region could witness rapid economic growth and prosperity. The Chairman NHA said that this highway is also important because four new dams close to this highway namely; Thakot, Pattan, Dassu and Diamer Basha have also been planned. He said that these dams will help the country overcome its power shortage. The delegation was told that 487 kilometers long

Sweden keen on enhancing ties with Pakistan: Westerberg

*Business Recorder
May 21, 2014*

Raikot-Islamabad Highway project is part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on which a memorandum of understanding was signed between Pakistan's Ministry of Communications and China Road and Bridge Corporation on 19 February this year in China. Under the project, Raikot-Islamabad Highway will start off from Pak-China border and will connect to the existing Karakoram Highway and reach Islamabad and will be further extended to Gwadar in the near future. Chinese ships will use this route as a trade corridor for their world trade through sea because the Kashghar-Gwadar route is much shorter than Kashghar-Beijing route, and by taking on this route, the ships will save their travel time by two weeks. The realignment of the 24 kilometers of the existing Karakoram Highway is also part of this project, and this highway will be 2 lane from Khajrab to Mansehra, 4 lane from Mansehra to Islamabad and 6-lane from Islamabad to Gwadar. Work on its feasibility study is in full swing and will be completed by June this year. To accommodate the four proposed dams along this highway, the National Highway Authority plans to reconstruct 230 kilometers of the Karakoram highway under the new design. The members of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly thanked the Chairman NHA and forwarded some valuable suggestions regarding ongoing projects. The delegation included Members Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly Saeed Afzal, Ibadat Ali, Assistant Executive Engineer Gilgit-Baltistan Council Secretariat Mahmood Hussain.

LAHORE: Speaker of the Swedish Parliament Per Westerberg said on Wednesday that Sweden was keen to enhance relations with Pakistan in the fields of trade, tourism, health and technical education.

Addressing the business community here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), the Swedish speaker, who was heading a high-powered trade and Parliamentary delegation, said their first ever visit to Pakistan was enough to make the point that Sweden attached great importance to Pakistan. Per Westerberg said Sweden considered Pakistan its closest friend and economic partner. He said the Swedish business community was aware of the huge economic potential that existed in Pakistan and had expressed its keenness for utilising that untapped potential. He said his country was ready to extend cooperation in the field of Hydro electricity as Sweden was producing more than 60 per cent its electricity through hydro means. He said Sweden believed that Pakistan's economy was heading in a right direction under the present democratic set up. The speaker highlighted the need of regular parliamentary and trade exchanges between Pakistan and Sweden in order to enhance bilateral relations, therefore, a special attention should be given towards this particular area.

On this occasion, LCCI president Engineer Sohail Lashari thanked the Swedish government for supporting Pakistan on the GSP Plus status. This has enhanced exports of Pakistan to the European Union and will definitely uplift economy of Pakistan through a number of ways, including creation of new job opportunities. He said the Pak-Swedish relations had immense potential to grow and the enhancement of trade, business, education exchange programmes, medical research and tourism could further augment out already friendly ties. There should be exchange of students on regular basis as well as that of medical scholars. We request the Swedish government to allocate a certain quota of scholarships for the Pakistani students in order to uplift the education standard in our country. He added that the potential areas of cooperation and investment for Sweden in Pakistan are Health Care and Life Sciences, Energy and Environmental Technology, Information and Communication Technologies, Business Infrastructure and Services and Manufacturing and Materials Technology. He said Sweden and Pakistan should have tourism packages for each other as both countries have places which were heaven for tourists.

Mountaineering, paragliding and polo are sports which are widely played in those areas. The culture and civilization is worth witnessing. In fact, we have here in Pakistan the world's oldest civilization. Harappa and Moenjodaro are places which have earned world fame for being the oldest civilizations in the world and are a striking tourist attraction, he added.

Kashmir is the name which was known for its distinguished features, topography and vivid, clean, calm and cool climate. Kashmir was recognized in the world for its impressive and magnificent beauty. But with the passage of time and development of science and technology, there was improvement in the means of travel, transportation and connectivity world over. As a result, global diehard tourists also explored many places in the world as a substitute of Kashmir. Later on, when Kashmir became a disputed territory between India and Pakistan, tourists started switching to other places and in this way many places in the world were explored exclusively for tourism. This was an unrecoverable setback to the tourism industry of Kashmir. However, flow of tourist did not faded off completely. Jammu and Kashmir receives large numbers of tourists from within and outside the country. However, impact of the insurgency can still be observed and is yet not washed out. During peak insurgency, Kashmir lost its invaluable wealth. Dal Lake is contaminated. Forests were looted. Besides, the increase of movements of vehicles and uncontrolled and non sustainable development in the area damaged the climate of the Kashmir. There occurs a rise in temperature which leads to melting of glaciers disturbance in the climate, migration and even extinction of many species of birds. This was a major setback to Kashmir tourism. The government, off late, has made attempts to revive tourism. Therefore, huge amount of money flooded to Kashmir for the purpose of development. However, bulk of the amount which was sanctioned in the name of the development was not utilised. This lead to a huge imbalance in developmental and implementation level as well. This aid has become the source of nepotism, favoritism and corruption. Meanwhile, politicization of Amaranth land row, and politicization of different shrines of the state in the name of passing shrines bill, Sufi circuits and politicisation of the approach road to Amaranth Shrine viz a viz superficial environmental concern of various organization was the final setback to the tourism of the State.

NEW DELHI — Many accounts claim that the instability gripping Afghanistan and Pakistan is rooted in Pashtun history and culture, but a new book contests this claim, a statement said Tuesday. In the book "The Pashtuns: The unresolved key to the future of Pakistan and Afghanistan", journalist

Setback to Kashmir tourism

*Kashmir Times
May 21, 2014*

Book on Pashtuns role in Pakistan Afghanistan relations

Authint Mail
May 21, 2014

Rich culture of Potohar portrayed at Rural Women Festival

The News International
May 21, 2014

Abubakar Siddique, a Pashtun himself, tells a different story. The story is about the failure and unwillingness of both Afghanistan and Pakistan to include the Pashtuns into their state structures and incorporate them into the economic and political fabric, which is central to South Asia's problems, and a critical failure of nation and state building in both the countries, said the statement by the book publisher. Partly an eye witness account and partly researched, the book makes clear that religious extremism is the product of these critical failures and responsibility for this lies to a large degree with the elites of both the countries. In this comprehensive account, the author focuses on the suffering of the ordinary Pakistanis and Afghans, attempts to relate their views on extremism and terrorism, and offers a roadmap towards peace in the region built on the cross border connections of the Pashtuns, the world's largest tribally organised society.

First time in the history of Potohar region, EWT arranged Rural Women Festival in Green Village Sahal Khinger, Gujar Khan. Sahal Khinger is a village, 70 kilometres from Islamabad. The village is thousands of years old (way before Muslims came to the sub-continent). It has a special importance as a cultural heritage of Pakistan and especially as an inheritor and guardian of the rich Potohar culture. Since that time, there has always been festival where men enjoyed and actively participated in competitions arranged by them and women were left out. It was a dream to arrange a Rural Women Festival, for the women and by the women, in male dominated society. However, Environmental Watch Trust Chairperson Shumaila Javed Bhatti does it and also take care of local cultural values and norms. Stick dance, fancy dress show and Sufiyana Dhamal beat the hearts of guests and participants. The performance of girls and women presenting rural and Potohari culture as well as culture of all provinces of Pakistan touched the hearts and minds of the participants. Muhammad Junaid Wattoo, Secretary Fisheries Development Board, Federal Ministry of Food Security was the chief guest while guest of honour were Rakhshanda Umar, ED NRDO, Fatima Alvi Fiction Writer, Rukhsana Sahr, poetess, Munazza Shakeel, writer, Qaisar Mehmood Rana, development expert, Nadeem Akram from Indonesian Embassy, Dr. Sohail Masood Bhatti first PhD in Computer Sciences from Sahal Khinger, and Khaleel-ur-Rahman, solar expert. The Women Festival was presided by Shumaila Javed Bhatti, while Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchange (ECA), Department of State, USA supported the festival. More than 400 women and children actively took part in the activities of the festival. Organic food stalls were first time arranged and directly marketed by the local organic women farmers was also a success story of this festival. Visitors were very impressed by the hand-made woollen products like shawls, cushions, mufflers, sleeves and bed sheets by EWT Zebaish Industrial Home. It is worth mentioning here that due to income from hand made woollen products the rural women now not using wood and cow dung for domestic fuel and purchased gas cylinders. Now they stop cutting trees and are using cow dung for organic fertiliser. Organic farming is also a great success of EWT. Now healthy organic food is available without insecticides and chemical fertiliser. Face painting, mehndi competition, and traditional rural food cooking competition were unique attractions of Rural Women Festival. The students of Government Girls Elementary School, Miana Dolial, under the leadership of Headmistress Sumaria Jameel gave excellent performance in cultural and fancy dress shows including two dramas. While the students of Ibn Khaldoon Educational Academy Mohra Burj under the leadership of Qazi Muhammad Imran presented purely Potohari culture by Sofiyana Dhamal, jugni, and national songs was also a very good addition in the festival. Rural Women got full benefits of Free Medical Camp jointly organized by Pakistan Association of Green Agricultural Journalists and Baghban Organisation of Social Services. The chief guest, Muhammad Junaid Wattoo, Secretary Fisheries Development Board, Federal Ministry of Food Security said 'In a rural conservative society, it was a mission impossible to arrange Rural Women Festival, but Chairperson EWT Shumaila Javed Bhatti made it a success story.' He announced that FDB will provide all technical assistance for women empowerment through four ornamental fish ponds in Sahal Khinger by partner organizations Environmental Watch Trust and NRDO. EWT Chairperson Shumaila Javed Bhatti said in her speech that, 'The disappointing thing is that even though women carry out some of the hardest roles in the village, like milking the animals, feeding and taking care of the animals, harvesting crops, cleaning and cooking, parenting and taking care of the kids and so many countless activities, yet they never have any events, besides weddings, to celebrate and relax. The low income community of women, whose rights have been violated the most, will feel a sense of liberation, unity, freedom and creativity by indulging in more productive and healthy activities like these festivals. The festival helped build the community's self-worth and foster a sense of pride. It was like a hands-on activity and experimental learning offered in the fun context of celebration with the aim to help preserve the cultural heritage of the Potohar region, and to foster stronger relationship between women in the community.'

PTDC restaurant opens at Daman-e-Koh

The News International
May 20, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporations is enforcing effective measures to upgrade the present standard of PTDC Motels and Hotels into 5-Star Hotels in future. This was stated by Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada while speaking as chief guest after inaugurating the PTDC Daman-e-Koh Restaurant in Islamabad on Monday evening. He said that Pakistan ranks among beautiful countries in the world which is indebted with natural beauties of mountains, rivers, archaeological sites beautiful sceneries etc to attract foreign and domestic tourists. He said that the present government of PML-N at the head of Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif is very determined, committed and serious to promote tourism in Pakistan. The minister said that PTDC which holds the status of company is enforcing practical and effective measures for the promotion of the tourism in all parts of the country. PTDC Motels is a big chain of hotels in Pakistan numbering 38 motels and 3 restaurants besides Flashman Hotel in Rawalpindi Saddar. It is the will and commitment of the government to provide better facility to every common man which is tourist. He lauded the role of PTDC for promotion of tourism in the country. The corporation has also providing special packages to tourist families and the students which is commendable step. He said that all tourist sites in different parts of the country are secure and safe and the government has started working in introducing Pakistan tourism all over the world. It is our foremost priority to provide foolproof security arrangements to foreign tourists and initial

Twirling heads: Young and old celebrate culture and heritage

The Express Tribune
May 20, 2014

homework in this regard has been initiated. All out efforts are in pipeline to improve the condition of PTDC in terms of its financial status in order to ensure ending the problems surfaced to its employees. Earlier, Managing Director Ch Kabir Ahmed Khan while speaking assured that in future Pakistan Tourism would emerge as an Industry and it is our major priority to provide better infrastructure to tourists both foreign and domestic.

ISLAMABAD: Concerted footwork while making swift swirls enthralled the audience that came to witness a musical evening here at a local hotel on Sunday evening. "A night of mysticism", organised by Mausikaar, celebrated Pakistan's culture and heritage through Sufism. A black velvet backdrop embellished with mirrors glistened as neon lights flashed on stage. A local dance troupe, Mohammad Azeem Haidri and his team of four dancers dressed in white added character to the theme of the event. While performing, men dressed in shalwar kameez and women in flowy-gowns danced with their eyes closed, twirling their heads aggressively while spinning like whirling dervish. As the dance performance picked up the pace of the evening, electrifying singing performance by Chand Khan and Suraj Khan of Patiala and Sham Chaurasi gharanas maintained the momentum until the last performance. Strapping high pitch vocals — a mix of Sufi poetry and classical ghazals of Buleh Shah and Shah Hussain — supported by harmonium and tabla were energetic and refreshing.

While the claps of the audience added rhythm to the performance, Suraj Khan from the Patiala Gharana hopes that the classical music would go beyond elaborate events and its preservations and promotion be taken over by the government. Speaking to The Express Tribune, Khan said that classical music was promoted by just a few private organisations and there was barely any support from the government. He suggested that the government should make institutions where leading classical musicians can teach music. He said that some big names in music were struggling to make ends meet today. He said that the government should provide retirement packages to artists who have spent their lives promoting culture and heritage. Khan, a trained classical singer, belongs to the fourth generation of the Patiala Gharana. He said that while families were struggling to pass on the legacy, those in the business were now experimenting with new ventures in order to keep the heritage alive.

Speaking about his own experience, through recent collaborations with Hungarian artists, Khan has managed to create a new market in the international sphere for classical music with different genres. "If we do not commercialise our music, we cannot make a living," He said. "Classical musicians in Pakistan were struggling to pass on the legacy, but as the upcoming generations are finding ways to incorporate this style with what's being demanded, new space is being created," he added. Suraj Khan said that century's old music is still being appreciated. "It is not just older people who understand poetry and respect classical music. It gives me great pleasure to see youth participating in such gatherings." "It was a wonderful evening, I brought my children with me just so they can see and hear what belongs to our country," said Saleem. The evening was well attended by music and art enthusiasts.

Karachi needs a museum worth its salt

The News International
May 19, 2014

KARACHI: Though Karachi houses the prestigious National Museum of Pakistan but it needs a splendid museum to showcase its history archeology arts and crafts culture and heritage. As the world is observing the International Museum Day on May 18, Karachi unlike other mega urban cities goes without a museum worth its salt. For the 37th year in a row the international museum community is celebrating International Museum Day on May 18. The theme for this year aims to rejuvenate the traditional methods museums use to involve their communities and keep up with their public. Karachi, the ninth largest city of the world, has just a few museums and art galleries. They include National Museum of Pakistan Mohatta Palace Pakistan Arts Council Wazir Mansion PAF Museum Pakistan Maritime Museum and State Bank Museum. There is also an archives library on the Old KMC Building which preserves important maps and archives on Karachi. In Karachi the number of people visiting museums and art galleries is negligible if compared with the other top 10 cities of the world and the main reason is the low priority of government to promote art culture history and heritage. CM's Special Assistant Sharmila Faruqi says that for the culture and tourism department is taking steps to promote and preserve heritage and arranging programmes to portray a softer image of Pakistan around the world.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Yousuf on Sunday said that Hazara Motorway and road networks will boost tourism sector, business activity of the country. He said that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), government is focusing on many sectors and developing the infrastructure, adding that road networks in the Hazara division would help expand the tourism industry of the area.

Talking to Pakistan Television, he said that developing road networks in the Hazara region would not only attract domestic and foreign tourists but also create job opportunities for the locals. The Minister said that Pakistan is rich in natural beauty which is a gift from Almighty Allah. He said that PML-N government is taking all measures to provide better road networks for enhancing business activity in this region. Sardar Yousuf said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is taking keen interest in the development and progress of the country, adding that all available resources are being utilized to improve the system in a befitting manner.

Another Kalash gala concluded Friday amid prompt and pedantry but the remote region bordering Afghanistan still lack far behind in social uplift in many spheres such as girls education. The scenic area known for fabulous heed has absolutely no girls school or girls college leaving all the female population illiterate and in highly deplorable condition. Lack of basic education for the females of the area is not a personal vendetta but a collective responsibility for all who claim providing fundamental rights to all and sundry in every nook and corner.

Most of the girls, who want to get education, have no other option but to go to boys schools and get their education upto matric in co-education system. The unique KalashValley has exclusive

Motorway, road networks to boost tourism, business activity: minister

Pakistan Today
May 19, 2014

Kalash festival ends, girls' miseries continue

Pakistan Today
May 18, 2014

Rational steps being taken to promote Sindh's heritage: Sharmila

*Business Recorder
May 18, 2014*

58 years of Italian archaeological mission celebrated

*The News International
May 18, 2014*

characteristics, marvelous scenery, outstanding location and wonderful people living in peace from the hundreds of years in the outskirts of the city of Chitral in the northern areas of Pakistan yet there is dearth of female education living life of illiteracy and ignorance. Astonishing to know, there is a no girls' college; and what to say of a college, there is no high school for girls of this valley which seems a disaster to the half of the population. One can draw a clear picture from the fact that without basic education to females, how can they actively participate to females, how can they actively participate in uplifting economy of the people of the valley. A local journalist while highlighting the issues faced by the people of Kalash said that the government should do more to enhance or boost life condition of Kalash people. "Roads leading to Kalash valley are in a dilapidated condition and Kalash people pay more than Rs. 3000 for booking a cab for 22 KM road", he said. The conditions of KalashValley could be very perfectly analyzed from the fact that there is no college in Kalash valley, no girls' high school in the valley, no mobile phone service. The locals say that the health facilities are also equal to none as the only Basic Unit health of the area is also run by an NGO. The economic dilapidated condition of the area could not improve until and unless, the concerned authorities reserve a quota for the locals in border police, Chitral scouts, Chitral police or in any other government jobs. Another alarming fact is that the border police collect tax from the local and foreign tourists but on the contrary they do not spend money for the betterment or providing and improving civic facilities in the area. It is feared that the Kalash culture will diminish if proper and concerted efforts are not made by the authorities as there is a dire need to focus on this area through out the year and not only during the festival days. There are also so many other reasons which are spreading disappointment among the locals of the area as we have to admit that we are failed to protect this unique culture of the world. The four-day Joshi festival in Kalash which started on May 13 ended on May 16 with an optimistic approach that it would bring betterment in the lives of the enriched cultural history of the people of the valley. This festival is celebrated, every year as a spring festival in the middle of May usually lasts for four days and honors the fairies and also safeguards the goats and shepherds before they go to the pastures. Giving details about the Kalash festival, Joint Secretary Ministry of Heritage and Director General Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Mashood Ahmed Mirza stated that the annual moot attracts number of foreign tourists which reflects international interest in this event. "The law and order situation has improved manifold due to which we are expecting increased number of foreigners, resulting in booming economy and promoting soft image of the country in the comity of nations", he maintained.

To a question about the economic condition of Kalash people, Mirza categorically stated that a handsome amount is earmarked in the annual Public Sector Development program (PSDP) by the provincial government of KPK due to which the living standard has improved manifold. However, various pro-active steps are direly needed to safeguard the slowly diminishing the enriched culture of Kalash which are an icon for the people of the valley and the girls' education should be focused with a commitment to equip them with their fundamental right. These are deprived and underprivileged people constantly being ignored for the uplift of their life style and living conditions which are very well known hurdles in their economic boost. Basically, most of their happy days are, when their festivals take place. The three main festivals of the Kalash are the Joshi festival in May, the Uchau in autumn, and the Caumus in midwinter which attract not only domestic visitors but also huge number of foreign tourists visit these festivals every year. These festivals generate temporary job opportunities for the locals and if calculate the festival days, these are not more than 10 days per year. Their lives depend upon the earnings of these ten days which they spend for the rest of the year. However, on the contrary, the locals of the area are not happy on this support. They term it as not a significant contribution which should have been made by the government.

KARACHI: Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister for Culture and Tourism Sharmila Farooqui has said that the Sindh Culture and Tourism department is taking rational steps to promote and preserve heritage of Sindh. In a statement on International Museum Day on Saturday, she said that her department is continuously arranging programmes, festivals, exhibition and conferences to portray the softer and peaceful picture of Pakistan around the World. She said exhibition of the rare antiquities, artifacts, manuscripts, miniature paintings, Gandhara sculptures, coins and many more is being organised for the first time at National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi. All Consul Generals and representatives from all walks of life are invited to attend the exhibition, she added.

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate the achievements of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Swat, the Italian Embassy, under the aegis of Ambassador Adriano Chiodi Cianfarani, hosted a dinner which featured two bastions of the Italian National identity — Culture and Gastronomy. The event was held at the compound of the Italian embassy, which had been decorated with lights and many photo images of the discoveries made by the mission — something that came as quite a surprise to many of the guests.

Head of the Economic, Cultural and Press section, Italian embassy Dr Federico Bianchi was master of ceremonies for the evening. In his opening remarks, the host underscored that in Pakistan Italian archaeologists have been operating since 1955, with the first surveys conducted by Prof. Giuseppe Tucci, the famous Tibetologist and Orientalist, who, thanks to the support and vision of the then Wali of Swat, established a permanent mission of the Italian Institute in Saidu Sharif in 1956. He went on to say that the mission has obtained great results, with successful excavations in Buddhist sanctuaries, the uncovering of proto-historic graveyards, early and late-historic settlements and very significant Islamic monuments. In 1984 Bazira (Barikot), fortified city of Indo-Greek times; in 1986 the third most ancient mosque in Pakistan, built under a General of Mahmud of Ghazni in 1048 was restored and opened for worship; in 2000 the Archaeological Map of the Swat Valley Project was launched; in 2012 a 3000 years old necropolis was unearthed.

Finally, in 2013 a new Archaeological Museum in Saidu Sharif was completed, inaugurated and opened to the public. "This museum offers a further tangible proof of Italy's commitment in contributing to protect the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan, providing visitors with an enhanced and modern structure housing a unique collection of Gandhara pieces, that is already drawing

CM hails street footballers as state children

DAWN.com

May 17, 2014

researchers and tourists from Pakistan and abroad.” He concluded by thanking the excellent work of all the players involved: the Economic Affairs Division of the Federal Ministry of Finances, the Army deployed in the Swat Valley and the KPK Provincial Authorities, adding, “The Italian effort to discover, look after and pass-on to future generations the historical legacy of Swat has also played an important role — we believe — in portraying a more comprehensive image of Pakistan, showcasing the “soft” side of this beautiful country instead of the negative one that too often international media focus on — it is also a land boasting of a very rich historical heritage that needs to be known and understood,” he said. The commendable work of four generations of Italian archaeologists and their local teams have allowed the people of Swat and Pakistan as a whole, to reconnect to its rich past. In fact, as a panellist pointed out in the recent Islamabad Literature Festival, it is only by owning our past that we will be able to define ourselves for the future”. Dr. Luca Olivieri, Head of the Italian Archaeological Mission, a soft spoken, dedicated person who has been with the mission for twenty seven years, also spoke, in some part, of his experience. When asked what made him spend a lifetime doing what he did he responded, ‘curiosity’ and the challenge of finding out about the past. Faryal Gauhar, who was involved with the mission for two years, said it had been the most gratifying experience of her life. Her documentary on the restoration of the Buddha of Jahanabad, which had been destroyed by a blast and restored by the Italian Mission was also screened. It made a number of people remark that it had made them want to visit the site and other landmarks for themselves. Thanks to the Italian Mission, Pakistanis can know more about their heritage than they would have otherwise. And it is not only this aspect which is commendable - the fact that they are providing hundreds of jobs and educating our people on the value of our heritage is also something to be appreciated. During dinner (Italian cuisine, of-course!) conversation, the fact that the people of Swat had accepted this heritage and were proud of it, was a strong indication of how peace loving and tolerant they were and certainly did not deserve to have gone through what they did in recent years.

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Pervez Khattak welcomed the Pakistan street children’s football team to Peshawar and during a ceremony announced Rs1.5 million for the team members here on Friday. The ceremony, organised at the CM House, was attended by politicians, students, civil society members and street children of Peshawar, according to a press release issued by the Tourism Corporation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Pakistan street children football team had secured third position in the Street Child Football World Cup in Brazil.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that everyone called them street children, but they were state children as ‘firstly, these children would be our future leaders and secondly, they have made us extremely proud’. The statement said that the Social Welfare Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would look into their plight and in the budget 2014-15 an amount would be allocated for their uplift. The chief minister also announced Rs1.5 million for these players and their trainers. The children arrived from Abbottabad and Swabi where they met students and visited different institutions after being welcomed by the local MPAs. They are visiting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from May 15 to 18. Zafarullah Khattak, director Brains Institute, is coordinating the team’s visit to the province. “It is a big honour that even before the team landed in Pakistan, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had invited the football heroes to our province,” said Mr Zafarullah. The purpose of the team’s visit is to highlight the issues related to street children. Those who once loitered in the streets would be treated as state guests and the achievements of the team will help to inspire and motivate local street children to excel in games and positive activities as well. The theme of the street children’s visit is “I am somebody” and slogan “No child should live on the streets”. The tour has been organised by Brains Institute, Azad Foundation, Child Protection Project, Child Protection and Welfare Commission, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the provincial Social Welfare Department, while TCKP is its co-sponsor. “Most of us are factory workers but when we heard that Muslim Hands is selecting children like us for the world cup we immediately started practice. With only three months of practice we competed against teams of 19 countries in the world cup and defeated India 13-0 though it was the last year’s winner,” one of the players Sami told the gathering. Later, the football players left for Islamia College where a mushaira would be held along with a dinner for them. On Saturday (today), the team will visit the Special Education Centre at Hayatabad and later play a football match with a government school team at Qayyum Stadium.

Canal Road expansion: Body formed to save trees mulls road widening

The Express Tribune

May 16, 2014

LAHORE: The government is considering expanding the Canal Road over the green belt that has been declared a heritage park by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, The Express Tribune has learnt. In its fourth meeting on Thursday, a committee formed under the Canal Heritage Park (CHP) Act, 2013 discussed a plan to widen the Canal Road at three locations and requested the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) to present a compressive plantation plan to replace the trees that would be cut down in any expansion.

According to the 2013 act, the advisory committee was only constituted to protect the Canal Heritage Park and no provision allows it to discuss any expansion projects. The committee was formed after the apex court directed the government to declare the Lahore canal and the green belt on either side of it from Jallo Park to Thokar Niaz Beg a public trust. “It shall be treated as a heritage urban park forthwith and declared so by an act to be passed by the assembly,” the court had stated. According to Section 6 of CHP Act, the committee’s functions were to advise the PHA on the proper upkeep and maintenance of the heritage park and on any other matter ancillary to the discharge of its functions under the 2013 law. During the meeting, the Traffic Engineering & Transport Planning Agency (TEPA) presented the plan for widening the Canal Road. As per the plan, 12 feet of green belt on either side of the canal would be used to widen the road from Doctors Hospital to Thokar Niaz Beg, a stretch of 3.25 kilometres. From The Mall to Harbanspura, a 5.5-kilometre section, the road would be expanded on either side by 12 feet. As many as 468 trees would be chopped down during the construction of phase one. In the second phase, the road would be widened from Harbanspura to Jallo. In all, around 1,600 trees would be cut down during the road

Giriraj Singh to be appointed as Pakistan tourism brand ambassador

Firstpost (satire)
May 16, 2014

PTDC to introduce Tourism Friends Club Card

The News International
May 16, 2014

PML-N to promote culture of reconciliation, says governor

DAWN.com
May 16, 2014

expansion. Members of the civil society objected to the expansion of the road and suggested focusing on traffic management instead. TEPA officials briefed the members regarding the plan for traffic management in Lahore and said that Rs80 billion would be spent to improve roads and traffic management in next few years.

Talking to The Express Tribune, PHA Director General Mian Shakeel agreed that discussion on the road's expansion was not part of the mandate of the committee. However, he said the CHP Act did not prohibit the committee to discuss such an issue. He said the advisory committee could only make suggestions to the PHA, which had the authority to decide on allowing construction for the project. He said that during the meeting members were informed that some 2,000 trees had been cut during construction of the metro bus project, but no one had raised any objection. "Why should there be objections during the construction of the Canal Road?" he asked. He said the objective to set up the committee was to bring the civil society on board. He said that the PHA had been requested to prepare an alternative plantation plan if the Canal Road widening took place. He said that the authority would plant four trees for every tree that was cut down. He said traffic management was being done but expansion was needed for Canal Road. Imrana Tiwana of Lahore Bachao Tehreek said that they would move the court against the committee formed to protect the heritage discussing the expansion project. She said the judgement of the SC had already been violated through construction work on Canal Road. She said that the authorities should focus on traffic management and even if they were permitted to widen the road now, they would again move for another expansion in a few years until no greenery remained.

ISLAMABAD: With his continuous and persistent penchant for sending people to Pakistan, Pakistan Government (the one which visits US and China, and not the Taliban or ISI) has decided to appoint Giriraj Singh as the brand ambassador for Pakistan Tourism. Giriraj Singh was elated with this decision that finally his speeches are making some sense and at least some one understood his noble intentions. Pakistani sources tell Faking News that there would be an ad campaign too where Giriraj Singh would invite people to Pakistan by saying, "Aatankwad ki galiyon se, ISI ki dhamkiyon se, Taliban ki pareshani se, China ki ghulami se, USA ke drones se, bach ke dekhe is mulq ke nazare. Badan ke kuch hisse to udwaiye Pakistan mein." While it seems far-fetched that many would want to visit Pakistan even after this ad-campaign, but Giriraj Singh himself has packed his bags to never return. Meanwhile Pakistani political parties have decided to make illegal Bangladeshi Indian immigrants an issue in the next elections in the country.

On the directions of Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has decided to initiate certain steps to facilitate tourists and enhance the revenue generation of the Corporation to make it as self-sustaining organisation. This was stated by PTDC Managing Director (MD) Ch Kabir Ahmad Khan while briefing journalists during their visit to Ayubia arranged by PTDC on Wednesday. The MD said in first step PTDC will introduce in near future Tourism Friends Club Card for tourists. Through this card, PTDC would provide incentives like discount on room rent of PTDC motels and hotels, tour packages and transport services to tourists. Briefing on Tourism Friends Club Card, he said, its purpose is to promote tourism activities and provide better facilities to the public as well as national and international tourists. The purpose of the club is to promote tourism activities and provide better tourist facilities at affordable rates to its members, to upkeep and maintain better standard in motels and hotels of PTDC throughout the country. A bona fide national or international citizen who could prove his or her identity would be entitled to apply for membership, subject to the conditions determined by the PTDC from time to time. The card-holder would also be given representation in the advisory committee-management committee constituted by the PTDC to invite proposals-suggestions to improve service conditions of hotels-motels and food quality. The PTDC MD would be empowered to nominate five card-holders as members of the advisory committee in view of their efforts in connection with promoting tourism. Other members of the committee shall include managing director, deputy managing director, finance director, GM hotels, GM motels, GM PTL and controller finance & accounts (motels). Ch Kabir Ahmad Khan also announced a special Ramadan package according to which 50% discount would be given to tourists in Northern Areas, while 30% concession would be provided at Naran and Ayubia. Replying to a question related to funds provision by the government to overcome the prevailing financial crunch in PTDC, the managing director said "We have demanded of the government to provide us share from the sale proceeds of Dean's Hotel, Peshawar, Falettis Hotel, Lahore, Cecil Hotel, Murree. A summary has been forwarded to the government in this connection and we are hopeful to receive a positive response." The PTDC land at Gaddani Beach in Balochistan would be utilised for launching projects including Beach Resort, outdoor and indoor games, water-sports for couples, which would help Corporation to generate huge income. To another question related to non-payment of salaries to the employees for last 18 months, he said that all dues would be cleared by June 30, 2014. The PTDC MD regretted that the previous administrator had illegally recruited 706 persons in PTDC against all rules and regulations which caused huge loss to the PTDC. To yet another question, Ch Kabir clearly stated that PTDC has not been affected by the 18th Amendment. Only tourism ministries were handed over to the provinces, he said.

PESHAWAR: Governor Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan said on Thursday that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government was moving forward with determination to make Pakistan a developed country while energy crisis and other problems would be resolved soon. He said that the PML-N workers should play their effective role for achieving the goal of strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan. He said that besides restoration of peace the government was committed to paving the way for overcoming energy crisis, achieving economic development and creating new job opportunities. The governor expressed these views while talking to a delegation of PML-N provincial cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, led by party's provincial president Pir Sabir Shah here at the Governor House. "The PML-N will promote a culture of reconciliation and reject the culture of revenge," the governor said. According to a handout, the delegation led by Sabir Shah included

Joint ventures to be launched to promote Pak-Malaysia tourism

Pakistan Observer
May 15, 2014

Environment friendly: PSB and PARC sign MoU to promote 'fruit culture'

The Express Tribune
May 14, 2014

IHC grants former PTDC MD pre-arrest bail

The News International
May 14, 2014

Pakistani calligraphy artists spread the word of God

Arab News
May 14, 2014

Arbab Saiful Haider and Rehmat Salam Khattak. They apprised the governor of the problems and difficulties which they had been facing. The governor assured the delegation of taking action to solve their grievances. Speaking to another delegation of PML-N Fata, led by Sabir Shah, the governor pledged that measures would be taken to ensure the provision of infrastructure, hospitals, schools, colleges, employment opportunities and basic facilities in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. He said that repatriation of all the internally displaced families would be given top priority. He said that Fata badly needed a healing touch so that through democracy and development the area could be secured against terrorism and extremism. The governor said that tribal people had practically proved that they liked Pakistan more than their own lives. He reminded the tribal elders that they had to continue their support to the law enforcement agencies for achieving the goal of complete peace in the country. The delegation members apprised the governor of the grave problems and difficulties, which the people of Fata had been facing. The governor assured the delegation of taking necessary practical steps to address the problems.

ISLAMABAD—Declaring to launch joint ventures to promote tourism between Pakistan and Malaysia, Dato' Dr. Hasrul Sani Muhtar, High Commissioner of Malaysia said on Wednesday great potential is waiting in this important sector to be explored for the benefit of both the countries. Speaking at a function to introduce Malaysia to Travel agencies and media persons in connection with 'Visit Malaysia Year, 2014' the HC said Malaysia has become very attractive destination for Pakistanis as 81000 per-sons visit Malaysia last year. He said his country is earning \$ 20 billion from flourishing tourism sector every year as 25 million tourists visit his country which has 28 million population. The envoy said he is working on some projects to make Pakistani artists, performers and singers as partner to promote tourism. In this connection he has visited Lahore and other cities. Food festivals and single country exhibition in Malaysia in cultural field are some of the ideas he has conceived. Pakistani sportsmen including golfers have great opportunities in his country. Joint performance by artists of both the countries in each other's country and exchange of TV dramas can prove to be great boosters. He is also trying to introduce Pakistan in his country as Pakistan has more beautiful places and delicious food stuff including tasteful fruit. Malaysian universities are also keen to open their campuses in Pakistan. Listing the positive points of his country which made it an attractive tourist destination, he said Malaysia is cheaper, beautiful, full of events, sandy and clean water beaches, easy access and connectivity, shopping paradise, especially for ladies and top of all it is a safe and secure country. On political and diplomatic fronts, he said both the countries enjoy excel-lent relations and there is no irritant. The envoy said dates for exchange of visits of high profile leaders are being worked out as several agreements have already been signed.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) signed an MoU on Wednesday in a bid to promote fruit culture by planting olives and other fruit plants on PSB grounds. Dr Muhammad Azeem Khan from PARC and DG Akhrar Nawaz Ganjera from the PSB signed the document together. The MoU aims to provide a healthy environment to national athletes attending national training camps as well as for those who will be participating in various sports events that will be held at the PSB grounds. Furthermore, the MoU states that PARC will help PSB develop bio-remediation sites at streams passing through their grounds. PARC stated that it will provide technical help for managing the fruit trees planted at the grounds. The MoU has been signed for the next 10 years. Several dignitaries from both PSB and PARC were also present on the occasion.

ISLAMABAD: A divisional bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) here on Tuesday granted pre-arrest bail to the former managing director (MD) of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Mir Shah Jahan Khetran, who is facing corruption charges and National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is investigating the matter. A two-member bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Justice Muhammad Anwar Khan Kasi and Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui, granted bail to Khetran till May 21 against surety bonds of Rs0.5 million. The legal counsel of Khetran, Advocate Farooq H Naek, told the court that NAB has filed a fabricated case against his client and is going to arrest him. The NAB has also requested the federal government to put Khetran's name on the Exit Control List (ECL), Advocate Naek further told the court. Khetran is allegedly involved in corruption and charged with accusation of mismanagement during his tenure as PTDC managing director. It was on December 1, 2013 when the government had removed Khetran from the post, and NAB had initiated an investigation into the alleged irregularities. As per NAB allegations, Khetran was allegedly involved in financial mismanagement, illegal recruitments and illegal leasing of PTDC properties.

Arabic script has been an important part of Islam's cultural heritage, whether in Saudi Arabia or in other Islamic countries, such as Pakistan. Arabic calligraphy is as popular around the globe as it is in the Kingdom. While rendering words of God in ink or colors, artists remain attached to a rich cultural heritage dating back to 5000 years. The continuity of tradition in their work is underscored in the choice of colors, patterns and designs used to beautify Islam's spiritual and scriptural messages. A calligraphy exhibition titled Roa't Ur Resalah (The message of beauty) in Jeddah highlighted the tradition of calligraphy, which goes back to the times of Caliph Umar Ibn Khattab and Ali Ibn Abi Talib. Indeed, reeds and brushes held by Pakistani artists imparted a new tone to Arabic calligraphy art besides enriching various popular styles today. On display were over 200 pieces of artwork by 34 Pakistani artists. Calligrapher Mussarat Arif said producing art and folk crafts are an indelible part of the human ethos. "From time immemorial — and in all human societies and cultures — human beings have strived to produce both. Pakistan being no exception, art and crafts have flourished in all parts of the country. Naturally, these have varied within the framework of both opportunities offered and constraints imposed by the country's geographical features and the pattern of life determined by the climate and the social mores, as well as economic conditions. In addition, interaction of various cultures, races, and belief systems in areas now comprising Pakistan has inspired Pakistani artists through the centuries." She said: "In this exhibition you will find art work of different types as I am related to fine art that's why you can see

Intangible Heritage: Parliamentary panel for preservation of classical music

The Express Tribune
May 14, 2014

Last-minute respite: Ex- PTDC chief granted pre- arrest bail

The Express Tribune
May 14, 2014

the touch of artistic work with calligraphy, as our calligraphy or classical calligraphy is different from today's work, where artists involve colors, medium and other touch of artistic work with calligraphy." The development of art almost certainly predates the development of language. However, the letter quickly went forward, if not to overtake at least come abreast with art. Arabic calligraphy is popular among all the segments of Islamic societies as Islam stressed the art of lettering as much as reading and reciting the Holy Qur'an. The writing of Qur'an beautifully is related to Umar Ibn Khattab and Ali Ibn Abi Talib, who encouraged Muslims to train their children in Arabic calligraphy. Promotion of Arabic calligraphy has therefore, been a part of conscious efforts of early Muslims. Ashraf Heera, another prominent Pakistani calligrapher and winner of the King Abdullah calligraphy contest, said the artists of Pakistan have their own style and some of them have made variations in classical calligraphy designs. Calligraphy not only linked people and artists with Islam but also the colors linked the feelings, inner emotions and saga of an entire civilization, which has seen an enviable apex, a predictable decline, then a leveling out, which can still lead into a resurgence. As an art form, calligraphy has attracted global interest and has found a place not only in Islamic societies, but in societies across the world. Its treasures are housed both in Western museums and within the Islamic world. In Pakistan, the art of calligraphy has attracted the attention of artists across the spectrum, as there was a time when the art form was being viewed as one on the decline. It is now a part of the repertoire of artists who specialize in forms other than calligraphy besides being the mode of expression of those who indulge only in its many facets. Mohammed Hassan Kashigar, ceramic pottery expert and teacher in Mahran University, told Arab News that he likes to be here in Saudi Arabia. He said a number of people, especially Saudis and Arabs, appreciated his classical and modern ceramic work. Kashigar is working on Islamic patterns, mosaic, ceramic and screen tiles as this is his family profession. He said that though he has held several exhibitions in other countries, he is extremely pleased and satisfied with the exhibition in Saudi Arabia. "A number of people, especially Saudi businessmen, expressed appreciation for my work and I got excellent responses from everyone, especially for ceramic and naqashi work," he said. British Consul General Mohammed Shokat visited the exhibition and appreciated the unique calligraphy work by Pakistani artists. He also bought one of the artworks. "The exhibition is fantastic, every single piece is absolutely amazing calligraphy. Though at a very early age I learned to write Urdu and calligraphy, I am not good at it now. Being able to write calligraphy, the word of God that exists in Holy Qur'an, is an art form and a special ability. Calligraphy is not simply writing, but it is a sense of colors and designs as well," he said. Pakistani Consul General Aftab Khokher said the exhibition Roa't Ur Resalah was part of their endeavor to promote awareness about the Islamic heritage of Pakistan. In Pakistan, this tradition has been carefully nurtured and enriched. Today, it constitutes our primary cultural identity, he said. The four-day exhibition was inaugurated by Najia Aizaz Ahmed, wife of Pakistani Foreign Affairs Secretary and Hamida and Alireza promoter of arts and craft in Saudi Arabia, in the presence of the Pakistani consul general, his wife Afshan Khokher. The Arabic calligraphy exhibition was organized by the Pakistani consulate in Jeddah, in cooperation with the World Muslim Congress, Jeddah office, under the umbrella of Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef. The twelve participating Pakistani artists included Iqbal Ibn-e-Kaleem, Irfan Ahmed Khan, Hafiz Anjum Mahmood, Malik Muhammad, Abdul Rehman, Nasir Mehmood, Muhammed Ashraf Heera, Abdul Rasheed, Abdul Razaq, Maqsood Ali Lashari, Mussarat Arif, Hassan Kashigar, Malik M. Abdul Rehman and Muhammed Asghar Ali.

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary panel on Tuesday called for steps to save classical music from extinction. Revival of Pakistan's classical music and cultural heritage was need of the hour as this can play important role in fighting extremism. This was the crux of the opinion expressed by members of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage at its meeting at the parliament house. The meeting was chaired by MNA Marvi Memon that discussed the issue of preservation of national culture and heritage. MNA Memon said that soon a committee meeting would be convened to discuss issues related to culture and music. Noted musicians and singers Arieab Azhar, Haroon Rashid and Zeejah Fazli briefed the meeting about recently concluded Music Mela and conference held at Pakistan National Council of the Arts. The sufi mystic singer said that classical heritage needed state support. He said that most of the countries in the region open their cultural centres along with their embassies in other countries to promote their culture but Pakistan has neglected this area. Haroon Rashid said that Pakistani music was facing serious threat of extinction as violating law of the land as several TV and radio channels were playing Indian music. Moreover, he said that intellectual property laws were not operational as a result of which many great singers like Mehdi Hassan and Reshman died in abject poverty. The meeting was attended by MNAs Murad Saeed, Waseem Akhtar Shaikh, Muhammad Tallal Chaudhry, Parveen Masood Bhatti, Amir Ali Shah Jamot, Naeema Kishwar Khan, Arifa Khalid Parvez, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Belum Hasnain.

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted pre-arrest bail to former chief of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), after the country's anti-corruption watchdog decided to arrest him for financial mismanagement in the authority during his tenure. A two-member bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice Muhammad Anwar Khan Kasi and Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui granted interim pre-arrest bail to former PTDC managing director (MD) Shah Jehan Khetran till May 21 against surety bonds of Rs0.5 million. The court issued a notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The petitioner's counsel Farook H Naek, filed an application requesting the court to grant his client pre-arrest bail. Khetran is accused of embezzlement at PTDC when he was MD of the country's national tourism body. The counsel informed the court that NAB had initiated a fabricated case against his client based on mala fide intentions. He maintained that NAB had asked the government to put Khetran's name on the Exit Control List (ECL). On December 1, 2013, the government removed Khetran from the post and NAB initiated an investigation into irregularities which surfaced under his watch. According to a NAB official, who requested his name be withheld, the suspect was involved in financial mismanagement, illegal recruitments and illegal leasing of PTDC properties. Currently, investigation is under way. NAB has

Iranian President urges enhanced cultural, economic cooperation with Pakistan

Islamic Republic News Agency
May 12, 2014

collected sufficient evidence against Khetran and it is trying to arrest him so formal proceedings can be initiated, he added. The official said NAB also requested the ministry of interior to put his name on the ECL, so he could not escape from the country.

President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that relations between Tehran and Islamabad should be based on broadening secure and developed borders. President Rouhani made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif in Tehran. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to connect the countries by means of rail tracks, roads and laying fiber optic, said President Rouhani. Iran and Pakistan have a very long border which play a significant role in maintaining both sides' security, he said. He called for expansion of cultural and economic cooperation between the two countries particularly along joint border regions. Rouhani expressed the hope that development of power transmission network could play a leading role in expanding economic cooperation between the two neighboring states. Describing the conditions for expansion of cooperation in border regions as suitable, he said the Iranian government and nation call for restoration of stability and security to borderlines and have always endeavored to secure the areas to protect neighbors. Recent unfortunate border incidents have affected both sides' public opinions, Rouhani said and lauded the close cooperation of the Pakistani government and nation for release of kidnapped Iranian border guards who were under captivity of terrorist groups. The efforts of the Pakistani government to control and maintain the security of border lines would help speed up pace of development both in Pakistan and the whole region, he said. Iran has made huge investments in Tehran-Islamabad gas pipeline project dubbed as 'Peace Pipeline' and has properly displayed its commitments, he said. Iran is keen to improve its relations with neighboring states and with Pakistan in particular, President Rouhani said. Referring to expansion of economic and commercial relations between the two countries, he said there are no limits to expansion of all out cultural and economic relations with Pakistan. The current visit of the Pakistani premier and his entourage to Tehran and the firm determination of the two sides' officials can remove all existing barriers to promotion of relations between the two states, he said. Terrorism has posed a serious threat to all countries of the region, he said. All regional countries should take into account the fact that presence of terrorist groups will jeopardize peace and stability of the entire region, he said. Iran and Pakistan as two big and Muslim countries of the region can persuade other countries to broaden their security cooperation in order to uproot terrorism and violence from the region, said the Iranian president. Referring to Iran-Pakistan good cooperation within international organizations, he said such cooperation should expand to cover regional issues. Referring to consolidated cultural, historical and geographical bonds between the two countries, Rouhani said the two states have a very close understanding of Islam and Holy Quran and can help upgrade level of cooperation among regional countries. The visiting Pakistani premier, for his part, his visit to Tehran was aimed at opening a new chapter in bilateral relations. The Pakistani government believes that the level of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries should be increased, he said. Islamabad is determined to remove existing barriers to help speed up construction of gas pipeline between the two countries, said the Pakistani premier. He expressed the hope that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries would increase in the near future. Due to shortage of electricity in Pakistan, he called on Iran to help remove its power shortages. Expressing regret over horrible border incident, he said Pakistan is among victims of terrorism that has suffered huge economic losses. The Pakistani government is determined to foil plots to tarnish relations between the two countries, he said. Iran and Pakistan should devise a common mechanism to monitor and control and encounter terrorist incidents, he said. Pakistan had very close cooperation with Iran in busting Jundallah terrorist group, said the Pakistani premier, adding that the Islamabad government and nation are determined to fully cooperate with Iran in deal with terrorist groups mainly Jeishol Adl. The Pakistani premier arrived in Tehran earlier Sunday morning on a two-day official visit. Iranian and Pakistani officials on Sunday signed nine cooperation Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and agreements in the presence of First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri and visiting Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. An MoU on establishment of High Border Commission was signed by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Pakistani premier's advisor for National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz. Another cooperation MoU was on prevention and prohibition of money laundering and financial support for terrorist groups which was signed by Minister of Economy and Finance Ali Tayyeb-Nia and his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Es-haq Dar. The two ministers also inked two more MoUs on exchange of financial information in the field of money laundering and statistical cooperation. Meanwhile, cooperation MoU on prevention of and confrontation with pollution of ships was signed by Iran's Minister of Road and Urban Planning Abbas Akhoundi and Pakistan Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbadi. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati and Sartaj Aziz also inked an MoU on cultural, scientific, educational, technical, youth and family affairs. The next MoU was on sport cooperation signed by Minister of Sports and Youth Mahmoud Goudarzi and Khaqan Abbadi. Iran's Justice Minister Mustafa Pour-Mohammadi and Sartaj Aziz also signed an MoU on exchange of prisoners between the two countries.

The Alchemy festival brings Pakistani culture to London

The Express Tribune
May 11, 2014

LONDON: The Southbank Centre in London is hosting the Alchemy festival – dedicated to bringing South Asian culture to the UK's capital. An entire day has been dedicated to discussing everything in Pakistan, from its politics and satire to art and cricket. It will be curated by author Kamila Shamsie and culminate in a comedy show by Saad Haroon. Rachel Harris, the programmer of Alchemy, echoed Haroon's sentiments that the festival does have more of a focus on Pakistan than it did before. "We are aware that there is a certain image of Pakistan in the news and we want to show London an alternative view, the range of work and insight into the amazing creativity that comes from that part of the world," she said. In London, she believes, artists from South Asia can come together in a neutral space which may not be possible otherwise. "The Southbank Centre is a cultural organisation that responds to and reflects its surrounding community, and gives people a sense of connectivity on an international level," said Harris. "We want the widest possible audience to attend, not just South Asians who will be familiar with some of the names featured, but also

Cultural heritage amazes Indonesian lawmakers

The Nation
May 9, 2014

Pak-Iran relations based on history, culture

Pakistan Observer
May 9, 2014

Pakistan reports 40 new polio cases as country moves to fight Taliban vaccine embargo

Daily Mail
May 9, 2014

mainstream audience," she added. "We want to hold a mirror up to the diversity in the UK," she said, adding that, "the idea is to do something that resonates with the communities in London." Commenting on the free Citizens Archive of Pakistan exhibition, Rachel said that they have an amazing repository of memories, artifacts and oral histories to which she hopes people in the UK may be able to add. Saad will be performing his show titled Factory Life, which he has previously performed in New York. He describes it as a one-man show with a mixture of storytelling and stand-up comedy, which focuses on his life working in his father's textile factory, his experience returning to Pakistan after college and how he broke out of his mould of a young Pakistani born into a business family. He wrote it keeping a non-Pakistani audience in mind, unlike his previous shows, because he wanted a show "that talks about Pakistan, but is not about terrorism."

Speaking about Alchemy he said it is great that this time around the festival has more of a Pakistan-centric "because we do not get many opportunities to showcase our art. It always ends up being around the themes of violence, this time around the festival is much more fun, it includes cricket and satire and performances of South Asian female comedians." "I'm looking forward to the diversity of voices within South Asia that will come forward," he added. Hamza Arshad, a comedian of Pakistani descent, whose online series Diary of a Bad Man has over 50 million views on Youtube, will be performing at the festival as well and visitors will also get to see an art installation by artist Bashir Mahmood.

ISLAMABAD - A 10-member parliamentary delegation from Indonesia led by Elviana visited the National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) on Wednesday. Shahera Shahid, executive director, and other senior officers of Lok Virsa received the delegates on arrival. They were briefed about salient features of Pakistan's traditional culture with special reference to the role and functioning of Lok Virsa as a cultural institution dealing with collection, documentation and preservation of Pakistan's cultural heritage. The delegation was taken around various three-dimensional creative displays depicting living cultural traditions and lifestyles of the people at the Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology, popularly known as Heritage Museum. The museum is housed over 25 large galleries and several link passages showing Pakistan's cultural history and influences with neighbouring and brotherly countries such as China, Iran, Central Asian States and Saudi Arabia. The delegation took keen interest in the diorama of "truck art" which is a colourful and dazzling artwork done on vehicles specially trucks, buses and rickshaws and found in abundance in Pakistan. The delegates were also amazed to see the dying skills beautifully displayed with their techniques in the "Hall of Architecture" highlighting contribution of Mughal emperors. While recording her comments in the visitors' book, the leader of the delegation lauded efforts of Lok Virsa in documenting and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan. A short live musical performance by folk artists and musicians was also arranged for the visiting delegates. Later, the delegates also paid a visit to the Pakistan Monument Museum, adjacent to National Monument and witnessed the displays depicting birth, history, freedom movement and development of Pakistan as a progressive state.

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that there are strong relations between Pakistan and Iran, which are based on history, civilization and culture. He said that a modern slaughter house has been set up in Lahore with the cooperation of Iran. He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is going to visit Iran on May 11 which will further promote economic, trade, cultural and bilateral relationship between the two countries. He was talking to Governor of Iranian province of Sistan Balochistan Ali Osat Hashmi during a meeting, here Thursday. Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan and Director General Foreign Affairs Syed Mehdi Nabizadeh and Iranian Consul General Muhammad Hussain Bani Asadi were also present on the occasion. Matters of mutual interest and strengthening of Pak-Iran relations were discussed in the meeting. he Chief Minister said that there is a need for taking measures for promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Iranian province of Sistan Balochistan and Punjab. He said that the authorities of both the provinces should review practicable projects so that progress could be made for promoting bilateral relations. The Chief Minister welcomed the offer of the Governor of the Iranian province for cooperation in different projects. He said that Pakistan is facing serious problem of shortage of electricity and energy crisis has badly affected agriculture, education, industries, health and other sectors. He said that PML-N government is working on war footing for overcoming power crisis. He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is laying the foundation stone of a 100 megawatt solar power project tomorrow in the largest solar park of South Asia. He said that the foundation stone of 1320 megawatt coal power plants is also being laid in the current month in Sahiwal with the cooperation of China. Syed Mehdi Nabizadeh while speaking on the occasion expressed the hope that new avenues of Pak-Iran cooperation will open in the tenure of PML-N. He said that the visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to Iran will promote bilateral relations between the two countries. He said that Iran wants to promote economic, trade and cultural ties with Pakistan. Governor Sistan Balochistan Ali Osat Hashmi said that people of Pakistan and Iran are bound together in strong bonds of love and affection. He said that there is a need to promote cooperation between Punjab and Sistan Balochistan in different sectors and his province is ready to cooperate with Pakistan especially Punjab in education, health, tourism, energy, livestock and other sectors. The Governor of Sistan Balochistan also invited Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif to visit Iran. The Chief Minister accepted the invitation and said that he will visit Iran as soon as possible.

Pakistan's ambition of achieving a polio-free environment by 2017 has never seemed more distant. As compared to the annual (January to April) surveys conducted in the last decade, the first quarter of this year has thrown up the largest figures of the malaise. Over 40 cases have surfaced in North Waziristan, where the Taliban embargo on vaccines threatens children. Nevertheless, the country has spent a fraught three days as it struggles to assuage warnings of travel bans and the WHO's stringent polio restrictions. To the point that the Imaam-e-Kaaba is expected to enlighten fanatic forces who are bent on waging a war against immunisation programmes. The cleric's endorsement

'Tourist attraction' opens at Alhamra

Daily Times
May 7, 2014

Mega display of photography

The News International
May 7, 2014

Government to hold mango festival, single country exhibition in Malaysia

Business Recorder
May 7, 2014

South Asian Heritage Month features the big

is likely to lend a new lease of life to the polio prevention initiatives. Meanwhile, there has been an emergence of a plethora of potential measures. Punjab's partiality surfaced with the plan to make vaccinations compulsory for all entries into the province. Travel agents and certain embassies know that, with an export of over 500,000 tourists in the summer season, a blanket ban is hardly a possibility but steps to curtail the virus will see a firm hand. But Pakistan is one of the globe's three polio-prevalent countries with its polio-virus strains being traced in other countries such as Syria and Egypt. And unless it thwarts the polio conundrum, Saudi Arabia will not hesitate to impose curbs on Hajj pilgrims. Today, a travel ban spells doom for Pakistan's economic health, local tourism and opportunities for education and health. The way forward is an impartial and aggressive confrontation augmented with foolproof logistics. The writer is a columnist in Karachi

LAHORE: A photo exhibition titled 'Tourist Attraction of Pakistan' opened at Alhamra Art Gallery on Tuesday. Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Managing Director Kabir Ahmad Khan inaugurated the exhibition. Over 100 photographs of Pakistan's most beautiful and attractive tourist spots have been put on display at the exhibition. A collection of Pakistan's landscape, mountains and valleys, lakes and glaciers, people and culture, heritage and monuments are being showcased.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director Kabir said that the PTDC was striving hard to promote country's natural and cultural heritage at local and international levels and that this exhibition was a part of this endeavour of the corporation. He said that the basic reason for organising this exhibition in Lahore was that it is one of the important tourist attracting regions of the country. Kabir Khan said that the northern areas of Pakistan are known across the globe for their beauty, landscapes, mountains, especially the Korakoram, glaciers and lakes. If we would not show these places to the people of Pakistan, then many of the areas and their inhabitants would remain unknown to the secrets of their country, he added. One of the photographers, Mukhtar Ali, said that these types of exhibition created awareness among the people, specially youths, students and foreigners about country's tourist places. He said that youth, especially students, should visit this exhibition which showcases the country's unique and beautiful landscapes, rivers, lakes and other spots.

LAHORE: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) organised a mega exhibition of photography at the Alhamra Arts Council's permanent Art gallery on Tuesday. It is a panorama of exquisite tourist sites in Pakistan, especially the northern areas, and provides an impressive visual account of the picturesque tourist attractions in the country. The exhibition, a unique opportunity for the lens men, amateur photography buffs, frequent travellers, domestic tourists and the general public, proved to be a great source of joy and information for the viewers from all walks of life. According to Ch Kabir Ahmed Khan, the PTDC managing director, it was a great initiative to promote natural beauty and culture of the country through photography. The three-day exhibition contained a collection of around 100 photographs on landscape, mountains, valleys, lakes, glaciers, people & culture, heritage and monuments. This collection includes the photographs of Mukhtar Ali, Gulraiz Ghouri and members of Rawalpindi-Islamabad Photojournalists Association (RIPJA).

Pakistan High Commissioner to Malaysia Syed Hasan Raza has decided to promote Pakistan's exports in Malaysia in a broader way and assist the business community to hold single country exhibition in Kuala Lumpur. Speaking at a seminar at FPCCI with the collaboration of Halal Association of Pakistan the other day, Hasan Raza also announced that mango and orange festivals would also be held in Malaysia in order to promote Pakistan's fruits' export into Malaysia.

Seminar was also attended by the Chief Executive, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), S M Muneer and Kazi Asad Abid, Chairman Halal Products and Services Association of Pakistan who also addressed the business community. The High Commissioner highlighted the potential of fruits and vegetables, readymade garments and Halal products as his focus sectors. He also informed the initiatives he has taken for the promotion of Pakistan imports to Malaysia. S M Muneer, Chief Executive TDAP welcoming the High Commissioner appreciated his detailed presentation and informed the audience that he recently held a meeting with the Minister of Commerce and highlighted the importance of Pakistani Foreign Missions in promotion of exports. He said that he has taken up this matter with the ministry and a list would be updated of Pakistani foreign consulates/embassies officials which are not performing their duties as per the role assigned to them for the promotion of Pakistani exports. Kazi Asad Abid, Chairman HAP, appreciated that Ambassador Hasan Raza has visited the FPCCI and Pakistan-Malaysia Business Council on the initiative of Founder and Senior Vice Chairman of Halal Association Asad Sajjad. He said that business community is well aware that for the last several years, Asad is promoting Halal Pakistan and propagating the importance of Halal branding and harmonisation of standards, making efforts to bring Pakistan on the global map of Halal trade. Chairman said that Ambassador Hasan Raza has also initiated and helped us organised the first Halal Trade delegation to Malaysia, under the leadership of then foreign minister. The delegation had literally opened Pakistan's Halal products export with Malaysia as most of the delegation members are now regular exporters to Malaysia. Chairman said that business community is very happy that Hasan Raza is now posted in Malaysia as the Ambassador and we are sure that he will do his best efforts to identify and create opportunities for our exporters to increase Pakistan's exports to Malaysia for the Halal certified Food and non food products. Appreciating the appointment of S M Muneer as the CE of TDAP, Kazi Asad assured the audience that HAP will organise similar lectures on regular basis, specially for the markets which are still not open for Pakistan, and would make efforts to resolve the issues and difficulties faced by our exporters under the dynamic leadership of S M Muneer, who is from the private sector and would be there for the promotion of exports.-PR

This month celebrates the long history, diverse cultures and enormous contributions during South Asian Heritage Month in Canada. May provides an opportunity to learn about the history of people from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Ontario Premier

three: colour, culture and contribution

Brampton Guardian
May 6, 2014

Kathleen Wynne extended her greetings to the South Asian community by saying, "Our province is proud to be home to a dynamic and diverse South Asian community. Your presence has contributed immeasurably to Ontario's vibrancy and has strengthened our links with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh as well as with South Asians from around the world." Wynne said it's an occasion for all South Asians to celebrate their rich and varied traditions. For young South Asian Canadians, she said it's a chance to deepen their appreciation of their community's heritage and achievements.

Exotic events

Over the next four weeks, various public and private events are scheduled in Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto. In Toronto, Ontario Royal Museum (ROM) unveils RUNG Festival (festival of colours) on the weekend of May 31. It will present performances and exhibits showcasing a variety of dance forms, instrumental performances, traditional crafts, workshops and documentary films. RUNG is Canada's premium South Asian event featuring traditional and contemporary arts, crafts, music and dance from South Asian countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan as well as Afghanistan. The event also features a contemporary workshop on 'Islamic calligraphy and the art of illumination illustration'. Calligraphy teacher Omar Uddin will illustrate and help visitors try the artist's pen to form alphabets from Arabic calligraphy. Other exhibits of the festival are henna tattoos; turban tying and sari wearing demonstrations; display of kites from India and Pakistan; display of masks and costumes from Sri Lanka; and woodblock printing from Pakistan.

Sikh Film Festival

The month kicked off in style in Brampton on Saturday, May 3, with screening of some great stories at the 2nd Sikh International Film Festival Toronto. The festival presented unique Sikh stories and storytellers with a special focus on documentaries, feature and short films that celebrate the rich heritage and cultural contributions of Sikhs around the world. Similarly from May 15 to 19, Punjabi International Film Festival (PIFF) and International Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA) will be showcasing feature movies, documentaries and short films in Brampton, Mississauga, Oakville, Richmond Hill, Scarborough and Toronto. All will touch on diverse themes of South Asian cultures. In Mississauga and Brampton, Peel District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board as well as libraries will be doing special activities, workshops and events to celebrate the month, which is also recognized as Asian Heritage Month.

Khalsa Day Parade

Earlier, celebrating Sikh New Year, more than 100,000 people attended the 29th annual Khalsa Day parade in downtown Toronto. In form of small rallies, people started to gather at Toronto's CNE grounds from Mississauga, Brampton and other cities where they attended traditional music, hymns and prayers followed by a parade to Nathan Philips Square. A large number of politicians and leaders include, Premier Wynne, PC leader Tim Hudak, Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath, federal NDP leader Thomas Mulcair, and federal Liberal leader Justin Trudeau attended the parade. The Toronto Khalsa Day parade started in 1986. Currently it has become one of the largest parades in the GTA.

Irresistible lure of Pakistan's 'killer mountain' claims more lives

www.emirates247.com
May 4, 2014

Gunmen shot dead 10 foreign tourists at its base camp last year, but for serious mountaineers, the allure of Pakistan's "killer mountain" remains irresistible. Militants stormed Nanga Parbat base camp on the night of June 22, 2013, dragging the climbers out of their tents and shooting them point blank along with their local guide. The massacre badly hit tourism in Pakistan's wild, mountainous north, which is home to some of the world's highest peaks and most challenging climbs. But three winter summit attempts have brought fresh hopes for the industry, crucial to the local economy, as it gears up for the summer climbing season. Nanga Parbat, Pakistan's second-highest peak at 8,125 metres (26,660 feet), has never been climbed successfully in winter because of the treacherous weather conditions. Its fearsome Rupal Face, rising more than 4,000 metres from base to top, presents one of the most difficult -- and tantalising -- challenges in climbing. Simone Moro, one of the world's leading Alpinists, was among those to return unsuccessful from Nanga Parbat this winter. The Italian has now made two attempts to climb the peak in winter and the mountain is drawing him to make a third. "I have felt strange feelings there, feelings that I have never felt before at the foot of a mountain," he said. "Nanga is not just a mountain, it is a whole world on its own to be discovered and explored -- a planet apart from the Himalayas." "The Rupal Face is incredible, its like a giant planet standing in front of you, seducing you to climb it."

Mountains of bureaucracy?

Nanga Parbat earned its grisly nickname after more than 30 climbers died trying to conquer it before the first successful summit in 1953. The events of last June gave the name a new, more sinister overtone but Moro says the incident was a blip and he wants to encourage others to come to Pakistan. "I consider Nanga Parbat as the safest place in Pakistan," he said. "What happened last year was just a tragic episode; accidents can happen anywhere in the world but that never means it will always repeat itself." David Goettler, a German member of the expedition led by Moro who has twice attempted K2 -- Pakistan's highest peak and the world's second-highest -- said he was astonished by the attack. "I could not believe it, I was like 'how on earth did the terrorists come there?'" he said. "I have visited Pakistan six times in the past and I have a super good relationship with the people there." The regional government in Gilgit-Baltistan has slashed the fee for climbing in winter by 95 percent to \$270. But Moro said it was very difficult for mountaineers to get visas for Pakistan -- a common gripe from tourists who face seemingly endless bureaucratic hurdles to visit even for a short time. "You have to literally fight for six to seven months to get a visa for Pakistan -- you need to open your doors in order to let people come in," said Moro. Ashraf Aman, the first Pakistani climber to scale K2, says the government is making no serious effort to encourage tourism. The country's powerful intelligence services -- which keep a close watch on foreigners

Pakistani culture exhibit pulls stream of visitors in Washington

*Associated Press of Pakistan
May 4, 2014*

Right kind of literary festivals

*Pakistan Today
May 3, 2014*

Tour Pakistan

*The News International
May 1, 2014*

Britain, Pakistan unveils roadmap for cultural, educational cooperation

*Shanghai Daily (subscription)
May 1, 2014*

travelling outside of major cities -- make life difficult for those who do arrive, said Aman, who now runs a tour operating company. "It is very difficult to get a visa and if a tourist's luck wins him a visa he regrets his decision the moment he arrives in Pakistan," he said. "The security and intelligence agencies start never-ending sessions of questions, one after another at each destination."

'A treacherous nowhere'

Nestled between the western end of the Himalayas, the Hindu Kush mountains and the Karakoram range, Gilgit-Baltistan houses 18 of the world's 50 highest peaks. It is also home to three of the world's seven longest glaciers outside the polar regions and hundreds of its mountains have never been climbed. But it is the lure of Nanga Parbat that draws Moro back, the famous names that have climbed it in the past -- Reinhold Messner, Steve House, Tomaz Humar. "Climbing Nanga Parbat is like crossing an ocean or a desert, heading to the peak with the idea of joining two points across a treacherous nowhere," said Moro.

American citizens and international diplomats streamed into the Pakistani embassy in Washington on Saturday to experience the country's culture and cuisine on the occasion of the annual Around the World Embassy Tour.

The literary festivals seem to have gathered impressive momentum. There was much anticipation for the Lahore and Karachi reruns, and both went down well. Islamabad, too, was fun aplenty for the participants just a few days ago. There can be no denying the importance of such festivals for a place like Pakistan. It seems that over the years when we, as a nation, tried to punch above our weight, got ourselves mixed in superpower games, and thought ourselves masters of the region, we allowed delusions to have the better of us. And looking back, it is little surprise dogmas and erratic idealism slowly, and quit comprehensively, replaced the spirit of enlightened, and educated, progress. Our literature suffered too, so attempts to safeguard it are always appreciated. But we must be careful, at the same time, that these efforts do not just erect showcase events for a limited urban middle class. In restricting intellectual revival to a self-appointed few, we risk creating a very dangerous class of the dispossessed, one which will eventually bend towards a more inviting but wrong side as the larger narrative of Pakistan enters a crucial stage. It bears noting that our traditional literature, too, is mostly a product of the grassroots. It was often at its lower rungs that society finds its most fertile pool of intellectual and literary output. It is sad that for far too long our folk and cultural heritage has failed to evolve, and our ideals remain embedded in a very distant past, especially our literature, a sorry, stagnant shadow of its old self. These literary festivals, impressive as they are, must quickly expand not only to involve the street, but provoke it into creativity. Such small sparks have been known to light large fires. The national mindset is in a confused state of metamorphosis, unable to detach itself from growing influences of existentialism. But such times also carry important opportunity. They signify that there is still room for influence in the bigger debate, and voices of reason will find a place, no matter how restricted. There are interesting points of convergence where literary pundits, intellectuals, and popular media can come together. Not only can they help the state in countering a growing reactive and regressive mindset, they can also help the softer side of state and society, and do a service to the arts. Literary festivals from now on will test the organisers' maturity.

As soon as spring comes to its end people start to plan their summer holidays. People love to go and spend time in the country's northern areas among the natural beauty of Pakistan. The most popular places include the Muree Hills, Bhurban, Ayubia, Patriata, Kaghan Valley, Naran Valley, Neelum Valley and Swat Valley. This part of the country is famous all around the world because of sky high mountains, lush green valleys, mighty rivers, amazing wildlife and beautiful lakes.

Due to the importance of these areas the government of Pakistan should take measures so that people can enjoy their holidays. These measures include making safe roads on the mountains, providing these areas electricity and gas and most importantly security. Pakistan needs to encourage local tourism at very low rates because the higher cost of staying in the northern areas has made it difficult for common people to travel to these remote areas. To be successful on this front, Pakistan has to overcome its weaknesses. For that purpose tourism is an important source of foreign exchange earnings, promotion of cross-cultural understanding and cooperation, income generation, job creation and poverty reduction.

British Prime Minister David Cameron and visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met Wednesday in London, and unveiled a roadmap for further bilateral cooperation in culture and education. The two leaders underscored their commitment to support the BritainK-Pakistan relationship by agreeing to open a new British Deputy High Commission in Lahore, Punjab, Downing Street said in a statement. The visit marks the launch of a Britain-Pakistan cultural and education cooperation "roadmap" which sets out the basis of cultural engagement between the two countries, enabling collaboration on a calendar of cultural engagement for the next three years, the statement said. In partnership with British providers, the roadmap includes the British Council's commitment to train one million teachers of English over the next four years in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provinces in Pakistan to help enhance the quality of English language teaching in the country, it added. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the status of the British Council in Pakistan listed a range of joint activities around the British Council's work there, including English language learning, arts and the creative industries. The roadmap also highlights work through the British Department for International Development to support delivery of primary and secondary education in Pakistan, which aims to benefit 4 million more children in school by 2015 and train 90,000 teachers per year, according to the statement. The visit was Sharif's first official bilateral tour to Britain since Pakistan's landmark elections in May 2013.

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IN TOURISM SECTOR IN PAKISTAN

Tehreema Mitha - Classical Dancer Lecture & Demonstration!

www.kuchkhaas.org
May 1, 2014

Sufi Rung Festival Lahore

www.maati.tv
May 13, 2014

World Press Freedom Day Celebrations

unesco.org.pk
May 3, 2014

Kuch Khaas presented Tehreema Mitha, with 28 years in a professional dance career, Tehreema is known for her unique classical & contemporary styles. At present, an artistic Director of Tehreema Mitha Dance Company based in Maryland, USA. She began her training in Pakistan at age 7 with Guru Indu Mitha and her professional career in 1986. She gives full evening solo performances and also performs her ensemble. She has choreographed extensively also composes all of her own music and often sings as well. She performed a few dances for the audience for this event and showed several clips from her company performances on different themes. Ms. Mitha gave the background to each theme she has introduced.

Lahore got a chance to witness an exciting festival courtesy to Satranga Cultural Development Organization. "Sufi Rung Festival" was held on 10th May 2014 at Ali Park (Baraha Darri) Lahore. The event was organized by Satranga Cultural Development Organization with the collaboration of Maati.TV, Mountain TV, Mountain Youth Resource Organization and other partners.

It was a three-hour function, which commenced at 8pm and was attended by artists, politicians and a large number of youth. The audience enjoyed music performed by the sufi artists. The evening was packed with full entertainment from documentary screening, sufi raqs, qawwali to dhol.

The ever-entertaining Papu Saeen was the highlight of the evening. As soon as he got on the stage, the audience couldn't resist getting up from their seats and dance to the beat of the dhol. The weather was just superb, as it became icing on the cake! The ambiance was very lively. The venue and stage were beautifully designed with lights and flowers.

Another performance that needs a special mention was the whirling dervishes. The whirling dance or Sufi whirling is a performance associated with Dervishes in Turkey. The audience was able to enjoy the different flavors. People were dancing and singing as the evening progressed. The event was concluded with award distribution among the artists and the participants. The event organizers deserve a special mention here for putting together a beautiful evening. Everything went smooth and according to the plan. We look forward to more such musical festivals in the year to come.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized an event to commemorate the World Press Freedom Day at Islamabad. This year the main theme of the World Press Freedom Day was Media Freedom for a Better Future: Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda with the sub theme "Rule of Law to Ensure Safety of Journalists and Combating Impunity".

The event was attended by Secretary for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Director General National Police Bureau Islamabad, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, legal experts, journalists, media students and development partners, Media Development Organizations and Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists.

World Press Freedom Day, which is commemorated every year around the world reminds us for undertaking concrete steps for the fundamental principles of press freedom including defending media from attacks on their independence and paying tribute to the journalists who lost their lives in exercise of their professional duties.

A panel discussion also took place between the prominent journalists, legal experts, and officials of the National Police Bureau Islamabad. During the panel discussion, issues concerning institutional capacity, awareness rising, legislative framework and various government initiatives for the safety and security of journalists were discussed.

Later on, UNESCO's Country Director participated as Chief Guest at a similar event on "Investigative Journalism and Citizen's Right to Know" organized by the Press Council of Pakistan to mark the World Press Freedom Day.

HYDERABAD TOURISM PROFILE

Introduction:

Hyderabad Sindh, Former Capital of Sindh, the 3rd largest city of Pakistan and 2nd largest city of Sindh home to almost 2 million people is one of the oldest cities of South Asia. Hyderabad is a very unique city in so many ways and not so different from many other historic cities of the world in terms of fate and destiny. Its Famous for some Unique Features like, City of Wind Catchers, It has Longest Bazaar of Asia, Largest Bangle Producer in the World, Home of Ajrak (Traditional Fabric), Cakes of Legendry Bombay Bakery, Pallo Fish, Sir Cowasji Jehangir Psychiatrist/Sunatic Asylum, and Air University etc.¹

Short History:

Hyderabad city is an administrative headquarters lying on the most northern hill of the Ganjo Takkar ridge just east of the River Indus. Before the creation of Pakistan, it was known as the Paris of India, for its roads used to be washed with perfume every day. Founded in 1768 on the site of the ancient town of Nirun-Kot by Ghulam Shah Kalhora, the saintly ruler of Sindh, it was named after the prophet Mohammed's son-in-law, Ali, also known as Haidar. It remained the capital of Sindh under the Talpur rulers who succeeded the Kalhoras till 1843 when, after the nearby battles of Miani and Dabo, it surrendered to the British (when Sir Charles James Napier conquered Sindh); the capital was then transferred to Karachi.²

Spoken Languages: Sindhi, Urdu, Saraiki, Gujrati, Parkari, Bagri, Bheelki, Thardari, Mehvashi, Kachi.

Historical Places:

Pakko Qilo (Pakka Qilla), Market Clock Tower (1914), The Kutchery Or Court Complex (1906), Sindh University Old Campus (1912), Naval Rai Hiranand Academy (1900), Civil Hospital (1894), Railway Station (1890), Saddar, The Holmstead Hall (1905), Mukhi House (1900), Mian Kaqir Jo Pir And Mai Khariey Masjid (1908), Noor Muhammed High School (1933), Circuit House (1912), Badshahi Bungalow, Thandi Sarak.³

DISTRICT HYDERABAD AT A GLANCE		
Area		1,021 sq.km
Population 1998		1,498,865
Male		785,634
Female		713,231
Population – 2013 Estimated		2,320,634
	Urban Population	1,469,101 (50.81%)
	Rural Population	1,422,387 (49.19%)
Population Density 2013 Estimated		1,880 per Sq.Km
Sex Ratio (males per 100 females)		110
Average Household Size		6
Average Annual Growth rate (1981-98)		2.71%
Number of Educational Facilities		1,873
Total Housing Units (1998)		476,321
	Pacca Housing Units	259,973 (54.58%)
	Housing Units having Electricity	145,838 (56.55%)
	Housing Units having Piped Water	53,399 (20.71%)
	Housing Units using Gas for Cooking	7,476 (2.90%)
Number of Health Facilities		50
Number of Education Facilities		1,873
Administrative Units		
	Talukas	04
	Mauzas	85
	Union Councils	53
Registered Voters		923,140
	Male	509,077
	Female	414,063

Hyderabad Famous Personalities:

Dr.Ghulam Mustafa Khan, Akhund Latfullah Ishaq, Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Former Chief Justice Supreme Court Nazim-ud-din Siddique, Dr. Ilyas Ashqui, Dr.Ibrahim Khalil, Allah Bachayo Akhund, S.K.Raheem, Haider Baksh Jatoi, Hasan Ali Afandi, Allama I.I Kazi, Qazi Abdul Qayum, Qazi Mohammad Akbar, Qazi Abdul Majeed Abid, Ghulam Mohammad Garami, Nawab Muzzaffar Hussain, Mir Ali Ahmed Talpur, Mir Rasool Baksh Talpur, Mubarak Ali Shah, Mohammad Usman Deplai, Dr.Ismail Nami, Mirza Qaleech Baig, Mirza Gul Hassan Ahsan Karbalai, Meeran Mohammad Shah,Syed Akhtar Ali Shah,Hakeem Shamsuddin.

¹ www.apnahyderabad.com

² www.itspakistan.net

³ www.apnahyderabad.com

District Hyderabad Tourism Profile



Shrines and Tombs

Shrine Of Sakhi Wahab Shah, Nihal Shah Noori Mazaar, Dargah, Syed Abdul Ghani, Pir Karim Bukhs Dargah Darbar Hazrat Sakhi Baba Mansoor Dargah Syed Irshad Ali Shah, Dargah Misri Shah Bukhari, Dargah Sakhi Ghaus Baba Faqir Mohammad Shah, Sarfaraz Baba Shrine, Dargah Shaheed Mian Mohammad Sarfraz, Dargah Syed Qutub Ali Shah, Nathoo Shah Bukhari Shrine, Tomb Of Ghulam Shah Kalhoro, Tomb f Gulam Muhayudin Sarhandi, Tomb Of Jeewhan Shah, Hayat Shah Tomb, Tomb Of Mufi Dargah, Wahab Shah Tomb, Jumman Shah Tomb, Tomb Of Hazrat Nihal Shah Noori.



Historical Places & Buildings

Sindh Museum, Institute of Sindhology (There are only 2 such kind of museums in the world one in Egypt and the other in Hyderabad Sindh), Rani Bagh Zoological Gardens, Almanzar Recreational Spot, City Park, Tombs of Mirs and Kalhoras, Sindhi Language authority, Handicraft stores selling traditional Sindhi arts and crafts including Sindhi JANDI furniture, embroidery, Sindhi caps and jewellery.



Famous Shopping Malls

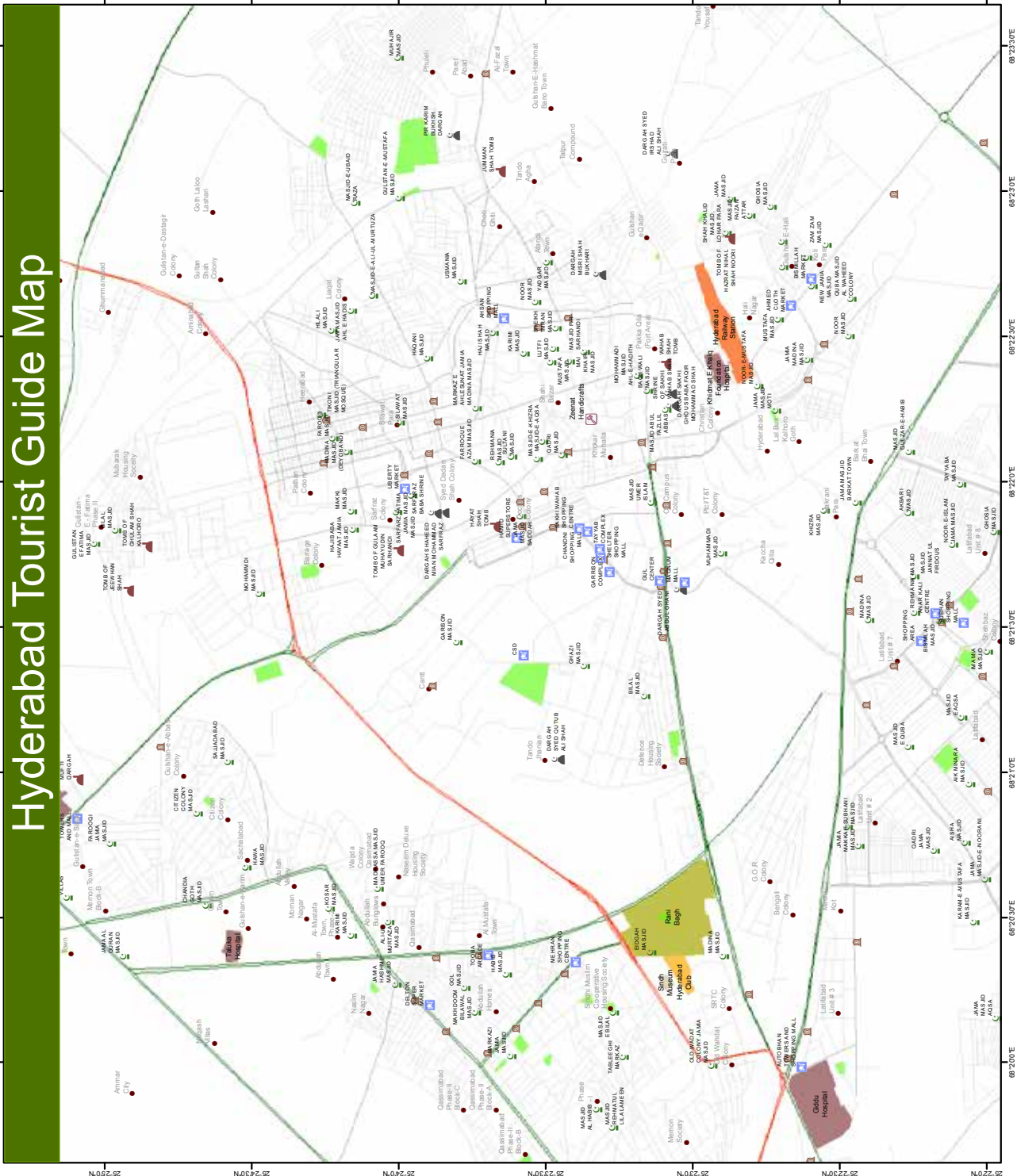
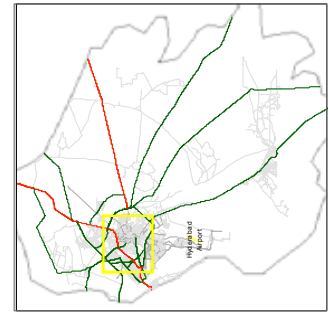
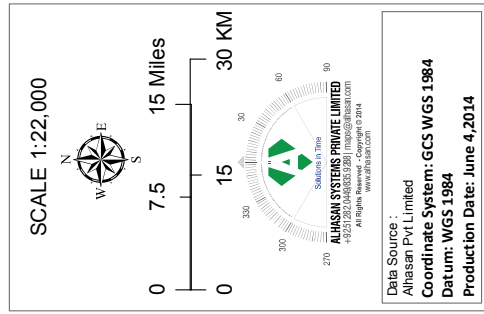
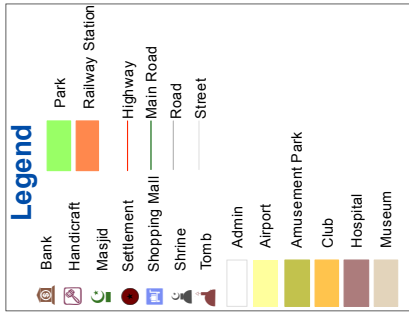
Liberty Market, Delton Super Market, Mehran Shopping Centre, Shopping area, Gul Center, Tayyab Complex, Tayyab Complex, Sakhi Wahab Shopping Centre, Autobhan Towers and Shopping Mall, Hamid Superstore, Ahmed Cloth Market, Bismillah Market, Garrison Complex, Tooba Arcade, Anar Kali Centre, Subhan Shopping Mall.



Parks

Abbas Bhai Park, Aisha Park, Al Shabaz Park, Askari Public Park, Baby Afzaa Family Park, Barrage Colony Park, Barristar Mushtaq Bagh, Bhattai Nagar Community Park, Phittai town park, Cantonment park, Citizen Park, Defence Park, Giddu Park, Goal Park, Gulshan-e-Qadir Park, Haji Allah Bux Bagh, Hill Park, Mir Ka Bagh, Mustafa Park, Naseem Nager Park, Naseem park, Park View, Qasim Park, Qasimabad Park, Shadman garden, Shamdas park





Tourism, a big casualty in Chitral

May 14, 2014— *AM Khan*

Soon after the start of US-led war in Afghanistan the security conditions deteriorated in Pakistan. Ever since Chitral on its western periphery having border with Afghanistan also became more vulnerable region in terms of security concerns.

The topographic feature of Chitral makes it a hard district in terms of income generation for the people for earning their livelihood in winter season and to some extent in spring season particularly and other season generally. The majority of the people of Chitral only rely on the small-scale subsistence farming and livestock farming in most of the areas. Now with the gradual increase in population the life becomes tougher to live which has also affected the earning from agriculture sector and income generation from handicrafts and cottage industry. A bulk of people in Chitral were generating income by selling handicrafts and little businesses and running hotel with the arrival of tourists' in Chitral in every season even to the winter season.

Foreign tourists flocked to Chitral in every season before the incident of 9/11, was the major source of income for both private and public sector tourism industry in Chitral. Many of the people were either engaged with or doing business of those articles which foreign tourists demanded in local market. This year it is a good omen that tourist again have started to come to Chitral.

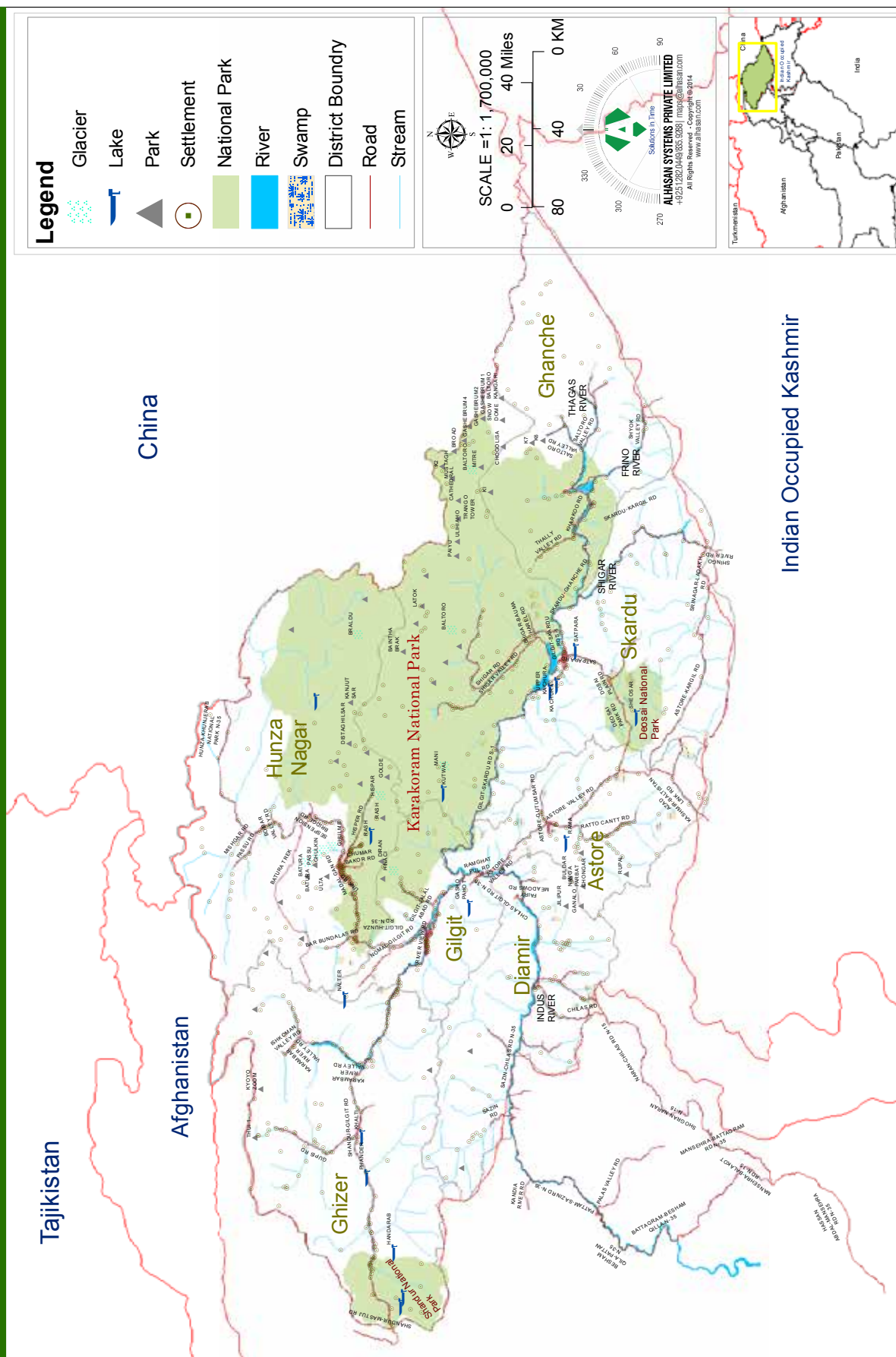
Since security concerns further increased after the attacks of Taliban on scouts in Urchun led to the deployment of regular army and recently Talibans' threat to Kalash community further made the security apparatus alert in guaranteeing foolproof arrangement to check infiltration of miscreants in Chitral especially in Kalash valley.

With a purpose to ensure security and check the mobility in more than seven places on the way from Peshawar to Chitral levy, border, army and police does check every passenger and commodities carrying automobiles. Now even tourists have come across this cumbersome formality to get registered in every police station from one place to another and on visiting some tourist spots with security guards. In such a condition they haven't been able to enjoy the place or an event under the felt impression of insecurity with the attachment of security. This security alertness gives tourists' an impression of fear, repelling those who are willing to come to Chitral.

Some people engaged with hostelling in Chitral and Bumbret; they are more concerned about the regular entry of tourists having their Identity cards or photocopy of ID card to police stations regularly on every evening. Even some showed their very concern on army's contingent regularly visiting hotels and checking rooms. Some hotel employees were reportedly punished for not doing entry of both local and national guests in police station and check post. Now it has become difficult for the hotel proprietors to make the photocopy of the ID cards of tourists and get registered in check point particularly in Bumbret valley because of the unavailability of photocopy machines in Bazzar. Even hotel management does not afford for having a photocopy machine for just photocopying ID card only in hotels.

It will be a good step on the part of administration to attract more tourists' by facilitating them with honour and providing comfort and space to enjoy by easing these formalities within the parameters to ensuring their security concern rather than making the conditions cumbersome for tourists' and hotel management in Chitral.

ECO-TOURISM IN GILGIT BALTISTAN



Swat Valley: Why Too Many Names?

Prof Waqar Hussain, Lahore

Swat is known as Paradise on Earth; Valley of Kings; Switzerland of Pakistan; Land of Stupas; Fare Dwelling Place (Aryans said); some says Cradle of Civilization; Maye Gulfam (wine of flowers); Ghazal of Mir; Rubyas of Khiam; story of Alif Laila; etc. Too many names for a single Valley make one curious to know the reason of this poly nomenclature. To me, SWAT is an abbreviation of Scenery Which Attract Tourists with its Soil, Water, Atmosphere and Trees (SWAT) and thus is Soothing, Wonderful, Astonishing and Thrilling (SWAT). Why?

In fact, Swat is naturally blessed with some peculiar commodities which inspired people to make the best use of it. That is why we find persistent interference of intruders, and thus abode of different nationalities, religions and races.

Archaeological remains are the hallmarks of the Swat Valley- Asia tallest statue of Buddha at Jehanabad; Buttkada (Gul kadda) where Asoka built large stupa enclave by 240 petty stupas at Mingora; Pir khashal tomb, the oldest village and Ghazanavi mosque at Odigram; remains(2500 BC) of Ghalligay include pictures of animals like ox, cow, horse, markhor, statue and a cave having relics of many past civilizations from Cro-Magnon to present time; stone engraving at Goghadra having figures of animals of period 2500 BC; broken earthenware of Aligrama, found to be of 1500 BC; a room at Barikot with round pillars and an oval grate for fire worship of Zoroasters; Stupa of Shangardar, remains of Nimogram in Shimazi Valley and Pantogram and Loy Nabtar in Jambeel Valley (From relics of Loy Nabtar archaeologists guessed it to be the first dwelling place of Aryans when they came here ; famous fort of Alexander "Massaga" and Churchill Choki at Chakdara; The koh-e-Elam where Rama Chandra spent 14 years of his exile and Alexander climbed to top to hold a star Jupiter; Akbar's fort at Damkot hills; rock carving representing the Bodhisattva Padampani (8th BC) at Chakri discovered by Professor Gopi Toosi of Itly in 1955; above all Swat museum, erected with the help of Japanese, at Mingora which has seven galleries containing excellent Ghandhara scriptures arranged in manner to depict the Buddha's entire life; terracotta figurine and utensil, beads, coins, weapons, etc. The ethnographic section displays the marvelous skill of embroidery, carved wood and tribal Jewelry. The newly discovered Spiritual Stone at Sappal bandi having carved name of Muhammad (PBUH). There are tabbarkat (sanctified remnants) of Muhammad (PBUH), Hazrat Usman RA, Hazrat Ali RA and other august religious personalities at Noor Mahal near Chak Dara.

In fact, first survey of Swat was conducted by a famous archaeologist Sir Aural Stein (1862-43) and some places was dug but without great success as the work was not carried on scientifically. Then in 1956 Pakistan Archaeological Department in collaboration with Italian government started work on scientific level and achieved success. Ironically, many statues, jewelry, items, etc were taken legally or illegally to adorn museums of England, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea and Pakistan, thus, depriving the de facto heirs.

Buildings: The land is filled with tombs of saints who devoted their entire lives to propagate Islam and to mould the lives of masses according to Shariah (Islamic code of life). There are Saidu Baba Tomb (Saidu Sharif); Gul Abdul Wadood Tomb (Aqba, Saidu Sharif) build on pattern of Akbar's tomb; Deri Baba Tomb (Deri, Marghazar); Leuno Pir Tomb (Shanglayar); Baijur Baba Tomb (Baijuray); Shaikh Baba Tomb (Malam Jabba); Mian Baba Tomb (Marghazar road); Noor Baba Tomb (Marghazar road); Mian Karim Dad Baba Tomb (Kanju); Qaim Baba Tomb (Matta); the famous tomb of Pir Khushal and tombs of two sons of Ghaznavi (Odigram) ;etc. There were 33 forts during the reign of Gul Abdul Wadood. The famous one is Barikot Fort, Odigram fort, Manglor fort as they are mentioned by historians of Alexander time. Some ruined forts cum palaces are present at Manglor, Mengora, Damghaz, Jambeel, etc. Among palaces; the White Palace of Marghazar built by Gul Abdul Wadood, the marble used in the palace have significance, coming from the same quarry that supplied the Taj Mahal; Palace of Aqba at Aqba, Saidu Sharif;

Palace at Saidu Sharif (now Serena Hotel). There are many mosques, e.g. Saidu Baba Mosque at Saidu Sharif, made of marble and other stone with two big minarets and four robust pillars ; the Sandal Mosque of Kalam, all built by wood especially Sandal. But now its roof has been replaced with concrete and have a big hearth to provide heat in cold winter; an ancient mosque of wood in village of Atror. It is made of wood and has marvelous engraving and wood work. There is minaret in Aqba, built by Gul Abdul Wadood, on a pattern of Qutub Minar Delhi.

Hill Stations and Valleys: There are numerous hill stations and valleys. Marghazar is 16km from Saidu Sharif and famous for white palace and the way to Koh-e-Elam is just 4 hours trekking from the White Palace. Jambeel valley is near Mingora. Pantogram is situated in this valley that is famous for archaeological sites and industry. Malam Jabba, a hill station of 9200 ft height, situated in Karakoram Range and is built with Austrian help. It is 40 km from Saidu Sharif. It is the home of the largest ski resort and a ski slope of about 800m. Miandam is a small resort 10 km up a steep side valley and 56 km from Saidu Sharif. Madyan is 60 km from Mengora. Here mountains close in and the valley is almost a snug. It is famous from embroidery of shawl (sheet used as veil by women). It has height of 4359 ft. It houses a big hatchery and offers a beautiful scene of Bashigram Mountain and blue water of Bashigram River. Here Swat River and Bashigram River meet to present a wonderful scene.

Behrain is another famous resort about 70km from Saidu Sharif, having height of 4500ft. Its oldest name is 'Bhonal' and 'Branial'.

Kalam is 90km from Saidu Sharif and has height of 7343ft. It is the most beautiful spot of Swat. It is enclave by mountains from all sides and the newly born Swat river Shrieke like a nascent baby after its birth by the merger of the Ushu River and the Atror river. Zameer Jaffri said about Kalam:

jam tak aye, maye ghulfam tak aye nahi

Jo Swat tak aye, magar Kalam tak aye nahi

(People who came to Swat Valley and didn't visit Kalam are equivalent to those who held the bowl of flower wine but didn't taste it.)

Kalam is a launching pad for going to Atror Valley (15km from Kalam) and then advance further 5km to land in Gibral Valley. If one moves 8km toward east of Kalam, the beautiful Ushu Valley welcomes you with open arm. After 3 km from Ushu, starts Maltan Valley with a beautiful waterfall and then a big glacier .if ,one move 35 km from Maltan, Mahudand lake(9000ft) will welcome with blue carpet and tasty trout and here, snow covered Falak Ser will embrace his head with motherly affection.

Lakes: There are 52 lakes in Swat .The famous one are Pari lake, Kundol lake, Bashigram lake, Neel Sar lake, Spin khor lake, Khar Khari lake, Mahudand lake, Shandur lake, Daral lake, Mankial lake, Bari Baba lake, Panashai lake, etc. They are accessible and present a picturesque scene and trance for the viewers.

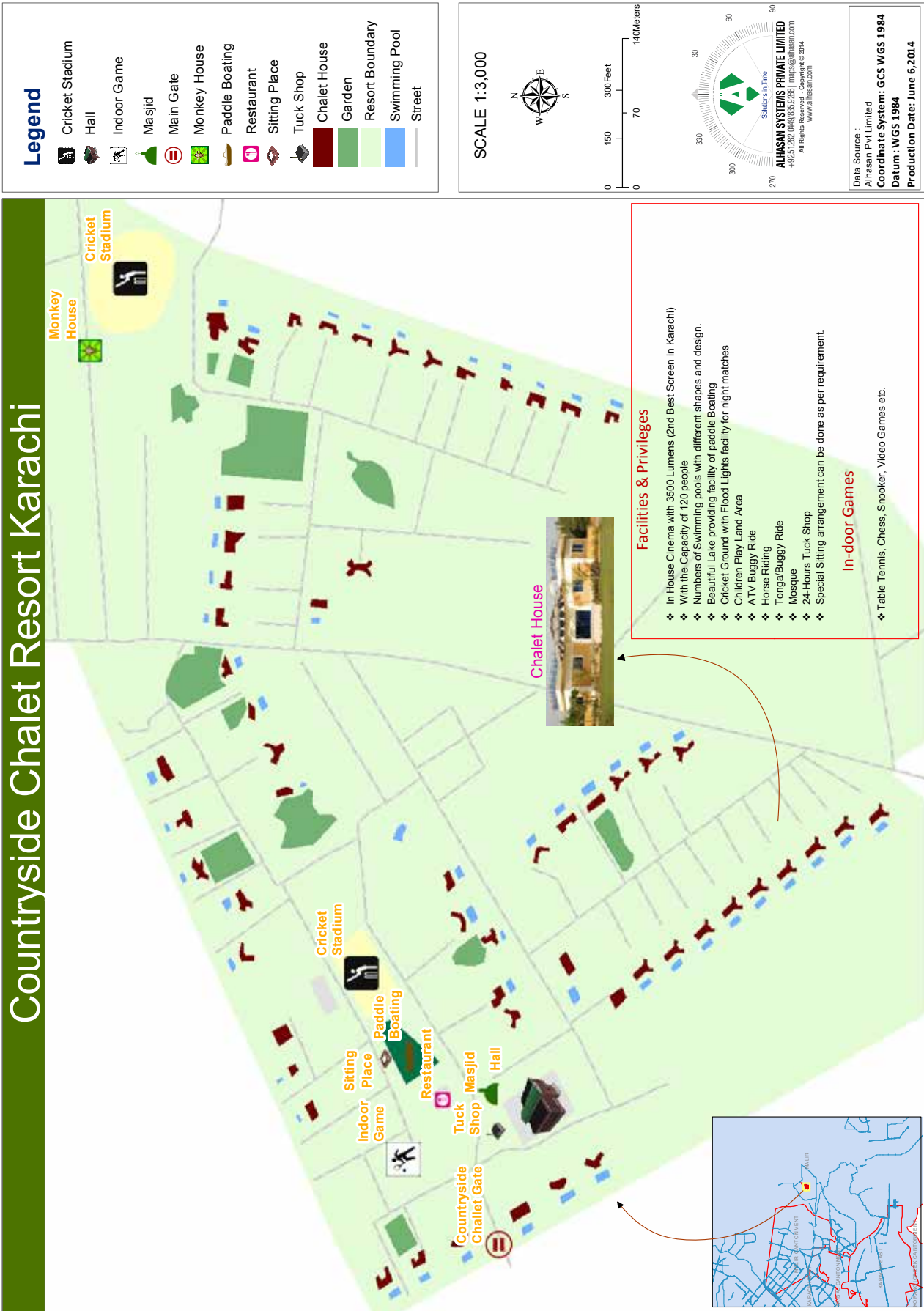
Rivers: There are many rivers. Abbasine (Sind) River traverses 50km distance in Swat Valley. However, Swat River is the longest, heart pleasing and is jugular vein of fertility of the Swat Valley. It has many names Swastooos, Swaltasi, Swastass and White River. The other rivers are Oshu, Gibral, Khawaza Khela, Manglore, Jambeel, Marghazar, Miandam, Madyan, Bashigram, Shahpure, Panashi, etc.

Water Falls: There are many waterfalls: Shahi Banal, Kiran Gah, Shanar, Arad Gial and Ochar are famous. Ochar is very well-known as it falls from the height of 1500ft.

Glaciers: There is a big glacier near Maltan. Many tourists visit this glacier, enjoy surrounding canopy of different mountains and remain here for the whole day. There are many glaciers at Kargloo and other places too.

Springs: There are abundant springs containing naturally filtered water and have great digestive ability. Some springs contains minerals and plants extract and act as natural medicine for

Countryside Chalet Resort Karachi



intestine, skin, bones, etc. Such springs are present at Saidu Sharif, Bahrain and a very famous spring "Shifa Spring" near Falak Ser.

Mountains: Swat Valley is situated at meeting place of Hindu Kush Range and Karakorum Range. These mountains have peaks and passages. The famous one is Koh-e-Falk Seer (20,000 ft) and welcomes visitors when they land in Kalam city. Koh-i-Manakial is near Bahrain, it has height of 19000 ft. Koh-e-Elam (10,000ft) is a boundary between Swat and Buner.

Passes: There are many passes: Mukhozi pass which connects Gokand with Baboozi. It is 10,000 ft high. There is a beautiful pass of Karakar between Swat and Buner with height of 4000 ft. The Shaghla pass connects Swat Valley (Khawza Khaila) to Shangla. It has height of 7000 ft.

Tops: The famous tops are White Hill, Falak Ser, Mankial top (20000ft), Shal Khosar (11,000 ft), Malam Jabba (9000ft) and Pir Sar in Chakesar is famous for Alexander's invasion.

Location of Swat is important. Valley lied on the old transit road between Central Asia and China via Gilgit. So its location made it significant. It lies in front of corridors of Hindu Kush that made it strategically and economically important.

Health Resort: The climate of Swat is naturally bestowed with health giving property. Apart from a recreational spot, it is also a health resort with its sanitary milieu. Water of Swat River is considered natural medicine, having special health restoring power.

River Bashigram is blue like Robin's egg and its water is also considered as natural medicine.

Medicinal Plants: In Atror and Gibril, 44 medicinal plants are collected just in four months. Only 14 of them are used in national and international markets, the rest are used locally.

It is reported by Forest Department that 75 crude herbal drugs are extensively exported and about 200 are locally traded in Pakistan. Swat is enriched with medicinal plants which have great health as well as economic importance if they are harvested, stored and transported properly.

Wild life of Swat has great diversity; one finds galloping hares, cunning foxes, fool Jackals, mimicry monkeys, furious wolves, etc.

One finds precious hawk, eagle and falcon on high mountains, and hears the songs of nightingale, lark, quail, dove and enjoy the silence of swallows. Then partridge, starling, vulture, owl, bat and crows embellish the atmosphere.

Honey: Pure honey of Swat is famous all over the country. But newly introduced moveable bee-hives have greatly influenced the locally reared bees.

Trout: Swat is famous for a delicious and rare fish trout. There are about 35 hatcheries in Swat in addition to natural habitat of rivers and lakes. The Mahudand Lake is famous for trout hunting. Trout is good for heart; eyes and reproductive system. Swat has turned into industry of trout.

Trees: There is great variety of trees. The presence of sandal, olive and saffron is reported by Chinese travelers in their travelogues. Pinus roxburgia, pines longifolia, deodar, cedrus, cypress, poplar are extensively found. Some famous herbs are Soma bootti, and ghuchi. There is mushroom growth of famous flower Nameer near Koh-e-Elam.

Fruit: One finds apple, apricot, walnut, peach, grapes, pear, fig, persimmon (edible fruit of American or East Asian tree of genus Diospyros), plum, strawberry, grapes, etc. About 60% of fruit used in Pakistan comes from Swat. So, for us, it is a fruit basket. Soma bootti is very popular and its juice is considered beverage of the paradise. Similarly juice of Ghuchi is internationally famous, it is exported to France.

Grassland: In the plain area of Valley, one finds lush green field yielding cereals, fodders apart from portraying the image of grassland. The prairies of Kalam Bhoir, Kalam kas, Kalam Khas, Ariyani, Ashoran, Kargloo are worth seeing and bewitching.

Mineral: Swat is rich in mineral wealth but the discovered commodities are much fewer than actual reservoirs. Top three minerals are China clay, marble and emerald. China clay is found at Kathyar in NekpiKheil; a place 15 km from Mingora. Marble is

found at Marghazar, Charbagh, Barikot. Emerald is found in Mingora city; it has fine quality, good colour and transparency and thus makes it unique in the world. According to Mining Dept, "There exists export potential of 500-600 million dollars in this sector, provided it is excavated and cut per international standards". Soap clay is recently discovered between Alpurai and Kanra on the side of Gilgit Road. In market other precious stones of pukhraj (topaz), yaqoot(ruby), kanrite (granite), neelum(sapphire), amethyst, etc, and their jewelry is available.

Handicraft: Hands of Swatti people have magic that weave wool and silk into Sharai (blanket), Shawl(sheet), Rug(tradition carpet of shepherds),cap, coat, gloves, table sheet, pillow cover, etc. They are manufactured at Fatehpure, Bagh Deri, Shaikhala. But the village of Salampure is famous all over the country; it has hundreds of looms and skilled people. Asoka used to fetch shawl from Swat for his use.

Embroidery is another magic of Swatti hands. Panhey are old fashioned shoes of leather with golden laces; Shkor is pot to keep bread; there are different furniture items; chair, table, cot, cradle, etc. The wood of swat is not only durable but also suitable for woodworking.

Races and Religions: The historic stage of Swat witnessed many plays of different races Dravidian, Aryan, Iranian, Greek, Saka, Kushan, Hun, Hindu Shahi, Yousaf Zais, Akhunds, etc, and different religions Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and the magnanimous Islam.

Hospitality: The hospitality of Swatti people is unmatched. I experienced many act of hospitableness which deserves to be mentioned. First, the side-mirror of my car was broken by a car-washer at Malam-Jabba. When I returned to Mingora and went to a spare parts shop. I took mirror and asked its price. The shopkeeper told me "Rs 600". I requested for concession. He told, "It is of Rs 800 and you are guest. So I demanded Rs 600 what is its cost price". Then I went to a dentist and asked him to fit the mirror. He was busy with another car; he left that and fitted the mirror. I inquired about labour charges. He said, "Nothing you are our guest." In another incidence, I went to China Market of Mingora and bought three emergency lights of 1350 Rs. When, I opened my wallet to pay. I had little money in front pocket of wallet. The shopkeeper guessed I have run short of money. He said in jiffy, "no need of money!" I was astonished to hear this generosity. Then from other pocket of wallet, I extracted 5000 Rs note and gave to him with thanks. Third, I bought double bread, jam, yoghurt, bottle of soft drink, etc from the Punjab Sweet. When, I was to pay money. The owner of shop said, "Please take it as a gift", I was stunned to hear this large hearted offer. I asked his name; "I am Haris Karim". Then I paid the bill after a lot of debate and settlement on the condition that I would take bottle as a gift. Next day I gave him a present as quid pro quo. Fourth, It happened thrice during my four days stay at Mingora, that when I along with my wife and four children was about to cross a busy road. The traffic stopped on both sides to give us passage. We felt for a moment that we are living in any civilized city of Europe. Fifth, we went to see the tomb of Gul Abdul Wodood where we asked a rickshaw driver Niaz Muhammad about the tomb. He came along us up to tomb and then he also escorted us to Minaret and nearby forest and spring. He remained with us as a "guide" for about two hours. When we offered him thanks and wanted to depart, he said please have a cold drink and forcibly compelled us to have a drink. We bought some sweets and biscuits and gave him with a lot of requests for his children. He refused and on third party's intervention, he reluctantly accepted. Sixth, during our visit to White Palace, manager of the hotel Naveed Awan showed us every inch of palace and presented tea. He offered thrice for dinner which we refused. Seventh, it happened with me four times that I gave passage to a vehicle to pass. In return, the driver of vehicle waved his hands in thanks. Apart from these, there is a lot of respect of "female". No one dare to molest female, a problem which we often face in Lahore and other parts of the Punjab. Another point of mention is that if there is road blockage, no vehicle breaks the lane as a result traffic runs smoothly. These virtues forced me to change my opinion about Pathans and in a meeting with an elderly Pathan at Malam Jabba, I inquired of him, there are many jokes circulating about the stupidity and irrational behavior of Pathans but I have found "Pathans" otherwise. He said the Pathans who are engaged in fighting, show polishing and

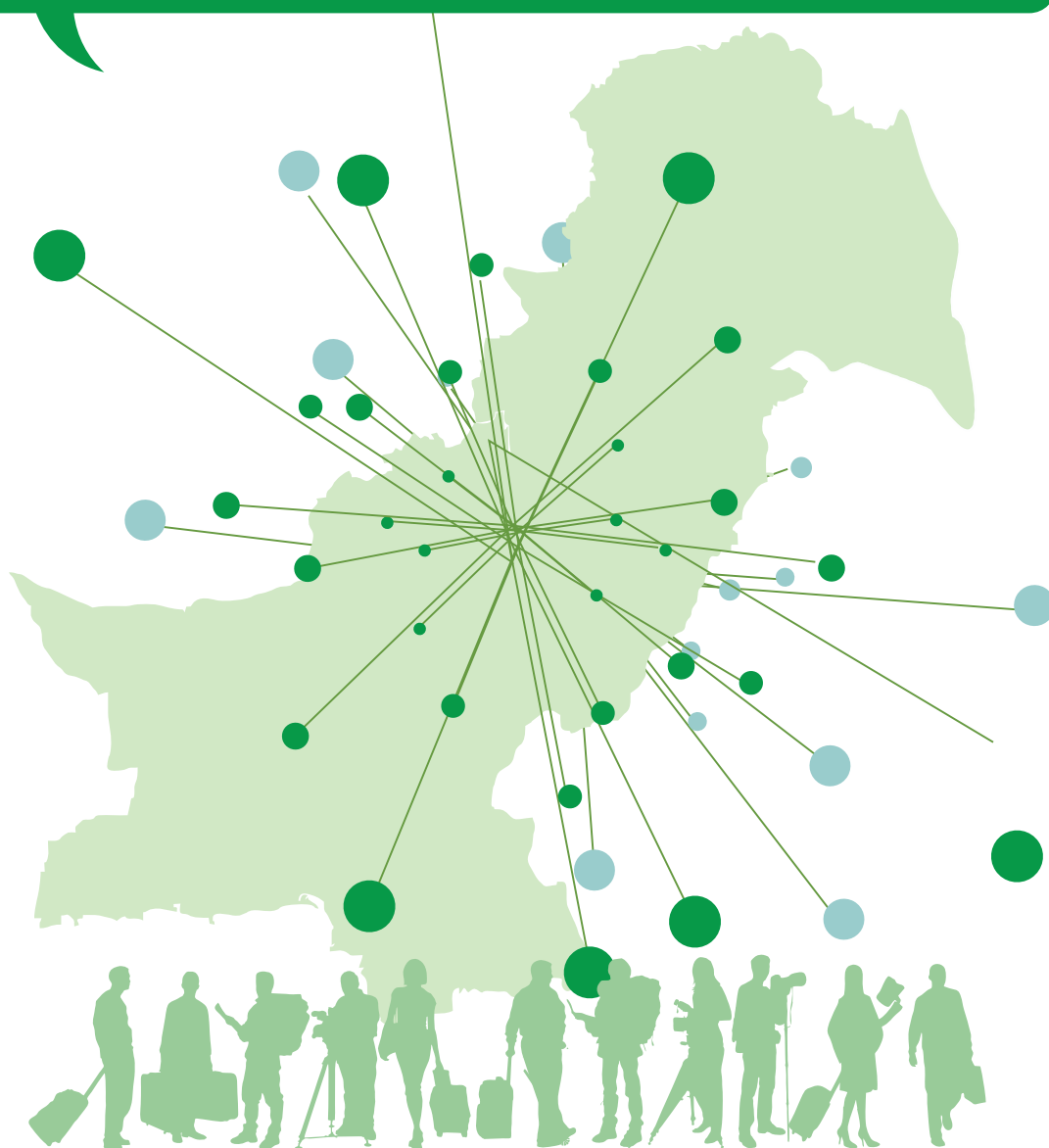
show stupidity are not Swatti Pathan, and they have different origin, clan and display low morality. We also feel ashamed of about their ridiculous behavior. The hospitality and nobility of character exhibited by Swatti people is the biggest allurements for the visitors.

Swat is the crown of nature on earth, studded with the jewels of archaeological allotropy, magnanimity of buildings, enchanting beauty of hill stations and valleys, nimble streams, gushy falls, a roaring rivers, cool clean water of springs, sky high mountains, green curly passes, snowy peaks, healthy milieu, diversity of wild life, delicious fruits, precious minerals, crafty handicrafts, miraculous medicinal shrubs, abode of various races, durable

wood, everlasting Ghadhara, serenity of area, soothing climate and above all exemplary hospitality, cordiality and helpfulness of its people. These jewels of terrain and trait attract people, when someone gets struck in trance of any one particular jewel, he names Swat for that very specialty. That is why we find too many epithets. So, the mesmerizing scenery of Swat attracted me to an extent, a plump of thought came in my mind that SWAT is an abbreviation of Scenery Which Attract Tourists with its Soil, Water, Atmosphere and Trees (SWAT) and thus is Soothing, Wonderful, Astonishing and Thrilling (SWAT)!

That is how new names (epithets) come into existence!

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سرخیاں

تفصیلات

کراچی: (سچ نامہ) معروف مزاحیہ اداکار رؤف لالہ نے کہا کہ تھیٹر ہی ہماری پہچان ہے اگر ہمیں دنیا میں عزت اور شہرت ملی تو وہ صرف کراچی کا تھیٹر ہے اس کا اچھا وقت ضرور آئے گا۔ لالہ نے کہا کہ ایک وقت پاکستان میں تھیٹر کو فروغ حاصل نہیں ہوا تھا، اس وقت سید فرقان حیدر اور فنکاروں نے اس عزم کے ساتھ کام شروع کیا تھا کہ وہ اسے نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ دنیا بھر میں وقار دلانے لگے۔ عمر شریف، معین اختر ان لیجنڈ فنکاروں میں شامل ہیں کہ جن کی کوششوں سے پاکستانی تھیٹر دنیا بھر میں روشناس ہوا، وہیو کے ذریعہ تھیٹر دنیا کے اس حصہ تک پہنچا جہاں پاکستانی فنکاروں کو کوئی جانتا نہیں تھا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ چند سالوں سے تھیٹر غیر معیاری ڈراموں کی وجہ زوال پذیر ہو گیا کہ کراچی کے حالات نے بھی اسے بہت نقصان پہنچایا اور لوگ تھیٹر سے دور ہو گئے، اب دوبارہ کوشش کر رہے ہیں کہ اچھے اور معیاری ڈرامے کر کے شائقین ڈرامہ کا اعتماد بحال کر سکیں اور انھیں عوامی کمرشل تھیٹر کی طرف واپس لاسکیں یہ ہم سب کی مشترکہ کوششوں سے ہی ممکن ہے۔

ساوتھ بینک سینٹر کے میلے میں برطانیہ، پاکستان، بھارت، بنگلہ دیش، سری لنکا اور افغانستان سے تعلق رکھنے والے فنکاروں کو ایک ساتھ ایک جگہ پر اپنا فن اور ثقافت پیش کرنے کا موقع میسر آیا۔ لندن — لندن میں برصغیر کی تاریخ، ادب، فن اور ثقافت سے متعلق نوروز تک جاری رہنے والا میلہ پیر کی شب اختتام پذیر ہوا۔ اس منظر میں لندن سے تعلق رکھنے والی ایشیائی کمیونٹی کے علاوہ مقامی آبادی نے بھی بڑھ چڑھ کر حصہ لیا۔ دریائے نیل کے کنارے واقع 'ساوتھ بینک سینٹر' کے سالانہ میلے 11 مئی 2014ء کے سلسلے میں تقریبات اور نمائشوں کا اہتمام 15 مئی سے 26 مئی تک کیا گیا۔ اس میلے کو برطانیہ کے ساتھ ایشیا کے ثقافتی تعلقات کے جشن کا نام دیا گیا تھا۔ ساوتھ بینک لندن سینٹر کو دنیا بھر میں آرٹ کا ایک بڑا مرکز سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ اسی لیے ایشیائی ثقافت پر مبنی تقریبات کے حوالے سے لوگوں میں خاص جوش و خروش نظر آیا۔ برصغیر کی ثقافت کے لحاظ سے جہاں سینٹر کے شاندار ہالز کی سجاوٹ دیکھنے سے تعلق رکھتی تھی وہیں روایتی کھانوں کے شوقین افراد کے لیے عمارت سے باہر فوڈ میلہ کا بھی اہتمام کیا گیا تھا۔ کھانے کے ان اسٹالوں میں چٹ پٹی چاٹ، پانی پوری، حلیم اور بریانی، نکلے جیسے پکوان فروخت کئے جا رہے تھے۔ ساوتھ بینک سینٹر کے میلے میں برطانیہ، پاکستان، بھارت، بنگلہ دیش، سری لنکا، افغانستان سے تعلق رکھنے والے فنکاروں کو ایک ساتھ ایک جگہ پر اپنا فن اور ثقافت پیش کرنے کا موقع دیا گیا۔ اس میلے میں پاکستان کی تاریخ کے حوالے سے پیش کی جانے والی ملٹی میڈیا نمائش 'داسٹین آرچیوز آف پاکستان' کے عنوان سے اسٹیوڈیو آرکائیو آف پاکستان نے پیش کی۔ اس نمائش میں تقسیم ہند کی کہانیوں کو گائی کی زبانی سنائی گئی ان کہانیوں میں پاکستانیوں کے شناخت کے سفر کو تقسیم ہند سے لے کر اب تک کی کہانیوں کے ذریعے اجاگر کیا گیا۔ ان آڈیو میڈ کہانیوں میں تقسیم ہند سے متعلق محفوظ یادوں، ذاتی کہانیاں اور سنئے سنائے قصوں کو ایسے لوگوں نے بیان کیا ہے جو یا تو اس وقت موجود تھے یا پھر ان تک یہ کہانیاں کسی کے ذریعے پہنچی تھیں نمائش میں بانی پاکستان کی اہم تقاریر، نایاب تصاویر رکھی گئیں جبکہ تقسیم ہند کے وقت ہجرت کرنے والوں کی بے سروسامانی کو تصاویر کی شکل میں پیش کیا گیا۔ نمائش میں شرکاء ممالک کی جانب سے اپنے اپنے ملکوں کی ثقافتی رنگ کو نمایاں طور پر پیش کیا گیا جس میں موسیقی، رقص اور آرٹ کے حوالے سے نمونے پیش کئے گئے۔ نگلہ دیشی سائیکل رکشہ کو نمائش میں بہت دلچسپی سے دیکھا گیا جسے بنگلہ دیش کے اسٹریٹ آرٹ کی پہچان سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ نمائش میں رکھے جانے والے سائیکل رکشے کو بنگلہ دیشی ریئر پیئر تین داس نے برطانیہ میں رہتے ہوئے پیٹ کیا ہے۔ سری لنکا کی ثقافت کے اظہار کے طور پر نمائش میں رکھے جانے والے منظر دکھوتے پہیوں کو کولمبو سے تعلق رکھنے والے آرٹسٹوں کی جانب سے تیار کیا گیا جس سے سری لنکا کے ویڈول آرٹ کی متحرک کہانی کو بیان کیا گیا جس میں قدیم آرٹ سے لے کر جدید گرافک ڈیزائن بھی شامل ہیں۔ میلے میں افغانستان نیشنل انسٹیٹیوٹ آف میوزک سے تعلق رکھنے والے نوجوان موسیقاروں نے اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ بھارت سے آئے ہوئے مشہور لیجنڈری اداکار نصیر الدین شاہ نے بھی اس میلے کا حصہ بننے ان کے علاوہ گلوکار سندر ویندر سنگھ کے ساتھ کنسرٹ کے علاوہ کتھک رقص اور موسیقی پر مبنی پروگرام پیش کئے گئے جبکہ، میلے کے دوران گانوں کے البم، کتابوں کے اجراء کی تقریبات بھی منعقد کی گئیں ان کے علاوہ کوریوگرافی، ورکشاپس، فیشن، پرفارمنس اور نمائشوں میں مختلف موضوعات پر بات چیت کرنے کا اہتمام کیا گیا تھا۔ اس میلے میں یو کے بیسڈ ڈھول فاؤنڈیشن کی جانب سے ڈھول بجانے کا شاندار مظاہرہ کیا گیا۔ میلے کے اختتامی گھنٹوں میں ڈسے جے کی تیر دھنوں پر ہندی فلمی سینما کے مشہور گانوں پر ہال میں موجود تمام لوگوں نے رقص کیا جن میں خاص طور پر لندن سے تعلق رکھنے والے ایسے لوگوں کی بڑی تعداد محو رقص نظر آئی جو کہ، ان ہندی گانوں کے بولوں سے یکسر لاعلم تھے۔

پاکستان پر ثقافتی حملے

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

25 مئی 2014

بھارت میں کانگریس کی سربراہ سونیا گاندھی نے ایک مرتبہ کہا تھا کہ ”ہمیں پاکستان کو جغرافیائی طور پر فتح کرنے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے ہم نے پاکستان کو ”ثقافتی طور پر فتح کر لیا ہے“ بغور جائزہ لیا جائے تو سونیا گاندھی کے یہ الفاظ بڑ نہیں ہیں اور اگر پوراچ نہیں تو آدھا سچ ضرور ہے۔ سوال پیدا ہوتا ہے کہ کیا پاکستان بھارت کی ثقافتی فتح ذریعہ بھارتی چینلوں سے چلنے والے بھارتی ڈرامے اور دیگر پروگرامز ہیں بے شک پاکستان کی نئی اور نوجوان نسل پر ان کے اثرات سے

انکار نہیں کیا جاسکتا مختلف اوقات میں خود مجھ سے ایک سو سے زائد افراد نے تشویش کا اظہار کیا کہ چھوٹے بچے بات چیت میں ہندی الفاظ استعمال کرنے لگے ہیں بھارت کی پاکستان پر ثقافتی فتح کا بہت خطرناک ہتھیار خود پاکستان کے ذرائع ابلاغ بالخصوص الیکٹرک میڈیا ہے جو پاکستان پر بھارت کی خوفناک ثقافتی بلغار کا سب سے بڑا ذریعہ ہے جو پاکستان میں اسلامی روایات، اقدار اور تہذیب پر ثقافتی کھاڑے چلا رہے ہیں اس کردار کی ایک جھلک یہ ہے کہ پاکستان میں کسی کو معلوم نہیں تھا کہ ویلنٹائن ڈے کس بلا کا نام ہے ایک بڑے اخبار نے لڑکوں اور لڑکیوں کے جعلی پیغامات پر مبنی پورے صفحے کارنگین ایڈیشن شائع کیا اس طرح کے پیغامات خود تیار کئے گئے مثلاً پیارے سلیم میں تم سے سچی محبت کرتی ہوں۔ شازیہ (ساتیوال) تمہیں میری محبت کی سچائی کا یقین کیوں نہیں آتا۔ شاد (ڈسکہ) وغیرہ وغیرہ یہ نوجوانوں کے لئے ترغیب کا حربہ تھا جو کامیاب رہا اور اگلے سال کافی تعداد میں اصلی پیغامات آگئے اور پھر چل سوجھل کا معاملہ ہو گیا۔

پاکستان میں مغربی تہذیب کو پھیلانے پر بلکہ نوجوانوں کے ذہنوں میں راسخ کرنے کے لئے لڑکیوں کے ماں باپ سے بغاوت کرنے اور حقوق نسواں کی آڑ میں شادی بیاہ کے خود فیصلے کرنے اور ترقی کے نام پر ہم جنسوں سے آزادانہ ملاقاتیں کرنے اور جینز اور فٹ ٹرس پہننے پر مبنی ڈرامے پیش کئے گئے۔ ہر ڈرامے میں لڑکیوں نے جینز کا اس کثرت سے استعمال کیا کہ پاکستان میں لڑکیوں اور خواتین میں جینز کا رواج پڑ گیا اور وہ خواتین جو اپنے ماحول یا سماجی دباؤ کے باعث خود جینز نہیں پہن سکتی تھیں۔ انہوں نے اپنی چھوٹی بچوں کو جینز پہنا کر شعوری یا لاشعوری طور پر اپنے شوق کی تسکین کر لی۔ جیو کی جانب سے ”امن کی آشا“ کی مہم پر ان سطور سمیت محب وطن پاکستانیوں کی جانب سے تشویش کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ جزل پرویز مشرف کی آمریت اور زر داری سیٹ اپ اور موجودہ کنفوڈ ٹفٹام کے دوران بھی ”امن کی آشا“ مہم کے اثرات و مضمرات کی نشاندہی کی جاتی رہی مگر بے سود، وزیر اعظم نواز شریف جن کے محب وطن پاکستانی ہونے پر انگلی نہیں اٹھائی جاسکتی مگر جن کے تاجرانہ مائنڈ سیٹ نے سارے اہم مسائل پس پشت ڈال کر تجارت کی جائے کے بھارتی منصوبے کو کامیاب کی راہ ہموار کر دی۔

پاکستان میں آئی پی بی کے ذریعہ بجلی کا شدید بحران پیدا کر کے صنعت و حرفت کو تباہی کے کنارے پہنچا دیا گیا۔ بھارت میں ٹائی کی دکان پر بھی کسی پاکستانی اداکار یا اداکارہ کی تصویر نظر نہیں آئے گی اور پاکستانی فلم چلانے کا تو تصور بھی محال ہے لیکن پاکستان کے سینماؤں میں کھلے عام بھارتی فلمیں چلائی جا رہی ہیں رشوت خور متعلقہ حکام جنہیں بھارتی کی بجائے غیر ملکی فلموں کا نام دے کر نمائش کی اجازت دے رہے ہیں یہ صرف جیو ہی نہیں انٹرنیٹ کے نام سے لائسنس حاصل کرنے والے دیگر چینلز بھی شعوری یا لاشعوری طور پر اپنی نشریات جاری رکھنے کے لئے بھارتی اور مغربی تہذیبوں کے پھیلاؤ کا ذریعہ بن رہے ہیں بے شک نظریہ پاکستان پر یقین رکھنے والے اور مذہبی حلقے ان کے لئے سدا رہ ہیں مگر یہ بھارتی اور مغربی ثقافتی بلغار جو تیزی سے طوفانی شکل اختیار کر رہی ہے کیا اس کا رخ موڑا جاسکے گا یہ بہت غور طلب معاملہ ہے۔

ڈی آئی خان سے چینی سیاح کا اغواء، غفلت

پر چیک پوسٹ الہکار معطل

سائی وی

21 مئی 2014

کیلاش میں موسم بہار کا تہوار

<http://www.dw.de/>

18 مئی 2014

پاکستان کے شمالی پہاڑوں میں وادی کیلاش واقع ہے۔ یہاں کی کیلاش اقلیت ہر سال موسم سرما کے اختتام پر جوشی (بہار) تہوار مناتی ہے۔ کیلاش قبیلے کی آبادی تقریباً چار ہزار افراد پر مشتمل ہے، جو اپنے مختلف خداؤں کی پوجا کرتی ہے۔ پاکستان کے شمالی پہاڑوں میں وادی کیلاش واقع ہے۔ یہاں کی کیلاش اقلیت ہر سال موسم سرما کے اختتام پر جوشی (بہار) تہوار مناتی ہے۔ کیلاش قبیلے کی آبادی تقریباً چار ہزار افراد پر مشتمل ہے، جو اپنے مختلف خداؤں کی پوجا کرتی ہے۔ رواں برس اس تین روزہ تہوار کا آغاز 14 مئی کو ہوا۔ کچھ برس پہلے تک کیلاش قبیلے کے پاس نہ تو کیلنڈر تھے اور نہ ہی گھڑیاں۔ تہوار کی تاریخیں سورج کی پوزیشن دیکھتے ہوئے مقرر کی جاتی تھیں۔ وادی چترال میں جوشی تہوار کا مطلب سخت موسم کے خاتمے پر شکر کرنا بھی ہوتا ہے اور زیادہ پیداواری موسم بہار کا جشن منانا بھی۔ اس موقع پر شہد اور اچھی فصل کے لیے خصوصی دعائیں کی جاتی ہیں۔ کیلاش قبیلے کا زیادہ تر انحصار شمالی پاکستان کے ہندو کش پہاڑی سلسلے کی سرسبز وادیوں میں زراعت اور سیاحت پر ہے۔ کیلاش کمیونٹی کا دعویٰ ہے کہ ان کے قبیلے کی بنیاد یونانی سکندر اعظم کے فوجیوں نے رکھی تھی۔ مؤرخین کے قریب آج بھی کیلاش قبیلے کا یہ دعویٰ بحث طلب ہے کہ ان کا تعلق سکندر اعظم کے جرنیلوں سے ہے۔ دوسری جانب یونان اور کیلاش کی ثقافت، طرز تعمیرات، موسیقی وغیرہ میں بہت سی چیزیں مماثلت رکھتی ہیں۔ کیلاش قبیلہ بھی یونانیوں کی طرح مختلف خداؤں کو ماننے والا ہے۔ ان کے مطابق ’خدائی‘ نامی ایک دیوتا ان کی روزمرہ کی زندگی کا ذمہ دار ہے اور اسی کی خوشنودی کے لیے اس تہوار میں دودھ کی مصنوعات کا استعمال اور کمریوں کی قربانی کی جاتی ہے۔ جوشی تہوار کے پہلے دن کو ’دودھ کا دن‘ بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ اس قبیلے کے افراد رقص کرتے اور گانے گاتے ہوئے گھر گھر جاتے ہیں۔ ہر گھر سے انہیں دودھ پیش کیا جاتا ہے۔ یہ دودھ اس تہوار سے دس روز پہلے ہی جمع کرنا شروع کر دیا جاتا ہے۔ اس تہوار کے موقع پر کم از کم چار سال کی عمر میں بچوں کو ویسے ہی کپڑے پہنائے جاتے ہیں، جیسے بڑے پہنتے ہیں۔ چار سال کی عمر میں بچوں کو باقاعدہ طور پر تہوار میں حصہ لینے کی اجازت ہوتی ہے۔ چار برس سے پہلے بچوں کو سادہ کپڑے پہنائے جاتے ہیں۔

اس تہوار کے موقع پر خواتین مخصوص اور رنگ برنگے ملبوسات پہنتی ہیں جبکہ زیادہ تر مرداب پاکستانی شلوار اور قمیض کا استعمال کرتے ہیں۔ کیلاش کی خوش رنگ خواتین کے رنگیلے کپڑے سیاہوں کے لیے بھی بہت پرکشش ہیں۔ خواتین کے سیاہ لہجے بال اور ان پر کڑھائی والی مخصوص لمبی ٹوپیاں اس تہوار کو مزید دلکش بناتی ہیں۔ اس موقع پر غیر ملکی سیاح بھی پاکستان پہنچتے ہیں۔ ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ کندا ملا کر رقص کرنا اس تہوار کی خصوصیت ہے اور ڈھول اس میں مرکزی کردار ادا کرتا ہے۔ رقص کے دوران لڑکیاں اور لڑکے مذاق کرتے ہوئے ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ محبت بھری نگاہیں بھی دوچار کرتے ہیں۔ تہوار میں مرد گلوکاروں کو خوش ہو کر پیسے بھی دیے جاتے ہیں اور کبھی کبھار بوسے بھی۔ ایک لحاظ سے دیکھا جائے تو کیلاش قبیلہ دیگر پاکستانیوں کی نسبت زیادہ آزاد خیال، تصور کیا جاتا ہے۔ جوشی تہوار کے تیسرے اور آخری دن رقص اپنے عروج پر ہوتا ہے۔ مرد اور عورتیں اس دن علیحدہ علیحدہ روایتی ڈانس کرتے ہیں۔ ہر ایک کے ہاتھ میں اخروٹ کے درخت کی ٹہنیاں ہوتی ہیں اور بدروحوں کے اثرات دور کرنے کے لیے انہیں نعرہ لگاتے ہوئے ہوا میں پھینک دیا جاتا ہے۔ کیلاش قبیلے کی روایات اسلام کے برعکس ہیں۔ اس لیے اس علاقے کو کافرستان، بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ ایک کونے پر واقع اس وادی کو ایک واحد سڑک باقی پاکستان سے ملاتی ہے۔ جدید سہولتیں یہاں نہ ہونے کے برابر ہیں۔

کراچی۔ پاکستانی اسکول کی تین طالبات نے لاس اینجلس میں منعقدہ ایک بین الاقوامی میلے میں سائنس کے تجربے پر ایوارڈ جیتا ہے۔ حال ہی میں، امریکہ کے شہر لاس اینجلس میں بین الاقوامی انٹیل سائنس اینڈ انجینئرنگ میلہ 2014ء منعقد کیا گیا، جس میں ان تین طالبات کو ان کے سائنسی تجربے کی بنا پر خصوصی انعام سے نوازا گیا۔ ان تینوں طالبات نے ہوا کے کم دباؤ سے چلنے والے ونڈر ہائن کا ایک تجربہ پیش کیا، جسے انٹیل کی جانب سے خوب پذیرائی حاصل ہوئی۔ ایوارڈ کے ساتھ، طالبات کو ملنے والے انعام کی مالیت ایک ہزار ڈالر بتائی گئی ہے۔ ایوارڈ حاصل کرنے والی تینوں طالبات کا تعلق صوبہ پنجاب سے ہے۔ میڈیا رپورٹس کے مطابق، انٹیل کی جانب سے ہونے والے ایجوکیشن میلے 2014ء میں دنیا بھر کے دیگر ممالک سمیت، پاکستان کے مختلف شہروں سے چھ طلبہ و طالبات نے حصہ لیا۔

اسکر دو کے قریب ایک گاؤں میں بلتستان کی قدیم ثقافت آج بھی زندہ ہے، دور دراز پہاڑوں کے دامن میں واقع قدرتی حسن سے مالا مال اس گاؤں کی دنیا کی الگ ہے۔ اسکر دو سے چند کلومیٹر دور دیائے سندھ کے کنارے یہ ہنگ ڈھوق گاؤں ہے، یہاں کے باشندے آج بھی قدیم بلتستانی تہذیب کو زندہ رکھے ہوئے ہیں۔ گاؤں کو پانچ سال پہلے آرگینک ویلج کا درجہ دیا گیا۔ اور گینک ویلج پہنچنا آسان کام نہیں، سیاح دشوار گزار پتھرے اور خطرناک ٹریک عبور کر کے یہاں پہنچتے ہیں۔ خوبصورت مناظر دیائے سندھ کا شفاف پانی اور بہتے جھرنے، یہاں کا حسن ہیں، جو یہاں آئے واپس جانے کا دل نہ چاہے۔ گاؤں کے لوگوں کا رہن سہن بہت ہی سادہ اور خوراک ہر قسم کی ملاوٹ اور آلودگی سے پاک ہے۔ پتھر اور کچی کے مٹی کے مکانات، گد بانیاں اور زراعت ان کا پیشہ ہے۔ گاؤں کے لوگ جلانے کے لئے لکڑیاں، روایتی کشتی پر لاد کر دریائے سندھ عبور کر کے لاتے ہیں۔ قدرتی حسن سے مالا مال گینک ویلج کی مناسب تفریح اور سہولیات فراہم کر دی جائیں تو یہ بہترین سیاحتی مرکز بن سکتا ہے۔

اسلام آباد۔ وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں پہلا میوزک میلہ 2014ء جاری ہے جس کا اہتمام فن و ثقافت اور تعلیم کے لیے کام کرنے والی ایک غیر سرکاری تنظیم "فیس" نے امریکی سفارتخانہ کے تعاون سے کیا ہے۔ اس تنظیم کے روح و رواں ڈی جاہ فضل نے اس میلے کے اغراض و مقاصد بیان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس میں پاکستانی موسیقی خصوصاً لوک موسیقی پر خاص توجہ دی گئی اور موسیقی کے ذریعے لوگوں میں ہم آہنگی پیدا کرنے کی بھی کوشش کی گئی ہے۔ وہ موسیقی جو پاپ میوزک کی وجہ سے اتنی آگے نہیں آئی اسے لوگوں تک پہنچایا جائے پھر اسے بین الاقوامی سطح پر لے کر جایا جائے تاکہ اس سے عوامی سطح پر رابطوں کو بڑھایا جائے اور میوزک کو ایک دوسرے کو سمجھنے کے لیے استعمال کیا جائے۔ میلے میں موسیقی کے مختلف اصناف شامل کی گئی ہیں، جن میں لوک، راک، فیوژن اور قوالی کے تقریباً ایک درجن سے زائد فنکار حصہ لے رہے ہیں۔ صوفی میوزک کے معروف فنکار اریب اظہر بھی "فیس" سے وابستہ ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اس میلے میں کوشش کی گئی ہے ابھرتے ہوئے فنکاروں کو بھی آگے آنے کا موقع دیا جائے اور ان کے لیے راستہ ہموار کی جائے۔ لیکن اس کے ساتھ ساتھ زیادہ توجہ ایسے فنکاروں پر ہے جو بوجہ وہ مقام حاصل نہیں کر سکے جس کے وہ حقدار ہیں۔ تو یہاں آپ دیکھیں گے کہ وہ لوگ جو خاص کام کر چکے ہیں ان کے ساتھ ساتھ وہ لوگ بھی ہوں گے جو اس طرح سے ابھی تک اپنا نام نہیں بنا سکے لیکن وہ کئی سالوں سے محنت کر رہے ہیں، تو جو اپنی اپنی سطح پر محنت کر رہا ہے ہم نے کوشش کی ہے کہ میوزک کے ہر شعبے کی نمائندگی ہو، پاکستان کے ہر خطے سے ہو۔ اس تین روزہ میلے میں موسیقی کے شعبے سے وابستہ لوگوں کو درپیش مشکلات اور ان کے حل پر تبادلہ خیال کے علاوہ موسیقی کی مختلف اصناف پر سیر حاصل نہ کرے بھی شامل ہیں جبکہ یہاں آنے والے شائقین کے لیے معلوماتی پروگرام بھی ترتیب دیے گئے ہیں۔

راولپنڈی: پاکستان ٹورازم ڈیولپمنٹ کارپوریشن نے راولپنڈی سے نارائن کیلئے بس سروس شروع کر دی، اہم ڈی کہتے ہیں امن و امان بہتر ہونے سے غیر ملکی سیاح

انٹیل سائنس میلہ، تین پاکستانی طالبات کو

ایوارڈ

<http://thehaq.com>

18 مئی 2014

قدیم تہذیب کا گہوارہ، قدرتی حسن سے مالا مال

نگ ڈھوق گاؤں

ساٹی وی

10 مئی 2014

اسلام آباد میں ساز و آواز سے مزین میوزک

میلہ 2014ء جاری

وآئس آف امریکہ اردو

03 مئی 2014

محکمہ سیاحت کی راولپنڈی سے نارائن کیلئے بس

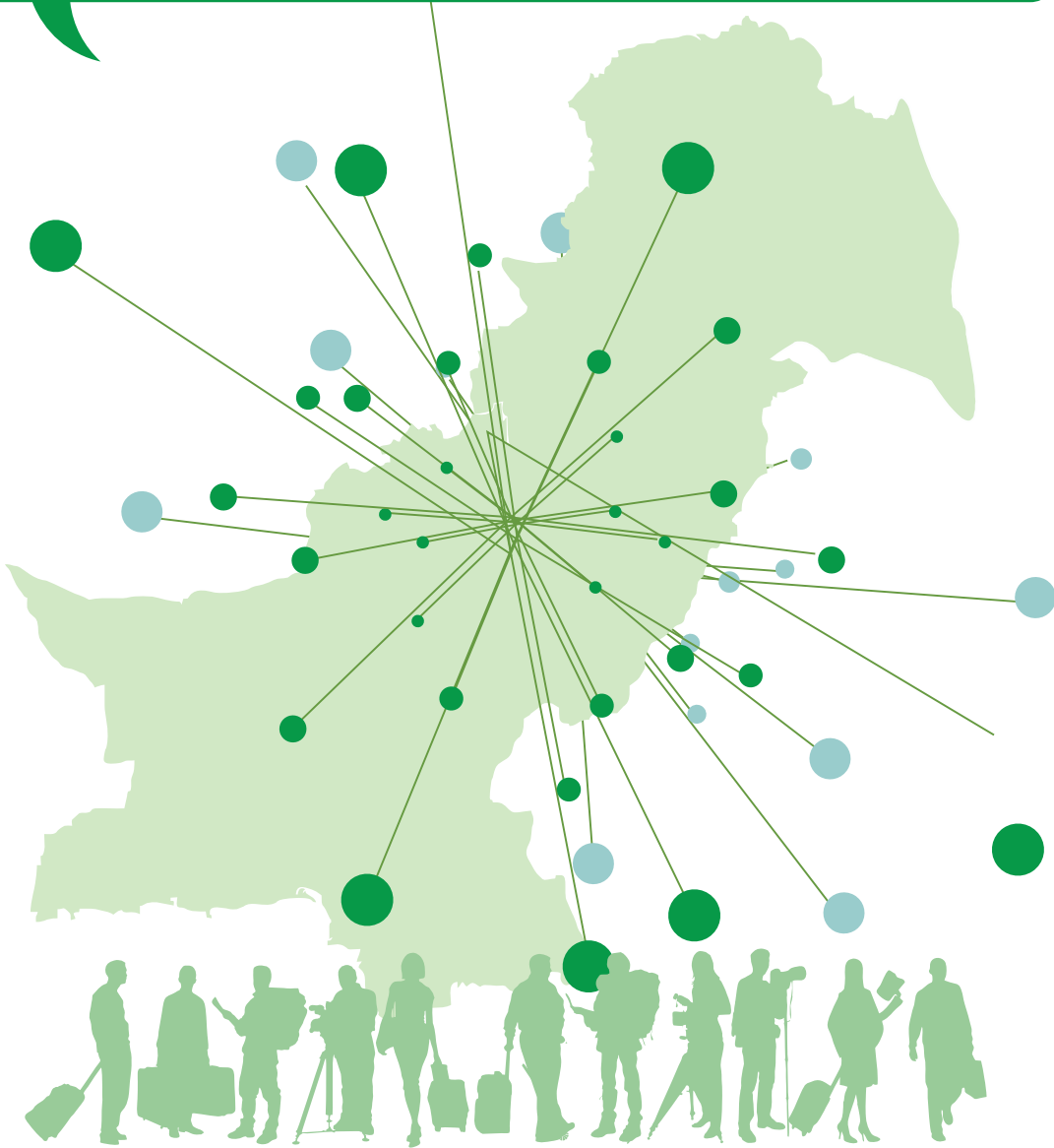
بھی پاکستان آئیں گے۔ سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے پی ٹی ڈی سی نے یکم جون سے نارن کیلئے بس سروس شروع کی ہے، بس روزانہ راولپنڈی سے نارن اور نارن سے راولپنڈی آئے گی، یک طرفہ کرایہ پندرہ سو روپے ہوگا، پی ٹی ڈی سی ہر سال تین ماہ کیلئے یہ سروس چلاتی ہے۔ بس سروس کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب میں میجنگ ڈائریکٹر چوہدری کبیر کا کہنا تھا کہ حکومت سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے سنجیدہ اقدامات کر رہی ہے، امن وامان کا قیام حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے، امن وامان بہتر ہونے سے غیر ملکی سیاح بھی پاکستان آئیں گے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سیاحتی علاقوں کے نوجوانوں کو گائیڈ بننے کی تربیت دی جائے گی۔ چوہدری کبیر نے کہا کہ سابق ایم ڈی شاجہان کھیتراں نے من پسند لوگوں کو بھرتی کر کے کارپوریشن کو نقصان پہنچایا ان کی خلاف نیب تحقیقات کر رہی ہے، میر باز کھیتراں کا نام ای سی ایل میں بھی ڈال دیا گیا ہے۔

سروس شروع

ساٹی وی

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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	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
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	Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab Govt. of Pakistan Habib ur Rehman Gillani Managing Director 0092-42-99231647, 0092-42-99231646, 0092-42-99231644 0092-42-99231649 gilanihabib@hotmail.com , md@tdcp.gop.pk info@tdcp.gop.pk , tdcp@punjab.gov.pk punjabtourism@tdcp.gop.pk 151, Abubakar Block, New Garden Town, Lahore www.tdcp.gop.pk
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	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

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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	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
Shewa Educated Social Workers Association Local NGO Muhammad Faiq Chairman 0092-342 9193818 seswa@seswapk.org Parmoli Road, Mohallah Ghulam Khel,VPO Shewa, Tehsil Razzar, Shewa, Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa www.seswapk.org	Heritage Foundation Pakistan Local NGO Yasmeen Lari Chief Executive Officer 0092-213-5834215 , 0092-213-5837521 info@heritagefoundationpak.org E-6 Fourth Gizri Street, DHA 4, Karachi www.heritagefoundationpak.org

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islamabad@unesco.org
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Sector G-5, Islamabad
www.unesco.org.pk

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

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Email: towers@avari.com

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Fax: 0092-21-34526797
Website: www.embassyinn.com.pk
E-Mail: Embassyinn@cyber.net.pk

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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
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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
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Phone: 0092-213-5223970-82
Fax: 0092-213-5223983-84
Email: alharmaintower@gmail.com

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

Hotel Crown Inn Sadler
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Fax: 0092-21-35622007
Website: www.hotelcrowninn.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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
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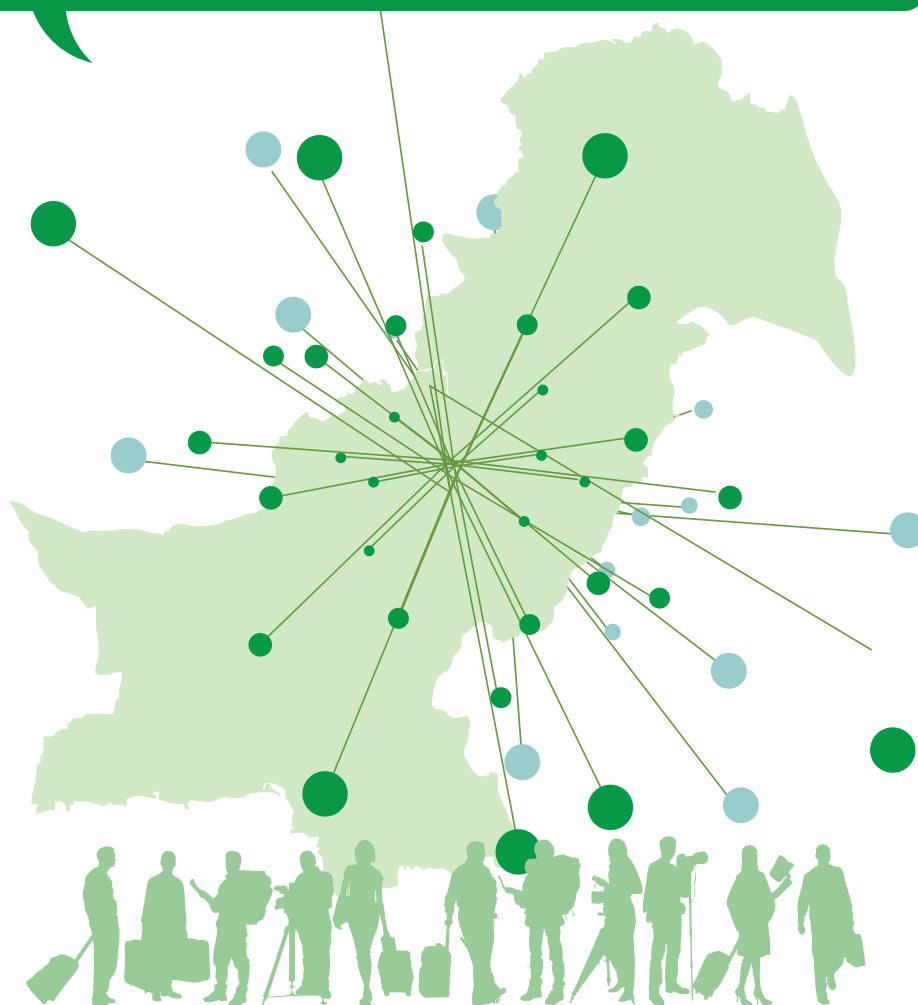
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Port Grand Food Street Jinnah Flyover, M.T. Khan Road, Karachi, Pakistan- 7400, Karachi, Pakistan-07400 Phone: 0092-21-3586 3826 Website: http://www.portgrand.com	Al Haaj Bundu Khan Main M.A. Jinnah Road, near Numaish Sindhi Muslim Roundabout Phone: 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
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Eaton Foods 65-C, Phase 2, D.H.A. Karachi, Pakistan. Phone: 0092-21-3-779-1027, 3-779-1032 Website: http://www.theeaton.com	BBQ Tonight Com. 5/1, Boating Basin, Clifton, Block-5, Karachi. Phone: 0092-2135824471 Fax: 021-35376963 Email: info@bbqtonight.com.pk Website: http://www.bbqtonight.com

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

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

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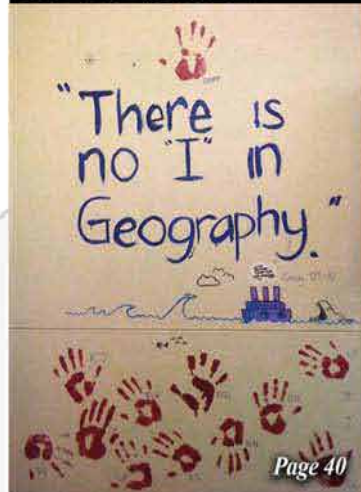
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APPLIED RESEARCH

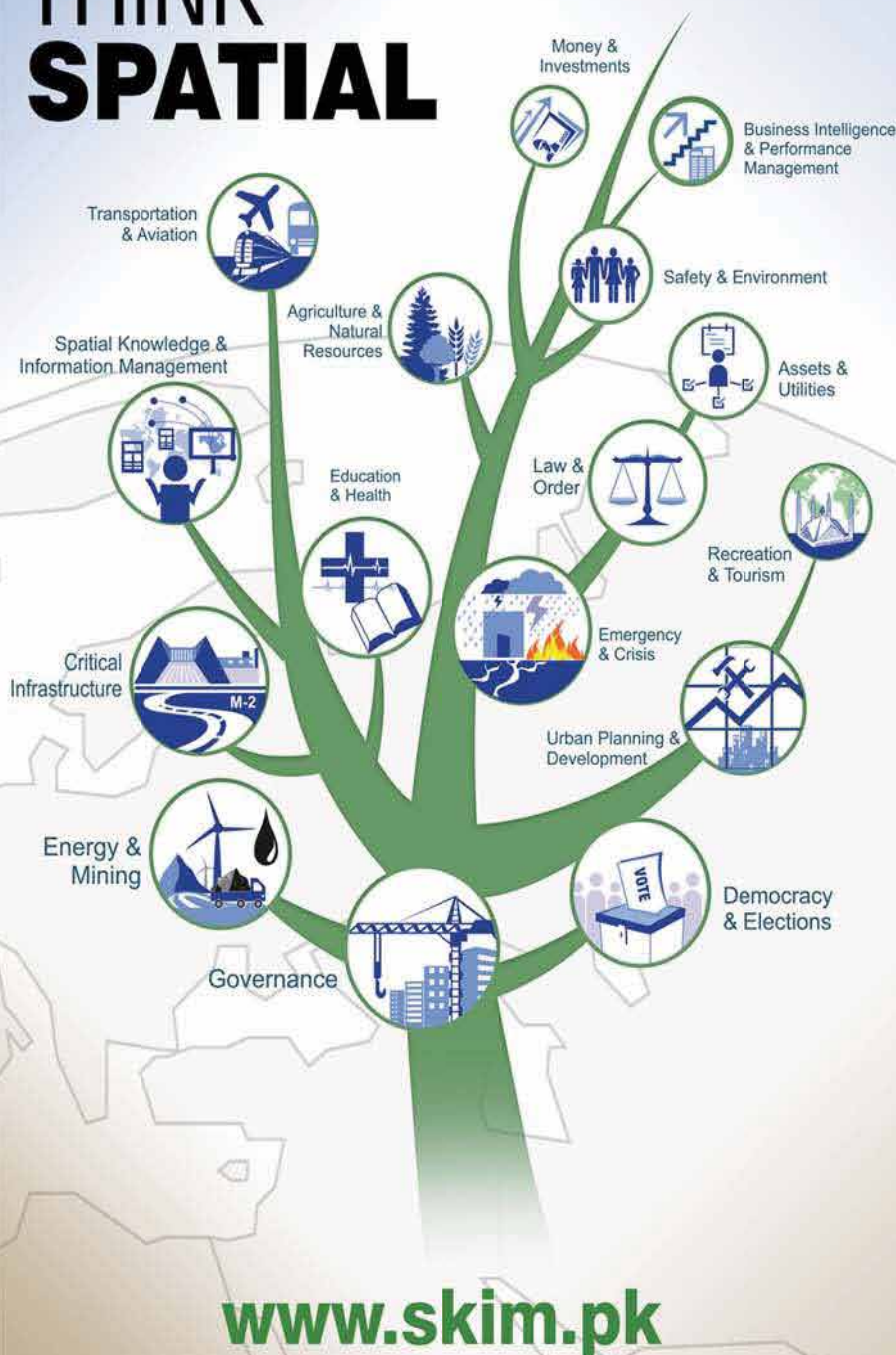
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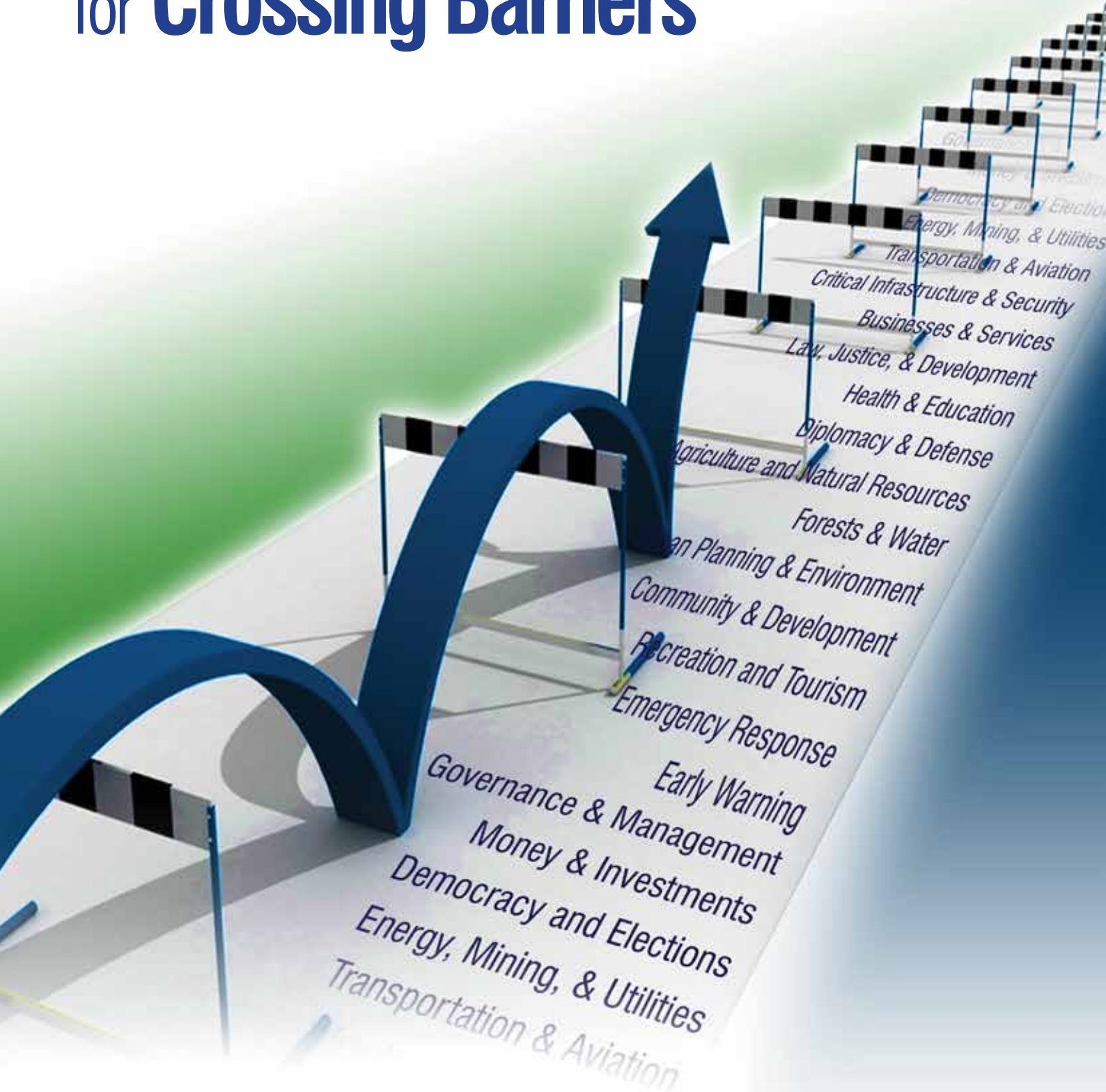
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