

TOURISM BULLETIN

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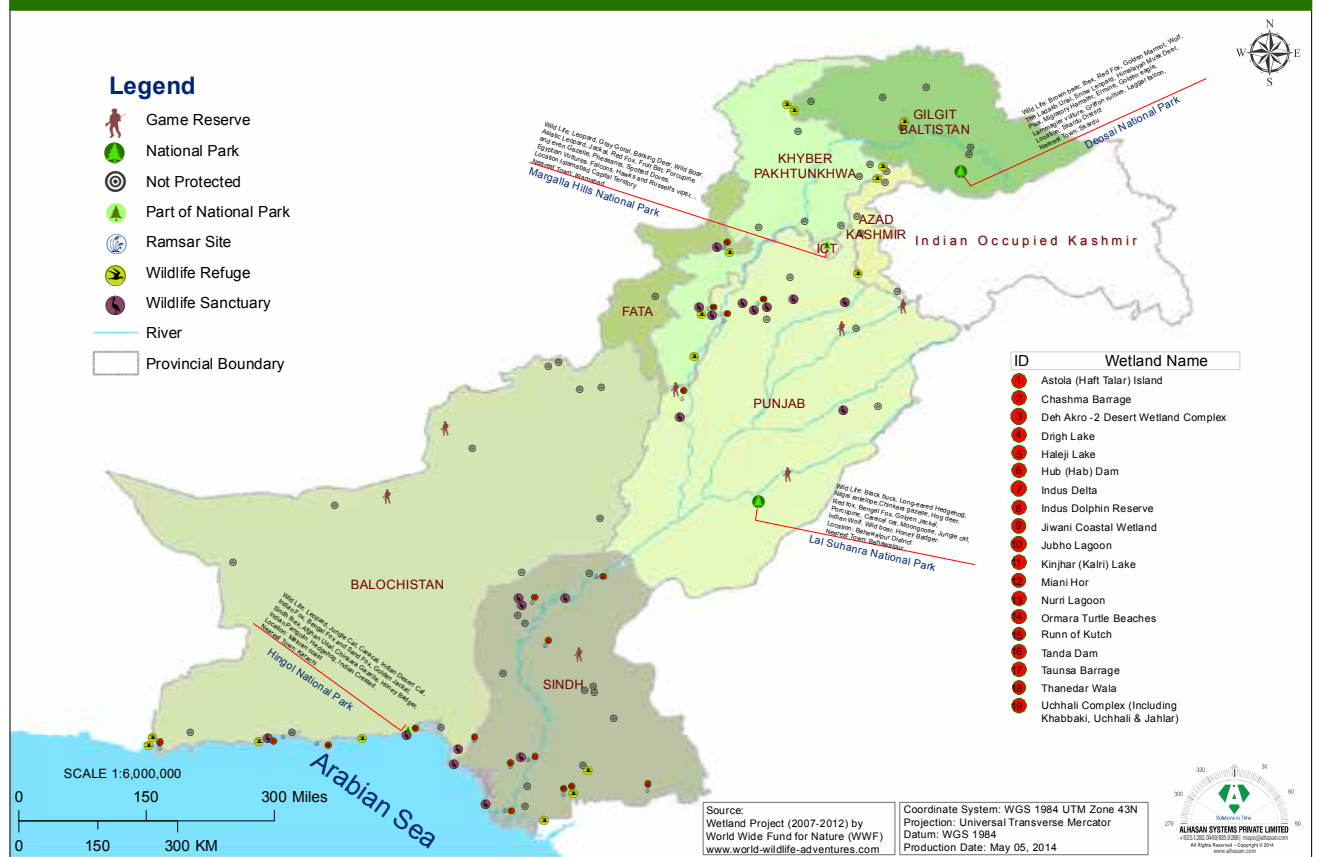
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NEWS HEADLINES

Honour thy culture

The Nation, April 30, 2014

Tourism in Pakistan

Daily Times, April 30, 2014

Pakistani group showcases country's cultural diversity

Arab News, April 30, 2014

ILF ends after celebrating literature in all forms

The News, April 28, 2014

DETAILS

Through decades, the critical issue faced by a Pakistani is the cultural identity of Pakistan. Around the globe, every country protects and promotes its cultural identity. What about Pakistan, are we protecting and promoting our culture? The answer to this question is not simple and requires a thorough examination. There were strong cultural values which motivated the people for a separate state, and the movement resulted in the emergence of a new state on the world's map in 1947. Cultural identity of Pakistan has been lost on the name of westernization or liberalization, which has consumed the upper classes like slow poison. With the advancement in information and technology, mass media emerged as a strong candidate to shape the opinion of the masses and the promoter of culture. The last decade witnessed an adverse effect through Indian cultural via dramas on almost all our private TV channels, which slowly dominated the cultural identity of Pakistan. The worst scenario is nowadays, when Pakistani TV channels are playing Turkish dramas. There was a time when Pakistani dramas were famous around the world for their uniqueness and popularity as well as for representing our culture and values. The consumer oriented industry has now adopted whatever the consumer is demanding forgetting that we are losing our identity. The role of media in today's Pakistan is very vital and demanding and it should uphold the values that we revere and respect. There should be some strong measures from concerned authorities to protect and safeguard our cultural identity from this invasion or we will lose our heritage and culture.

As soon as spring comes to an end people start planning their summer holidays; they think about going to the hilly areas to beat the heat for some time. Many people from all four provinces love to go and spend time in the northern areas to enjoy the natural beauty of Pakistan and to give a break to their boring, routine lives. The most commonly visited places include the Murree Hills, Bhurban, Ayubia, Patriata, Kaghan Valley, Naran Valley, Neelum Valley and Swat Valley. This part of the country is famous all over the world because of its 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 necessary steps to facilitate the throngs of people who go to these places every year. Making roads safer in the mountainous areas, providing the people with electricity and Sui gas, and providing tourists with security are just some of the things the government can do. Pakistan needs to encourage local tourism by cutting the costs that are incurred — the high cost of staying in the northern areas of Pakistan has made it difficult for the common people to go there. Tourism is an important source of foreign exchange earnings, promotion of cross-cultural understanding and cooperation, income generation, job creation and poverty reduction. The government must do something about this very important issue.

Pakistani community in Riyadh enjoyed the weekend with a colorful cultural evening showcasing their rich cultural heritage. Pakistani traditional group 'Need & Style' organized the program to promote the cultural diversity. Sajida Chaudhary, the group head, told Arab News, "there is a need to promote Pakistan's rich cultural diversity, therefore I urged upon the community members to take part in this event to promote our rich culture and tradition in the Kingdom in a positive manner." Well-known writer and poet Waqar Naseem Ahmed was the guest speaker and praised the efforts of Pakistani youngsters to promote the country's cultural diversity. Members of Need & Style, which started as a family group on social media to groom young talent, showcased their skills with difference and elegance, and were extremely excited at the gala event. Speaking to Arab News, they said, "after successfully organizing Virda-e-Pakistan in cooperation with the Pakistan embassy, Need & Style group brought fun for Pakistani expatriates in a dignified manner." The performers in the cultural evening include Zain Jameel, Waleed Jameel, Zohaib Rafique, Qaiser Jaferi, Usama Khan, Bilal Arshad, Talal Safdar, Faez Chaudhary, Moeed Khan, Sufiyan Khan, Adil Mehmood, Umair Sheikh and Arslan Baloch. They were awarded with certificates of appreciation by Waqar Naseem and Sajida Chaudhary. The weekend event was attended by a good number of families from the Pakistani community. Apart from the cultural evening, Needs & Style also arranged a picnic event. The event included musical skits and tableaux, singing, dance performances and quiz competition.

The gala event also comprised of many stalls, henna, colorful stalls for kids, dresses and jewelry for ladies, Asian cuisine, games for couples and kids with gift hampers, lucky draws and painting competitions.

ISLAMABAD: After celebrating the aura and motivating power of literature in all its delightful forms, Islamabad Literature Festival concluded here on Sunday. Organised by the Oxford University Press (OUP), Pakistan, the festival remained a huge success in terms of people's participation in a variety of versatile and interactive sessions. The last day of the ILF attracted large crowds from twin cities, while events and literary sessions throughout the day brought together numerous views from the galaxy of literati from around the world.

Talking about the success of 2nd Islamabad Literature Festival, its organiser and Oxford University Press Managing Director Ameena Saiyid said that the success of festivals in Karachi and Islamabad means that Pakistan is a safe and secure country for business. She said that bringing such a huge number of writers and having such a huge gathering enjoying interactive discourses for last three days to celebrate the festival in the foothills of Margallas, this is a true celebration of writers, books, and the habit of reading. She said that it is now coming to the time when we will reflect on all that we have heard, seen, read, or been part of in this festival. The three-day festival presented more than 122 speakers in more than 70 sessions at Margalla Hotel in Islamabad. According to the organisers, the event was great success as the residents of twin cities showed and registered their huge interest in literature and literary activities. The last day of the festival started with a session on 'Who Owns a Language' which was moderated by Muneeza Shamsie and participated by Framji Minwalla, Syed Nomanul Haq and Aamer Hussain. The magazine

Revival of tourism lauded

The Natio, April 28, 2014

The News International US congresswoman Jackson addresses PSA show

The News, April 27, 2014

NIHCR's conference on Balochistan today

Pakistan Today, April 27, 2014

culture of India and Pakistan was discussed in an interactive session in which renowned Indian author Shobhaa De, Amna Ali and Mehwish Amin participated while the session was coordinated by Asif Noorani. A conversation with the makers of latest Pakistani movie was also organised in which social activist Samar Minallah held a talk with Meenu Gaur and Farjad Nabi. The changing circumstances in Urdu language and literature were discussed by Raza Ali Abidi, Anwaar Ahmed and Syeda Afra Zehra. This session was anchored by senior writer Intizar Hussain. To discuss the art of translation, a session was held in which Masood Asher, Fehmida Riaz, Anwar Ahmed and Waqas Khawja participated. The art of political cartoons was discussed by Fauzia Minallah while Rumana Husain moderated the session. 'At the Threshold of Ghalib', featuring Syed Nomanul Haq and Rahat Kazmi, the poetry of Ghalib was discussed and a tribute was paid to his services for composing such a commendable and evergreen poetry. A panel discussion was also held with reference to Kargil war in which the pros and cons of the episode were highlighted. Former foreign secretary Riaz Hussain Khokhar, Tariq Usman Hyder and Rashid Rehman participated in the discussion. The concluding session of the literature festival was addressed by Ameena Saiyid, Asif Farrukhi, Kishwar Naheed and Muneeza Shamsie. While young artistes of the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) presented a play 'Taleem-e-Balighaan', which was widely appreciated by the audience. There were many other sessions and activities, including bookfair, food stalls and author signing in which visitors showed great interest.

LAHORE: Presidential award winner scout leader Maqsood Ahmad Chughtai has said that with the revival of tourism in the country not only precious foreign exchequer could be earned but a soft image of war-torn country could be presented before the world. According to a press release issued here on Sunday, he congratulated Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif over holding exhibition on tourism at international level which restored Pakistan soft image in the world, he added.

HOUSTON: The Pakistan Student Association's show "Humari Pechaan... Pakistan" was a huge success. More than 1000 people gathered at University of Houston's Cullen Performance Hall to experience a night filled with Pakistani songs, dances, acts, and fashion shows. Talented performers depicted the culture of Pakistan by taking the audience back to its roots and transitioning to Pakistan's culture. Brought back after three years, the show was filled with humor, drama, patriotism, and elegance, and it captured the hearts of all who showed up, whether they were Pakistani or not. The occasion has the honor of having Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who highlighted the revival of culture that Pakistan Student Association is achieving through this show. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee said "I am bringing you the congressional recognition from Washington by Co-Chair, the honorable congressmen Pitts, and from President Barack Obama. "Pakistan student Association is not a student association, it's a family, and I think that's outstanding. PSA is about leaderships, friendship and teamwork. It is truly a representation of the energy and leadership that the association is perpetuity." "I want to acknowledge the chancellor Renu Khator of University of Houston. My work in Washington is made better in your existence. My work in Washington is for Pakistani cause. Outreach to the members of congress, to reinforce very special friendship that Pakistan have with the United States of America. But you as student have special voice; you have the voice of critique, support and commitment. You have the ability to show the Pakistani culture and western culture." "We find ways to develop our friendship and I cannot encourage all of you enough but I want to encourage you to come to Washington DC, work with United states Congress. Prepare yourself to run for the congress, run for the member of United States of America congress. Whether it is for congressperson, whether it is for senator, or whether it is for President of United States of America." She also acknowledged the efforts of PSA and awarded Congregational Recognition for their event. PSA Houston also received recognition from the office of Congressman AL Green presented by Sam Merchant also from the City of Houston Mayor Annise Parker's special recognition along with City emblem was presented to the President of PSA, Irfan Syed, for his outstanding Leadership by Mayor's organization Houston Karachi Sister City Association President Saeed Sheikh.

Chief Guest Consul General of Pakistan Mr. Afzaal Mahood spoke about its importance of promoting student's activities and the Pakistani community at large. He also lauded and appeal to the community to continue supporting PSA in their future endeavors. Guest of Honor CEO of Midland Energy Inc. Mr. Javaid Anwar shared his own life experiences as Student and emphasis on the importance of education which can change the life of upcoming generations. While welcoming the guests President PSA Irfan Syed highlighted the Pakistan Student Association aim & objectives and mention that PSA is a proud united ethnic student organization that has been around since 1965 at the University of Houston. He specially thanked Consul General of Pakistan Mr. Afzaal Mahood, CEO of Midland Energy Inc. Mr. Javaid Anwar, organization Houston Karachi Sister City Association President Saeed Sheikh, Mian Nazeer, Program Director Shahid Iqbal, Local Pakistani Media and many others sponsors for their utmost cooperation and support.

The National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Centre of Excellence, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad will hold an International Conference on Balochistan: History and Culture as part of series of conferences on various regions and provinces of Pakistan. The three-day conference will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Balochistan Dr Abdul Malik on Monday, April 28 at a local hotel in Islamabad. Chief organizer of the conference, Dr Eitezaz Ahmad, acting Vice Chancellor of the Quaid-e-Azam University, stated that the NIHCR was established in 1973 with the objective to conduct research on the history and culture of Pakistan. "The Institute has so far published over 115 titles in English, Urdu and Persian. Some of these works have seen more than one edition. The Institute has also been bringing out regularly two bi-annual journals, namely Pakistan Journal of History and Culture (English) and the Majallah-e-Tarikh wa Saqafat Pakistan (Urdu) for the last several years," the Vice Chancellor said. He further recalled that in order to highlight history of important national issues, the NIHCR has been holding conferences and seminars for the benefit of all and sundry; this includes Documentation of Current History; The

Air Arabia connects Pakistan to Ras Al Khaimah in UAE

The Nation, April 26, 2014

TCKP participates in tourism expo

Pakistan Observer, April 26, 2014

A visual treat for parents

The News, April 25, 2014

Shobha De finds hospitality, not hostility, in

National Hijra Conference; Pakistan History Conference; Quaid-i-Azam International Seminar; National Conference on Madar-i-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah; National Conference on Pakistan Movement: Historical and Cultural Perspectives; National Conference on Balochistan Through History and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: History and Culture besides others.

Dr Sajid Mehmood Awan, acting Director of the NIHCR, informed that the three-day international conference spans over 10 academic sessions discussing the history and culture of Balochistan. Each session would be chaired/moderated by a noted historian, he said. "On the first day of the conference history of Balochistan would be explored; the second day is assigned to digging out culture and economy whereas on third day of the conference the guest historians would discuss politics and society of Balochistan," said Sajid Awan. He further declared that through the course of intellectual discourse on the subject this venture will confer new prospects and possibilities for the sustainable peace, progress and prosperity of the country in general and that of Balochistan in particular. The conference will end with a resolution in the concluding session to be chaired by the Governor Balochistan Mohammad Khan Achakzai. However, in his message, he appreciated this effort of the NIHCR and confirmed his complete support for the success of the conference and its tangible outcome afterwards.

LAHORE: Air Arabia, the newly designated carrier of Ras Al Khaimah, joined the emirate's tourism and aviation authorities to announce the operational details of its soon to open hub at RAK International Airport, its fourth international base and second in the UAE. During a joint press conference with the RAK Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) and the Tourism Development Authority, Air Arabia announced that starting May 6, 2014, it will offer direct services to eight routes from RAK International Airport, giving an immediate boost to the emirate's rapidly growing tourism sector. In February 2014, Air Arabia and the Ras Al Khaimah Department of Civil Aviation entered into a long-term strategic partnership to significantly increase the number of destinations accessible to the residents of Ras Al Khaimah and to bring more tourists within reach of the emirate. From its hub at RAK International Airport, Air Arabia will follow exactly the same value-for-money business model as it does from its primary base in Sharjah. Two new Airbus A320 aircraft will initially service regularly to RAK International Airport from 3 cities in Pakistan; Islamabad, Lahore and Peshawar. In addition, Air Arabia already flies to Sharjah in UAE, from Karachi, Sialkot and Peshawar. Engr Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), Ras Al Khaimah, said: "This important collaboration will give a major boost to the economic development of Ras Al Khaimah and reinforces the growing excitement about the emirate as an investment destination. As our designated carrier, Air Arabia's operations will be a key component of a comprehensive strategy to develop a vibrant, distinct and sustainable tourism sector in Ras Al Khaimah to rival the most established destinations in the region." "The increase in tourists and visitors entering Ras Al Khaimah suggests that a solid potential for developing the emirate travel and tourism sector exists. This partnership offers enormous potential benefit not only to the local aviation industry but to the overall economy," said Adel Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia. "With our hubs in Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah, Air Arabia is well positioned to cater to the travel needs of the Northern Emirates, a position we believe will deliver real value to our customers and shareholders while transforming the region's tourism sector by bringing millions of potential new visitors within just a few hours' reach." Established in October 2003, Air Arabia PJSC, listed on the Dubai Financial Market, currently operates services to 90 destinations covering the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and the Indian Subcontinent from operating hubs in Sharjah, UAE; Alexandria, Egypt; Casablanca, Morocco; and now Ras Al Khaimah, UAE.

PESHAWAR: The Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated in the Lahore International Tourism Expo 2014 at Lahore Expo Centre under the theme of "Endless Opportunities, On a Single Platform". The expo consisted of representation of all provinces of Pakistan, along with tour operators and representatives from Tourism and Hospitality Industry. Some foreign countries had also participated and set up stalls including the Turkey, says a press release issued here on Friday. TCKP has set up five stalls there, which were colorfully decorated with pictorial images of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A separate segment was dedicated to music where Rubab and Mangai was performed in traditional attire. Another segment of the Pavilion consisted information desk, where brochures and other reading material of the corporation were given to the visitors. Tour packages were also announced at LITE 2014, which included of Chitral, Swat, Naran, Supat and Chilam Josh (which is an upcoming event of TCKP at Kalash Valley). The pavilion of TCKP along with the one by Turkey was without any doubt the most visited ones. It consisted of the Managing Director TCKP Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, General Manager Events Muhammed Ali Syed and Chairperson Standing Committee on Tourism Abdul Sattar along with other employees of TCKP. Stating about the event the MD said "LITE celebrates hopes and ambitions of Tourism stakeholders in the competitive market to win the race of quality.—APP

ISLAMABAD: The Annual Parents Day organised by the Roots Millennium School, Chaklala Scheme-III Campus, and Rawalpindi, at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Wednesday evening was nothing short of a visual treat, and says a press release. The theme of the show was 'Heritage of Pakistan' featuring performances on stage by students through the medium of song and dance routines. Glittering costumes, high-voltage performances, crisp lines and enthusiastic students highlighting the intricate cultural heritage of Pakistan captivated the audience and the chief guest of the evening. Highlights included performances themed on different regions of Pakistan. Romanian Ambassador Emilian ION was the chief guest on the occasion. His address to students and parents featured appreciation of the performances and words of encouragement. Roots Millennium Schools CEO Chaudhary Faisal Mushtaq, TI, expressed his thoughts on the need for engaging students in an effective way.

Shobhaa De, author and columnist, said here on Friday that she had not encountered even a moment of hostility in Pakistan. It was all hospitality and no hostility, she added. Ms. De is here to

Islamabad

The Hindu, April 25, 2014

attend the second Islamabad Literature Festival organised by the Oxford University Press. The three-day festival, which will showcase some of the best writers in Pakistan, has Ms. De, Ritu Menon, writer and publisher, and a group performing Dastangoi, an Urdu storytelling art form, from India. Ms. De had attended literature festivals in Karachi and Lahore, but this is her first visit to Islamabad. To start with, she said she had been keen on visiting the capital since it was a city which was neither here nor there. An Indian diplomat had told her it was like a small European city, but at first glance, it seemed more like Chandigarh. She arrived to a warm welcome, and hoped that every city in Pakistan would have a literary festival. If it had not been for the festival, she would not have been able to visit here. It was an important moment for her. The festivals she had attended in Pakistan were liberal, progressive and relaxed, and stood for all that was good for the region. Opening the festival, Zehra Nigah, writer, said it was important for people to read and enjoy books. She told *The Hindu* that it was important to hold such festivals and people were enjoying them despite the prevailing conditions. Aamer Hussain, writer, and Asif Farrukhi, festival organiser, spoke.

Deosai: The land of giants

The Nation, April 25, 2014

Imagine a hundred and seventy two different varieties of flowers on an endless plateau that stretches for miles in every direction. Imagine a pristine, aquamarine stream cutting through. Imagine yourself at the centre of an enormous crown of white, majestic mountains, levitating over a bed of clouds. Sounds like a dream, doesn't it?

This dream, popularly known as Deosai, is the second highest plateau in the world and only four hours north of Islamabad via plane and jeep. It's a dream we can have over and over again, but as foreigners flock to these plains every year, Deosai remains a mystery to most Pakistanis. Considering the fate of several hill resorts (that look more like pastries and less like peaceful retreats), promoting Deosai becomes a tricky proposition because nothing could be more tragic than its unregulated development. And while tourism may not be a priority for our leaders, especially when basic health, energy, education and security needs are still far from being met, Deosai and its adjoining areas have ample and appropriate infrastructure to support a significant surge in domestic tourism. This is primarily so because tourist activity has gradually declined in this area in the aftermath of the 'war on terror', forcing hoteliers, restaurateurs, taxi drivers and other service industry professionals to look for alternate means of income. Satpara, one of the highest lakes in Pakistan was once a popular tourist attraction around Deosai. After a recent hydel project, Satpara is now also a main source of power for the people of Skardu (the only major town around Deosai) and that means no power outages. Still, even with uninterrupted amenities, the city is far from buzzing. Tourist activity has progressively dwindled in Skardu because Gilgit-Baltistan – home to a majority of our natural wonders, including Deosai – is geographically contiguous to and often associated with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a state that has now long been mired in conflict. This adds an altogether new dimension to the issue of promoting Deosai and its adjoining areas. When I last visited Satpara to sample the highly sought after trout of the region, the restaurant by the edge of the lake was abandoned. After a considerable amount of time, chairs and tables were dragged out from storage while the chef himself boarded a motorboat with fishing paraphernalia to go find us lunch. Amongst the many attractions around Deosai, the restaurant at Satpara is one of the more popular stops for tourists. Yet it struggles. There are plethoras of other small businesses that are not as popular and in the absence of tourist traffic, it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to survive. The irony is, that unlike other beautiful valleys in Gilgit-Baltistan that are too narrow to entertain jet planes, aerial entry into Skardu is wide enough for a Boeing 737. Despite this, Skardu's international airport has no international flights. This could obviously change if we used mass mediums to showcase Gilgit-Baltistan as a secure province for foreigners, and at the same time promoted its natural wonders to domestic tourists. As summer approaches, organizations like the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) must consider this a viable, buyable campaign. In an ideal world, the plan is flawless, but if we are unable to develop our northern areas in harmony with their natural environments, then we must not develop them at all. Regulated, responsible and aesthetically sound development is the real challenge; indeed, losing our only significant natural heritage to heightened tourist traffic is not an option. In Deosai, it is heart warming to see that a handful of people still care about the environment. An eight-person team of the Northern Areas Forests, Parks & Wildlife Department has the mammoth task of patrolling 3000 square kilometers of flat land on foot and motorbikes. These brave men have set camp next to a major water stream that cuts across the plain and they are the de facto guardians of the plateau. When temperatures fall below zero after night falls, they huddle up in a fabricated, fiberglass igloo. During the day, when temperatures miraculously soar, they dodge the sun and Deosai's enormous mosquitoes. They traverse the plains to sight bears and to share the experience with the odd tourist. And finally, as though all of the above wasn't enough, they man the water bodies and guard freshwater trout from surreptitious fishermen. When I last visited Deosai, I promised the Wildlife team hats and nets for protection from the blistering sun and mosquitoes. In retrospect today, I think they could use a lot more than just a net and hat to keep Deosai spotless in the years ahead. Deosai is, after all, the 'land of giants,' and sooner or later, people will flock in large numbers to witness its wonder. It must be understood in its most absolute form and promoted within the bounds of its natural environment. In all its magnificence, this 'land of giants' must not be dwarfed by the ideas, or the profit of men.

Pakistani ladies reach out to disadvantaged sections

Arab News, April 24, 2014

The Pakistani Ladies Club, "Humnawa" in association with the Pakistan Embassy in Riyadh, organized a spring gala for families of all nationalities on the embassy's premises to synergize efforts to reach out to the needy and disadvantaged sections of society. The gala event was inaugurated by Mohammad Naeem Khan, ambassador of Pakistan, who along with his wife Anila Naeem Khan were the chief guests, said the club's general secretary Wardah Qureshi on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion the ambassador said that this grand spring gala jointly organized by Humnawa and the embassy will enhance the softer image of Pakistan as it has provided an opportunity to express not only its rich cultural heritage, but also allowed Pakistanis to

Lok Virsa festival concludes after captivating residents of twin cities

Pakistan Observer, April 21, 2014

Tasteful tribute: Revisiting traditional aesthetics

The Express Tribune, April 20, 2014

meet their compatriots in the Kingdom. He announced that the money collected in the event would be utilized for the deserving children's education. He also appreciated the role being played by Humnawa for the Pakistani community's welfare and congratulated its president Bilquis Safdar and the team for successfully putting up this grand gala. Humnawa, an association of the wives and daughters of expatriate Pakistanis living and working in Riyadh, was partnered with the embassy staff and led by its chancellor Abbas Sarwar Qureshi for the event held last Friday. "A variety of Pakistani cuisine, Islamic books, handicraft, unique jewelry, carpets, photography, Pakistani dresses and bangles were on display," Safdar said adding that ladies of other nationalities including Irish, Syrian, Jordanian and Indians also put up stalls to lend their support to the needy. People enjoyed the food stalls with a variety of Pakistani food fare and the kids' corner with a jumping castle, popcorn, cotton candy and the games stalls added excitement to the gala event. The evening revved up with the music of Asad Ali Khan and Riyaz Rahi, young talents in the Saudi capital as they enthralled the audience with their live performances. Founded some 20 years ago, Humnawa aims to bring together the women of the Pakistani community for socializing, promoting arts and culture and synergize efforts for social work like scholarships and financial support to needy students at the Pakistan International School, Riyadh. The Pakistan embassy has hosted two concerts of renowned Pakistani cultural singers, Arif Lohar and Sanam Marvi, in the last 12 months.

ISLAMABAD: The 10-day folk festival of Pakistan, popularly known as "Lok Virsa", concluded here on Sunday at Shakaparian. The cultural event had been organised by Lok Virsa in collaboration with all the provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Secretary Information Broadcasting and National Heritage, Dr Nazir Saeed was the chief guest on the occasion. Thousands of people from different walks of life attended the festival during the 10 days which featured artisans-at-work exhibition, provincial cultural pavilions, folkloric song & dance performances, cultural evenings, craft bazaar, NGO stalls, theater performances and special entertainment for children and families. All the provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir participated in the festival by presenting their beautiful indigenous culture, arts, crafts, music and cuisine in specially designed pavilions symbolising their respective historical monuments, contributing art, music and entertainment activities. Secretary Information Broadcasting and National Heritage, Dr Nazir Saeed felicitated Lok Virsa management for successful holding of the national festival that brought rural masses from each corner of the country to the federal capital. He said that these kinds of events are helpful for promoting inter-provincial harmony. The Secretary said that Pakistan was a rich cultural country who has historical roots of thousands years. Lok Virsa is doing a great service to the nation by documenting, preserving and disseminating the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Pakistan, he added. Dr Nazir said, "The folk genius of the people is basis of their identity. It is therefore duty of a nation to pay homage to the perpetuators and promoters of its cultural heritage and in this regard, the role of Lok Virsa is praiseworthy". Member National Assembly (MNA), Naeema Kishor lauded the efforts of Lok Virsa for organizing this recreational festival for public and provided opportunity to visit culture of all provinces. She said that this platform will help people of all parts of the country for promoting their culture and strengthening unity. Earlier, Lok Virsa's Executive Director, Shaheera Shahid thanked all provincial governments, sponsoring agencies and other institutions for their unstinted cooperation to Lok Virsa for making this national event a success. She said that Lok Virsa organised folk festivals in order to project traditional cultural heritage and strengthening national art industry. Secretary Information Broadcasting and National Heritage, Dr Nazir Saeed distributed cash awards to the winning artisans and trophies to the festival participants and sponsors. Exotic cultural and musical performances were also presented during the ceremony. A large number of art, craft & music lovers, cultural personalities, media persons and general public attended the event.

ISLAMABAD: Striking pieces of arts and crafts beckoned to enthusiasts at the day-long open-house titled "True Colours". Held at the artisan couple Zaman and Dorothy's residence on Saturday morning, the ensemble included prints, paintings, drawings, wearable art, jewellery and objects d'art. A total of 14 artists and artisans presented their work at the showcase. Artistically displayed pieces lined the driveway and the garden of the house, leaving adequate space for people to navigate from one stall to the next, or to linger admiringly around the object of their desire. Zaman explained that the venture was a casual gathering of like-minded friends from the capital city, Lahore, Karachi and Taxila, intended to display their labour of love, with special focus on contemporary craft. He has been hosting similar shows biannually in spring and autumn for about two years now. Zaman's expertise lies in crafting candle stands, lamp bases and lanterns. The fare on display included candle stands made out of digitally-printed paper on plexiglas with a coat of lacquer, and hand-coloured shades. Ilona Yusuf's collection of photo-etching prints, wall clocks and lamp shades came in an appealing mix of colours and textures. "The emphasis is on high quality, innovative products," she said. Rabbania Shirjeel, a young photographer, exhibited her photo prints. Based in Lahore, she takes a keen interest in traditional subjects, wall-chalking and graffiti- the finished products come through beautifully in both miniature as well as larger prints. Embodying a knack for the quirky, her brand of art follows signboards and billboards, portraying caricatures of the contradictions within. One of the hand-painted banners in a photograph reads "Itwar bazaar jumayraat ko (Sunday Bazaar on Thursday)". Her mother, Rakshanda Atawar, exhibited her collection of charcoal and pastel artworks along with hand-painted stoles, scarves and duppattas in blooming, summery colours. Next to her stall, the renowned photographer Muhammad Azhar Hafeez unveiled his series of Pakistani souvenirs. "I just realised we don't have any souvenirs from this part of the world," he said, talking about his display of mugs, mouse pads, stone plates and coasters etched with some of his famous photographs. While everyone cannot afford to buy masterpieces of art, he said, the low-cost but high quality products can make affordable souvenirs and presents. The price range for coasters is Rs250 and for mug, Rs750. Alia Bilgrami showcased etching and photography prints, linocuts and

Tourism revenues rise in first quarter of 2014 — ministry

Jordan Times, April 19, 2014

collagraphs while Durre Sameen stood by her display of home accessories sporting truck art on stainless steel. Saweela Khan exhibited her range of natural skin-care products including soaps, body washes, shampoos, lip balms and mosquito repellents. Ceramic ware including mirrors, ashtrays and vases by the renowned artist Afshar Malik's nephew Ghalib was also displayed at the event. Another stall displayed Muna Siddiqui's home décor crafts. Starting with traditional motifs, she has transformed them into contemporary pieces, some of which are functional and others purely for viewing pleasure. Her designs use basic skills such as hand-cut mosaic, sculpted decoupage and hand embroideries, set and presented in functional items by skilled carpenters, tailors, polishers and craftsmen. Recycling ethos is an integral part of her work, in the spirit to make a difference in the community. Gushing over the gorgeous display, Saira, a buyer at the exhibit said, "This is a fabulous collection of things that you don't see in the market often," adding that she had a hard time settling on what to buy. "I thought the prints of signage across Punjab was an interesting glimpse into societal values and pop culture within Pakistan."

The Pakistani Embassy in Riyadh marked the 74th National Day of Pakistan Sunday at the Al-Tuwaiq Palace in the Diplomatic Quarter (DQ) with simplicity, gaiety and zest. The chief guest, Prince Turki bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, deputy governor of Riyadh and Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan, cut a cake on the occasion. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, Azzam bin Abdul Karim, Saudi Chief of Protocol and Gen. Hussain bin Abdullah Al-Qubail, Saudi Chief of General Staff, as guests of honor. "The National Day is very important for Pakistanis around the world because it marks the historic resolution for a separate homeland which was passed on Mar. 23, 1940 and put Pakistan on the world map," said Muhammad Naeem Khan, ambassador of Pakistan. He added that the relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were excellent and had picked momentum in the last few years. "We are working to strengthen the bilateral ties for economic development," he said. Khan outlined the recent tours of Saudi dignitaries to Pakistan including Crown Prince Salman and Prince Saud Al-Faisal to discuss the infrastructure development, energy sector and other economic fields. He said that both countries agreed to the new developments and cooperation in the economic, trade, political, education and tourism sectors. "We are going to have a joint economic mission meeting with the Pakistani minister of commerce when he arrives in the Kingdom in mid-April in which we will discuss cooperation in all areas of interest," Khan said. "The Saudi minister for Tourism and Antiquities Prince Sultan bin Salman's visit to Pakistan was very successful," he said adding that both countries discussed ways to enhance bilateral tourism and cultural cooperation and matters of mutual interest. Khan expressed his appreciation for the Pakistani community in the Kingdom. "Pakistanis are very hard-working and are contributing greatly to the development of Saudi Arabia. I urge my people to keep up the good work and continue to contribute to this important relationship."

Speaking to Arab News, US deputy chief of mission Timothy A. Lenderking highly praised the National Day of Pakistan and congratulated the people of Pakistan on their freedom and separate homeland. "We have a very important relationship with Pakistan and we are working for the development of the people of Pakistan. I spent a lot of time in Pakistan myself and have great affection for Pakistan and the Pakistani people," he said. He said that the US aid mission is very active in Pakistan and "We look forward to working together more in education, health, commercial ties and other fields. We also welcome Pakistani students to study in the US for their future development." The event included a display of pictures depicting high level visits from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan starting from the period of King Abdul Aziz to King Abdullah. The national anthems of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were played during the ceremony.

Bilawal wants 18 more monuments declared world heritage sites

The News, April 18, 2014

KARACHI: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the World Heritage Committee of Unesco to speed up work for declaring 18 more heritage sites in Pakistan world heritage sites to preserve the rich cultural heritage of humanity.

On the eve of World Heritage Day being observed by Unesco on Friday (today), the patron-in-chief of the Pakistan People's Party pointed out that dry core drilling had been started early this month at the site of Mohenjodaro to explore the entire magnanimous city which thrived 5,000 years ago, said a statement issued by the Bilawal House Media Cell on Thursday. The Unesco committee has declared six sites in Pakistan as world heritage sites so far. Earlier, Pakistan ratified the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1976 during the tenure of then prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, paving the way for marking Mohenjodaro, Taxila, Buddhist ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and the neighbouring city remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol Fort, Shalamar Gardens in Lahore, historical monuments at Makli, Thatta, and Rohtas Fort as world heritage sites. Bilawal said he was personally monitoring the preservation of Mohenjodaro, "as preserving our heritage remains a national duty of all of us as inheritors of our rich culture and ancient civilisation". The PPP leader appreciated Unesco and its World Heritage Committee for their research and hard work to protect and preserve the heritage sites as shared wealth of humankind.

Culture of Gilgit-Baltistan showcased at Lok Mela

The News, April 18, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Besides other regions of the country, Gilgit Baltistan is also participating in the Lok Mela with the contingent of over 35 persons, including master artisans, folk artistes, folk musicians and officials. Among creative craftspeople Nijat Bibi, 77 is a renowned woman artisan from Karimabad, Hunza. She learnt the art of typical and distinguished cross-stitch embroidery from her mother at the age of ten. The sophisticated and complex form of traditional embroidery in Pakistan is contribution of the rich culture of northern part of Pakistan specially Hunza Valley. Nijat Bibi not only kept this art alive, but also transferred it to scores of girls in the region. She has been participating in various festivals of 'Artisans-at-work' arranged from time to time by various organisations in Pakistan and abroad. Thus she became the symbol for the preservation and continuation of the most valuable examples of Pakistani heritage. In recognition of her services, Nijat Bibi has recently been granted President's Medal for Pride of Performance by the government on the recommendations of Lok Virsa. In other artisans displaying works at GB pavilion; Deedar Ali

in 'patti' weaving (woven strip made from sheep wool) is demonstrating his workmanship. He is 48-year-old and has a professional standing of over 25 years in the field. 'Pattu' or 'patti', a woollen fabric, is usually woven in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan. It is made of sheep wool and goat hair in natural colours. The sheep wool is spun by women on 'charkhas', a hand made spinning wheel. Weaving of the cloth is done by men on a locally manufactured loom, in strips of fourteen to twenty inches in width. 'Patti' is usually sewn into 'chughas', the local winter coat, which resembles bathrobe and sometimes used as cloaks. Men's 'patti' cap and waistcoats are also popular. Deedar Ali weaves beautiful pieces of 'patti', which is in local demand for making caps, 'chughas' (traditional long coat), etc. While entering into Gilgit-Baltistan pavilion, a group of young artists and musicians attired in traditional regional costumes is seen performing and attracting the crowd. Among them, Doulat Beg, Fazal-ur-Rehman, Rehmatullah, Naveed and Muhammad Qazi are eminent. Doulat and Fazal are singers and Rubab players whereas Rehmat, Naveed and Qazi accompany them in sword and folk dance. Historically, Gilgit-Baltistan has been at the crossroads of various civilisations for centuries. It has a unique location and serves as a confluence for some of the world's highest mountain ranges — the Pamirs, the Karakoram and the Hindukush. It has also been a place of cultural crosscurrents. Living in historical oblivion and geographical isolation from the rest of the world, the people have clung to a farming life, raising cattle, tending orchards and harvesting crops. Gilgit-Baltistan is home to a number of diversified cultural entities, ethnic groups and various backgrounds. This multitude of culture is because of the strategic location of Gilgit. In view of the multi-cultural and multi-lingual aspects, people also have a beautiful mix of lifestyles and attitudes presenting a pluralistic society living together with peace and harmony for centuries. The region harbours diverse and endangered mountain cultural traditions. Historically these areas have been aloof from the rest of the world and their life has been revolving around livestock and agriculture. A cultural night to focus on Gilgit-Baltistan indigenous folk culture was also held here on 15 April. Saadia Danish, Minister for Information and Advisor Tourism, Youth Affairs and Culture, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan was the chief guest on the occasion. Outstanding folk artists and musicians performed during the night giving a true reflection of the diverse culture and musical heritage of Gilgit-Baltistan. The 10-day Lok Mela will continue with all its festivities at Lok Virsa complex, Shakarparian till Sunday, April 20, 2014.

ILF Coming Up

The Nation, April 17, 2014

Despite the creation of some hype by organizers of the literary festival in Islamabad due to open on April 25, and a list of over 60 sessions, (many of them star-studded), consensus still rests with the case that the ILF cannot compete with its Lahore and Karachi installments. Despite the kind of money and sponsorships that will no doubt be spent on attracting supporters, the reason the ILF failed to draw impassioned crowds last year rests fundamentally on two things. First, that the city does not have the monopoly (or even the perceived monopoly) on writers and artists that the other cities do. Because Islamabad, due to its relative newness, has not produced legions of cultured writers, and speakers (including any at the Parliament House, it may be said), it is not historically an important city for the art form. In this, it discourages readers from engaging directly with the venue, and from feeling that they are in a way, entirely immersed in the festivities celebrating art, history, and literature. Second, the misfortune of appearances. Islamabad is, after all, the federal capital. It is (on the face of it) an arrangement of neat colonies, sectors and political establishments with none of the chaos that Pakistanis deem so closely related to "real" cultural experiences (whether the primarily English speaking KLF or LLF presented real literary experience is open to debate). Though the new wave of support for literary bodies, art, theatre, and writers that encapsulate the soul of the literary festivals across Pakistan is certainly commendable, it should be said that it is an almost exclusively elite venture. Even though admission is open to all, the speakers, the students, the audiences are primarily English speaking. It is ironic, for example, to be a part of a narrative on the Pakistani, or the Karachi novel, and have the debate take place in English alone. Perhaps the organizers of the literary festival should make the effort of engaging with every segment of Pakistan's magnificent literary history, by encouraging not only more Urdu and Punjabi writers and speakers to attend, but to market the event to an Urdu speaking public. It goes without saying, the strata of society we successfully eliminate from the elite cultural "respite" of such festivals, usually needs it the most.

UK printmakers 'have designs' on Pakistani artists

Daily Dawn, April 17, 2014

ISLAMABAD: As guests and patrons scurry around the gallery and cameras explode in flashes of light, Rose Davies looks relieved. She is a printmaker, in Pakistan to work with local artists as part of a collaborative art residency. She has spent the larger part of last week cooped up in a printmaking studio, preparing for the exhibition. "I haven't seen the light of day in Pakistan yet," she jokes as the sun sets on the lawns of the Serena. An exhibition of her work, along with works by fellow British artists Hannah Lawson and Kara Seaman, opened at the Satrang Gallery on Wednesday. Entitled 'Five Connect', the show features art developed by participants of the Zaira Ahmed Residency Programme, which began cross-cultural art exchange programmes in 2013. Opened by British High Commissioner to Pakistan Philip Barton, the exhibition also features work by two Pakistani print-makers, Zaira Ahmed Zaka and Atif Khan. Satrang Gallery Director Asma Khan said: "(We are) firm believers in local and international collaboration — we maintain that art and culture build the strongest and most interesting bridges — linking people and countries." This is Rose's second visit to Pakistan. Hannah, who is visiting for the first time, said that Zaira arranged a visit to Taxila, which was inspirational and prompted her to make prints of the Taxila Horse, which were also on display. Zaira Zaka Studio Residencies is also committed to facilitating cross cultural exchanges through collaborative exhibitions and shared artistic practices and techniques. The studio's programme of residencies and exhibitions promotes the art and culture of Pakistan internationally while developing relationships with artists and galleries across the world. The residency provides participating artists with the opportunity to collaborate in a friendly and supportive environment, and facilitates the exchange of ideas and builds connections between two (or more) countries. This was the second time that work produced by the residency was being exhibited at Satrang, Asma said, adding, "the gallery is thrilled and continues to support the Zaira Ahmed Residency Programme to provide a platform from which to showcase the art works of this

From FiLUMS to film-making

The Express Tribune, April 16, 2014

talented and dynamic group." The artists employed a range of innovative printmaking techniques and their work ranged from monotypes and collagraphs to block and screen prints, with the occasional digital cut-out and hand stamped piece. Aqeel Shigri, a printmaking graduate from the National College of Arts (NCA) said: "Seeing this work is an eye-opener. In Pakistan, most people don't know what printmaking is and when you tell them you're an artist, they only think of painting." Kausar Cheema, a NCA faculty member, found parts of the work very unusual. "The themes and ideas depicted are those that we portray too, but it is amazing to see how different an outsider's perspective can be. Rose Davies particularly, has taken local faces and truck art and shown me a completely different version of how they can be." Michele Galopin, one of the guests at the opening, said she particularly enjoyed Kara Seaman's work, which was "childlike in its innocence and naiveté, but very skillfully executed".

LAHORE: Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) isn't exactly known for being breeding ground for aspiring filmmakers. While it has regularly hosted the LUMS International Film Festival (FiLUMS), arguably one of the larger student film festivals in Pakistan, there has always been a perception that its own film-making talent has not been brought to the forefront. In a strictly student run initiative, the LUMS Media Society has come through with its first feature film project, a fifty minute independent film which will be entered in several film festivals in the coming year. The film *La Hasil* (the unachievable) is based on the famed O' Henry short story, *The Cop and The Anthem*. The project was an interesting venture into amateur film-making, taking students with little to no film-making experience, and training them in order to create an attempted work of art. The film has been shot at Qutubshahana, a small village near Sahiwal, and includes an all student cast which stars Khurram Bukhari as Jibran, Amtul Baweja as Anila, Nauman Khalid as Imtiaz and Ali Zafar as Wahid. The story has been written and directed by Arham Usmani. The story is about a village boy named Jibran who makes ends meet by working at a factory. Unfortunately for him, the factory closes down and he is forced to leave his home in search of work, thereby ending up living in a remote village. Still without work, he concludes that maybe his best hope of survival, with three regular meals and a roof over his head, is prison. With this newfound possibility of escaping his current living situation, Jibran, in quite a comedic manner, sets out on a number of comedic escapades in the hopes of landing behind bars. The premiere of the film, which was held at the LUMS auditorium, saw in attendance several people from the film industry. Bilal Lashari, Syed Noor, Shehzad Rafique, Murtaza Ali, Shahzad Ghafoor, Sheraz Ghafoor and Rambo were all in attendance. "People really liked the initial screenings of the film; they were surprised by the cinematography and story. It was very difficult to make because none of us had any experience before, but we found a way to get it done," says director Arham Usmani. The students had little to no experience in film-making so in one fall they engaged with film-makers such as Zinda Bhaag arts director Ishra Tariq to gain some technical experience. They also held workshops with several people from the National College of Arts in the hopes of shoring up their skills. Shot during the students' winter break, they also raised funds to buy equipment and other things in order to increase the film's quality. Usmani says his original scripts had to be changed completely in order to accommodate the constraints of the film. He also adds says that by the end, the story had changed completely. "We, as a society, had been thinking about how our campus had hosted FiLUMS, but we had never been able to produce an actual film, something that we could say is a piece of art of sorts, that people could watch and enjoy. It also had to be something we would be able to complete in a year's time," says Usmani. Project Manager Haroon Bajwa, a third year student, said that the project served as a potential launching pad and inspiration for other people on campus to try their hand at film-making. He said that they had risen between two to three hundred thousand rupees to make the film and, subsequently, were able to buy the latest equipment to help with editing. This, in turn, ensured the end result was polished. He added that the collective endeavor had showcased the rising interest in film-making across students, and was an attempt to use creative ways to produce art. "The amount of hard work and effort that went into this project made a lot of people happy. In the past, there was only one other sort of attempt to do a film project of this magnitude, but it was never completed or showcased. This is our first big project, and we will be looking to get it to national and international festivals," says Bajwa.

Spirit of multiculturalism: Going beyond local culture to take on intercontinental hues

The Express Tribune, April 16, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Every spring, there is a festival in the heart of the capital to showcase the indigenous folk arts and crafts of Pakistan. On Saturday evening, however, the spirit of multiculturalism in Islamabad went beyond Pakistan's local cultural diversity to take on intercontinental hues, courtesy of the Australian High Commission. The high commission's annual spring celebration, Australia Day in Spring was marked by a thrilling performance by the award-winning Australian Aboriginal musical trio Western Creation, which flew in from Melbourne earlier in the week to participate in the festivities in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. Their bodies painted in traditional Aboriginal markings, the trio's leader Alan Harris aka Big Al and his sons, Tristan and Azlan, mesmerised guests with music from the didgeridoos — a wind instrument originally developed by the native inhabitants of Australia over 1,500 years ago. Tristan and Azlan, who are members of the Bibbulmann clan of Western Australia, also danced to the booming sound of the didgeridoo. They performed imitations of four Australian spirit animals including the kangaroo and the emu, to complete the breathtaking display of indigenous culture from Down Under. Australian High Commissioner Peter Heyward said the festival was a celebration of the bilateral relations between Australia and Pakistan, while adding that it was also an opportunity for Australia to foster cultural understanding with South Asian counterparts. "By celebrating indigenous Australian culture, we get to honour the original inhabitants of our land and it also gives us a chance to introduce their unique culture to Pakistanis," the high commissioner said. Heyward also took pride in mentioning that the Aboriginal flag was flown side-by-side with the Australian national flag at the event. He said there was more potential for bilateral trade and commercial activities between Pakistan and Australia, but Heyward added the spring festival was more about people-to-people linkages. "Education is a vital aspect of such linkages," the Australian envoy said. Perhaps as a testament of education's importance, the event also included an awards ceremony to acknowledge

Govt keen to preserve Gandhara heritage: Mamnoon

Pakistan Observer, April 15, 2014

KP launches tour operating agency

Daily Dawn, April 15, 2014

Realbollywood News Pakistani rock band to perform in Shimla

Daily News & Analysis, April 13, 2014

Pakistani alumni who have been working in Pakistan after graduating from Australian universities. Australia is a popular study destination for Pakistani students. In 2012, there were 11,000 Pakistanis enrolled at Australian universities, according to the high commission. Heyward awarded Alumni Excellence awards to four Pakistanis for their business leadership, innovation and research accomplishments in the fields of education, livestock and agricultural research at Pakistani public and private organisations. Deputy Australian High Commissioner Paul Molloy also introduced the guests to a new online business community, the "Australia-Pakistan Online Business Forum", set up on the professional networking website LinkedIn. Launched by the Australian Trade Commission, the forum will connect Pakistani alumni with each other and also help them keep in touch with developments in various fields in Australia, Molloy said. A handful of guests, mostly European diplomats, said they were familiar with the didgeridoo, but for the vast majority, it was the first time they had heard it live. "It is like the sound of the universe," one foreign diplomat said, commenting on the resonating hum of the pipe-like instrument. "Like all the ancestors and the spirit animals are chanting together." Western Creation's performance, which many Pakistani guests said was a new experience for them, was not the only display of indigenous art at the spring celebration. An exhibition of contemporary Aboriginal art in the Western Desert tradition, titled "Bush Medicine," was also displayed. The exhibition, which consisted of 10 paintings by eight different artists, depicted the life, customs, activities and mythology of the native desert communities of Australia. The paintings, seven of which were already sold at the start of the exhibition, will move to the Nomad Art Gallery for public viewing from Sunday, where the exhibition will continue until Tuesday. Information Minister Pervez Rasheed, who was the chief guest, said he was grateful to the high commissioner for introducing indigenous artists to Pakistan. He welcomed the performers and said he hoped they will return for more shows in the future.

ISLAMABAD: President Mamnoon Hussain Monday said the government was keen to preserve the ancient cultural heritage of Gandhara for promoting interfaith harmony and tourism in the country. The President was talking to Park kyo Soon, Secretary General Gandhara Arts and Culture Association, who called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Park kyo Soon was accompanied by Chief Coordinator Zulfiqar Rahim, Vice Chairman Imran Masood and Director Gandhara Arts and Culture Association Amna Aurangzeb. Park kyo Soon, Secretary General and one of the founding members of the association apprised the President that Gandhara Art and Culture Association, a non-political, non-profit and non-governmental association, was working for preservation and conservation of Gandhara sites, revival of the oldest university in the world in Taxila and promoting religious tourism and inter-faith dialogue. The President, while appreciating the role of Park kyo Soon in promotion of Gandhara heritage, said Pakistan had a rich Buddhist archaeological heritage which it had preserved and protected zealously. He said the existence of a large number of Buddhist holy places in Gandhara, which were very sacred for Buddhists, were an important part of historic culture. He said the government had always welcomed tourists and foreign visitors to these sacred religious sites in the country. He asked the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage to work together with the Gandhara Art and Culture Association for preservation of heritage sites, promotion of religious tourism and projecting soft image of Pakistan. The President emphasized the need for further strengthening the civilizational linkages between Pakistan and Korea and said the two countries enjoyed close and cordial relations. He said Pakistan was keen to further develop its relationship with Korea in all fields, including cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts. Park kyo Soon appreciated various steps and initiatives being taken by the Government of Pakistan to preserve and promote the rich cultural and religious heritage of Gandhara.

PESHAWAR: Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) has launched a tour operating agency in Islamabad to promote tourism sector in the province. A press release, issued here on Tuesday, said that Provincial Minister for Tourism Mehmood Khan was chief guest at the launching ceremony, which was hosted by his namesake Mehmood Khan, the managing director of TCKP. The officials of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, tour operators and USAID besides special guest Ashraf Aman, the first Pakistani to reach the summit of K-2, attended the ceremony. "Tourism is second biggest earner and employer in the world. Many countries are trying to develop this industry through man-made efforts," the minister told the participants of the event. He said that Pakistan in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular possessed vast resources of natural attraction for which no great investment was required. The minister said that tourism was top priority of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government as it was committed to promote and develop the sector. He said government wanted to encourage private sectors for promotion of tourism. He said that they had worked for protection and preservation of culture, traditions, history, heritage, environment and wildlife of the target areas. Mr Khan also highlighted some of the initiatives taken by the provincial government for promotion of tourism including setting up a five star hotel, chairlift and Ski resort in Swat; tourism resort at Galyat; chairlift project from Naran to Lake Saifum Maluk; tourist resort at Hund village, theme park in Galyat; and chairlift project at Mushkpuri, Miranjani and Shogran. Speaking on the occasion, the TCKP managing director said that it was a big achievement to launch tour operating agency to attract tourists to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that the tour plans were shared at World Tourism Exhibition at Berlin, Germany with the delegations of Japan, North and South Korea, Nepal, China, Maldives, Taiwan and Thailand. "They appreciated our tour programme and promised to include it in their visit itinerary," he said.

Pakistani rock band The Ragaboyz will perform in Shimla this week as part of cultural exchange programmes between India and Pakistan, an event organiser said. The event is being organised by the North Zone Culture Centre of Patiala and the ministry of culture at the Gaiety Theatre April 16, state department of language, art and culture director Arun Sharma said in a statement. The programme is part of Baisakhi celebrations as the band will perform in Jalandhar, Patiala, Chandigarh and Shimla April 13-17. The Ragaboyz is a group of three brothers and their style is of the Patiala Gharana.

KP tourism industry to be promoted

Pakistan Observer, April 13, 2014

ISLAMABAD: The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is committed to promote and develop the tourism industry by encouraging private sectors for promotion of tourism in the province. Provincial Minister for Sports, Culture, Tourism and Museums, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Mehmood Khan on Saturday said this while addressing the opening ceremony of tour operating agency of the Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that tourism is the second biggest earner and employer in the world and has a turn-over in billions of dollars. Many countries of the world are trying their utmost to develop this industry through man-made efforts. He added Pakistan in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular possess vast resources of natural attractions for which no great investments have to be made. Mehmood Khan said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has given top priority to the province tourism sector and is committed to protect and preserve the culture, traditions, history, heritage, environment, and wild life of the target areas. He said the provincial government will gradually and systematically identify and develop all the existing potential areas for attracting tourists from in and outside the country. The minister said the government is working on training to develop the human resources of various institutions both private and public linked with tourism industry. He said steps are being taken for construction and development of tourism complexes including hotels, motels, restaurants, rest houses and parks besides publicity and advertising of existing tourists attraction places through billboards, print and electronic media. He said that the provincial government has arranged several activities through tourism corporation KPK including Saiful-Muluk Environmental Clean up Program in October, 2013, trekking and camping Thandiani to Nathiagali in November, 2013 and Jashn-e-Chitral (1st to 10th October 2013), Chitral.—APP

Lok Mela is true depiction of Pakistan's culture

Pakistan Observer, April 12, 2014

ISLAMABAD: A 10-day folk festival, popularly known as "Lok Mela" opened here on Friday at Shakarparian, disseminating the dynamic creativity of countryside and giving rural folk a pride in their identity. Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting and National Heritage Senator Pervaiz Rashid inaugurated the mega cultural event, organized by Lok Virsa, National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage which will continue till April 20. The minister said that the Lok Mela was a true depiction of Pakistani culture and civilization and serves to disseminate the dynamic creativity of our countryside and gives rural folk a pride in their identity. He said that it was worth appreciation that Lok Virsa was striving to preserve our indigenous folk traditions, promote them and project them as this was the need of hour. Executive Director Lok Virsa Shaheera Shahid gave a brief overview of the concept and objectives of the festival with special reference to the mandate of Lok Virsa. Earlier, the minister inaugurated a painting exhibition by Lok Virsa artists about Pakistani folk lifestyle and culture. Folk artists from the four provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan performed at the opening ceremony. The Lok Mela was formally opened with 'Dastar Bandi' of famous expert of bloc printing Amir Bux.

Promotion of Region Specific Tourism: TDCP, ATC constitute joint focal group

Business Recorder, April 11, 2014

Tourism Development Corporation, Punjab (TDCP) and Australian Trade Commission (ATC) in Pakistan have decided to constitute a joint focal group to promote Region Specific Tourism in Punjab through historical mapping of all the districts of the province besides collaborating in conservation work of historical heritage of Punjab already recognised world over. This was decided in a meeting between Punjab Tourism Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan and an Australian delegation headed by Ms Nicola Watkinson, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner for South Asia, accompanied by Australian High Commissioner Peter Heyward, Country Manager Australian Trade Commission Azhar H. Shah, Regional Business Development Manager Tahir Mahmood and Tourism Consultant Ms Libby Owen. Chairperson Standing Committee on Tourism Development in the Punjab Assembly Ms Tahia Noon, General Manager Administration TDCP Ms Afshan Kiran and GM Operations Tanvir Jabbar. It was agreed in the meeting that the Australian Tourism Consultants will collaborate with TDCP to bring the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Punjab at par with international standard. Australian Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner for South Asia, Ms Nicola Watkinson reaffirmed Australia's commitment on further developing trade and investment opportunities and said that the two-way trade is currently around AUS dollar 706 million between Australia and Pakistan which should become manifold in the days to come. Punjab Minister for Tourism Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan termed it a good omen that more than 7,500 students from Pakistan are pursuing higher education at Australian universities.

Farman slams misleading tirade against PTI leaders

SAMAA TV, April 11, 2014

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Minister Shah Farman has lashed out at those spreading deliberate lies to malign him and other PTI leaders.

In a statement issued here Friday he pointed to the latest baseless attacks against Mahmood Khan Minister for Tourism and Sports regarding his visit to Berlin, Germany. Had those attacking him (Shah Farman) bothered to verify their facts they would not have revealed their mala fide intentions, he added. He clarified that a visit by a delegation led by the provincial Minister for Tourism to Berlin last month was to participate in one of the leading travel and trade exhibitions globally - International Tourism Exchange - in which the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been participating since 1995. The Gilgit Baltistan government which had booked space for a Pakistan Pavilion asked KP to participate alongside by sharing some of the cost for the Pavilion - settled at an extremely reasonable cost of Rs 0.2m. Shah Farman pointed out that the Tourism Corporation KP had set up its own Tour Operating Company to attract tourists especially from East Asia for whom KP's Buddhist history and sites has a special attraction. The delegation comprised six members led by the Minister for Tourism and there was an overwhelming response not only from other foreign participants but also from overseas Pakistanis settled in Germany. Shah Farman hoped this would be translated into increasing tourism for KP. Shah Farman said it was vital for KP to counter the negative information and travel advisories issued against the province and the Minister for Tourism was the logical man to do this at the opportunity offered through the multilateral tourism exchange exhibition in Berlin. This is an essential part of the Minister's task and he has performed it exceedingly well so far - as the growing local tourism and festivals in KP are testimony to, he added. Nor was the expenditure of the delegation Rs.20 m as

Lok Mela starts today

The News International
April 11, 2014

alleged through blatant lies. Rs 2.9 m had been earmarked for this visit from TCKP's own sources but the CM KP, realizing the critical importance of opening up KP's tourism potential, approved the visit and allotted Rs 02.00 m. "How that became Rs 20m for the critics is mind boggling", Shah Farman stated. He asserted that it was evident that Mahmood Khan was being targeted on fabricated charges as part of a campaign to smear the PTI government in KP because the political opponents cannot accept that this government was actually delivering to the people and rooting out the traditional corrupt ways of governance, he concluded. (APP)

ISLAMABAD: The ten-day long annual folk festival will start here today (Friday) at Lok Virsa complex, showcasing the talent and crafts of over 500 artisans from all over the country. It is a unique feature of Lok Virsa (National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage) to arrange this activity annually, while giving opportunity to the artists community to display their products and talents and get recognition nationally and internationally. The main features of the festival include artisans-at-work exhibition, provincial cultural pavilions, folkloric song and dance ensembles, rural musicians, display by public sector organisations and NGOs, traditional cuisine, craft bazaar and many other attractions for the people of twin cities. Lok Virsa Executive Director Shahera Shahid informed APP that the festival aims at reviving endangered traditional arts and crafts of the country and Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Senator Pervaiz Rashid is likely to inaugurate this mega festival. This event will provide an opportunity to crafts persons to display their artisanship at the federal capital and also to sell their products to public. It will contribute towards poverty alleviation among poor rural community. The folk artists and musicians will also win recognition of their talent at this important forum. The festival will also provide an opportunity to the diplomatic community and residents of the twin cities to witness authentic folk musical and cultural entertainment for 10 consecutive days besides buying traditional items.

According to a tradition, ED said the festival opens with a "Dastarbandi" or "Chaddar Posh" of an established master craftsman or woman. 'Dastar' is a long cloth wound skillfully around the head that shows respect and enhanced stature. 'Dastarbandi' has become an integral part of Lok Virsa's Folk Festival and it depicts honour and pride for its possessor. Lok Virsa honours the most respected master crafts person every year with a 'dastar' or 'chaddar'. The event is a symbol of Lok Virsa's sustained campaign to keep the heritage of Pakistan alive. A 'dastar' (turban) in folk methodology is synonymous to great honour, when a turban is placed on someone's head it is a salute to the person's wisdom and craftsmanship. This is Lok Virsa's way of showing that the craft person has played an important role for the nation and is an acknowledgement of their great contribution to our culture, she said. Shahera Shahid said the focus of the festival is on rural Pakistan; benefiting the master artisans, folk artists, folk musicians and other performers from all the provinces, regions and far-flung areas of Pakistan. The festival disseminates the dynamic creativity of our countrymen and affords them an exclusive opportunity to display their unique skills. The major thrust of the festival is to promote harmony and national integration highlighting the contribution of our people in promoting the rich culture of Pakistan, she added. The festival would conclude with a colourful award ceremony on April 20 and cash prizes will be awarded to the winning crafts people on the recommendations of a national jury constituted for the purpose.

Kabir assumes charge as PTDC MD

The Nation
April 10, 2014

RAWALPINDI: Chaudhry Kabir Ahmad Khan has assumed charge as managing director (MD) Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in MP-II scale on contract basis for a period of two years, informed PTDC spokesman here on Wednesday. Kabir completed his MA, LLB and diploma in labour laws from University of Punjab, Lahore. He started his career as 1st class magistrate in Sheikhupura in 1974. Later in 2005-06, he was posted as DCO Khushab. During his service, he had conducted general/local bodies elections from 1977 to 2005 in different cities of Punjab.

Showcasing of Pakistan's heritage, scenic sites

The News International
April 10, 2014

ISLAMABAD: True to his word upon assuming the office of the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, the Ambassador of Argentina, Rodolfo Martin-Saravia, has made a significant change in the way he handles the affairs of this office. Among other duties, the showcasing of Pakistan's heritage and scenic sites is also on the list of his personal 'to do' agenda. After a couple of successful trips to other places, the latest was a day trip to see the Katasraj Temples in the Salt Range, (Chakwal district). First, there was a gathering of about twenty diplomats and their spouses at the Deans house for a 9 a.m. start. After a hot cup of coffee, the 'tourists' who were travelling by coaster boarded it to lead the way, while the others followed in their vehicles. It was not a bright and sunny day it rained intermittently throughout the journey, stopping only long enough for the visitors to have a look at the temples which was a bit of good luck! First stop was at the Tourism Development Corporation Punjab (TDCP) rest house overlooking Lake Kalar Kahar, where guests were greeted by tourism officials and 'dhol' (drum) players. After a hot cup of tea, it was off to Katas and a look at the temples, the site of which has been cleaned up and is more like a tourist attraction should be. Here the group was joined by the provincial advisor on tourism, Ms Noon. The next stop was to be the Molot Fort, which had to be cancelled because it was too wet and the road is not good enough to travel on in these conditions. So it was back to the TDCP rest house and lunch, before which Ms Noon gave a briefing on TDCP and its efforts to promote tourism. The Dean then thanked Ms Noon; friends Naeem and Salma Sarfaraz who arranged the trip and hoped everyone had enjoyed themselves. Which I'm sure they did as many of them expressed their feelings about how much there was to see in beautiful Pakistan!

There were questions about the historical significance of the area; its mineral deposits and so on and of course the name of the lake, which means 'salt water' according to a local but 'a clean garden' according to Wikipedia! No one knows the origin of Kalar Kahar but in some books mention of Kalda-kahar is made, which seems to have become Kalar Kahar. The town is famous because it was here the first Mogul emperor, Zaheer ud Din Babar broke his journey from Afghanistan to Delhi and laid his first Mogul garden on the hills; the salt water lake which dates back to millions of years when the Thysis Ocean rolled back, leaving behind its water bodies and

Joint Archaeological Heritage of Oman, India and Pakistan/ Seminar

Oman News Agency, April 9, 2014

'Australia-Pakistan Alumni Business Forum' launched

Business Recorder, April 9, 2014

Chairman MMC Corporation of Malaysia calls on PM

Business Recorder, April 8, 2014

Latvia, Punjab sign MoU for collaboration in sports, culture

mountain springs; the shrine of Sakhi Sultan Bahu and lastly the peacocks of the shrine. Katas Raj Temples, also locally known as 'Qila Katas,' are a dedication to Shiva. According to historians, a legend related to Shiva's wife Satti about the ponds in the temple says that when she died he cried so much and for so long that his tears created two ponds, one at Pushkara in Ajmer and the other at Ketaksha, which literally means 'raining eyes' in Sanskrit. It is from this name that the word Katas is derived. Another version of the legend mentions the two pools at Katsaraj and Nainital. The Government of Pakistan is considering nominating the temple complex for World Heritage Site status.

MUSCAT: A seminar entitled "The Joint Archaeological Heritage of Oman, India and Pakistan" began in the lecture hall at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque today. The 2- day seminar is organized by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture in cooperation with a number of scientific institutes supported by the US State Department. A group of scholars from the Sultanate, India, Pakistan, the United States, Italy, France and Germany are taking part in the seminar. The seminar aims to providing an opportunity for the participating scholars to exchange information and experiences of their new discoveries and explore the possibility of cooperation in the future research work that can be published later on, in addition to providing a greater understanding of how each region made use of the other as a result of these reactions that have occurred in the past and how to continue that in the present.

Hassan bin Mohammad al-Lawati, Director General of Archaeology and Museums said in a speech that the study of the common cultural heritage, through joint scientific and academic efforts will open a new vision on the past, as it will help to inform the future links between all these areas. He stressed that the Sultanate, India and Pakistan have a long history of interactions that begun during the prehistoric period, around 4000 BC, through the Islamic era to the present. Director General of Archaeology and Museums indicated that there are clear evidences of cultural interaction between the Sultanate and the South Asian sub-continent in the prehistoric periods. He added that Majan civilization flourished at the period that followed the Iron Age in most parts of the Sultanate and the U.A.E, and the Islamic era, stressing the existence of considerable evidences that prove the existence of an interaction between these areas.

Australian Trade Commission has launched an online business forum to connect Pakistani Alumni from Australian educational institutions to explore business opportunities in Australia. The forum titled 'Australia-Pakistan Alumni Business Forum' was launched at 'Australia Day in Spring' event held at a local hotel, here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Australian High Commissioner Peter Heyward said he was proud to celebrate Australia's indigenous culture as part of the third 'Australia Day in Spring' event. "We started these events, which are held annually in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, to celebrate Australia's relations with Pakistan, and to highlight Australia's own culture and characteristics as a country," he said. "Celebrating indigenous culture honours the original inhabitants of our land and introduces their unique culture to Pakistan," he added. "I am extremely impressed by the caliber of students coming from Pakistan to Australia - both as recipients of scholarships and independently. It is a testament to both the potential of Pakistan and the high quality of Australia's education sector," said Australian High Commissioner. Ms Nicola Watkinson, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner for South Asia was also present at the event. Watkinson said she had a series of high level business meetings to promote trade and investment ties with Pakistan. Speaking about an online business forum, she said: "One of the most important aspects of the Australia-Pakistan relationships are the links that are formed by people who have studied in Australia. Many alumni are now well established in different domains of the society and can help to build stronger links between both business and academic communities." Later, the Western Creation group, a winner of United Nations Intercultural Award 2013, has presented aboriginal musical performances including the "didgeridoo" at the event. The Australia Day in Spring 2014 also featured a great exhibition of photographs showing Australian Aid in action - showcasing Australia's development partnership with Pakistan. The beautifully-presented photographs show the diversity of the Pakistani population and landscape, and the range of areas Australia is proud to have provided assistance through development programme. The focus of the programme is on improving economic growth through livelihoods, and human capital development, with a particular focus on health, education, and agriculture sectors. Another highlight is the Australian scholarships to Pakistani students. This year, 83 Pakistani professionals have received the scholarships for tertiary education in Australia.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said on Monday there existed vast scope of mutually beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia in energy, tourism, telecommunication, vocational training, aviation, and services, including finance sectors. "Malaysian companies have been involved in development of infrastructure projects in Pakistan and we invite them to participate in road building, housing and communication sector projects through public-private partnership," he said. The Prime Minister expressed these views during a meeting with Chairman MMC Corporation of Malaysia, Sri Syed Mokhtar Albukhary, who called on him here at the PM House. Moreover, the Prime Minister said, Pakistan would welcome branches of Malaysian banks in Pakistan. Malaysia could also meet its manpower requirements by absorption of Pakistani students studying in Malaysia in its industry and through skilled, semi-skilled workers from Pakistan, he added. The Chairman MMC Corporation thanked the Prime Minister for meeting and expressed keen interest in investing in shipping, energy, engineering and infrastructure sector projects in Pakistan.

LAHORE: The Punjab government and an European country, Latvia, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate with each other in promotion of sports and culture. According to a handout, Latvian Regional Policy Department Head Rodolf Bremens and Punjab

Daily Times, April 07, 2014

FAP presents 'Pakdandiya' by Ajab Khan

Daily Times, April 07, 2014

Sports Board (PSB) Director General Usman Anwar signed the MoU in a ceremony at the National Hockey Stadium on Sunday. Punjab Sports Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan was the chief guest while Latvian Ambassador Egorza Peking, Test cricketer Muhammad Hafeez, film director Syed Noor, singer Waris Baig and others attended it. Speaking on the occasion, Mashhood said that Pakistan's soft image had been shown to the world through holding the Punjab Youth Festival. He said that marvellous success of this event under the leadership of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the PSB Steering Committee Chairman Hamza Shahbaz Sharif has opened the doors of opportunities for Pakistani youth in sports and culture. He expressed the hope that technical cooperation with Latvia in athletics, football, basketball and hockey would help promote sports and culture in Pakistan. He hoped that teams from the countries having Test cricket status would start visiting Pakistan soon. Bremens hoped that youngsters of both Latvia and Pakistan would benefit from each other's experiences in different games. He said that the MoU would help bring the people of both countries closer to each other. A documentary regarding the Punjab Youth Festival was also shown on this occasion.

KARACHI: The Fine Art Pakistan (FAP) will inaugurate an exhibition 'Pakdandiya' by Ajab Khan on Monday (today) featuring paintings on the culture of Pakistani villages. Almost 25 paintings (oil on canvas) will be on display by the self-taught DI Khan-based artist Ajab Khan. The artist, who did his Masters in Urdu Literature, is in the field of art for the past 30 years. Khan has won a number of national and international accolades in the art field, including the first prize in Makkah Calligraphy competition, Saudi Arabia. One of his paintings, which will be on display, is about a village woman. Using his artistic skills, the artist has captured a moment of her routine life, when she is moving towards her mud-made home from a verdant way while holding some stuff on her head. Khan has given bright colours to the painting and created greenery in the surrounding of the house as well. Another painting being exhibited is about a bricks kiln, commonly seen while visiting villages or during journeys through trains. In the painting, the smoke billowing from a chimney is also visible, while bricks are placed in an open area for sunlight. Similarly, another art piece depicts engagement of youth. In this painting, the artist has showed two girls having stuff on their heads moving on the verdant way. The artist also made a small canal in his painting adjacent to some houses in the village. He used bright and light colours in the art piece to enhance its beauty. Talking to Daily Times, Khan said, 'Pakdandiya' means verdant ways which could be seen particularly in villages and that his work revolved around it." He was of the view that it was the natural beauty that was away from "all of us". "We have forgotten the natural beauty. My work is to connect urban people to the beautiful life in rural areas," Khan mentioned. He added that all these paintings of villages were the real portray of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa villages. In reply to a query, he said, "Yes, this is true that there are no facilities in rural areas for people who want to become an artist." There was only one public university in DI Khan and it did not offer any fine arts programme, he said, adding that public universities across Pakistan offered such courses however. The majority of renowned artists of current times and past belonged to rural areas of the country, but the lack of facilities there dragged them to cities, asserted Ajab Khan. "Artists of rural areas are more talented because they live near to natural beauty," he said, adding students of DI Khan and its surrounding areas were studding at NCA, Lahore. "If the government could provide them with learning opportunities close to their hometowns, they would compete with artists of urban areas in a much better manner," he concluded. The exhibition will continue till April 12.

Huge potential for hospitality industry in Pakistan: Michel Galopin

International News Network, April 5, 2014

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Argentina have agreed to increase exchanges to promote relations in trade, education, science and technology, culture, sports and tourism. The understanding came at 'Third Round of High Level Bilateral Political Consultations' between the two countries in Islamabad. Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry represented Pakistan while Foreign Secretary of Argentina Eduardo Zuain represented his country. The discussions covered Pakistan-Argentina bilateral relations and the situation in their respective regions. Developments in bilateral relations since the last round held in 2010 were reviewed. On the occasion, two MoUs were signed between the two countries. First MoU was on cooperation in the promotion of investments while second on cooperation in the field of education.

Rare Bhutto photos on display at Frere Hall

The News, April 4, 2014

KARACHI: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto refused to bow down before General Ziaul Haq and sacrificed his life for democracy in Pakistan. It is such towering personalities that history will always remember. This was stated by Adviser to Sindh CM on Culture and Tourism, Sharmila Farooqi, at an exhibition of rare photographs of the Pakistan People's Party founder and the Bhutto family that opened at the historic Frere Hall on Thursday morning. "This just a small tribute to a great leader. The main aim of the event is to educate the youth about the life of this inspirational leader," she said. "Plus, we are also seeing a similar situation in the country today," Faruqi added, referring to the trial of another military dictator General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf, whom she vehemently criticised. Over 200 photographs are being exhibited at the three-day event, organised by the culture department on the eve of the 35th death anniversary of ZAB that falls on April 4 (today). Naseem Akhtar Jalbani, conservation officer at the culture department, played a prominent role in organising the event. The exhibition is a journey through ZAB's life, right from his early days to the years abroad for study, along with graceful pictures of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto, Sanam Bhutto, Shahnawaz Bhutto and Mir Murtaza Bhutto. ZAB is also seen with JI leader Prof Ghafoor Ahmed, as well as Maulana Kausar Niazi, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. The late PPP founder is also pictured offering Eid prayers and celebrating his birthday by hunting partridges in 1975. He is also seen with Faiz Ahmed Faiz in one of the pictures, with the latter smoking his customary cigarette. A rare photograph with former Sindh chief minister, Ilahi Bux, is also on display, along with pictures with Sardar Mumtaz Bhutto and Makhdoom Muhammad Zaman Talib-ul-Maula. One particular picture shows a grim looking Bhutto during a visit to flood affectees in Sukkur in 1973. A section of the exhibit is entirely dedicated to photographs with foreign leaders, including former Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat, and the Shah of Iran Reza Shah Pahlavi.

Pakistan revs up jeep rally to boost desert tourism

Gulf News, April 3, 2014

DRAWAR, PAKISTAN: In a cloud of dust and diesel fumes, a souped-up 4x4 roars through the silence of Pakistan's Cholistan desert, cheered on by tens of thousands of spectators. Nearly 90 drivers were drawn to throw their vehicles around the dry, rocky 214-kilometre (133-mile) track in a desolate, baking hot corner of Punjab province for this year's Cholistan Jeep Rally. The event, which began in 2005, has grown in popularity despite the remote location, about 400 kilometres southwest of Lahore, the provincial capital, with fans coming from across Pakistan to see the action. Officials from the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP), which organises the festival, say that the rally, which took place last month, is becoming more popular every year. "We estimate a total of 200,000 people from local villages and the major cities turned up," a dust-covered Habib-ur-Rahman Gilani, the TDCP managing director, told AFP on the finish line. "It helps locals to improve their living. They rent out their houses and install food stalls to earn money from the visitors." Life for those who dwell in the desert is hard, with limited economic opportunities and regular water shortages hitting livestock — the main source of income for many people. This year, a festival of music, dance, wrestling and camping events was held alongside the rally to entertain visitors — and bring work to local people. Drummer Ghulam Nabi, who lives in Liaquatpur, around 60 kilometres away, earned 6,000 Pakistan rupees (Dh224 or \$60) in three days — twice as much as he would normally make in a month. "There are not enough parties and weddings in my town which could help me to earn a living through drumming, so this was a very good event to earn a few extra thousand rupees," the mustachioed Nabi told AFP after whipping up the crowd with his drum. The old princely state of Bahawalpur, of which Cholistan was part, was ruled for centuries by the Abbasi dynasty and was only fully merged into Pakistan in the 1950s, several years after independence from Britain. The elegant white marble tombs of long-dead Abbasi "nawabs" and their queens provide an elegant backdrop to the rally. Their crumbling Drawar fort was host to a fireworks display before the race — a huge boost to business for Fiaz Ahmed Shirazi, who runs a fireworks business in the area. "I earned 300,000 rupees (\$3,000) from the fireworks at this event," he said. "There are other vendors who set up food stalls during the rally and earn thousands of rupees in a short period." Back on the starting line, thousands of locals and tourists from the faraway cities of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad cheer the drivers, whipped up by musicians in colourful traditional costumes. "It's awesome," said Ameera Rao, 26, an event manager, who travelled from Lahore with friends for the rally. "The experience is very thrilling," Rao, wearing glasses to avoid scorching sun and dust, said. Foreign tourism in Pakistan is at low ebb, badly hit by the country's fearsome reputation for Islamist violence. After seven years of a home-grown Taliban insurgency, tourism officials are desperate to improve the country's image to attract more overseas visitors. "We have planned to take it to other countries through our embassies and 4X4 clubs in different countries," Gilani said. "We are trying to bring international drivers in the rally. It will boost this sport and tourism in our country." The event has a following among foreigners living in Pakistan. Axel Wech, the Austrian ambassador, made the trip with his 72-year-old mother. "This event is something positive in a country which is always known for negatives," Wech told AFP. "People are very friendly here. More international promotion of this rally can bring international tourists over here."

Country's cultural diversity under threat, says Iftikhar

Daily Dawn, April 3, 2014

PESHAWAR: Former provincial information minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain has said that the culture of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is being destroyed at the behest of foreign forces under a conspiracy, which threatened the cultural diversity of the country. He was speaking at a seminar organised by Peace, Education and Development (Pead) Foundation in collaboration with Rights of Expression, Association, Assembly and Thought Network here on Wednesday. Mr Hussain said that Pakhtun culture had traditions, which were in place for centuries, including non-violence, not attacking a woman or child and never attacking a hujra (guesthouse). 'But all this has changed — suicide bombing was not our culture — schools, churches, mosques and shrines are being attacked and women and children are being killed,' he said. He said that Awami National Party was in favour of the peace talks with Taliban if it achieved peace. But he warned that the chances of success in the ongoing peace parleys were not very bright.

Speaking on the occasion, MPA Arif Yousaf said that Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf was in solidarity with the non-Muslim minorities. He said that the impact of talks and Nato containers' blockade was visible as both terrorism and drone strikes had diminished. "Our culture is being misrepresented in the world. Pakhtun culture should be promoted and the traditions of our people must be shown to the world," he said. Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl MPA and member standing committee on minorities Uzma Khan said that cultural diversity was under threat and 'what is being shown on TV is not our culture'. "We should think collectively as a nation and promote tolerance because no religion teaches violence."

Earlier, Pead Foundation's executive director Sameena Imtiaz shared the findings that in past three months 13 different places of religious worship were desecrated, which included a mosque, Sufi shrines and dharmashalas. She opened the seminar by posing a question that a country which was created for a minority was now becoming intolerant to others while respect for people who did not believe in the faith or ideology of the majority was diminishing.

Chairman All Pakistan Minorities Rights Association Haroon Sarabdiyal, secretary Church of Pakistan Rev Joseph John, former VC of the University of Peshawar Dr Qibla Ayaz and representatives of minority communities also expressed their views and stressed on promoting and preserving the rich cultural diversity and heritage of Pakistan.

India's booming art market on Pakistani artists' wish list

Authint Mail, April 2, 2014

NEW DELHI: In Pakistan, lack of support from public institutions, little awareness about art and the absence of an ardent collector base have resulted in "limited" options for Pakistani artists, who see India as one of the potential markets for their work to flourish in. In return, Indian galleries have positively reciprocated towards Pakistani artists for their distinctive vocabulary in what already is a stiff market when it comes to contemporary art in India. "Art is growing at a slow pace in Pakistan, but Indian and Pakistani aesthetics are so similar that one can relate to each other's work,"

Pakistan Social Club welcome spring by organising Basant Festival in Oman

Times of Oman, April 2, 2014

Pakistani Ahmad Shafiq honored with prestigious US hospitality education award

Associated Press of Pakistan. April 2, 2014

Ways discussed to promote tourism, culture

The News, April 1, 2014

Pakistani artist Amna Ilyas told IANS during her visit to India for a cultural art exchange initiative. "Some of the Pakistani artists like Rashid Rana have made it big in India and the world. So, it is one of the best platforms for us to come and showcase our works. India's art market is growing at a good rate and has great potential for us," said the Lahore based artist, who had garnered great response during her first solo exhibition here in 2010.

According to reports, India's \$400 million art market is pegged against the worldwide figure of \$65 billion, making it a lucrative destination for investors around the globe. The Islamic country has slowly, but steadily, gained international visibility in the past two decades, with modern masters like Shakir Ali and Ismail Gulgee and contemporary artists like Rashid Rana, Talha Rathore, Aisha Khalid and Mohammed Imran Qureshi leaving a significant mark at the world's art stage.

The 1970s and the 1980s were the era of calligraphy in Pakistan, but gradually, the artists moved into miniatures and 3D paintings, creating a visual vocabulary of their own that was somehow extremely different from their Indian counterparts. While the contemporary miniatures became a dominant face of Pakistani art in the West, Indian artists started exploring newer mediums like sound art and installations. Even though India was lucky to have the works of prominent artists like F.N. Souza, Vasudeo S. Gaitonde and M.F. Husain represent the country at several auctions and exhibitions abroad, the real reckoning came with the hosting of the India Art Fair one of South Asia's biggest art exhibitions in 2008. This was followed by international auction house Christie's India debut in 2013 where Gaitonde's work sold for a record Rs.23.7 crore (\$3.7 million) making the West to acknowledge and watch out for the budding Indian art scene. But this was where Pakistan floundered as it was not able to create an eclectic platform for its artists, who blame the lack of public institutions and awareness for this sluggish growth. "The reason for this is that art hasn't been a part of our culture as we have always been in denial mode about our cultural roots. Hence lack of awareness, and non existence of public institutions in our country have hampered the growth," Sameera Raja, founder and curator of one of the prominent galleries, Canvas, told IANS on the phone from Karachi. There is no concept of art philanthropy in Pakistan, and this was the reason why I started this gallery 15 years back to support young artists who were just out from the best arts college in the country. I firmly believe in supporting local artists first before I think of going global," she said, adding that the first art festival had been organised in February. In such a scenario it was not surprising that Pakistani artists turned their attention to India and its booming art market. Pakistani artists do well in India. It is because the art.

Muscat: Life is never more fun and colourful than at this time of the year when the people of Pakistan celebrate Basant Festival to welcome the spring season. They celebrate this highly popular and colourful kite-flying festival all over the country in general and in Lahore in particular. So grand is the occasion, solely for the sheer joy and fun it provides, that people from all over the world come to Lahore simply to be part of this lifetime experience. Pakistan Social Club creates some of that magic every year by organising Basant Festival in Oman by putting together an irresistible combination of music, food and, of course, kite-flying. This year the festivities are set to grow bigger as the two-day festival will be made more special by some lilting melodies to be sung by singers Mazhar Rahi, Fozia Noor and Sabeen Ali and their musicians, specially flown from Pakistan for the musical night at Pakistan School Muscat on Thursday.

Dr Khalid Abdul Rahim Al Zadjali, chairman, Oman Film Society, will be the chief guest while Ayaz Hussain, Ambassador of Pakistan, will be the guest of honour. Ask the PSC officials and you'll know that they have planned a special weekend for the fun-loving people of Oman, particularly the huge Pakistani community in the Sultanate. "Kite-flying is a festival linked to the sub-continent farmers celebrating an end to a long, hard winter. You can see the relief on their faces and the festivity is so palpable in everything they do. Every day of this spring season dawns with new hope and message as people from all walks of life get together to celebrate, particularly in the Punjab province of our beautiful country," PSC Vice-Chairman A. H. Raja told Times of Oman yesterday. "Basant is extremely popular in Lahore where I have personally seen thousands of people from all over the world flying in to join the fun with their friends and family. Having witnessed this spirit of celebration in other parts of Pakistan too, we brought this festival to Oman many years back," said Raja. The PSC has been holding the Basant Festival since 2001. Last year the festival attracted over 10,000 kite-flying enthusiasts to Al Swadi Beach. "This time we are expecting an even bigger crowd. Many dignitaries are likely to be present to witness the festivities at Basant Festival 2014 on Friday, April 4 at Al Swadi Beach," he added. The PSC claims to be the pioneer of this wind sport in Oman. Noting that Oman is the best place in the whole of Middle East for kite-flying due to its long beaches and favourable weather conditions, the PSC has been holding this festival for a decade, providing great fun to various communities in Oman. "We invite all those who love kite-flying, music and fun to Al Swadi Beach on Friday. The event will start at 2pm and will probably last till late night. Good music, masti and great fun will be on the menu. Come join us in celebrating one of the most popular festivals in Oman," added the PSC official.

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ahmad Shafiq, who is Chief Executive Officer of College of Tourism and Hotel Management, has been honored with a prestigious American award for being an outstanding educator and leader in hospitality training and education. Shafiq is the first Pakistani recipient of the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute's 'Lamp of Knowledge' Award. "I dedicate this award to Pakistan and its people," a beaming Shafiq said after achieving the coveted international distinction at the Stars of the Industry Awards summit in Washington D.C..

LAHORE: A seminar on efforts for the promotion of tourism and culture in Pakistan took place here at Pearl Continental Hotel on Monday which was attended by tourism experts and government officers. The event served as a precursor event to the Lahore International Tourism Expo 2014 to be held on April 19. Organized by Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) and supported by Mir Khalil-ur-Rahman Memorial Society (MKRMS), Monday's seminar highlighted the

efforts of and initiatives launched by Shahbaz chief minister Sharif government in the field of tourism.

Habib Gilani, former Managing Director of TDCP and Secretary of Ushar and Zakat Department Punjab, said a new double-decker bus service would be introduced in Lahore to encourage tourism from abroad. He said the feasibility report of this bus service has been delivered to the government and was currently pending approval. Gilani praised Hamza Shahbaz Sharif for his political leadership and patronage of TDCP's projects. The idea behind the Lahore International Tourism Expo was to learn from other successful global tourism fairs and provide a platform for Pakistan's tour operators and industry stakeholders, added Gilani. According to Habib Gilani, more than 80 percent of the upcoming Tourism expo stalls have been booked and 20 stalls are currently available for reservation by private businesses and trades across Pakistan. An inter-provincial conference on tourism will also take place on the sidelines of the expo, 19-20 April.

Talking to the audience, recognized cartoonist Javed Iqbal said that tourism occupied the lowest position on the list of government concerns and areas of policy-making. He said while security concerns proved to a major obstacle to tourism in the country; policies and projects had to be designed for the long-term. With only a few high-capacity hotels and lack of basic amenities and infrastructure, Pakistan is unprepared to host large numbers of tourists coming from abroad, claimed Iqbal. He said that double-decker buses should also be introduced on the Metro Bus route of Lahore to assist the average man in his daily transportation woes.

Speaking on the occasion, PML-N MPA, PP-145 Waheed Gul said that Nepal, despite being an impoverished country, attracted tourists from Europe and the USA. Gul said international propaganda against Pakistan had tarnished the country's image in the world. He said that international cricket matches were not being held in Pakistan due to certain anti-Pakistan elements in the cricketing world. He wished success for Pakistan's cricket team in future test matches and championships.

Parliamentary Secretary of Culture and Information, Punjab Assembly, Rana Muhammad Arshad said that new initiatives had been taken by the incumbent government, including a three-day jeep rally in Cholistan desert attended by hundreds of families, a carriage festival honoring artisans in Lahore with prizes, and a band festival in Punjab. Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO) chairman Amjad Ayub said that numerous reasons were behind the decline of tourism in Pakistan. Amongst others, the main reason is the lack of a coherent national tourism policy at the federal level, said Ayub. He said that since tourism had been devolved to the provincial level; it was difficult for the provincial bodies to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements with foreign countries related to tourism. A clear delineation of duties and powers is urgently needed, remarked PATO chairman Amjad Ayub. Saeed Elahi, former MPA and chairman, Pakistan Red Crescent Society, addressing Monday's audience, said that PM Nawaz Sharif's government had completed tremendous amount of restoration work and opened resorts in areas ranging from Murree to Bahawalpur. He said a task force had been created in the PM's secretariat to oversee tourism. PM Sharif has been notified of 100 buildings falling in provincial jurisdiction that require restoration, said Elahi.

The seminar was moderated by the MKRMS chairman and senior health affairs correspondent at Jang Newspaper, Wasif Nagi.

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IN TOURISM SECTOR IN PAKISTAN

Svelte moves: Music, dance extravaganza draws large crowd

www.kuchkhaas.org

April 29, 2014

Deosai Film Premiere - U.S. Supports Wildlife Conservation in Pakistan

islamabad.usembassy.gov

April 24, 2014

Sneaky Pete's Khaas Collaboration!

www.kuchkhaas.org

April 24, 2014

ISLAMABAD: At first, it sounded like a whimsical idea. Who would care to attend a dance festival and food bazaar on a warm spring afternoon anyway? The thought of no air-conditioning in the escalating heat was reason enough to spend the weekend in the comfort of one's living room. But against these seeming odds, the finale of the month-long Colours of Life festival at Kuch Khaas (KK) on Sunday evening proved to be a roaring success. Commemorating International Dance Day, the music, dance and food extravaganza attracted people from all walks of life. The thematically-decorated food stalls had an inviting vibe as one stepped into the complex. The mouth-watering treats included gol gappay, fish and chips, shashlik and bite-size pizzas to name a few. Swathed in the balmy air, the lawn was brimming with energy, colour and aroma. Adorned with balloons and buntings, the outdoor setting had the guests lounging around and devouring a selection of cuisine while watching a series of dance performances. From little girls flapping neon pom-poms to teenage boys spinning headfirst, women clad in silken sarongs and clutching Chinese fans and human trains of dance enthusiasts, there were many sights to behold. The various styles of dances included the Pashto Attan, Indonesian, Chinese Lion Dance and Irish Morris Dancing. Komal Jamil Khan, Bollywood dance teacher at KK, and her crew performed a mashup of old classics like "Thori si jou pee lie hai" and "Jai Jai Shiv Shankar" as the spirited audience sang along. Khan improvised her svelte moves in coordination with other performers such as Faizaan Ahab, Mominah Khan, Hamza Hayuddin, Maha Usman, Waheed Ahmed, Ghilman and Shahrukh. In her royal blue and black outfit, Khan transformed from one sequence to the next with seamless ease and animated expression. "The whole point was to have fun and entertain the crowd and I'm proud to say we've pulled it off," she said. Shezreen, a guest who was accompanied by her family at the event, thoroughly enjoyed the evening. "I was awestruck by the grace of the Attan dancers and the rendition of sufi dance to Bulleh Shah's poetry. Overall, the audience participation was great as well," she said.

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 25, 2014 - In celebration of Earth Day 2014, Walkabout Films' documentary, Deosai - The Last Sanctuary, about endangered Himalayan brown bears living on the Deosai plateau premiered on April 24 at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Islamabad. U.S. Ambassador Richard Olson and Pakistani natural history film maker Nisar Malik delivered remarks at the film's opening. The U.S. Embassy's Ambassador's Fund provided support for this project. Ambassador Olson noted the film well fit his new vision for the Fund, which now supports wildlife conservation projects, in addition to the focus areas of water, sanitation and hygiene; women's issues; entrepreneurship; and cultural preservation. Ambassador Olson expressed admiration for the immense tourism potential of Pakistan's wildlife and natural beauty. "I look forward to the day when people from around the world flock to Pakistan to hike over the Hispar La, rally in the Cholisthan Desert, admire the massive sea cliffs of Gwadar, or simply enjoy bird-watching at Rawal Lake," Ambassador Olson said.

Nisar Malik noted that "Pakistan is rich in natural history. Walkabout Films is pleased that the Ambassador's Fund supported us with the "Give Back Project" that allows us to create awareness through visual education. This resource will soon be available to educators globally for free via the internet." Walkabout Film's new "Give Back" project follows the best practice of engaging members of local communities in conservation efforts. Building on 20 years of journalistic experience with film crews in some of the most remote areas of Pakistan, Nisar Malik started Walkabout Films in 2004 and was instrumental in filming snow leopards for Sir David Attenborough's Planet Earth series in 2004. He then hosted the award winning Snow Leopard - Beyond the Myth. Since then, Walkabout Films has become one of the leading nature and wildlife filmmakers in the South Asian region. The Walkabout Films team has completed projects for National Geographic, Adventure One, the BBC Natural History Unit, Channel 4, Animal Planet and the Discovery Channel. Nisar has also been awarded the President of Pakistan's Pride of Performance award for his service in conserving Pakistan's natural heritage. The U.S. Ambassador's Fund supports small scale, high impact initiatives designed by Pakistan's grassroots organizations and community groups. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) manages the Fund and the National Rural Support Program (NRSP) works closely with grassroots organizations to support activities for up to one year in duration.

For the 2nd time in as many years, Kuch Khaas presented Sneaky Pete, bass player & songwriter from Australia's exciting 8-piece band, PlanB!

Pete again joined forces with friend & collaborator, Pakistani expressionist Waleed Ahmed, and together with the Shairi Bukshi & Yawar Bakshi and Muchi Habibi, they form "Khaas Collaboration". The band combined traditional Pakistani instruments and language with songs from PlanB's recently released album "Too Late The Hero" to produce a fusion which was at times confused, sometimes amused but never defused and at all times very interesting & enjoyable to experience. Waleed provided both Urdu & English rap to several of the songs which he has collaborated on with Pete to bring new and exciting variations to the structure and sound of what were essentially rock & pop influenced songs. The music was a fusion of 80's rock and pop with some prolific use of rap and hints of Qawwali influences. Sneaky Pete's Khaas Collaboration was a collection of Pakistan's talented young musicians, who combined to provide an insight as to where the next PlanB album's influences are derived from.

KURRAM AGENCY TOURISM PROFILE

Introduction:

Kurram Agency takes its name from the river Kurram which passes through it. The headquarters of the agency is located at Parachinar¹. Kurram River flows along the valley. In the north it is surrounded by snow-covered or "white" mountains, the Safed Koh, locally known in Pashto as Speen Ghar, which also forms the natural border with Afghanistan. In Lower Kurram Agency, Alizai is a scenic place where tribes such as the (TURI Tribe) and Alizai have natural richness depended upon hills and mountain with ever green forests.

Short History:

The kurram, like various other rivers of the Khyber Pukhtoon Khwa, finds mention in the "Rig Veda", and its valley must always have been one of the easiest and most used routes into India for the great migrations which took place between 4,000 to 2,000 BC. The river is mentioned under the name of Krumu, as one of the tributaries, which joins the Indus on its right bank. The Safed-koh range that forms the boundary of the present kurram Agency appears to be the same as the ancient svethpatha, and it is likely that the rich and healthy uplands of the kurram and khost areas would always have been a place of habitation and agriculture. As in other parts of the frontier too a number of Hindu names of mountain peaks and rivers exist to the present day, proving the undoubted occupation of the country by early Hindu Aryan immigrants. It seems likely that a Greek settlement was established in the area by the successors of Alexander, for in the inscriptions found in the Sanchi stupas in mountain of gift by a Greek resident of the Sufed koh, or the sevethpatha. Three coins recently found in Bagzai village have been identified as belonging to the reign of king Sotermegas, or Kodphis 2; another coins of the horseman and ball type, found in the same place has been attributed to the Sahia dynasty that ruled over the entire territory between the Indus and Afghanistan in the 10th century AD.² In 1879-80 the British occupied the Kurram .Kurram was declared as an agency in 1892 and was made part of Pakistan in 1947.

Ethnic Group Geographic Distribution:

Kurram Agency comprises three sub divisions including Upper Kurram almost 80% Shia, Central Kurram 95% Sunni and Lower Kurram 80% Sunni.³

Tribes:

The population of Kurram valley consists of a number of tribes namely Turi, Bangash, and Parachamkani. Massozai. Alisherzai, Maqabals, Jajis, Zaimusht, Mangal, Kharotai, Ghalgi, Hazara. Among all them Turi tribes are in majority followed by Bangash and others. (SARDAR, January, 2009).

Language:

Pushto is the first and second language majority of people.

Kurram Agency at a Glance

Area	3,380 sq.km
Population – 2013 Estimated	672,778
	Male 344,614 (51%)
	Female 328,164 (49%)
Sex Ratio (males per 100 females)	105
Population Density	199 per Sq.Km
	Urban Population 37,676 (6%)
	Rural Population 638,103 (94%)
Average Household Size	11
Literacy Ratio (10 +)	28.48%
	Male 36.27%
	Female 21.03%
Population 1998	448,310
Total Housing Units (1998)	41,372
	Pacca Housing Units 23,257
	Housing Units having Electricity 36,757
	Housing Units having Piped Water 11,939
	Housing Units using Gas for Cooking 392
	Housing Units using Kerosene Oil 14,551
Average Annual Growth rate (1981-98)	2.5%
Administrative Units	
	Tehsils 3
	Settlements 925

¹ www.visitorsheaven.com

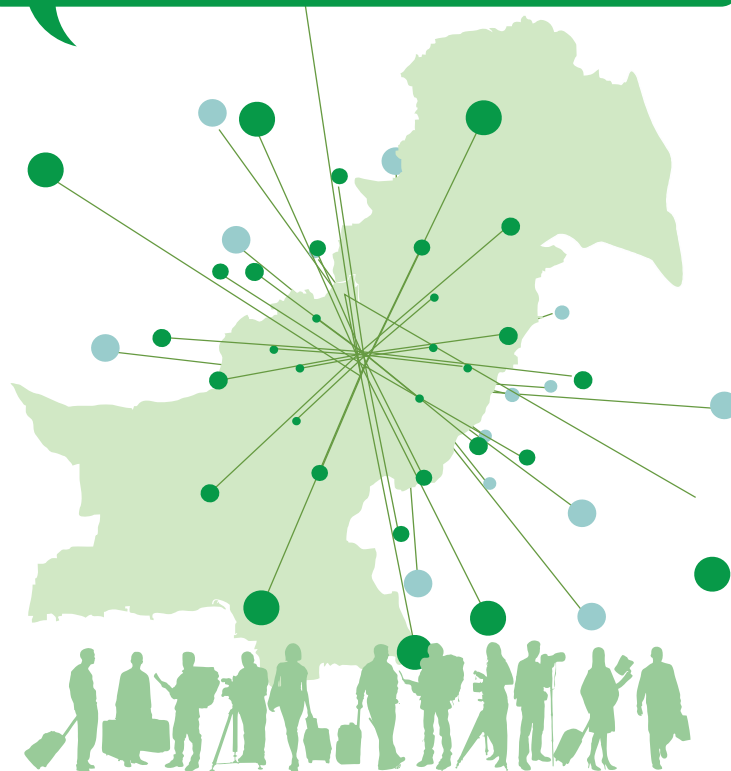
² www.parachinar.net

³ www.frc.com.pk

Tourism Potential: (SARDAR, January, 2009)

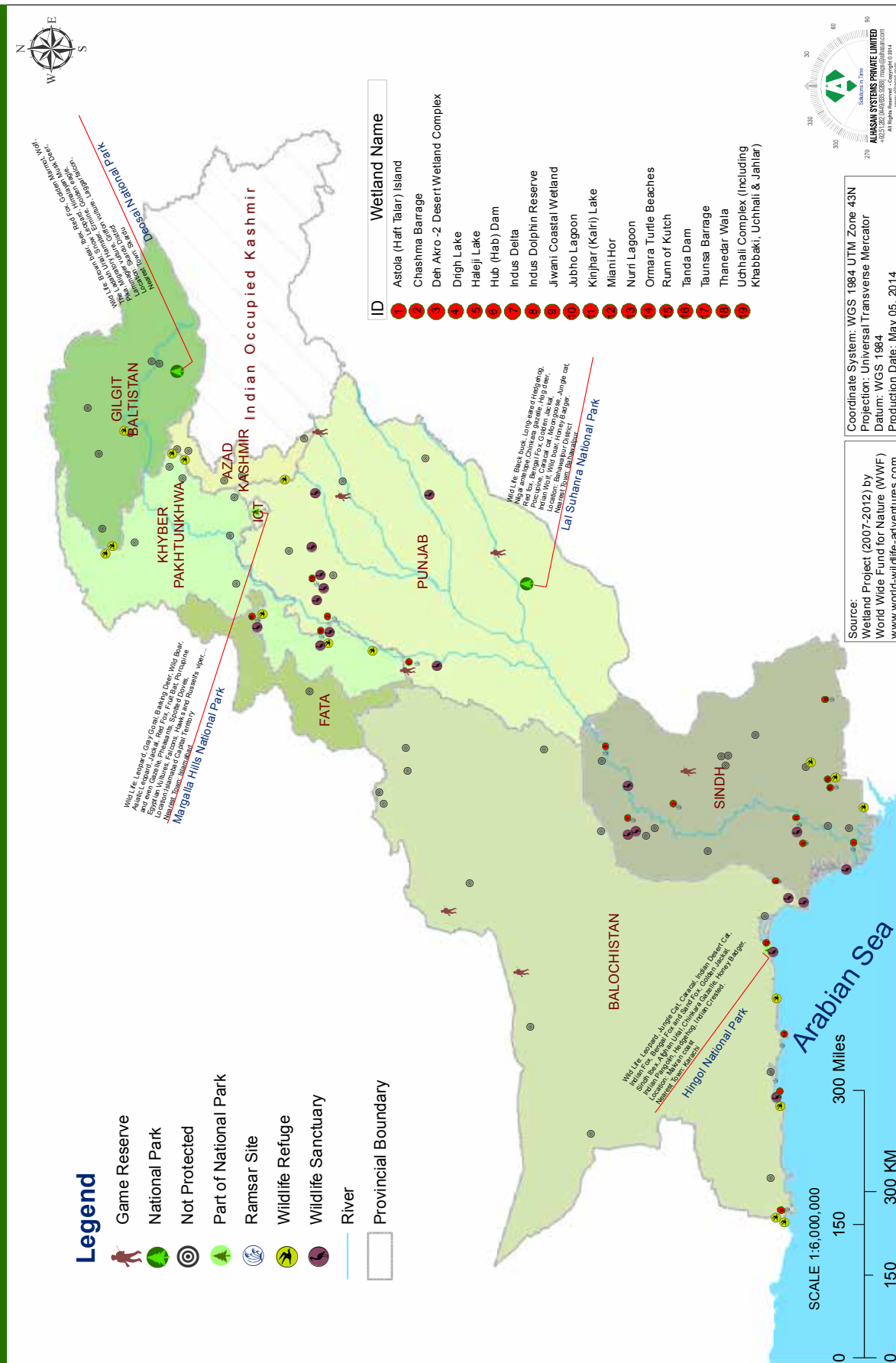
Tourism Sites in Kurram Agency	
Parachinar	Scenic attractions, recreational point, biggest Imam Bargah of Pakistan. Shrine of saint Iranay Agha,
Kirman	Scenic attractions, recreational point. Beautiful forests full of animal and plant life. Shrines of many Sufi saints; shrine of Fakhr-e-Alam Baba is most famous
Zairan	Scenic attractions, Dam has been built. Beautiful forests full of animal and plant life. Zairan has been center of religious leaders; Grave of Mast Baba, Hand marks of Hazrat Ali, celebrations held on 21st March
Shalozan(Robert Garden)	Scenic attractions; garden at the site known as Robert Garden; has a tree planted by Fatima Jinnah. Shalozan has shrine of Imam Raza with a tree planted by him. Shrine of Syed Hassan Wali has a spring used for disease cure. A mysterious jungle Pree Samawat and Bagh-e-Laila exist. A dam also exists.
Khar Lachi Fort	Fort built by British near Pak-Afghan border; historic importance. Fort is controlled by FC. The site has shrine of a famous saint Lala Gul Baba.
Chapri	Entry Point Kurram Agency (Bab-e- Kurram). Rest house exists which was built by British; entirely from wood. Height above sea level is 9000 feet. Surrounded by beautiful forests full of diverse animal and plant life
Terimengal	Site near Pak-Afghan border, beautiful scenic attractions. Timber Market exists in the area.
Koh-e – Sufaid	Scenic and adventure attractions. Snow-clad hill where diverse animal and plant life exist; along with semi-precious stones and minerals

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Wildlife Wetland Sanctuaries in Pakistan



TWO FACES OF A TRADITION

April 27, 2014— *Muhammad Asim Butt*

Covering a span of time from 1947, the voluminous anthology of stories contains literary pieces of around 52 Indian writers with almost similar trends and issues, techniques and styles, the tradition of Indian and Pakistani Urdu short stories are like two sides of the same coin, two faces of one literary institution in two different regions. A recently published book *Aaj ki Kahaniyan*, compiled by distinguished scholar and critic Dr Gopi Chand Narang, substantiates the premise.

Covering a span of time from 1947 to date, the voluminous anthology of stories contains literary pieces of around 52 Indian writers. Through this anthology, we get a chance to view the literary scenario of Urdu short story in India. The variety of trends and issues along with some similarities make the tradition of Urdu short story distinct from ours in more than one way.

Gopi Chand Narang is a well-known scholar, having to his credit remarkable contributions especially in the field of Urdu criticism and research. His work earned him a high ranking among the foremost Urdu critics and a number of distinctions and awards.

Those times now seem to be long gone, when Urdu was fortunate enough to have a constellation of non-Muslim

admiring and supporting writers, who no doubt produced some of the best pieces which Urdu is still proud of. However, unfortunate enough is the fact that this number has narrowed down over the last some decades. Only a few out of this list now prefer Urdu to be the language of their expression.

What strategy has been devised to keep the tradition of Urdu writing flourishing in non-Muslim writers? I asked the accomplished Urdu critic and poet Dr Satyapal Anand on his recent visit to Pakistan. The answer was in the form of a counter question, "No matter how few in number, we are still writing in Urdu. This is what we are supposed to do. What did you do in this regard? After all, it will be a loss for you too if no non-Muslim Urdu writer survives."

The situation is not so bleak, assured Dr Khalid Ashraf, another established Urdu writer and critic from India. Last year, he produced a voluminous and notable anthology of Urdu short stories, comprising Pakistani and Indian writers in two volumes.

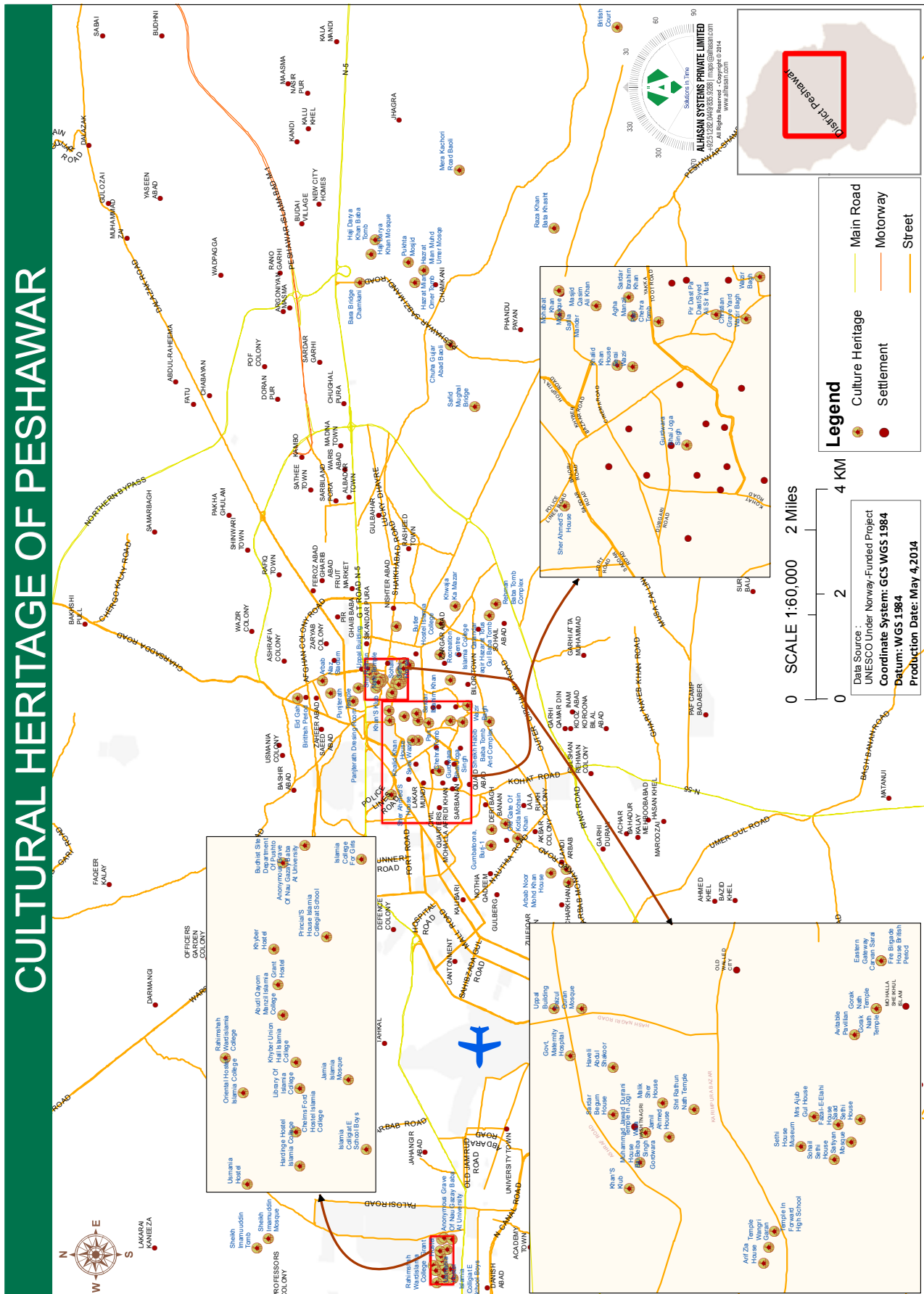
In his preface, Gopi Chand Narang mentions another anthology of note, comprising representative Urdu short stories published in India, during the period from 1970 to date, by Indian famous Urdu short story writer and novelist Musharraf Alam Zouqi. These anthologies jointly paint an inclusive picture of the literary scenario of Indian Urdu short stories.

The stories in anthology represent a wide range of techniques, styles, and themes, from simple and pure realism to symbolism and magical realism. The compiler has ensured the representation of the diversity, and heterogeneity of styles, themes, issues and modes emerging at different times in the past six decades in Indian Urdu fiction.

The movement of symbolism did not fail to attract a number of brilliant writers like Surendra Parkash and Balraj Manera in India and Enver Sajjad, Khalida Hussain, Rashid Amjad and Ahmad Javed in Pakistan. They produced, undoubtedly, some of the memorable Urdu short stories.

Wo by Balraj Manera is a skillfully crafted single-character story focusing on man's quest, though fruitless, for solution to his inner anxiety and quest for happiness. Khalid Javed focuses on a fertile smooth narrative, while Nayyer Masud on the development of a dreamlike misty atmosphere. Iqbal Majeed's marvellous piece of fiction *Tamaash Ghar* relates a story of two characters who reach the same decision in their separate troubled social and economic situations.

Though the anthology lacks introductory notes on the contributors, it opens a window for the readers to look at the scenario of Urdu literature in the Indian land and the turns and twists Urdu short story has taken after Independence.



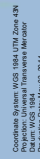
ROLE OF GILGIT IN PAK ECONOMY

April 30, 2014.... Ponum Humza

Gilgit is situated at the north of Pakistan. It is the hometown of beauty, various cultures and numerous languages. Gilgit region has been given many names, like Jewel of Pakistan, Asia's wonderland and Roof of the world. It is considered to be paradise when it comes to explaining the beauty of this region. Strategically speaking, Gilgit is one of the most important regions of Pakistan as it borders the territory of Azad Kashmir to the south, the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the west, the Wakhan Corridor of Afghanistan to the north, China to the east and northeast and the Jammu and Kashmir state of India to the southeast. It is only 15 km away from Central Asia. However, despite the efforts of the local government of Gilgit-Baltistan to officially become a part of Pakistan as its 5th Province, the Pakistani Government has put in little or no efforts to declare this region Pakistan's official Province. Gilgit play a vital role in economy of Pakistan as its mountains are full of minerals and precious stones. These are the main source of economy but unfortunately Pakistan cannot get benefit as much as it should. K2 is the second-highest mountain on Earth. It is located in the Karakoram segment of the Himalayan range, on the border between the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan and the Taxkorgan of Xinjiang, China. However, those who climb K2 acquire entry via Pakistan as the Chinese side is inaccessible. These mountains, historical places (Gilgit Bridge is just above the river of Gilgit and is the largest bridge on a river in the continent of Asia.

Kargah Buddhar), and natural beauty attract the tourist and increase the economy of Pakistan.

According to a statistical report by Pakistan Association of Tourism, on average more than 20 thousand tourists visited Gilgit Baltistan before 9/11. According to a rough estimation, a single tourist used to spend 3 thousand dollars which roughly makes one fifty thousand PKR as that time the currency value was 50 PKR, therefore it would be a total amount of 3 million PKR, this is about the casual visits. As for as mountaineers are concerned, they spend almost 8 thousand dollars, which is doubled accordingly. Wild animals are also found in Gilgit and to get permission to hunt this animal tourists submit a large amount of money to the government. Dry fruits are available in large scale so dry fruits are exported from this area. Glaciers of Karakoram are source of fresh water which irrigate the arid downstream areas of Pakistan through Indus river. Gilgit play a significant role in the economy of Pakistan through tourism (due to its beauty and K2 the second highest mountain), minerals, precious stones and exports of fresh and dry fruit as well as the trade route between Pakistan and China. A lot of good silk is available in the area at extremely inexpensive rate.



تفصیلات

سکھ یاتری خصوصی ٹرینوں کے ذریعے پاکستان پہنچے ہیں۔ وہ دس دن پاکستان میں قیام کریں گے۔ اس دوران بیساکھی کی تین روزہ تقریبات میں شرکت کے علاوہ وہ پاکستان میں موجود مختلف مقدس مقامات میں عبادات اور ان کی یاترا کریں گے۔ سکھ مت کا تہوار 'بیساکھی' 12 سے 14 اپریل تک منایا جائے گا۔ تہوار میں شرکت اور اس موقع پر ادا کی جانے والی مذہبی رسومات کی ادائیگی کے لئے ڈھائی ہزار سکھ یاتری جمعرات کو واہگہ بارڈر کے ذریعے پاکستان پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ متروکہ وقف املاک کے عہدیداروں اور پاکستان گردوارہ پر بندھک کمیٹی کے سربراہ سردار مستان سنگھ اور دیگر نے یاتریوں کا پُر جوش انداز میں استقبال کیا۔ متروکہ وقف املاک کے ایک عہدیدار فراز عباس کے مطابق بھارت سے آنے والے یاتریوں میں 1658 مرد اور 815 خواتین شامل ہیں۔ پاکستان سکھ کونسل کے چیئرمین سردار میشن سنگھ نے وائس آف امریکہ کو بتایا کہ سکھ یاتری خصوصی ٹرینوں کے ذریعے پاکستان پہنچے ہیں۔ انکا پاکستان میں قیام دس روزہ ہو گا۔ اس دوران بیساکھی کی تین روزہ تقریبات میں شرکت کے علاوہ وہ پاکستان میں موجود مختلف مقدس مقامات میں عبادات اور ان کی یاترا کریں گے۔ اپنے پُر جوش استقبال پر اظہار مسرت کرتے ہوئے یاتریوں کا کہنا تھا انہیں بالکل بھی ایسا نہیں لگ رہا کہ وہ کسی اور ملک آئے ہیں۔ متروکہ وقف املاک کے عہدیداروں اور پاکستان گردوارہ پر بندھک کمیٹی کے سربراہ سردار مستان سنگھ اور دیگر نے یاتریوں کا پُر جوش انداز میں استقبال کیا۔ متروکہ وقف املاک کے ایک عہدیدار فراز عباس کے مطابق بھارت سے آنے والے یاتریوں میں 1658 مرد اور 815 خواتین شامل ہیں۔ پاکستان سکھ کونسل کے چیئرمین سردار میشن سنگھ نے وائس آف امریکہ کو بتایا کہ سکھ یاتری خصوصی ٹرینوں کے ذریعے پاکستان پہنچے ہیں۔ انکا پاکستان میں قیام دس روزہ ہو گا۔ اس دوران بیساکھی کی تین روزہ تقریبات میں شرکت کے علاوہ وہ پاکستان میں موجود مختلف مقدس مقامات میں عبادات اور ان کی یاترا کریں گے۔ اپنے پُر جوش استقبال پر اظہار مسرت کرتے ہوئے یاتریوں کا کہنا تھا انہیں بالکل بھی ایسا نہیں لگ رہا کہ وہ کسی اور ملک آئے ہیں۔ سردار میشن سنگھ کے مطابق یاتریوں کی اگلی منزل حسن ابدال کا گردوارہ پنجہ صاحب ہے جہاں 12 اپریل کو پاتھ صاحب اور اداس کی رسم ادا کی جائے گی۔ اس کے بعد وہ نکانہ صاحب جائیں گے جہاں ماتھائیئے کی رسم ادا کی جائے گی۔ 14 اپریل کو بھوگ اور اکھنڈ پاتھ کی رسوم ادا کی جائیں گی۔ طے شدہ شیڈول کے مطابق یاتری 15 اپریل کو گردوارہ سچا سودہ فاروق آباد، 16 کو گردوارہ ڈیرہ صاحب لاہور اور اس کے بعد گردوارہ وڑی صاحب گوجرانوالہ اور گردوارہ دربار صاحب کرتار پور نارووال جائیں گے۔ 18 اپریل کو واپس گردوارہ ڈیرہ صاحب میں قیام کے بعد بڈریہ واہگہ بھارت روانہ ہو جائیں گے۔ متروکہ وقف املاک بورڈ کے پبلک ریلیشنز منیجر عامر حسین ہاشمی کا کہنا ہے کہ یاتریوں کی رہائش، سفر، قیام، طعام، علاج معالجہ اور لنگر یا بھوگ اور سیکوریٹی کے انتظامات املاک بورڈ کی جانب سے انجام دیئے گئے ہیں۔

مری (خاندانہ دنیا) ملکہ کوہسار مری میں گرمائی سیزن شروع ہوتے ہی گداگروں، پھیری والوں نے شہر پر یلغار کر دی جس سے مال روڈ اور دیگر اہم سیاحتی مراکز پر آنے والی سیاح فیملیوں کو مشکلات کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ سیاحوں سے بھیک کی وصولی کیلئے ان کا پیچھا کیا جاتا ہے اور ان کے کپڑے پکڑ کر ان سے بھیک وصول کی جاتی ہے، چھوٹے چھوٹے بچے ٹافیاں اور دیگر اشیاء سیاحوں کو زبردستی فروخت کرنے کی کوشش کرتے ہیں جس سے خواتین کو شدید ذہنی کوفت کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے جبکہ تحصیل انتظامیہ اور مری پولیس نے اس سلسلہ کو روکنے کے اقدامات کرنے کے بجائے مکمل خاموشی اختیار کر رکھی ہے، غیر مقامی پھیری والوں کے باعث جرائم بڑھنے کا بھی خدشہ ہے، شہریوں نے اعلیٰ حکام سے نوٹس لینے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔

سندھ کے شہر ٹھٹھہ میں واقع جامع مسجد شاہجہان کی تعمیر مغل بادشاہ شاہجہان کے حکم پر 1644 عیسوی میں شروع کی گئی تھی۔ اس مسجد کی تکمیل صرف تین سال کے مختصر عرصے میں 1647ء میں مکمل ہوئی تھی اور اس پر صرف نو لاکھ شاہجہانی روپے لاگت آئی تھی۔ اس مسجد کا کل رقبہ 6316 مربع گز ہے۔ مسجد کے کل 100 گنبد اور 94 ستون ہیں۔ مسجد میں گنبدوں کی ترتیب اور ہوا کی آمدورفت کا انتظام کچھ اس انداز سے کیا گیا ہے کہ تلاوت و خطبہ کی آواز بغیر کسی صوتی آلے کے پوری مسجد میں سنائی دیتی ہے۔

اسلام آباد: تین روزہ اسلام آباد ادبی میلہ اپنی تمام تر عنایتوں کے ساتھ ہفتے کو دوسرے روز بھی جزواں شہروں کے رہنے والوں کی توجہ کا خاص مرکز رہا اور ہفتہ وار تعطیل ہونے کی وجہ سے لوگوں کی ایک خاصی بڑی تعداد مقامی ہوٹل میں منعقدہ اس میلے میں شریک ہوئی۔ آکسفورڈ یونیورسٹی پریس کے زیر اہتمام اس میلے میں ایک سو سے زائد ملکی و غیر ادیب، دانشور اور فنون لطیفہ سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد شریک ہیں۔ کتابوں سے شغف رکھنے والوں کے ذوق کی تسکین کے لیے یہاں بے شمار موضوعات پر ہزاروں کتابیں بھی فروخت کے لیے رکھی گئی ہیں جب کہ مختلف نشستوں میں شعر، ادب، ڈرامہ اور فکر و فن پر بھی سیر حاصل نہ کرے اور مباحثے ہو رہے ہیں۔ معروف ادیب اور سفر نامہ نگار مستنصر حسین تارڑ کہتے ہیں کہ ایسے میلوں کے انعقاد سے بلاشبہ ادب کا فروغ اور ادیب کی پذیرائی ہوتی ہے لیکن انھوں نے فی زمانہ ادبی میلوں میں بڑھتے ہوئے کاروباری رجحان کو ادب کے لیے مضر قرار دیا۔ وائس آف امریکہ سے گفتگو میں ان کا کہنا تھا کہ بہت سے ایسے لوگ اب میلوں کا اہتمام کر رہے ہیں جن کا مقصد ادب کا فروغ نہیں بلکہ کوئی ذاتی و کاروباری مفاد ہوتا ہے۔ آکسفورڈ یونیورسٹی پریس کی میں بات نہیں کرتا کیونکہ یہ تو ادبی میلہ شروع کرنے والوں میں سے ہیں۔۔۔ لیکن بہت سے جگہوں پر ایسے میلے بھی ہو رہے ہیں کہ مثلاً جو صاحت یہ میلہ منعقد کر رہے ہیں ان کا دور دور تک ادب سے کوئی تعلق نہیں اور وہ صرف اس لیے میلہ ارتج کر رہے ہیں کہ دو چار کروڑ روپے لگا کر ان کو دنیا کے بڑے کھفے والوں تک رسائی ہو جاتی ہے۔ تو یہ کمرشل ازم جو ہے یہ ایک نقصان دہ چیز ہے مجھے خوف آتا ہے کہ کہیں ایسا نہ ہو کہ جیسے ٹی وی چینلز میں ریٹنگ ہوتی ہے تو یہاں بھی شروع ہو جائے کہ کونسا میلہ زیادہ ریٹنگ

سرخیاں

بیساکھی تہوار: ڈھائی ہزار سکھ یاتری

پاکستان پہنچ گئے

وائس آف امریکہ

30 اپریل 2014

مری پر گداگروں کی

یلغار، شہری پریشان

پھیری والوں نے بھی ڈیرے ڈال لئے

جرائم بڑھنے کا خدشہ

روزنامہ دنیا

29 اپریل 2014

منزل دور کا فن تعمیر

وائس آف امریکہ

28 اپریل 2014

سماجی ارتقا کے لیے ادبی میلوں کا کردار

اہم ہے: مصنفین

معروف ادیب اور ناول نگار مستنصر

حسین تارڑ نے فی زمانہ ادبی میلوں میں

بڑھتے ہوئے کاروباری رجحان کو ادب

کے لیے مضر قرار دیا۔

وائس آف امریکہ

26 اپریل 2014

لیتا ہے کس میں کتنا جہم تھا۔۔۔ اس میں خالصتاً ادب اور ثقافت اور مصوری وغیرہ ہی ہونی چاہیے۔ مشہور ڈرامہ نگار اصغر ندیم سید ادبی میلوں کو معاشرتی ترقی کا ایک جز قرار دیتے ہوئے کہتے ہیں کہ سماج کے ارتقا میں یہ ایک موثر کردار ادا کرتے ہیں۔ اس سے ایک طرح سے تحریک پیدا ہوتی ہے کہ ادیبوں سے لوگ ملتے ہیں ان سے متاثر ہوتے ہیں پھر وہ کتاب کی طرف جاتے ہیں تو یہ ایک مسلسل عمل ہے اور وہ کسی بھی ایسی سوسائٹی میں جو فروغ پاری ہو اس میں یہ پراس ضروری ہے۔۔۔ سوسائٹی تو اسی طرح آگے بڑھتی ہے یہ پراس ہے یہ چلتا رہتا ہے اور اسی سے معاشرہ بدلتا ہے۔ ادبی میلے کے منتظمین کا کہنا ہے کہ معاشرے میں ہم آہنگی کے فروغ کے لیے ایسے میلے خاص اہمیت کے حامل ہیں۔

سانت جوردی کی وساکھی۔۔۔

روزنامہ دوست

23 اپریل 2014

ویسے تو میں آجکل لکھنے سے پرہیز پر ہوں لیکن جب کوئی آمد ہو جائے تو پیٹ میں درد ہونے لگ جاتا ہے اور اب مجھے شاعروں کی کیفیت سمجھ آنے لگی ہے کہ شعر آمد سے ہوتے ہیں اور مجھے لگتا ہے نثر کا بھی آمد سے ہی کوئی نہ کوئی تعلق ہے۔ اس لئے پرہیز ہونے کے باوجود ہاتھ چل پڑیں تو پھر کیا کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ اور میرے ہاتھ چلانے میں کچھ ہاتھ مسٹر انجم اور مسٹر حسین کا بھی ہے جو مجھ سے اکثر پوچھتے رہتے ہیں مسکرا کر اگلا کالم کب آ رہا ہے۔ احباب کی پسندیدگی کا شکر یہ جس سے مجھے حوصلہ ملتا ہے۔ گذشتہ رات ساڑھے گیارہ بجے کے قریب انکل ٹار صاحب کا پیغام آیا کہ صبح گیارہ بجے تیار رہنا، رمبلا ربال المعروف پریشان، رمبلا جلیں گے۔ میں سمجھا کہ شاید کسی سے ملنا ملنا ہو گا لیکن جب ہم رمبلا ربال پہنچے تو وہاں رونق بھی کچھ اور تھی۔ گذشتہ دن میرے دوست راجہ جبران صاحب نے ذکر تو کیا تھا کہ کل یعنی آج 23 اپریل بارسلونائیں کوئی فیئٹیول (فیئسٹا) ہے لیکن مجھے بالکل یاد نہ تھا۔ یہ دن پورے سپین میں تو نہیں صرف کاتالونیا میں منایا جاتا ہے۔ اور اس دن کوئی عام تعطیل نہیں کی جاتی اس کے باوجود لوگ بڑے بھرپور طریقے سامنا تے ہیں اور نہ صرف یہ دن بلکہ سارے ہی تہوار سپین کے لوگ اپنی مذہبی و روایتی جوش و جذبے سے مناتے ہیں۔ اس تہوار پر لوگ ایک دوسرے کو تحائف دیتے ہیں جو کہ مخصوص ہیں یعنی مرد و خواتین کو پھول تحفے میں دیتے ہیں اور خواتین مردوں کو کتب تحفے میں دیتی ہیں۔ اور پھر خود ہی میٹرو میں سفر کرتے ہوئے اس کتاب میں سر دینے ہوتی ہیں یعنی مرد بیچارے کا صرف نام ہی ہے اصل وہ تحفہ بھی ہوتا ان کا اپنا ہی ہے۔ پنجابی کا ایک مہینہ بیساکھ ہوتا ہے اور انڈیا کے صوبے یاریاست پنجاب میں بیساکھ کی پہلی تاریخ جو عیسوی کیلنڈر کے حساب سے 13 اپریل ہوتی ہے کہ سکھ مذہب والے مذہبی تہوار کے طور پر مناتے ہیں جسے بیساکھی کہا جاتا ہے، جبکہ پاکستان میں ہم بیساکھی کو گندم کی کٹائی کا نقطہ آغاز سمجھا کرتے اور خوب جلدیاں کھایا کرتے (جو کہ آج بھی جو ادبھائی نے کھلائیں جس سے بیساکھی کی یاد بھی صبح معنوں میں تازہ ہوتی)۔ تو مجھے یہاں یہ آج کا تہوار اصل میں بیساکھی ہی کی شکل کا تہوار لگا گو یہاں اور پاکستان و انڈیا میں لوگوں کے منانے کے انداز الگ الگ ہوں۔ مجھے یہ تہوار بیساکھی کے قریب اس لئے نظر آیا کہ جو پھول بطور تحفہ دیئے جا رہے تھے اُس کبے میں ایک سرخ گلاب کا پھول اور ایک خوشہ گندم مجھے کثرت سے نظر آیا۔ اور دوسری وجہ یہاں آباد سکھ برادری کا جوش و خروش مقامی آبادی کے بعد سب سے زیادہ دیکھنے میں آ رہا تھا۔ ایشیائی لوگوں میں سکھوں کے علاوہ مجھے پاکستانی نمائندگی زیادہ نظر آئی، جو زیادہ تر فوٹو سیشن تک ہوتی ہے لیکن رمبلا ربال پہ مجھے پاکستانی اسٹال بھی نظر آئے جن میں سے ایک اسٹال جناب جاوید مغل صاحب کی قیادت میں اردو کتابوں کی بہار بکھیر رہا تھا اور دوسرا اسٹال مہناج القزآن کے زیر انتظام اسلامی و دینی کتب و اشیاء سے مزین تھا۔ اس کے علاوہ مقامی تنظیم نائٹس کاتالان فاؤنڈیشن نے بھی اپنا اسٹال لگایا جہاں زیادہ تر پاکستانی عہدیداران جو اس تنظیم سے وابستہ ہیں نمائندگی کر رہے تھے۔ سکھ برادری کا اسٹال بھی تھا جہاں وہ ہاتھ جوڑ کر جی آیاں نوں کہہ رہے تھے اور ساتھ مشروبات سے آنے جانے والوں کی تواضع بھی کر رہے تھے۔ اور پنجابی گیتوں پر پنجابی سٹائل میں بھنگڑے ڈالنے سکھ نوجوان سر اور اس تہوار کو بیساکھی کا تہوار ثابت بھی کر رہے تھے۔ آج کا دن کافی پر لطف اور مزے کا گذرا، پاکستان کے سابق وفاقی وزیر قمر زمان کائرہ صاحب بھی آئے ہوئے تھے، بارسلونا کے مشہور نعت خواں و صوفی موسیقار جناب قدیر احمد خان صاحب سے بھی ملاقات ہوئی، اس کے علاوہ حاجی اسد صاحب، حاجی اسد صاحب، سیٹھ حمید صاحب اور شہزادہ عثمان صاحب برادر شہزادہ عثمان بھی اچھی طبیعت کے مالک نوجوان ہیں۔ جناب خالد شہباز چوہان، انکل ٹار صاحب، حاجی اسد صاحب، سیٹھ حمید صاحب اور شہزادہ عثمان صاحب کے ساتھ ان کی فاؤنڈیشن کے اسٹال پر اچھا نام گذر۔ سانت جوردی کی وساکھی میں نے اس لئے عنوان دیا کہ جناب طارق عباسی صاحب نے مجھے مخاطب کرتے ہوئے ممکنہ کالم کا عنوان بھی تجویز فرمایا تھا، انہوں نے جو نام تجویز کیا تھا وہ تو میں من و عن نہیں لکھ سکا اُس کے قریب جو مجھے لگا وہ میں نے عنوان دیا ہے۔ اُس کا ہلکا سا اشارہ کہ پاکستان میں ڈانس کے ایک پنجابی سٹائل کو گاؤں دیہات میں وساکھی بولا جاتا ہے۔ پس جناب یہ تھی بارسلونائیں سانت جوردی کی وساکھی۔

عوام کی تکلیف میری ہے، کام نہ

کرنے والا گھر جانیگا: شہباز شریف

ڈالر کی قیمت میں کمی کے اثرات عوام

تک نہ پہنچنے پر اظہارِ رہمی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

20 اپریل 2014

لاہور (خصوصی رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ معیاری اشیاء ضروریہ کی مناسب نرخوں پر فروخت اور عوام کو ریلیف کی فراہمی متعلقہ اداروں کی ذمہ داری ہے۔ اس ضمن میں کسی قسم کی غفلت یا کوتاہی پر برداشت نہیں کی جائے گی۔ عوام کی تکلیف میری تکلیف ہے۔ جو کام نہیں کرے گا وہ گھر جائے گا اور کام کرنے والے ہی میرے دست و بازو ہیں۔ عوام کو معیاری اشیاء ضروریہ کی مناسب نرخوں پر فراہمی کے لئے کابینہ کمیٹی کو انتہائی متحرک کر دار ادا کرنا ہو گا۔ وہ صوبائی پرائس کنٹرول کمیٹی کے اجلاس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ 3 گھنٹے طویل اجلاس کے دوران صوبے میں اشیاء ضروریہ کی قیمتوں کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ روپے کے مقابلے میں ڈالر کی قیمت میں کمی کے اثرات اور اشیاء ضروریہ پر اس کے مثبت اثرات ہر صورت عوام تک پہنچنے چاہئیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے استفسار کیا کہ ڈالر کی قیمت میں کمی کے اثرات عوام تک کیوں نہیں پہنچائے گئے؟ متعلقہ وزراء اور سیکرٹریز کی جانب سے مناسب جواب نہ ملنے پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے برہمی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وزراء اور سیکرٹریز اور متعلقہ ادارے اپنا فعال اور متحرک کردار ادا کریں اور اس ضمن میں ہفتہ وار انڈیکس سروے جاری ہونا چاہئے اور عوام کو بہترین خدمات کی فراہمی کے لیے مستند ڈیٹا جمع کر کے اس سے استفادہ کیا جائے اور یہ تمام عمل کے لئے پروفیشنل خدمات حاصل کی جائیں تاکہ عوام کا اعتماد بحال ہو اور حکومتی اداروں کی کارکردگی میں بہتری لائی جاسکے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے ہدایت کی کہ سبزی منڈیوں میں نیلامی کے عمل کی سی سی ٹی وی کیمروں کے ذریعے ناشرنگ کی جائے اور سبزی منڈیوں میں نیلامی کے عمل کو لوکل ٹی وی چینل کے ذریعے عوام کی آگاہی کے لیے براہ راست دکھانے کا اہتمام کیا جائے۔ نیلامی کے عمل میں متعلقہ محکموں کے افسروں کی غیر موجودگی کسی صورت قابل قبول نہیں۔ غیر حاضر رہنے والے افسران کے خلاف سخت کارروائی کی جائے گی جو افسر کام نہیں کرے گا

اسے عہدے پر رہنے کا کوئی حق نہیں۔ عوامی خدمت سے جی چرانے والے افسران کو اپنا رویہ بدلنا ہو گا۔ انہیں کام کرنا پڑے گا یا وہ اپنے گھر جائیں گے۔ عوام کی آگاہی کے لئے دوکانوں پر مناسب جگہوں پر ریٹ لسٹ آویزاں ہونی چاہئے تاکہ کوئی زائد نرخ وصول نہ کر سکے۔ 100 گرام روٹی کا وزن 100 گرام ہی ہونا چاہئے، کم وزن کی روٹی فروخت کرنے والوں کے خلاف کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ اور چار جنگ الزام میں گرفتار افراد کی تعداد دریافت کرنے پر متعلقہ حکام کی جانب سے لاعلمی کے اظہار پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے سخت اظہار ناراضگی کرتے ہوئے اس ضمن میں 7 روز میں رپورٹ طلب کر لی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پٹرول اور سی این جی اسٹیشن پر اور چار جنگ روکنے کے لیے ٹمپڈ پروف سسٹم جلد لاگو کیا جائے اور اس بارے میں 14 روز میں رپورٹ پیش کی جائے۔ کابینہ کمیٹی اشیاء ضروریہ کی قیمتوں پر کڑی نظر رکھے اور آلو کی قیمت کو مناسب سطح پر لانے کے لیے فوری اقدامات اٹھائے جائیں کیونکہ عام آدمی کسی صورت بھی مہنگی سبزی نہیں خرید سکتا اور مجھے عام آدمی کا مفاد سب سے زیادہ عزیز ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں دوسری لاہور انٹرنیشنل ٹورازم ایکسپو کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب میں شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ انتہا پسندی کے خاتمے کے بغیر ملک ترقی اور خوشحالی کی منزل طے نہیں کر سکتا۔ انتہا پسندی کے چیلنج سے نمٹنے کیلئے حکومت انتظامی اور سماجی و معاشی اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے۔ ملک میں سیاحت کو فروغ دے کر پاکستان کے بارے میں منفی پراپیگنڈے کو زائل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے ٹورازم ایکسپو میں شرکت کر نیوالے غیر ملکی وفد کو سونہیز بھی دیئے۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ لاہور میں دوسری انٹرنیشنل ٹورازم ایکسپو کا انعقاد خوش آئند ہے۔ پاکستان دنیا بھر میں سیاحت کے لئے ایک خاص مقام رکھتا ہے، یہاں سیاحت کے وسیع مواقع موجود ہیں۔ اس بات میں کوئی شک نہیں کہ پاکستان کو انتہا پسندی کا سامنا ہے اور یہ ناسور اتوں رات نہیں آیا اور نہ ہی راتوں رات جائے گا تاہم حکومت مشترکہ بصیرت اور اجتماعی سوچ کے ساتھ اس ناسور کو ٹھکس دے گی اور اس ضمن میں حکومت نے جامع حکمت عملی اختیار کی ہے، انتہا پسندی کے خاتمے کے لیے انتظامی اقدامات کے ساتھ سماجی و معاشی اقدامات بھی کیے جارہے ہیں۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) کی حکومت انتہا پسندی کے ناسور کو ٹھکس دینے کے لئے پرعزم ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں شہباز شریف سے مختلف اضلاع سے تعلق رکھنے والے ارکان اسمبلی نے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں ترقیاتی منصوبوں اور دیگر اہم امور پر بات چیت ہوئی۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ مسلم لیگ (ن) کی حکومت عوام کے معیار زندگی میں بہتری لانے اور انہیں بنیادی سہولتوں کی فراہمی کیلئے صوبے بھر میں اربوں روپے کی لاگت سے میگا پراجیکٹس تیزی سے مکمل کر رہی ہے۔

لاہور (این این آئی) پنجاب بورڈ آف انوسٹمنٹ اینڈ ٹریڈ کے زیر اہتمام لاہور انٹرنیشنل ٹورازم ایکسپو کے موقع پر ایک سٹال قائم کیا گیا۔ ٹورازم ایکسپو میں آنے والی ملکی و غیر ملکی مہمانوں کی کثیر تعداد نے سٹال کا دورہ کیا۔ انوسٹمنٹ بورڈ پنجاب کی ٹیم نے مہمانوں کو صوبے میں سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کے حوالے سے انوسٹمنٹ بورڈ کے کردار اور ملکی و غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو فراہم کی جانے والی سہولیات اور فنی و عملی معاونت کے متعلق آگاہ کیا۔

انوسٹمنٹ بورڈ پنجاب کے زیر اہتمام
انٹرنیشنل ٹورازم ایکسپو کے موقع پر
سٹال کا قیام

روزنامہ پاکستان

20 اپریل 2014

لاہور ہائیکورٹ نے بیساکھی میلے پر
پابندی کے خاتمے کیلئے درخواست
مسٹر کردی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 اپریل 2014

پولیس نے دو ہفتے زیر حراست رہنے
والی جرمن سیاح خاتون سے معافی
مانگی: وکیل

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

03 اپریل 2014

سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے فریم ورک
ضروری، دہشت گردی کا خاتمہ
کرنا ہو گا، میر خلیل الرحمن سوسائٹی کا

سیمینار

روزنامہ جنگ

لاہور (دقائق نگار خصوصی) لاہور ہائیکورٹ نے بیساکھی میلے پر عائد پابندی کے خاتمے کے لئے دائر درخواست مسترد کر دی۔ لاہور ہائیکورٹ کے جسٹس اعجاز الاحسن نے کیس کی سماعت کی۔ درخواست گزار محمد اسحاق کے وکیل نے عدالت کو بتایا کہ بیساکھی کامیلہ پانچ سو سالوں سے منعقد کیا جا رہا ہے۔ انتظامیہ نے امن وامان کے نام پر بیساکھی جیسے ثقافتی میلے کے انعقاد پر پابندی عائد کر دی ہے جس سے ثقافتی حلقوں میں تشویش کی لہر دوڑ گئی ہے۔ انہوں نے عدالت سے بیساکھی میلے پر عائد پابندی ختم کرنے کی استدعا کی۔ سی پی او گوہر انوالہ نے عدالت کو آگاہ کیا کہ حساس اداروں کی رپورٹس موصول ہوئی ہیں کہ دہشت گرد ثقافتی میلوں کو نشانہ بنا سکتے ہیں۔ ملک میں امن وامان کی صورت حال کے باعث میلے پر پابندی عائد کی گئی ہے۔ بڑے پیمانے پر میلے کو سکیورٹی مہیا کرنا سکیورٹی اداروں کے لئے ممکن نہیں۔ جس پر عدالت نے درخواست مسترد کر دی۔

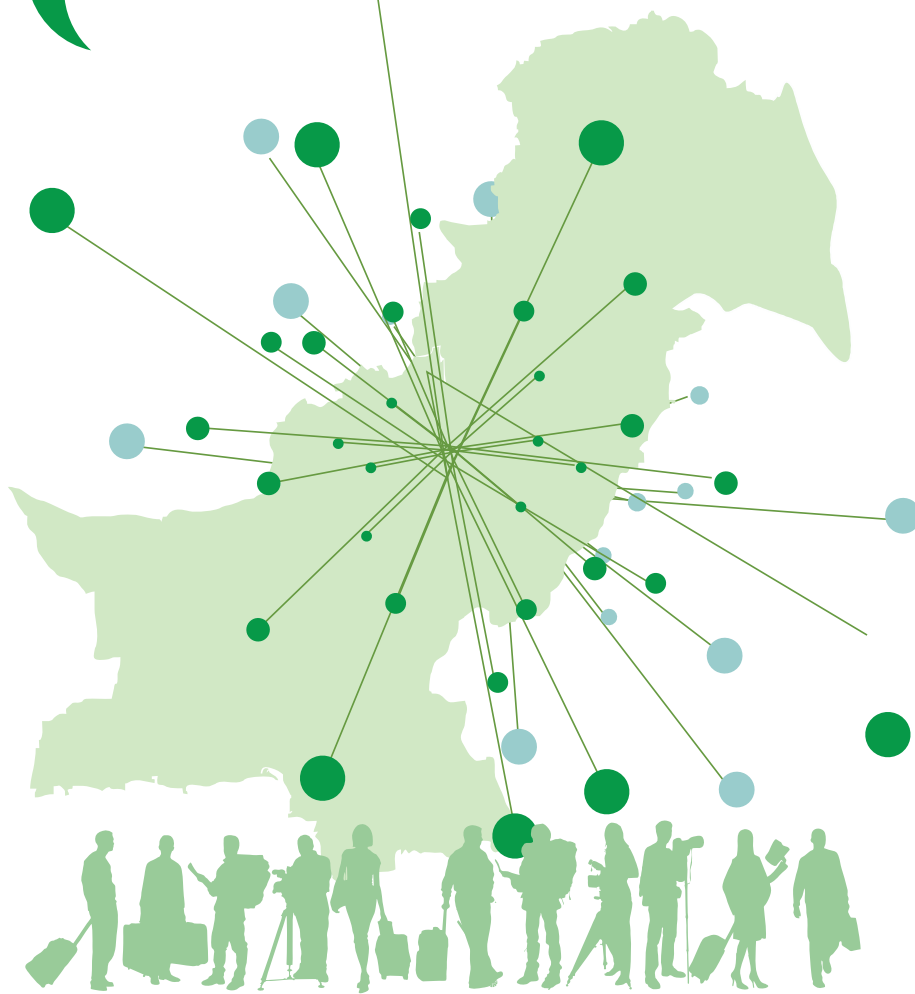
ملتان (اے ایف پی) پولیس نے جرمن سیاح خاتون کو دو ہفتے تک زیر حراست رکھنے پر اس سے معذرت کر لی ہے اس خاتون کو مبینہ طور پر ویزا قواعد کی مبینہ خلاف ورزی پر حراست میں لیا گیا تھا یہ بات یہاں جرمن سیاح خاتون کے وکیل نے بتائی ہے۔ کم لاراشڈیز 16 مارچ کو قصبہ سختی سرور سے گرفتار کیا گیا تھا جہاں وہ حضرت سختی سرور کے عرس کی تقریبات میں شرکت کیلئے گئی تھی پولیس افسر رانا محمد آصف کا کہنا ہے کہ سیاح خاتون نے خلع ڈیرہ خیرچان کے اس قصبے میں جانے کی خصوصی اجازت نہیں لی تھی جو غیر ملکیوں کیلئے حاصل کرنا ضروری ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ اس ضلع میں یورینیم پروسیسنگ کی تنصیبات واقع ہیں۔ وکیل آصف سعید نے بتایا کہ جرمن سفارتخانہ کے رابطہ کرنے پر انہوں نے لاہور ہائیکورٹ ملتان بج سے رجوع کیا۔ عدالت نے جرمن خاتون کی رہائی کا حکم دیتے ہوئے پولیس کو اس سے معذرت کرنے کی ہدایت کی اور خبردار کیا کہ وہ آئندہ محتاط رہے۔ وکیل نے بتایا کہ جرمن خاتون کا ویزا 4 اپریل کو ختم ہو رہا ہے اور وہ آج یا کل اپنے وطن واپس روانہ ہو جائے گی۔

لاہور (فہمئہ جنگ) ملک میں سیاحت کے فروغ کے لئے فریم ورک بنانا ضروری ہے۔ دہشت گردی کا خاتمہ اور امن قائم کرنا ہو گا۔ نجی شعبے کو ساتھ ملانا ضروری ہے۔ ٹورازم سیکٹر کو بین الاقوامی سطح پر آہیں تو ملک کے معاشی حالات میں بہتری آ سکتی ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار مقررین نے میر خلیل الرحمن میموریل سوسائٹی (جنگ گروپ) اور ٹورازم ڈویلپمنٹ کارپوریشن پنجاب کے زیر اہتمام ”پاکستان میں سیاحت و ثقافت کا فروغ اور لاہور انٹرنیشنل ٹورازم 2014ء ایکسپو کا قیام“ کے موضوع پر منعقدہ سیمینار میں کیا۔ چیئرمین ریڈ کریسنٹ پاکستان ڈاکٹر سعید الہی نے کہا وزیر اعظم نواز شریف خود سیاحت میں بہت دلچسپی لیتے ہیں، حکومت سیاحت کو فروغ دینے کے لئے بھرپور اقدامات کر رہی ہے اس سلسلے میں ایک ناسک فورس کام کر رہی ہے۔ 100 سے زیادہ تاریخی مقامات اور عمارتوں کو اپ گریڈ کیا جائے گا۔ امن وامان کے قیام کے لئے سیشن فورسز بنا رہے ہیں۔ ایم ڈی ٹورازم ڈویلپمنٹ کارپوریشن پنجاب حبیب الرحمن گیلانی نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب خود ٹورازم

101 اپریل 2014

سیکٹر کی ترقی کے خواہاں ہیں۔ بہت جلد لاہور کی سڑکوں پر خوبصورت ڈبل ڈیکر بسیں چلنا شروع ہو جائیں گی جن میں سیاحت کے شوقین مقامی اور غیر ملکی سیاحوں کو سفر کر کے شہر لاہور کے دلکش نظارے بآسانی دیکھنے کو ملیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ٹورازم سیکٹر کے پاس سکڑا ہوا سرمایہ موجود ہے ان کی درست خطوط پر تربیت کی جائے تو اس کام میں مزید نکھار آئے گا۔ حبیب الرحمان گیلانی نے کہا کہ ہماری پہلی ٹورازم ایکسپو کامیاب رہی اب لاہور انٹرنیشنل ٹورازم 2014ء ایکسپو 17 اپریل سے 20 اپریل تک منعقد کی جا رہی ہے جس میں پاکستان کی ثقافت کا عکس نظر آئے گا۔ سون وپلی میں ٹورز کے انتظامات کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ معروف کارٹونسٹ ودانٹور جاوید اقبال نے کہا کہ آج تک پاکستان میں سیاحت کو فروغ نہیں دیا گیا حالانکہ دنیا بھر میں ٹورازم کو فروغ دیا جا رہا ہے تو ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ ٹورازم سیکٹر میں ترقی کے لئے حکومت کو پرائیویٹ پارٹنرشپ ضرور کرنی چاہیے۔ ہمیں اپنے ملک میں ہوٹل کی تعداد کو بھی بڑھانا ہو گا۔ ایم پی اے وحید گل نے کہا کہ ملک میں جتنا امن ہو گا سیاحت کو اتنا ہی فروغ ملے گا۔ پارلیمانی سیکرٹری اطلاعات و ثقافت رانا محمد ارشد نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں سیاحت کے لئے بے شمار مقامات موجود ہیں۔ اس سال چولستان میں جیپ ریلی ہوگی۔ ہم سب کو مل کر ملک سے دہشت گردی کا خاتمہ کرنا ہو گا۔ امجد ایوب نے کہا کہ ہمارے ملک کے بہت سے ادارے زوال کا شکار اس لئے ہو رہے ہیں کہ ان کو ہم انفراسٹرکچر نہیں دے رہے۔ حکومت کو چاہیے کہ وہ تمام اداروں کو انفراسٹرکچر دے اور جدید خطوط پر ان کی رہنمائی اور تربیت فراہم کرے۔ ٹورازم سیکٹر میں بے پناہ راہیں ہیں۔ اگر ہم ٹورازم سیکٹر کو بین الاقوامی سطح پر لے آئیں تو ملک کے معاشی حالات میں بھی بہتری آسکتی ہے۔ کنسلٹنٹ ٹورازم علی امام نے کہا کہ ٹورازم کو فروغ دینے کے لئے فریم ورک بنانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ ہمیں ٹورازم سیکٹر کو فروغ دینا ہو گا۔

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<p>Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management Govt. of Pakistan Niaz Ali Malkani Director 0092-21-99251281-3 info@pithm.edu.pk Street No. 16, Block No. 4, Scheme No. 5, Clifton, Karachi www.pithm.edu.pk</p>	<p>Planning Commission Government of Pakistan Govt. of Pakistan Ahsan Iqbal Deputy Chairman 0092-51-9211147, 0092-321-5127885, 0092-51-9211147 0092-51-9202783 deputychairman@pc.gov.pk, contact@pc.gov.pk P" block Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad., Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad www.pc.gov.pk</p>
<p>Tourism and Archeology of AJK Govt. of Pakistan Pirzada Irshad Ahmed Director 0092-5822- 921421 webmaster@ajk.gov.pk Directorate General Tourism Department B-14 Upper Chattar Housing Colony, Muzaffarabad AJK www.ajktourism.gov.pk</p>	<p>Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab Govt. of Pakistan Habib ur Rehman Gillani Managing Director 0092-42-99231647, 0092-42-99231646, 0092-42-99231644 0092-42-99231649 gilanihabib@hotmail.com, md@tdcp.gop.pk info@tdcp.gop.pk , tdcp@punjab.gov.pk punjabtourism@tdcp.gop.pk 151, Abubakar Block, New Garden Town, Lahore www.tdcp.gop.pk</p>
<p>Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) Government of KPK 0092 91 9211091 , 0092 91 9213762 Head Office : 13-A New Block, khyber Road, Peshawar www.kptourism.com</p>	<p>Culture Department Government of Sindh Govt. of Pakistan Saqib Soomro Secretary 0092-21-99211478 secretaryculturesindh@yahoo.com 406, First Floor, Sindh Secretariat No. 3, Old KDA Building, Shara-e-Ata Turk, Karachi</p>

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

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

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

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Email: towers@avari.com

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Fax: 0092-21-34526797
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Fax: 0092-21-9242978

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Sheraton Karachi Hotel
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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

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Fax: 021-35660500

Hotel Al-Harmain tower
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Fax: 0092-213-5223983-84
Email: alharmaintower@gmail.com

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Fax: 0092-21-34556886
Email: info@countryinn.com.pk

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Website: www.hotelcrowninn.com

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Phone: 0092-21-35215933, 35677185

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Phone: 00 92-21-356-61235/39
Fax No: 0092-21-356-82388
Email: Gulfhtl@gmail.com, Gulfhtl@hotmail.com
Web Page: www.gulfhotel.webs.com

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

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

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

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

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

Royal city
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Phone: 0092-21-5682378

Sarah hotel
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Hotel Sarawan
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Phone: 0092-21-5216001 9

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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
Carlton Hotel Carlton Hotel Resort & Club, DC-5, off Zulfiqar Street # 1, DHA Phase VIII Karachi UAN (0092) 111 72 72 72 Phone: 0092-21-5849172-86 Fax: 0092-21-5849170-71 E-Mail: reservation@carlton.com.pk	Faran Hotel Shara-e-Faisal, Nursery, P.E.C.H.S, Karachi Phones: 0092-21-34532478-85 Fax: 0092-21-3452486-34545752 Email: hotel.faran@yahoo.com, mail@hotelfaran.com.pk, web: www.hotelfaran.com.pk
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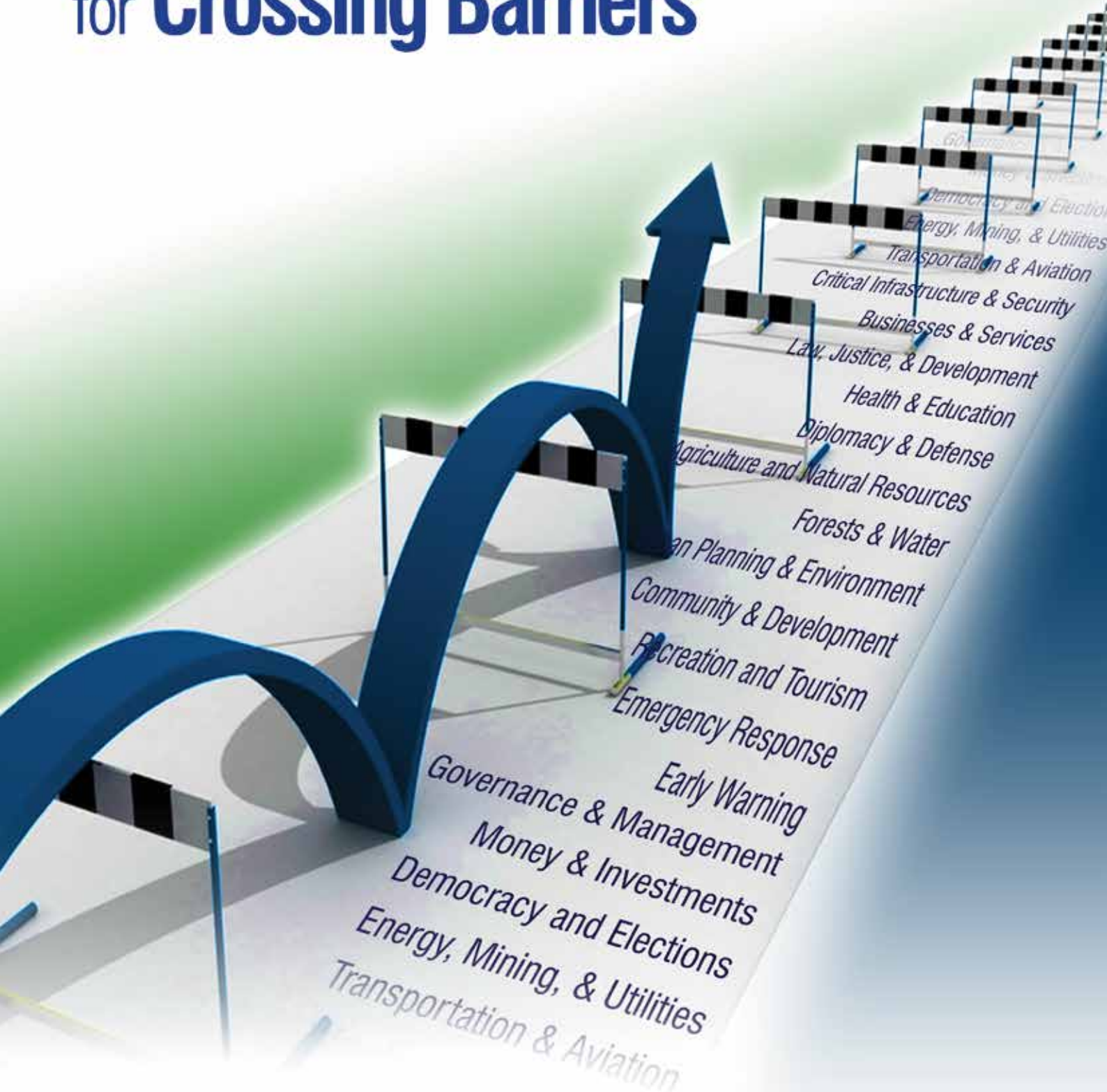
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Port Grand Food Street Jinnah Flyover, M.T. Khan Road, Karachi, Pakistan- 7400, Karachi, Pakistan-07400 Phone: 0092-21-3586 3826 Website: http://www.portgrand.com	Al Haaj Bundu Khan Main M.A. Jinnah Road, near Numaish Sindhi Muslim Roundabout Phone: 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
Food Center Burns Road Food Street, Saddar, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-111-000-606	Al-Habib Restaurant Nagan Chowrangi R-76-77, Sector 15 A/4, Nagan Chowrangi Bufferzone Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-36952567 UAN: 111-111-230
Eaton Foods 65-C, Phase 2, D.H.A. Karachi, Pakistan. Phone: 0092-21-3-779-1027, 3-779-1032 Website: http://www.theeaton.com	BBQ Tonight Com. 5/1, Boating Basin, Clifton, Block-5, Karachi. Phone: 0092-2135824471 Fax: 021-35376963 Email: info@bbqtonight.com.pk Website: http://www.bbqtonight.com

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

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

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