

TOURISM BULLETIN

March 2016 - Volume: 4, Issue: 3

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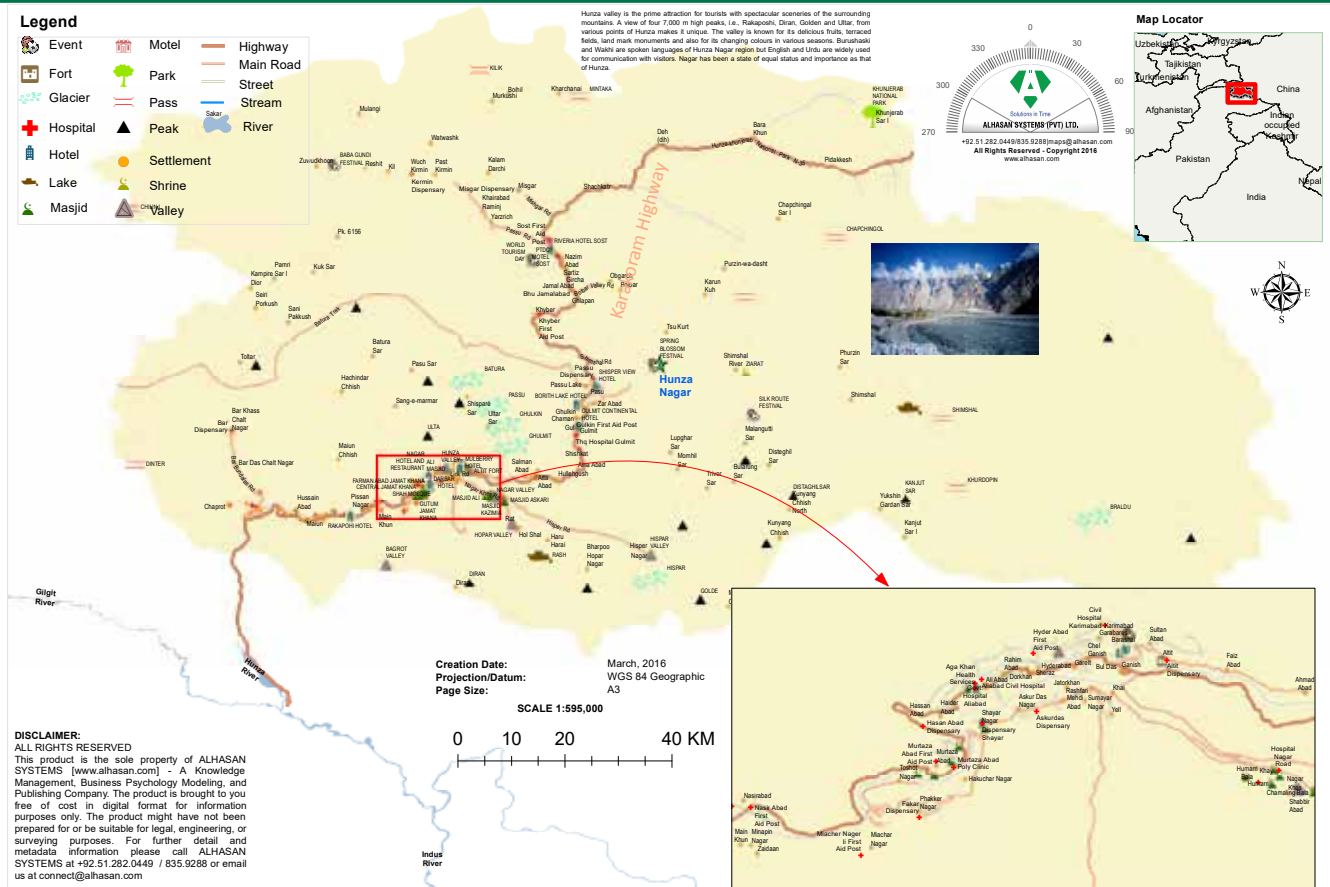
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HUNZA NAGAR TOURIST GUIDE MAP



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NEWS HEADLINES

Lok Virsa 'Craft of the Month Programme' to promote traditional skills

Daily Times, February 29, 2016

Festival marking start of spring season held in Hunza

Dawn News, February 29, 2016

Snow jeep rally roars into Chitral, Dir

Pakistan Today, February 29, 2016

DETAILS

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Lok Virsa is going to start a weeklong workshop of Chunri (tie and die) and kite making under its craft of the month programme from tomorrow (March 1).

The 'Craft of the Month Programme' has been launched with the theme of "Harnessing Culture with Education" for students and young children to learn and know about the history and techniques of unique crafts. The workshop will conclude with a colourful festival of Basant on March 6 for fun lovers. Featuring colourful kites and highlighting traditional heritage, the event is open for masses to celebrate the Basant Kite festival, which is a seasonal festival of the Punjab region marking the start of spring. In various areas, Basant is a long established tradition of flying kites and holding fairs. For celebrating Basant, people dress up in vibrant costumes carrying yellow, rustic, bright red and green colours while they also hold gatherings with traditional foods and folk music.

A seven-day programme every month emphasises on one particular craft every month while the students and faculty members from various educational institutions are invited to participate in the programme. The activities of the programme include introduction of master artists and participants, demonstration of crafts by artists, history and present standing of the craft, reading material to be provided by master artists and Lok Virsa, learning about various techniques of crafts and material used in creating crafts and students and youth at work with craft preparation.

An official of Lok Virsa said that the programme aims to promote and perpetuate traditional skills of Pakistan, provide knowledge to younger generation about the importance and utility of different crafts and serve as an opportunity for youth to learn about Pakistan's rich, diverse and pluralistic cultural tapestry. It focuses on creating link between culture and education, encourage youth to value dignity of labour, foster ownership of their culture, inculcate respect for different professions and character building, help understand the contribution of various artists in the sustainable development of their community and country, engage youth in creative works by providing them on ground opportunities to learn the crafts from artists and to recognise the hard work of artists associated with various crafts in order to ensure continuity of the crafts from generation to generation.

GILGIT: After a gap of 42 years, a two-day traditional festival marking the start of wheat sowing was held in Altit area of Hunza district. The two-day event, starting from Saturday, was organised by the local community with the assistance of Hunza Art and Culture Council and Altit rural support organisation. The Bafao festival was historically celebrated to mark the start of spring season in the area. In Brushkesi language Bafao means wheat sowing. According to the local people, before 1964, this festival was celebrated in Hunza when the weather in the valley became warmer suiting the wheat cultivation. The festival used to be arranged under the auspices of Hunza state head in the month of February.

The local people said the Hunza ruling family used to stay in Altit fort for few days to celebrate the event. The state rule system ended in Gilgit-Baltistan in 1974, so were the other traditions and rituals, including the Bofao festival. The festival was held at Chataq, near Altit fort, attended by a large number of women and men, representatives of local administration and other government officials, foreign and local tourists. Local artists presented traditional music, while notables of the area and young people danced wearing traditional dresses. Local singers also presented poems praying for good wheat harvest. "The event is meant to show our happiness over arrival of spring season after the prolonged winter," Hunza art and culture council president Sardar Khan said, adding the festival was revived after decades. He said other festivals like Tukhamrazi in upper Hunza and Nuroze would also be celebrated in the current season to make the young generation aware of their history, and to promote unique traditions internationally and attracting foreign tourists.

Gilgit-Baltistan Governor Mir Gazanfar Ali Khan, who is also former Hunza state ruler, attended the programme as the chief guest. He was received at Chataq by elders at the beat of local music. Speaking on the occasion, Gazanfar Ali said he was happy that the tradition of celebrating Bofao festival had been revived. He said his family had been arranging the event in Hunza for decades. The governor announced that the Bofao festival would be celebrated officially from next year. He also inaugurated the tree plantation campaign by planting a sapling.

LOWARI TOP: Risking life and limb as well as their reputation, competitors were power sliding through snow on Lowari Top at the elevation of 10,230 feet. However, few probably had a chance to take in the breathtaking sights and sounds as they were traveling through the area at breakneck speeds.

For the first time, a snow jeep rally was held in Upper Dir and the Lowari Top area of Chitral. The rally covered a distance of 21 kilometres around the area and passed through the Lowari Tunnel only to come back to the old mountainous road close to the tunnel on the Dir side. As many as 60 drivers from the Frontier 4x4 Club, representing Peshawar, Chitral and Dir, peeled away from the start line and raced to the finish. Asir Khan of the club braved the slippery snow and emerged victorious, while Shah Nawaz took second position. Rahatullah Khan rounded off the top three.

Yasir told The Express Tribune despite many obstacles, he kept the jeep pointing in the right direction on the traction-deprived surface and won. Frontier 4x4 Club President Babar Khan admitted there were perils and fears, but the race concluded without incident. He hailed the event as a success. The race was organised by Tourism Cooperation Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan Army with the aim to promote tourism in the area. A large number of petrol heads turned up at Lowari Top to enjoy the event, while students from various K-P universities had set up stalls to display handicrafts. MNA Sahibzada Tariqullah, Malakand Division DIG Azad Khan, Pankot

Stakeholders' input: PTDC seeks feedback on tourism policy

ExpressTribune, February 29, 2016

PTDC working on new national tourism policy

PakistanToday, February 28, 2016

Orange Line blues: 'Govt must ensure safety of heritage sites'

ExpressTribune, February 28, 2016

Exhibition: Pakistan and Turkey seen through one lens

ExpressTribune, February 27, 2016

Commander Brigadier Amir, Upper Dir nazim Fasihullah Khan, Upper Dir DC Zakauallah Khattak and other civil and military officers saw the battle unfold.

Malakand Army Division General Officer Commanding Major General Nadir Khan briefed the audience and said Lowari Top was a picturesque area which needed the proper attention of the government. "The rally aimed to promote this snow-covered area and provide an opportunity for entertainment to the people" said the general. He added the snow festival would be held every year. Start Your Engines: Jeep rally to be held in Chitral today "The event is a sign of peace and success for Dir, Chitral – for the whole world." Lowari Top was opened for travel this year and the event will attract more tourists from across the world in the coming future. Prizes were distributed among the top finishers by the military officers present.

ISLAMABAD: With the help of tourism stakeholders, Pakistan Tourism Development Cooperation (PTDC) is working to introduce a new national tourism policy. According to an official of PTDC, the corporation is consulting the Alpine Club of Pakistan, Adventure Foundation of Pakistan, Travel Agents Association of Pakistan and Pakistan Association of Tour Operators to formulate the new policy to attract tourists from within and outside the country.

With the help of tourism stakeholders, the Pakistan Tourism Development Cooperation (PTDC) is working to introduce a new national tourism policy. The PTDC was getting feedback from the tourism industry stakeholders to get input on the proposed national tourism policy and after effects of devolution of tourism to provinces and the problems being faced by the tourism industry currently and their solutions, said an official of PTDC.

The Alpine Club of Pakistan president, Travel Agents Association of Pakistan (TAAP), Adventure Foundation of Pakistan (AFP), Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO) were being consulted to formulate the new policy. He added that as per vision of prime minister of Pakistan, the PTDC was struggling hard to promote tourism within the country and abroad to create a tourist friendly image of Pakistan all over the world.

LAHORE: The government should ensure the safety of historical monuments during the construction of the Orange Line Metro Train project, several civil society members said on Saturday. They were addressing a press conference near Chaurburi. "It is about maintaining the dignity and spirit of Lahore," said Imrana Tiwana, the Lahore Bachao Tehreek convener. She said the government should use tunnel technology. "The government should revert to the original plan under which a 7.1 kilometre section falling in densely populated areas was to be underground," she said.

Hussain Naqi, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan director, said that it was important to realise that the civil society was not opposed to a public transport system. "The government is presenting us as people opposed to development. This is not the case. The government should use the original plan that provided for an underground track to be laid using tunnel technology from Multan Road to the city railway station," he said. He said that underground railway systems were in use for public transport in many cities across the world. "People do not visit Lahore for taking a ride on the metro bus. Most of them come here to visit historical monuments. The construction of the train is ruining the very heritage sites Lahore is famous for. The authorities should utilise more funds to renovate these monuments," he said. Actor Samia Mumtaz said Lahoris should be proud of the historic monuments. "Their destruction is not necessary for development. [The LDA] is ignoring history," she said.

Farida Shaheed, the Shirkat Gah executive director, said that the construction for the metro train violated two important international treaties. "People have a right to protect their lifestyle and cultural rights. Pakistan needs to think carefully about its international commitments," she said. Afzal Sahir said that the project had been started in view of the upcoming election. "There is no serious thought for the future involved in the project. The compensation came after protests," Sahir said. "We want to make it very clear that all is not lost yet. However, it will be if this project continues," said Kamil Khan Mumtaz, the Lahore Conservation Society (LCS) president. He said that the project had been poorly planned. "It is the result of bad advice being given to the chief minister by Lahore Development Authority officials, who are profiting from the acquisitions," he said.

He said that tunnel-boring technology was the way forward. He said that 17 tunnel boring machines were working in New Delhi currently to extend the mass transit system. The LCS maintains that construction of the elevated track for the Orange Train will harm 16 protected heritage monuments, in addition to other historical buildings not listed by the government.

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition by eminent Turkish photographer Erkut Onart features photographs of Turkey and Pakistan side by side – chronicling the similarities between the two countries. The exhibition, 'Turkey and Pakistan: Brother Countries', went on display at Satrang Gallery on Friday. Photographs of Istanbul's streets, the Blue Mosque, Spice Bazaar, Leander Tower, the Dervish ceremony, Amasya and many other beautiful Turkish sights, along with various delicacies of Turkish cuisine, line up the walls of the gallery; giving it a Turkish aura. The photographs capturing the essence of Pakistan include the Badshahi Masjid, Shish Mahal Lahore, Mohatta Palace, Wagah Border, Truck Art, Street Musicians, Rickshaws, Henna Art and other picturesque sights. Onart, the mastermind behind the exhibition, has displayed his work in 50 countries across the globe. Born in 1937 in Ankara, he started photography at the age of 11. After graduating from college, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and travelled across the world to photograph. His photographs have been exhibited in Netherlands, Belgium, Istanbul, Africa, Middle East Countries, Brazil, Pakistan and other nations.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, Onart said that he loved coming to Pakistan. "I've been here several times and being a photographer, I love to capture the beauty of this country. I feel like it

Gwadar book festival

The DailyTimes, February 26, 2016

Govt promoting tourism

Thefrontierpost, February 25, 2016

Spring sports festival held in Bara

Dawn News, February 25, 2016

3rd Children's Literature Festival kicks off tomorrow

The News, February 25, 2016

has a lot of similarities with Turkey and I love preserving them with my camera," he said.

He further said that as a photographer he enjoyed going beyond Islamabad and capturing the beauty of Pakistan. "It is a very colourful country with great diversity in cultures that looks brilliant in photographs. Every time I visit, I experience and see new things and it is worth making the trip," he said. Ambassador of Turkey, Babur Girgin said that the exhibition was fascinating because it was interesting to compare the two countries through the eyes of the same artist. "There are many aspects that are common to the two brotherly countries reflected in the exhibition; the mosques and the Sufi tradition are similar but also instances of daily life, such as, the spice merchants and street artists that exist in both countries," he added. Asma Rashid Khan, director of Satrang Gallery, said that international cooperation in the field of art was important as art and culture build the best bridges between people and countries. "This exhibition of photographs of Pakistan and Turkey is part of our initiative to promote understanding and cultural diplomacy," she said. Ambassador Girgin thanked Satrang Gallery for hosting such a beautiful exhibition and the photographer for making his beautiful photographs available for the exhibition.

I would like to draw the attention of the authorities concerned towards the Gwadar's book festival that was held from February 11 to February 13, 2016. No doubt, the organisation of this book festival was a positive development in Gwadar. It was reported by the BBC News, that it proved to be a big festival for the people of Balochistan. Unfortunately, the Pakistani media did not give importance to this event. Our media failed to play its due role in highlighting the event.

Nobody is aware that such a big event was held in Gwadar. Why did the media ignore this festival? Apart from this, quite recently the Lahore Literary Festival (LLF) was organised at a local hotel in Lahore and it was covered by all the mainstream media. Therefore, I would like to suggest to the concerned authorities that they should not ignore such events that can bring a positive change in society. The media should also support these activities by giving full coverage to such events.

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Tourism, Abdul Munim Khan has said that the government has taken practical steps for the development of tourism in the province. He was talking to a delegation of District Shangla at his office on Wednesday. He said that that unregistered hotels, motels, guest houses, restaurants, travel agencies, tour operators, tourist guiders and owner of rent-a-car has already been informed for renewal of their license before March 1, 2016, and if fail in fine will be imposed on them besides sealing of their hotels, motels, tourist guiders centers etc. He said that about 60 thousand hotels are available in the province and majority of them have no registration. Yakh Tangi District Shangla has been declared a tourist spot and he had directed the Managing Director Tourism to present their report so as to start work for implementation. He said that a tourist centre will also be established at the place of Landaki for information of the tourists.

LANDI KOTAL: A daylong spring sports festival was organised in Bara on Wednesday to mark the return of peace to the region and repatriation of displaced families to their respective localities. Afridiyan Welfare Foundation (AWF) in collaboration with the security forces organised the event.

Hundreds of local residents, schoolchildren and volunteers of AWF along with security officials while holding banners inscribed with slogans in praise of restoration of peace, took out a procession from main Bara bazaar and later converged at FC ground. Various sporting events like tug-of-war, volleyball and athletics were organised for local players who took keen interest in the games.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig Imdad Hussain Shah and Political Agent Khalid Mehmud said lasting peace had been established in Bara after knocking out terrorists from their hideouts and bases. They said security forces rendered great sacrifices for cleansing Bara of all the undesirable elements and the successful culmination of Khyber One Operation had enabled nearly 90,000 displaced families to come back to their homes. They said efforts were afoot to restore the lost glory of Bara bazaar and provide opportunities of decent and honorable earnings for local traders.

KARACHI: The third Children's Literature Festival (CLF) will take place at the Dawood Public School between February 26 and 28, announced Baela Raza Jamil, the trustee/advisor for Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), in a crowded press conference at the Karachi Press Club on Wednesday. She said reviewing the successes of the previous CLFs being held since 2011, a varied collection of actors, performers, renowned writers and education experts were eagerly waiting to attend the festival and contribute to the lifelong learning of our children. Jamil said the three-day festival will be structured around numerous interactive sessions, programmes, workshops and performances throughout the day for not just the children, but also teachers and parents.

"Like before, the last day of the festival will be dedicated to teachers and will be called the 6th Teachers' Literature Festival," she said. "The CLF will create a platform for all stakeholders in the system to learn and discuss the importance of creativity and joy for reading for our children." She opined that learning for children was not restricted to course books. In fact, she said, learning for children came primarily from their experiences and close observation of their surroundings. "This is why the CLF is an inclusive social movement which aims to building critical thinking among the young people," she remarked. "This time, the CLF will also host an award winning author and storyteller from Canada, Rukhsana Khan, with help from the Canadian High Commission."

Also speaking on the occasion, the CEO of Dawood Public School said she was proud to host the CLF and the school's collaboration with the festival reflected the institution's commitment to promote education across all strata of society. Asfandiyar Khan, an office bearer of the Karachi Youth Initiative (KYI), said it would be a wonderful opportunity for children to be able to learn how to express themselves freely. He said institutions like the CLF continue to exist emphasizes the need to continue investing in our children, who were our future.

Gorakh hill station to be made a modern tourism place: Sharmila

Onlineindus, February 25, 2016

Historical Sibi festival begins

Ajj News, February 25, 2016

'Ancient Hindu temple in Peshawar being secretly demolished'

The Nation, February 24, 2016

Historical Sultan Ibrahim tomb damaged during rehabilitation work

Dawn News, February 24, 2016

KARACHI: The provincial Minister of culture and tourism, Sharmila Farooqi has said that Gorakh hill to be made a modern place.

As per details, the chairmen of Gorakh hill Development Authority, Sardar Raruque Ahmed on Thursday has presided the meeting of Board of Governance of Gorakh Hills Development Authority. On the occasion, vice chairperson of authorities and Provincial Minister of culture and tourism, Sharmila Farooqi, secretary culture and tourism, Niaz Abbasi, secretary development and management, Altaf Ahmed Bijarani, managing director of Sindh Tourism corporation, Nazir Ahmed Soomro, director general of Gorakh hills development authority, Nazeer Hussain Jamali, PMA Dr Sajeela Laghari, Sardar Muhammad Bozdar, Projector director Ghulzar Ahmed Khushk including others were present. While briefing, DG Gorakh hill development authority told the meeting that development project were delayed due to lack of funds. He said that development and technical committee has approved 250 crore for development project. He further added that the development project in which, chair lift, circuit house, hospital, mosque and Park would be started. The meeting discussed various development projects, while approving to regularize all employees working on contract basis (grade one to fifteen), letter sent to CM in this regard.

SIBI: Governor Balochistan Mohammad Khan Achakzai inaugurated the historical Sibi festival on Thursday.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the governor said the Sibi festival generated economic activities and was also a source of entertainment for the people of the province. He lauded security forces for rendering sacrifices for restoration of peace in the province. The governor said that China and some other countries wanted to invest in livestock sector of Balochistan which would benefit the people of the province.

An ancient Hindu temple in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar is being secretly demolished so that a commercial plaza can come up in its place, local residents have alleged. The temple at Karimpura in Peshawar's old quarters is being demolished in the name of repairs, residents of the area said. The process began 10 days ago and is going on without any hindrance, they said. "It is a pity that a criminal act of pulling down a heritage structure has been launched. The building is being knocked down clandestinely to erect a commercial plaza on the site," an unnamed resident was quoted as saying by PTI.

"There is no action from any of the government departments which are supposed to protect such buildings," the resident said. Residents questioned the silence of government departments on the episode. They also deplored the inaction of authorities. There has been no action by the Evacuee Trust Property Board and Auqaf Department, which deal with non-Muslim properties, and the Archaeology Department.

Four organisations working to protect cultural heritage have urged the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government to save the temple. The Sarhad Conservation Network, Frontier Heritage Trust, Institute of Architects Pakistan and Karwan Jirga said in a statement on Tuesday the demolition of the temple at Mohallah Wangri Garan was a reminder of how menacing and strong the market forces had become everywhere, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The organisations hoped the provincial government would stop flagrant negligence and violation by authorities instead of being reduced to a silent spectator. The bodies recalled the Peshawar's deputy commissioner's announcement that there would be a blanket application of Section 144 to all heritage sites in the walled city and hoped the temple could be the first test case of conservation for the heritage committee.

THATTA: A team of archaeologists, heritage lovers, historians and other experts will be set up soon to hold an inquiry into the alleged mishandling of the restoration and rehabilitation of the 424-year-old tomb of Mir Sultan Ibrahim (1556-1592 AD) — a ruler of the Turkhan dynasty — at the Makli necropolis, archaeology director Qasim Ali Qasim said while speaking to Dawn on Tuesday.

"It would be a comprehensive probe covering all aspects of the alleged mishandling of the monument by unqualified professionals, unskilled labour and substandard material that has led to damage to the tomb," he said. Mr Qasim acknowledged receipt of a letter on Feb 16 from former culture secretary Hameed Akhund, who heads the Endowment Fund Trust for Preservation of Heritage of Sindh, and said it served to timely apprise the department of the alleged damage to the site. An inquiry team was promptly set up and it would hopefully start its job very soon, he said. He said that after coming to know about the concern expressed by experts and history aficionados, a Unesco team visited the site on Feb 20 and was preparing its report. An amount of \$260,000 was earmarked out of the 'Ambassador's Fund for Culture Preservation' (AFCP) and the launch of this first heritage preservation project in Sindh was held on Sept 16, 2014.

The project was inaugurated by the then US Ambassador, Richard G. Olson, at the ceremony which was also attended by US Consul General at Karachi Brian Heath, Sindh Minister for Culture Sharmila Farooqi and Yasmeen Lari of the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan, as well as senior officials of relevant departments and members of civil society organisations. Meanwhile, Mr Akhund confirmed that the archaeology department in response to his letter acknowledged that the dome of the Sultan Ibrahim tomb had been damaged by M/s Heritage Foundation. He said that Archaeology Director Qasim Ali Qasim in his official communication dated Feb 16 also informed him that necessary action to fix responsibility was under way and that the matter had been reported to the minister for culture, as well as the secretary and the adviser to the chief minister.

Mr Akhund alleged that the restoration and rehabilitation work had been carried out by unskilled labour and unqualified professions. He said the mishandling and inappropriate methods employed by them caused cracks in the dome. Its outer layers also peeled off, he added. The Heritage Foundation, he claimed, did not even produce its restoration and rehabilitation plan to the culture or archaeology department. Other historians and experts including Dr Mohammad Ali Manjhi, Sadiq

Fate of historical assets hangs in balance

The Nation, February 24, 2016

CM orders removal of encroachments from heritage buildings

Pakistan Today, February 24, 2016

Lakho, Ahmed Memon, Allah Juriyo Burfat and Ramzan Memon also expressed their concern over the damage caused to the monument. Heritage Foundation focal person Yasmeen Lari could not be approached for her comment despite repeated attempts by this reporter.

LAHORE: Two top heritage assets of the city face threat of being thrown out of the list of International monuments if government failed to satisfy the Unesco on the question it followed due process of local and international law in the construction of mega Orange Line Metro Train project.

The two highly valuable historic and cultural assets – Shalimar Gardens and Lahore Fort – fall in the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) list of international heritage. For retention or deletion from the world list, the fate of the both is intertwined so if one is scraped from the list the other would automatically be out.

In the 27.1kms track of Metro train, 11 sites of known historical value have been marked by the civil society as facing danger of losing century-old beauty and structural impact as the Metro train would whisk them much closer to 200-ft mandatory space in between. Shalimar is one of them where the distance has been measured much short of compulsory 200ft distance.

On the instance of civil societies in the city, the Unesco took note of the impending threat to the heritage, and twice wrote to the federal government for strictly following the law and till that construction of the project may be stopped. A two-member Mission from Unesco comprising Junhi Han Program Specialist, WHC Unesco and Elena Agrini Conservationist WHC Unesco has also visited the city where it met the Shahbaz Sharif to convey the reservations in addition to getting briefing on the project from the officials. The team had also inspected route and location of the historical sites. The team was also given Heritage Impact Assessment and other technical research of the project to show what safety steps towards protecting Shalimar Gardens had been taken.

However, Unesco is still waiting from the government the results of HIA as well as other relevant details of the project that would be discussed with the advisers of World Heritage Committee at a meeting due to be held in July. The Unesco concerns over loss to international heritage on the way of Metro Train will now be satisfied only if the Punjab government would prove that due process of law has been followed in the construction.

Sources privy to the matter say that so far no further documents have been given to the world body which wants the project to be carried out after meeting demands of the international covenants on the subject. Work on the project is going on in full swing while no precise statement or point of view has been given by the government to tell it has addressed concerns of the Unesco which has given it a go-ahead. Nor any such has come from the other side which shows the matter is still unresolved.

In this picture the government holds support for continuing with the project from Punjab Assembly which debated the Metro Train after the Opposition had raised objections to the loss of historical beauty of the sites, financial loss to the property owners, re-appropriation of funds from other projects to Metro train. Although Treasury and the Opposition did not hold discussion on the Metro in ideally pleasant atmosphere yet the government carried through its standpoint in the House after giving solid positive assurance on all points at issue.

Despite all that the fate of the two grand historical assets is hanging in the balance pending decision by Unesco. Civil society activist Imrana Tiwana said the government is only required to follow call of the International Antiquities Special Premises and Void Convention, and local law on Special Premises 1986 and Antiquities 1975 which protected areas which have cultural and visual value by keeping such like projects at minimum distance of 200ft. She accused the Punjab government of even preparing Heritage Impact Assessment report which he added, was done just few weeks before arrival of the Unesco team. Imrana believed that the team wanted more material from the government so that the Unesco could take up the matter with two international bodies established for globally preserving monuments, heritage and culture, Icomos and icrom, in at a meeting Paris following which decide it will decide whether law and covenants have been followed in the Metro route.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has directed the culture department to coordinate with district and divisional administration to remove encroachments around the heritage buildings and restore them in their actual glory for public.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of culture department at the CM House on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Culture Sharmila Faruqi, Principal Secretary to CM Alamuddin Bullo, Additional Chief Secretary (Dev) Mohammad Waseem, Secretary Culture & Tourism Niaz Abbasi, Secretary Finance Sohail Rajput and others.

The chief minister said that he personally witnessed encroachments and illegal occupations along and around the cultural monuments. "There is massive encroachment at Shahjehan Mosque Thatta, near Masoom Shah's Minar Sukkur, Chowkundi graveyard, Lakhian Jo Daro, Makli, Pacca Qila Hyderabad and other areas," he said and directed his Principal Secretary Alamuddin Bullo to talk to divisional and district administrations to cooperate with culture department in removing encroachments from the heritages.

Giving presentation to the chief minister, Sharmila Faruqi said that 11 schemes would be completed by the end of June 2016. These schemes include preservation of Chitori Graveyard at Mirpurkhas, Khairpur State Museum, Sindhi Cultural Village Karachi, Old Mukhtiarkar Building Shikarpur, Cultural Complex Rani Kot, rehabilitation of wooden roof of Shahi Bazaar Shikarpur, construction of motel at Baqar Lake, conservation of Thatta and Karachi Press Club Buildings, construction of visitors facility at Malki, conversion of zoo garden into Natural Science Museum Tando Mohammad Khan and establishment of Tourist Information Centre at divisional headquarters.

First ever social sciences expo of Asia begins

Pakistan Today, February 24, 2016

Secretary Culture Niaz Abbasi gave details of the schemes near completion and said that Chitor graveyard Mirpurkhas was approved in 2014-15 for Rs 55.11 million. Under this scheme, conservation of 12 tombs was being carried out, he said, adding that 99 per cent work on this project had been completed. Talking about Khairpur Museum, Abbasi said that the conservation of the building was being made for Rs 41.408 million and 90 percent work had been completed.

Sharmila Faruqi said that she had started construction of Sindhi Cultural Village at National Museum Karachi for Rs 30 million. Under the scheme, Landhis (wooden house/structure), Chaunra (Thari straw houses) and construction of bazaar with traditional material and design with raised platform, bamboo cladding, brick flooring and katcha ghar have almost been completed. "The chief minister said that he would love to inaugurate this cultural village. It would help to organise cultural event there." The secretary culture said that restoration of old Mukhtiarkar building Shikarpur had been initiated for Rs 44.61 million. Under the scheme, conservation of main building, servant quarters, kitchen and construction of toilet and compound wall will be carried out. It was a 100-year old building and might be converted into a club, he added. He said he had constituted district heritage committee under concerned deputy commissioners. The committee would look after the restored buildings, visit the buildings to stop encroachments, maintain directory of the building means areas, measurement, rooms, toilets, doors-quality of wood and such other items. The chief minister directed all the deputy commissioners to comply with the instructions. Minister Culture Sharmila Faruqi said that a scheme of rehabilitation of wooden roof of Shahi Bazaar Shikarpur had been launched for Rs 54.7 million. "This bazaar is about one kilometer long and has wooden roof. In the roof teak wood has been used. It is about 100-year old. People locally call it as 'dhak' (covered) bazaar," she said. On this, the chief minister directed her to rehabilitate old shops and cover the open drain running along the bazaar. "You can generate some funds from the shopkeepers," he suggested. Briefing about cultural complex at Rani Kot, the secretary culture said that it was an Rs 32 million scheme to construct compound wall, sheds, water tank and drinking water arrangements. It is also near completion. The project will turn to be a good facility for the visitors.

The first ever two-day, Asian Social Sciences Expo (ASSE) commenced at Pak-China Friendship Centre Islamabad on Wednesday with an aim to educate masses about the growth prospects and impact of social sciences on society.

The event was organized by Inter University Consortium for Promotion in collaboration with mass com. Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Cultural Heritage, Senator Pervaiz Rasheed inaugurated the expo while Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani graced the parliamentary forum as a chief guest. The book fair, organized by National Book Foundation (NBF) was inaugurated by Irfan Siddiqui, who was also a chief guest on the book launching ceremony written by Atta ul Haq Qasmi.

The main activities of the expo included two days international conference, parliamentary forum, scholars' forum, diplomats' forum, book festival, culture pavilions expo, distribution of social sciences awards, workshops for university faculty students, career counseling sessions etc. A great number of organizations and universities displayed their stalls related to their activities and programs. In order to encourage the participation of youth, various activities including workshops and competitions were also arranged.

A great event of producing the largest water colour painting of the world was held, where Pakistani artists along with Atanur Dogan, Canadian based president of the international water colour society prepared the painting. The previous world record was of 45 feet long painting in Turkey while here in Pakistani artists prepared 60 meter long painting depicting Pakistani culture. The Inter-University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences (IUCPSS) Spokesman said that this expo was organized with alliance of more than 30 universities of the country aiming to celebrate 2016 as the year of social sciences. He said through this mega activity, Pakistani universities, academicians, policymakers, research and development organizations, parliamentarians, government departments and civil society have joined hands to strengthen social sciences in Pakistan.

Govt urged to save ancient temple

Daily News, February 24, 2016

PESHAWAR: Four organisations working for protection of cultural heritage have urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to save an ancient Hindu temple which is being demolished to pave way for construction of a commercial plaza. The Sarhad Conservation Network, Frontier Heritage Trust, Institute of Architects Pakistan and Karwan Jirga pointed out in a press release here on Tuesday that the demolition of the ancient temple situated at Mohallah Wangri Garan near Ghanta Ghar inside the Peshawar's walled city was a reminder of how menacing and strong the market forces had become everywhere. The organisations hoped that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would stop flagrant negligence and violation by the relevant department(s) instead of being reduced to a silent spectator to the demolition of the ancient temple.

The bodies recalled that the Peshawar's deputy commissioner had announced recently a blanket application of section 144 to all heritage sites in the walled city. They hoped that the temple could be the first test case of conservation for the heritage committee. The pro-culture heritage bodies said the archeology department should facilitate the local government representatives to stop the violation as the Auqaf property didn't fall under its jurisdiction.

KP to ensure cultural heritage conservation

Daily Times, February 23, 2016

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervaz Khattak has ordered a comprehensive plan for the preservation and rehabilitation of cultural heritage of the province.

He has said preservation of cultural heritage was among the top priority of the provincial government. He was presiding over a meeting convened in this regard. Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Information, Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, MPA Shaukat Yousafzai, District Nazim Arbab Muhammad Asim and Chairman Institute of Architects, attended the meeting. The chief minister told the meeting that the KP government was serious in conservation and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage. He called for devising short-, medium- and long-term plans for the preservation of the cultural heritage within two weeks. Khattak stressed the need of efficient utilisation of the

The lost Jewish history of Rawalpindi

Express Tribune, February 23, 2016

available resources for the purpose.

While roaming the streets of Babu Mohallah, one singles out this old yellow building with its distinct features. The abundance of old and new buildings of Nishtar Street fails to overshadow the tall, three story building with peculiar texture and strong colonial features. What makes this old yellowish facade even more intriguing is the Star of David's situated on its top that have survived almost a century despite the predisposed hatred and revulsion. The building, former coal centre and the present Rehman Manzil, is the only intact Jewish architecture in Rawalpindi.

Rawalpindi, a 1000 BC historical city, General Headquarters of Pakistan Army and the twin city of Islamabad has a lot more to tell than its bureaucratic ties and military tales. Babu Mohallah is one of the oldest neighbourhoods and business hubs of the city. Known today as Asia's leading car parts market, its rich and diverse cultural heritage makes it deceptively fascinating. On one side stands the grand Bohra Mosque with a thriving Bohra community. Right next to it you'll find an old Victorian church and a Hindu temple right in the back street. The Jewish building on Nishtar Street lies in the middle.

Compared to other colonial and pre-partition buildings in the area, the exterior of this building indicates that it has been maintained. Along with the David stars that smile proudly at onlookers, the building is adorned with bat wings (symbolising good luck) along with the iconic Masonic compass symbols embellishing the doors. The building resembles a synagogue in India that was constructed by the Jews from Iraq and Iran in the late 1800s. The affluence and grandeur of a wealthy class is quite marked and parallel in the two infrastructures.

The history of Jews in Rawalpindi dates back to 1839 when many Jewish families from Mashhad fled to save themselves from the persecutions and settled in various parts of subcontinent including Peshawar and Rawalpindi. Since they were traders, Babu Mohallah (at that time a business centre) in a location close to the railway station, urged them to settle within this area. According to 1901 census and Rawalpindi Gazette, Mashhadi Jews were a thriving tribe of Rawalpindi. However, after partition, many families migrated to Bombay and the rest left gradually in the late 60s. At present, the word 'Jews' is only limited to an old British administrative gazette in TMA building opposite Gordon College which is not open to the general public and academics. This stunning building, once used as a synagogue and assembly hall, is now in shambles. It is occupied by three families who refuse to talk to visitors and discourage them looking inside. The locals say this area used to comprise of other such buildings; they were either demolished or renovated to curb the identity and with the passage of time new plazas and multi-story residential buildings took their place. A similar building still exists in Ahata Mitho Khan which used to have the same carvings and David stars but was recently renovated and converted into a spare part market – Khan Market.

Despite some articles on the Jews that reside in Karachi and a slight mention of Mashhadi Jews, there's apparently no information on Rawalpindi Jews, their life styles and worship. The area, being in close proximity to the GHQ and religious sites, is also quite socially sensitive. The locals are resilient in talking about the community – some because of hatred, and some because of fear. This act of defiance doesn't just lie among the locals, but is also rooted within the government. While wandering among the streets, you will be stopped and questioned by officials. The locals also resist talking about the history and shed very limited information. However, an old resident who was born in the neighbourhood in the late 30s said something astonishing, "There were Jews living in the city till late 90's. Although the family moved to some other city, they still come and visit these streets."

Most of us are practically unaware of the fact that Jews were once an active part of our community and even now continue to reside in this country. In 2013, the electoral list exhibited an astonishing number of 809 people who declared themselves as Jews. Pakistan, a non-Arab country that was never technically in war against the Jewish state, is one of its staunch opponents. There are a number of Jewish families living in Tel Aviv who distinguish themselves as Pakistani. Despite undeclared defense ties and cooperation, our hostility towards the Jews is virulent; our dislike is evident in just our attitude towards their infrastructure (which is just as integral to our own history). These buildings are rich with history, lineage and culture. We have a duty to preserve it for generations to follow rather than treating them the way we treat our minorities, as a British journalist aptly put it, "To be a Jew is to be a scapegoat – as unnerving an experience in Pakistan."

Festival of Life at SKMCH from 28th

The Nation February 23, 2016

LAHORE: The entrepreneurial women behind the Friends of Shaukat Khanum announce the fourth edition of the much anticipated Festival of Life in collaboration with Pakistan's leading fashion and entertainment fraternity, says a press release.

An all-day carnival for families, the Festival of Life will be held at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital on February 28, 2016 from 12 to 5pm. Speaking about the very ethos of the Festival of Life, the inspirational cancer survivor and President of the Friends of Shaukat Khanum, Bina Chaudhry has said: "Reaching out to those in need is happiness. Generosity is love. It's not about how much you give it's about how much you open your heart. Then the cycle goes on." Sponsored by UBL and Royal Fans and with Pepsi and Gourmet as event partners, the fourth Festival of Life promises to be a full day of family fun, fashion, festivities and compassion across all age groups, for a great cause.

As per the 2013, 2014 and the 2015 iterations of the Festival, the event will include an exciting PFDC fashion lounge with clothes donated from over 50 leading designers and retail brands across Pakistan with event attendees able to purchase these top brands at a 50 % discount. Fashion labels available include HSY, NidaAzwer, Sublime by Sara, Karma, Mahgul, SaniaMaskatiya, Sana Safinaz, Origins, Maria B, Beech Tree, Studio S by SeherTareen, Working Woman, FarazManan, Asifa& Nabeel along with many more. Additionally, the Festival will feature a food court, a festive play area for children by Confetti, celebrity appearances, live musical performances and a special raffle with dozens of exciting prizes to be won among which is a grand

US, Pak musicians blend musical traditions

The Nation, February 23, 2016

Improved KKH boosts farm produce, tourism

Daily Times February 23, 2016

raffle prize of an all expenses Umra package for two people, donated generously by Daewoo Travels & Tours.

All proceeds raised from the Festival will be utilised for the treatment of underprivileged patients suffering from cancer at the hospital. Indeed last year's fund raising went towards the construction of the now fully functional second Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Peshawar.

ISLAMABAD: The Ari Roland Jazz Quartet from the United States joined local musicians for a performance blending American jazz and Pakistani classical music at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts. A US embassy press statement issued yesterday said that approximately 450 people attended the event, which was organised by the US embassy in partnership with the Foundation for Arts, Culture and Education. "We were extraordinarily inspired by the Pakistani classical musicians.

Their technique is simply astounding, and yet everything they play is filled with emotion and storytelling," Quartet leader Ari Roland said. "It was an experience we'll never forget, and I hope we can welcome them in New York someday in the same way. The concert was part of the Ari Roland Jazz Quartet's 12-day visit to Pakistan highlighting American music and culture during the US Black History Month.

During their tour, the quartet will perform concerts, present workshops, and play alongside Pakistani musicians in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. "Jazz is broad in its appeal, but one of the most purely American art forms. It developed in the southern United States in the early 20th Century when African American musicians merged European and African musical influences. The result: a new, uniquely American sound," said American Ambassador David Hale.

"It has a long history of integrating different musical styles, and so is the ideal art form to connect individuals and communities across cultures. The US embassy provides over Rs 100 million annually in support of arts programming in Pakistan. Each year, dozens of Pakistani musicians participate in programs like the Pakistani Showcase at South-by-Southwest Music Festival, the Dosti Music Project, Daniel Pearl World Music Days, and Music Mela with American government support.

KARACHI: The improvement of the Karakoram Highway, part of \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has greatly boosted transportation of farm produce and tourism in the north of Pakistan, said top executives of China Communications Construction Company Ltd (CCCC) that has assisted the renovation.

The highway, which used to be open for only four months every year, runs through the year now, said an article appeared in Beijing based prominent English newspaper China Daily. "The improved road has enhanced the economic ties between China and Pakistan. It is a road leading to abundant wealth and prosperity for the Pakistani people," said Sun Ziyu, vice president of CCCC, a major Chinese State-owned enterprise principally engaged in the design and construction of transportation infrastructure. "A smooth road plays an important role in China's investment in agriculture, infrastructure and energy in Pakistan.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a key hub along the Belt and Road Initiative since it connects the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road," said Sun. The Karakoram Highway is the northern section of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that connects Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan to China's northwestern Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region via a vast network of highways and railways. The 1,224-kilometer Karakoram Highway is one of the highest paved international roads in the world. It connects Xinjiang of China and Gilgit-Baltistan of Pakistan across the Karakoram mountain range at a height of 4,693 metres from the sea level.

The construction of the highway started in 1960s with China's aid, and finished in 1979. It is the only land way to connect the north of Pakistan with the capital Islamabad and the southern coastal regions. It is also the only route on the land between China and Pakistan. CCCC took over the project to improve Karakoram Highway in 2006. The section to be improved, which measures 335 kilometers, was completed and reopened for use in September 2013. "The highway goes through an extremely complicated and dangerous region nicknamed the disaster museum," said Wang Jingchun, the overseas affairs manager of CCCC.

"Unpredictable catastrophes such as avalanches, landslides, rockfalls, earthquakes, cave-in incidents occur from time to time. When the construction first started in 1960s, more than 700 workers lost their lives in the process." In 2010, a large landslide hit the midsection of the Karakoram Highway, which formed a giant barrier lake of about 300 million cubic meters, cutting the road in half as it flooded 20 kilometers of the road. "Since the dam is on the upper stream of the river, it will flood all the villages in the downstream section if it breaks," said Chen Haipeng, deputy manager of China Road and Bridge Corp, which was responsible for the landslide dam solution. "We invited a lot of top Chinese engineers to the site to find a solution to the problem of the landslide dam," said Pang Ming, manager of the improvement project. "Eventually we had to realign the route by constructing five tunnels with a total length of seven kilometers through the mountains, which have been named the 'China-Pakistan Friendship Tunnels'." The improvement project has created more than 10,000 jobs for the Pakistani people, who have been trained in the process to serve as talents for future infrastructure construction in the region. It has linked more than 15 million people in the region with faster access to the outside world. Despite the technical challenges, the Chinese constructors have also helped the villages along the highway in building roads and bridges, maintaining power plants, diverting river routes, and building schools and orphanages. They have actively participated in the rescue and reconstruction work in times of natural disasters.

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak said on Monday that restoration and protection of historical heritage and sites was the top priority of the government. The Chief

Restoration Of Historical

Heritage, Sites Govt's Top Priority: CM

Brecorder ,February 22, 2016

Pakistan literary festivals tell a tale of cultural revival

ExpressTribune,February 22, 2016

Orange train won't affect historical sites: CM assures UNESCO

Dailymailnews February 22, 2016

Jeep rally held to promote tourism, healthy activities

Chitraltoday.,February 21, 2016

Minister (CM) directed the authorities concerned to present a comprehensive report of the projects within two weeks. Addressing a high-level meeting regarding restoration and rehabilitation of historical heritage of Peshawar, the CM directed the authorities concerned to submit reports of long, medium and short term projects within two weeks.

He said the government would utilize all available resources for restoration of the heritage and historical sites of the area. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister, Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani, Secretary Culture, Chairman Institute of Architects of Pakistan, District Nazim and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion. Muhammad Khalid, Chairman Institute of Architects informed the meeting about different historical buildings, sites, existing situation, restoration programs and economic situation of the province besides proposed reforms and its possible outcome.

LAHORE: Pakistan's literary scene is seeing a spirited revival, with packed festivals attracting tens of thousands in a rock concert-like atmosphere that defies security threats in a growing cultural renaissance. Events such as the raucous Lahore Literary Festival, held over the weekend, are reclaiming the 'cultural space' that has shrunk significantly in the conservative Muslim nation in recent years amid a raging militant insurgency.

The festivals — platforms for all forms of cultural expression, from architecture to film to food writing and feminism, as well as poetry and a recital by Central Asian musicians — are becoming a forum for exchange of liberal thought across the Muslim world. "It's great — one of the saddest things when you keep talking about Islam, the Muslims, the Ummah (the brotherhood of Muslim countries) is we don't know what their writers are, we don't know what their stories are," said Mohammed Hanif, whose internationally renowned 2008 novel "A Case of Exploding Mangoes" weaves a dark comedic narrative around the death of dictator Zia ul Haq. "And there is very little that gets translated from these languages. So it's great to have Palestinian writers, Egyptian writers," he told AFP at the Lahore festival.

The event began with an interview with veteran Indian actress Sharmila Tagore, who received a standing ovation after discussing her storied career in Bengali and Bollywood cinema. She hailed the cross-pollination of artists across the two rival countries' borders as an important part of "cultural diplomacy". Other top-billed speakers included outspoken Egyptian-American feminist Mona Eltahawy — whose vociferous denunciations of patriarchy and the politics of the hijab gave the festival some of its most energetic and controversial moments.

"When we talk about the Global South, when we talk about women of colour, the issues that we talk about... it's very important for me to be able to come to Lahore and say, 'Look, the issues that I have written about in my book are very similar to issues in Pakistan that feminists are fighting over'," she told AFP. "I want to talk about how as Muslim women we are reduced to what's on our heads and what's in between our legs and I want to talk about the sexual revolution."

Critics say successive Pakistani governments, influenced by the religious right, have done little to encourage artistic expression or have even curtailed it — including banning Lahore's spring kite-festival of Basant in 2007, which militants accuse of propagating Hindu thought. But overall levels of violence have fallen in the past two years as the army has stepped up its campaign in the Taliban's border tribal regions. The Lahore festival's fourth edition glossed over a last-minute change of venue due to security fears and brought together writers and artists from across the region. It came hard on the heels of a similar festival in Karachi and ahead of one in Islamabad. Organisers estimated around 100,000 people attended in an almost Glastonbury-like atmosphere. "The show must go on in spite of all the odds," the festival's CEO and founder Razi Ahmed told AFP. "It's important to reflect to the wider world that we're not a country which is closing its doors but we're opening space that is going to allow us avenues for free thought and critical inquiry."

Pakistani authors have garnered increasing international attention in recent years, particularly those writing in English like Hanif and Mohsin Hamid. His novel "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" — the fictional story of a disaffected Pakistani-American's journey towards extremism — became a hit film in 2012. Bringing together great minds: Literature festivals bridge gap between Karachi and Manchester Closer to home are newer works like Saba Imtiaz's "Karachi, You're Killing Me!" about a tenacious reporter looking for love as she works her beat covering extremist attacks — a sort of Pakistani Bridget Jones. Despite the cultural revival, the militant insurgency that has racked the country for more than a decade is still underway. But Lahore has long captured the imagination of writers — from Britain's Rudyard Kipling to revolutionary poets like Habib Jalib. Festival founder Ahmed said he hoped it would continue to do so. "Lahore is a global site of ideas," he told AFP. "We are trying to reclaim that."

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Shahbaz Sharif has on Sunday assured United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that Orange Line Metro Train project will not affect the historical sites on its route in Lahore.

Meeting the UNESCO delegation, Punjab CM said that Orange Line project was a revolutionary project to provide relief to the common man. He added that every necessary step has been taken to save the historical heritage. The delegation was led by World Heritage Center, UNESCO's program specialist.

CHITRAL: A jeep rally was held in the Chitral town to what the organizers said promote tourism and protect the youth from the curse of drug addiction. The jeep rally, which was organized by Chitral 4x4 Club Adventure, started from Chitral Bypass and after passing through Balach reached the same spot via the Chitral Scouts headquarters road. Sheikh Farooq Iqbal, who was leading the rally, later told the local media that the rally also aimed at exploring the hidden beauty of Chitral to the national and international tourists. He said they also wanted to engage the youth of Chitral in healthy activities. He said those interested in becoming members of the club can contact his office at the Chitral Bypass. As many as 15 4x4 vehicles took part in the rally. The founder of the club,

Two-day Lahore Literary Festival begins in Lahore

The News, February 20, 2016

All Set To Celebrate Mother Language Day At Lok Virsa Today

Pakobserver, February 17, 2016

UAF to hold spring festival from February 28

Brecorder, February 17, 2016

Lok Virsa to hold classical music mehfil talk

The News, February 17, 2016

Aftab Ahmed Shah, president Sangeen Ali Ghazi, vice-president Hambal mehboob, general secretary and finance secretary Farooq Iqbal and other participated in the rally.—Bashir Hussain Azad.

LAHORE: Prominent personalities associated with art and literature from both Pakistan and abroad gathered under one roof here, as insightful two-day Lahore Literary Festival (LLF) went underway here on Saturday. The LLF 2016 features panel discussions on books, performing arts, filmmaking besides movie shows, book launches and book stalls.

Stringent security measures have been put in place for the event, in the wake of security concerns earlier expressed by Lahore's City District Government. Bollywood's veteran star, Sharmila Tagore's presence in the festival is catching lots of attraction of the visitors. The actress is set to highlight her career in the film industry that spans over five decades during a session titled 'Safar'. Tagore on Wednesday crossed Wagah-Attari border on foot and was accorded a warm welcome upon her arrival.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Mother Languages Literature Festival, organised by Indus Cultural Forum (ICF) in collaboration with Lok Virsa and Strengthening Participatory Organisation (SPO) is starting here at Lok Virsa Saturday.

The two-day festival will also coincide with the International Mother Language Day on 21 February. The day is declared an international day by UNESCO. More than 150 writers from over 15 Pakistani mother languages will participate in the event as speakers and moderators. The festival aims at promoting Pakistan's linguistic and cultural diversity as an instrument of social harmony, peace and tolerance; and, encouraging reading culture in mother languages. The festival will be an occasion to showcase a wide range of literary works in these languages. The two-day festival has various attractions, which include an opening and closing ceremony, mother languages mushaira, multi-lingual music evening, simultaneous discussions and showing of various literary genres, launching of books in mother languages, screening of documentaries, films and multi-lingual book festival. Separate exhibition of original books in these languages and their translated versions in Urdu and English have been arranged. It includes activities to introduce young children to the potential of these languages.

The event will be a great networking, exchange and learning opportunity for the writers from all over the country. In addition to this, the festival will provide a space for informal interaction with writers and book signing. A mobile library will also be set up by USAID Funded Pakistan Reading Project, which is the lead sponsor of the festival. Indus Cultural Forum (ICF) is a non-profit group of volunteers based in Islamabad. It believes in promoting and celebrating Pakistan's linguistic and cultural diversity. As its name entails, ICF believes in all cultures associated with Indus civilization, from Kashmir to Karachi.

The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) is holding a spring festival from February 28 to March 10, 2016. The festival was meant for providing a platform to enhance the interaction among farming, researchers and industry that will help increase the agricultural productivity.

It will bring colourful events including agricultural exhibition, book fair, Kissan convention, fancy birds show; greyhound, milk competition; tent pegging, nutrition festival and many more. On February 28, 2016, milk competition will be kicked off at 1:00 pm at the Directorate of Farm. On February 29, book fair will begin at the Main Library at 10:00 am. Greyhound race will be held at 1:30 pm, fancy bird show at 3:00 pm and inauguration of agricultural exhibition at Expo Centre at 4:00 pm. On March 1, tent pegging will begin at 1:00 pm at tent pegging ground. On March 2, prize distribution of milk competition and greyhound will be arranged at 2:00 pm. On March 3-4, international seminar on role of agricultural engineering in smart agriculture will be held. On March 5, Kissan Convention will be held at 9:30 am whereas in the evening, prize distribution of tent pegging and agri exhibition is scheduled at 4:00 pm.

ISLAMABAD: Dr Fawzia Afzal Khan, a Professor visiting from New Jersey, USA will sing and talk on classical music at National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage Lok Virsa here on February 25. Dr Fawzia Khan is a scholar and a classical singer living in New Jersey, USA. She will sing 'Kafi' from Bulleh Shah in 'Raag Yaman Kalyan' and 'Khayal' in 'Raag Malkauns'. She will also screen four short samples from her ongoing documentary film project Siren Song Pakistani Women Singers. She received a development grant in 2012 from the National Endowment of the Humanities in the USA and is currently seeking production funding to complete the project which is a cultural history of Pakistan as told through the lives and music of its women singers. She will also discuss some of her research on this project entitled From the Melody Queen to the Muslim Madonna A Her story of Pakistan Through its Women Singers said the organizers. Fawzia Afzal Khan is Professor of English at Montclair State University and won University Distinguished Scholar Award 2009-10. She was Director of the Women and Gender Studies Program from 2009-15. She is author of two books of scholarly criticism Cultural Imperialism Genre and Ideology in the Indo English Novel (Penn State Press 1993) and A Critical Stage: The Role of Secular Alternative Theatre in Pakistan (Seagull Press 2005).

She is co editor of The Pre Occupation of Postcolonial Studies (Duke University Press 2000) and Editor of the best selling anthology Shattering the Stereotypes Muslim Women Speak Out (Interlink Books 2005). Her memoir Lahore with Love Growing Up With Girlfriends Pakistani Style was published by Syracuse University Press in 2010. Afzal Khan is a trained vocalist in North Indian Classical music a published playwright and poet and has worked as an actor and performer for Ajoka Theatre Troupe of Pakistan as well as with the experimental theatre collective Compagnie Faim de Siecle of which she was one of the founding members. Her one woman show Scheherazade Goes West and plays Sext of Saudade (co written with Annie Lanzillotto) and Jihad Against Violence (co written with Bina Sharif) have been published in TDR (The Drama review) and performed at universities and other venues in the USA as well as internationally.

Muree mania: Lack of public toilets irk tourists
Express Tribune, February 14, 2016

MURREE: As people from across the country, particularly the twin cities and from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa thronged Murree on Saturday to enjoy the weather after Thursday's snowfall, lack of restrooms proved turned out to be a problem for the tourists. "We enjoyed the beautiful sceneries with snow-covered hills and above all the mouth-watering food, but lack of space at hotels and rest-rooms did depress us," Shafqatullah, a student who had come from K-P said. All the restaurants and rest houses are filled to capacity during winter when tourists from across the country make their way to the hill station to enjoy the pleasant weather. But their number is somewhat less as compared to the number of visitors. On Saturday, great rush of tourists was witnessed at all the hotels, restaurants and cafes. The people had to wait for hours to get seats to have tea and meal. Businessmen and shopkeepers of Murree seemed to be happy with their thriving business.

Tourists were seen enjoying hot coffee and tea while walking on The Mall and at shopping centres. "I am enjoying the weather here," said Shahid Akram he said that his family was enjoying the weather but the lack of public toilets and hotel administration's refusal to let people use theirs marred the fun," he remarked. He urged the local administration to build rest rooms. Great rush of tourists was also seen at Pindi Point for enjoying chairlift ride.

Tourism: PTDC and NATCO ink MoU
Express Tribune, February 14, 2016

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and Northern Areas Transport Corporation Government of Pakistan (NATCO) Gilgit on Friday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate in promotion of tourism.

According to the MoU, PTDC and NATCO will be providing special discounts to the tourist on each other's behalf. PTDC will also arrange and provide group and special booking for the vehicles of NATCO, which would be responsible to arrange vehicles as per demand. NATCO will provide fare table and special booking schedule to PTDC for the purpose. NATCO will provide 10% concession on fare charges on the passenger booking. Tourists booked by NATCO will also be entitled for 10% discount on room charges of PTDC. In case of students, 50% concession would be allowed by the NATCO on total fare charges.

Hop on tourism dept bus and travel from Kalachi to Karachi
Express Tribune, February 13, 2016

KARACHI: Starting today, the Sindh culture department will be running a bus tour every week that will take city residents and the few tourists it attracts on a tour of landmarks mostly in District South. The Karachi City Tour, called 'Kalachi to Karachi Tour', was inaugurated by Sindh culture, tourism and antiquities adviser Sharmila Farooqi on Saturday. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (PITHM) after which the inaugural tour began.

History lessons

The tour started with a cup of tea at PITHM. Uniform-clad drivers stood in front of two Sindh Tourism and Development Corporation (STDC) buses, which were draped in posters advertising the new tour.

Snowfest Winter festival on the cards

The first landmark was Mohatta Palace whose director, Dr Nasrin Askari welcomed the participants. She gave a briefing on the textile exhibition, which is going on at the museum. With her passion for art and history spilling into her speech, Askari kept the audience engaged with her knowledge of antiquities. Later, the group headed to Flagstaff House where the curator, Omar Qureshi, spoke about its history and the belongings of Quaid-e-Azam, which were brought in from his Delhi and Mumbai residence. Finally, the group headed to National Museum of Pakistan where curator Muhammad Shah Bukhari briefed the media about the relics placed in the museum.

Tour 101

According to the STDC, the tour for general public will start from today (Sunday) and will take place every week. The bus will leave at 10am from PITHM, located near Abdullah Shah Ghazi's shrine.

The bus will leave the institute and head to Mohatta Palace, after passing through Abdullah Shah Ghazi's shrine and Jahangir Kothari Parade. It will also pass through Frere Hall, Flagstaff House, Quaid-e-Mausoleum, National Museum, Merewether Tower, Mai Kolachi Road and then end the tour at Dolmen Mall, Clifton. A regular trip will last four hours and will cost Rs1,700 per head, which will cover the cost of the welcome tea, the air-conditioned transportation, guided tour, entry tickets and lunch with bottled water.

Come one, come all

"People have shown overwhelming response and interest in our tour package," said STDC's tour promotion officer Muhammad Aslam. Even a school headmistress inquired about arranging a tour for over 500 students, he added.

STDC managing director Nazir Ahmed Soomro said, "We can arrange a day tour for even a single person if he contacts us tomorrow [Sunday] because our aim is to facilitate people rather than making money out of it." The tour guides hired by STDC are also experts in their field. Tour guide Vispi Billimoria told The Express Tribune that he has been in this field for 18 years. After the security conditions in Pakistan worsened, Billimoria left the tourism industry but now he feels happy to be back. "Peace has returned and so has tourism," he said. "Pakistan is full of exceptional tourist spots where anyone can visit but one needs the services of a tour guide to know the technical details about any landmark." Addressing the media, Farooqi mentioned that her department initiated this project without taking financial help from the government. They will make use of two culture department vans in the initial stages for the day tours in Karachi. "We are charging very minimal amount from our clients but we want to make the service sustainable by accommodating the salaries of the tour guides, drivers and fuel," she said. "We will further improvise and include other landmarks."

Pakistan-Egypt ties: Envoy highlights construction, tourism as potential areas

Express Tribune, February 12, 2016

Govt, organisations join hands to revive cultural heritage

The News, February 8, 2016

Joining hands to preserve Shikarpur's heritage

Dawn News, February 8, 2016

The tours will offer group discounts for students, senior citizens and foreigners who wish to take the tour with us. "We can add sailing, crabbing and food tours and road trips to Thatta, Ranikot and Moen Jo Daro in the near future," she added.

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan Sherif Mohamed Kamaleldin Shaheen said that companies considered Pakistan's construction sector a promising area for investment and they were looking for partners for investment and joint ventures. He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will have positive implications for Egypt as it would lead to easy movement in Suez Canal as well. The envoy added that tourism sector was another potential area of cooperation and Egypt could help Pakistan develop it further. He expressed these views during an interaction with the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) here.

"Pakistan and Egypt enjoyed excellent political and military relations which should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations," said Shaheen. "Pakistan could also get better market access to African countries by developing stronger relations with Egypt."

PESHAWAR: The Culture Department of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has joined hands with local organisations and launched a number of activities to revive the indigenous cultural heritage. A number of literary and cultural activities have been launched under the project titled "Revival of Indigenous Cultural Heritage (RICH)". The project is being implemented in partnership with the organisations excelling in the field.

A literary, cultural and social welfare organization, Gandhara Hindko Board (GHB), arranged a Hindko poetry recital session under the RICH project at Bazaar-e-Kalaan, in the heart of the city. The activity received an encouraging response. A total of 20 poets and people from various walks of life attended the session, arranged near the 116-year-old Cunningham Clock Tower or Ghanta Ghar, in the old quarters of the city.

A senior Hindko poet, Khwaja Yaqoob Akhtar, presided over the programme. A broadcaster, Ahmad Nadeem Awan, who has a name in rendering Hindko sufi poetry, conducted the proceedings. A lyricist from Peshawar, Syed Saeed Gilani, was the chief guest. Guests of honour were Sajjad Babar and Nazir Bhatti. The GHB representatives, including Vice-Chairman Dr Salah-ud-Din and General Secretary Muhammad Ziauddin, spoke on the occasion. They talked of the objectives of the literary function and the RICH Project.

They said poets were an asset to the society and poetry was an important part of the literature of any language. They said this mushaira (poetry recital session) had acquired an added importance as it had been arranged by the board in collaboration with the Culture Department of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The literati said the Directorate of Culture had selected GHB for the promotion of the Hindko literary and cultural activities under its newly launched RICH Project. Various literary and cultural activities would be conducted under the project, they added.

Dr Salah-ud-Din, who is a cultural activist, hoped the RICH Project would work as a catalyst in identifying and reviving the celebrations of the indigenous culture of the province. "It will help document all human cultural assets and prepare a comprehensive online database available to researchers, scholars, policymakers and those who have an interest in culture of this region," he added.

A Hindko writer, poet and research scholar, Muhammad Ziauddin, praised the Culture Department for launching the RICH Project. He explained that the project was being implemented in all districts of the province in collaboration with the district-based grassroots organisations, cultural operators, arts councils, culture and tourism support groups, artisans/craftsmen associations and civil society organisations which have considerable knowledge and skills about local cultures and heritage. The speeches were followed by the poetry session which was well-received. All the poets were awarded certificates to acknowledge their participation in the function.

SHIKARPUR: To allow our cities, and by default our cultures, to undergo transformation at the cost of historical significance is a reality widely accepted in popular discourse. However, there are several individuals and organisations that are striving to halt this type of development. For instance, in Shikarpur a community meeting was held on Wednesday to advocate for the city's lost heritage, as well as that which is under threat.

Organised by the department of architecture and planning, NED University, and the Endowment Fund Trust (EFT), the idyllic city of Shikarpur witnessed much hustle and bustle that was translated into concrete measures to secure the city's heritage. The venue of the meeting was the C&S Government Degree College, where scores of students were present to take pride in and participate in the efforts to document and preserve the centuries-old built environments and landscapes.

In 1998, the department of culture, government of Sindh, declared Shikarpur a historic town. However, the city is still witnessing degradations on multiple fronts. Rapid destruction of historical structures which have existed for more than a century and are a testament to the country's pre-partition era is fast changing the landscape of the city. Old architecture is being stripped bare to make way for more modern constructions while their artefacts are sold to those willing to purchase a slice of history. And in the absence of regulation or legislation, or any form of accountability, Shikarpur is facing the threat of an irreparable loss of its historical significance.

At this year's meeting the aim was to hand over much of the responsibility of the preservation efforts to the local community, and so EFT trustee Hameed Akhund asked for volunteers from the locals. Several put forth their names pledging support to the cause, and a committee was set up.

Mr Akhund also spoke about how taking pride in one's own culture and heritage was a prerequisite to social activism. According to him, regardless of how many delegations and committees come forth from other cities to help save Shikarpur's heritage, not much can be achieved unless the locals fight collectively. He also pledged full support of the EFT to any such project the locals came

Training in Kashmiri folk crafts concludes at Lok Virsa

The News, February 8, 2016

up with, and called for regular meetings to keep abreast of all developments. Anila Naeem, who teaches at the department of architecture and planning, NED University, has over years galvanised resources and support towards mapping the city of Shikarpur and updating inventories. "Documenting the city has been among the first steps taken to salvage the legacy of Shikarpur. However, since 2008, each time we return to the city with our students, we find out that more buildings have been lost."

To rectify this, a new strategy has been put into action. "We decided to approach the owners of such historic buildings and gather their support in the project. We found out that property owners were very interested in preserving and protecting their properties, but they lacked the technical knowledge or in some cases the financial means to do so."

And so in the homes of those owners who actively participated in the preservation process over the past many years, wooden plaques were put up that claim the property to be part of protected heritage under the Sindh Cultural Heritage Preservation Act, 1994. These plaques have also been put up in public spaces such as the Shahi Bagh, Shikarpur Clock Tower, Lakhi Dar Archway, TMC Buddha Asharam and the RBUT Hospital.

Durriya Kazi, head of the department of visual studies at Karachi University, took the thread forward and gave a more practicable interpretation to the documentation that has been done and the path forward. "A committee should be formed of those craftsmen who are masters of their art." She proposed the idea of improving accessibility of such craftsmen by distributing flyers so that all home owners and residents who wished to protect their current historic structures could contact them. She also questioned if enough was being done to preserve the intangible and soft elements of these structures, from their lineage, where the different elements making up these structures come from, and overall the symbolism behind the facts and figures. Several students and architects part of the documentation process also shared their experiences of Shikarpur hospitality and how their hosts went out of their way to facilitate their work. Several homeowners who were part of the preservation and documentation were also present and inspired other locals to become part of this project. Buildings owned by Hasan Ali Soomro and Ahmed Ali Mangi, among others, were carefully documented and their drawings displayed for all to see.

Mazhar ul Haq Siddiqui, former vice chancellor of Sindh University, and Akbar Laghari, commissioner of Larkana, also spoke at the meeting. The first day ended with volunteers, students and participants in the community meeting going on a walk to Shahi Bagh, where pupils of the Shah Latif School sang patriotic songs, danced to traditional Sindhi songs and presented a play.

ISLAMABAD: The seven-day training programme in 'Kashmiri Folk Crafts: Engagement with Artisans' organised by the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) concluded here on Sunday.

The training was part of the series of programmes that Lok Virsa is currently holding under the title 'Craft of the Month' with an objective to promote traditional skills, giving knowledge to younger generation about the importance and utility of different crafts and provide opportunity to youth to learn about Pakistan's rich, diverse and pluralistic cultural tapestry. The programme also encourages youth to value dignity of labour, foster ownership for their culture, create respect for different professions and character building. It helped understand the contribution of artisans in the sustainable development of their community and country at large.

Fifty children from the schools running under the administrative control of Federal Directorate of Education, Directorate General for Special Education and children of the visitors to Lok Virsa museums participated in the programme and learnt craft making techniques from master artisans. Master artisans who imparted training to children included Shaikh Muhammad Yousuf and Gul-e-Zehra in Kashmiri embroidery and shawl, Irfan Ghulam Nabi in wood carving, Mukhtar Ahmad Dar in Kashmiri Namda and Gabba (floor rug and wall hanging), Liaquat Hussain in Kashmiri jewellery and Deeba Rana along with a group of three other ladies in the famous Kashmiri craft "Papier Mache". This group of female artisans was contributed by Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) for the program. All these artisans possessed a vast knowledge and experience of association with their respective professions. They have been participating in national and international exhibitions and festivals.

On the occasion, the venue of Heritage Museum was decorated with beautiful traditional Kashmiri craft items and related accessories. The accompanying teachers with children also seemed happy with this different style of teaching. Talking to the media, the 70-year old Shaikh Muhammad Yousuf termed this a unique experience of his life. "Children were keen to know each and everything involved in the process. I tried to transfer my knowledge to them in an interactive manner. Some children were very intelligent and they got a lot in a little time".

Deeba Rana said they have tried to create innovations in the Kashmiri papier mache craft. "It involves three stages. First is the basic where we prepare a mixture with paper ingredients, then second stage is its molding in various shapes and last stage is its painting in different colours which is called 'Naqqashi'. We have trained women in all three stages. Here at Lok Virsa we have trained 20 students from Islamabad Model School for Girls, F-7/2, and they all now are in a position to make papier mache craft items themselves". Lok Virsa Executive Director Dr. Fouzia Saeed, said Pakistani children have a great potential to learn knowledge about our rich craft heritage. "Here we also saw little boys along with parents who were equally keen to gain information about the craft making techniques." She said that the next programme will focus on 'Chunri and Kite Making' which will take place from March 1-6, 2016, marking 'Basant' celebrations. "On March 6, Lok Virsa will celebrate 'Basant' with youth providing an opportunity to the residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to celebrate Basant through a cultural perspective," she added.

Lok Virsa holds special show to express solidarity with Kashmiris

The News, February 6, 2016

ISLAMABAD: To mark Kashmir Solidarity Day on Friday, the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) organised a special ceremony to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people struggling for their right to self-determination in the occupied Kashmir.

Renowned intellectual and Chairman Pakistan Television Corporation Ata ul Haq Qasmi was the chief guest on the occasion. Over five hundred students, teachers and parents of children attended the special ceremony, which featured vibrant performances including Kashmiri patriotic song 'Ah watan teri janat mein aain ge aik din', famous Kashmiri song 'Mun di moj wich', popular Punjabi, Potohari and Hazara folk song 'chitey chanan di chani sargi dea tarea' etc. The event also included cultural diversity show 'Rhythm of Unity' based on famous folk tunes and songs, mystic song 'Lal meri'. All these songs were presented by children of Islamabad Model School for Girls, F-7/2 along with folk artists, musicians and performers.

Speaking on this occasion, Ata ul Haq Qasmi said Pakistan wants the solution of Kashmir dispute according to the wishes of its people who are struggling hard for their right of self-determination. "Their sacrifices will bear fruit and they will see the light of the day," he said. In her welcome speech, Executive Director Lok Virsa Dr. Fouzia Saeed, said that Lok Virsa has organised a seven-day special training programme on 'Kashmiri Folk Crafts: Engagement with Artisans' under the ongoing 'Craft of the Month' series. "Coinciding with the Kashmir Solidarity Day, the current programme is actually an initiative to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people. The programme revolves around folk crafts to provide coaching to students and young children." While introducing 'Craft of the Month' programme, she said that under this project, Heritage Museum highlights one craft for a week and engages with artisans and experts to introduce children on this craft. These craft-persons not only display their skills and make them in front of the people but also teach children and have materials for them to experiment with the medium."

Highlighting the significance of the programme, ED, Lok Virsa further said, "This is an experiment of sowing the seeds of pluralistic society in our younger generation. A generation that will take care of our country in future and make it a truly pluralistic society where people of all cultures, languages and traditions living in Pakistan will fully own each other as valued Pakistani citizens." On this occasion, certificates were awarded to the participants of the last programme on 'Block Printing' by the chief guest. Thirty five students from Islamabad Model College for Girls, G-8/4 and special children from various centres of Directorate General for Special Education received the certificates.

The Kashmiri folk crafts training programme started at Lok Virsa on February 1 and will continue till Sunday (February 7). The crafts focused in the programme include Papier Mache, wood carving, Namda and Gabba (floor rug and wall hanging), embroidery, shawl weaving and others. Around sixty children studying in various schools and colleges working under the administrative control of Federal Directorate of Education, Directorate of Special Education and children of visitors to Heritage Museum are participating in the current programme.

The artisans who are seen actively involved in the programme providing training classes to children include Sheikh Muhammad Yousuf and Gul-e-Zehra in Kashmiri embroidery and shawl, Irfan Ghulam Nabi in wood carving, Mukhtar Ahmad Dar in Namda and Gabba, Liaquat Hussain in jewellery and Deebea Rana with her group of three ladies in Papier Mache. This group of female artisans has been contributed by Potohar Organisation for Development Advocacy (PODA) for the programme. Timings of the Kashmiri folk crafts programme are from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily. Apart from school students, children of the visitors to Lok Virsa Heritage Museum are also encouraged to learn craft making techniques from the master artisans without any charges.

Later talking to media, Dr. Fouzia Saeed informed that the next programme focusing on 'Chunri and Kite Making' will take place from March 1 to 6, 2016 at Heritage Museum marking Basant celebrations. On March 6, Lok Virsa will fully celebrate 'Basant' with youth. She also invited residents of Islamabad-Rawalpindi to the special programmes being hosted by Lok Virsa coinciding with the forthcoming International Women Day celebrations 2016.

Seventh Karachi Literature Festival kicks off

The News, February 5, 2016

KARACHI: The seventh Karachi Literature Festival (KLF) kicked off with all its colours at Beach Luxury Hotel on Friday. US Consul General Brian Heath, Festival founders Ameena Saiyid and Asif Farrukhi and others attended the opening ceremony. Brian Heath in his opening remarks said, "The Karachi Literature Festival is one of the most anticipated and important cultural events in Karachi." "No other forum provides such a setting for writers, intellectuals, and artists from across Pakistan and around the world. It highlights Pakistan's dynamic literary tradition and Karachi's rightful place as a cultural capital," said Mr. Heath. At the festival, USAID is sponsoring a panel discussion on the role that communities and parents play in encouraging literacy and reading as well as a session on mother tongues as a medium of instruction and learning.

Meanwhile, U.S. Consulate General Karachi is hosting panel discussions on cultural heritage and preservation, and the role of U.S. government exchange programs in promoting literature and the arts in Pakistan. "We realize that it is important not only to develop basic literacy, but also to support and promote talented artists and young people who continue to contribute to Pakistan's proud literary tradition," said the U.S. consul general. "Besides learning to read, we want participants to feel engaged with art that speaks to their experiences and aspirations."

Heritage site: Derawar Fort conservation work from this month

Express Tribune, February 3, 2016

MULTAN: Work on repair and conservation of a broken down segment of Derawar Fort will begin this month, Archaeology Sub Divisional Officer Ghulam Muhammad said on Wednesday. He said arrangements for the construction were complete. The provincial government has given the Archaeology Department Rs6 million for the restoration of a damaged boundary wall and some bastions of the historic fort. Ghulam Muhammad said that he had visited the site last week and had monitored the preparation of special bricks that would be used in the conservation work. "These bricks will be fixed with lime and red-brick powder and the inner portion of the wide wall will be buttressed with sun-dried bricks," he said.

Implementing law: Hotels owners asked to register
Express Tribune, February 3, 2016

Development imperative cannot justify damage to heritage sites, LHC rules
Express Tribune, February 3, 2016

Pakistan mother languages literature festival on Feb 20
Onlineindus, February 3, 2016

Officials of the Archaeology Department explained that a portion of Derawar Fort had been damaged by rain and natural wear and tear. Three bastions and two segments of the fort's 75-feet high and five-foot thick boundary wall had been damaged a while back. "We had told the government about it when the damage occurred but the funds were only recently approved and released." They said that a bastion on the south-eastern part of the fort and a 23-foot long, five-foot thick and 75-feet high portion of the wall would be conserved.

Derawar Fort lies on the border of Cholistan desert and to the south-east of Dera Nawab in Bahawalpur district. According to a report by the Archaeology Department, there has been a fort at this site for almost 5,000 years as part of a chain that provided security to travellers along an ancient trade route from Central Asia to the Indian subcontinent. The report says that the fort was captured by the Abbassi family from Raja Rawal Singh of Jaisalmer in 1733. The fort, in its present form was built circa 1733, the report says.

In recent years, the Tourism Development Corporation of the Punjab has put the site on the map after it made it the venue for the annual Cholistan Jeep Rally. The TDCP has also publicised the fort as a popular site for picnics and holiday-making. Officials of the Archaeology Department said people mostly visited the site in winters. The SDO said the conservation work would be completed in 45 days after the work began.

PESHAWAR: The owners of hotels, restaurants and travel agencies have been asked to register with the tourist services department, otherwise their businesses will be sealed. This was said by Special Assistant to K-P Chief Minister for Tourism Abdul Munim during his visit to the department on Tuesday. A handout issued on the same day read Munim was briefed about the department's efforts to register hotels, travel agencies and other such services under the hotel, restaurants, travel agencies and tourist guides act.

LAHORE: The government cannot use the need to undertake development projects as a justification to shirk its responsibility towards protection of heritage, cultural and archaeological sites, says the Lahore High Court in its detailed judgment on a petition seeking suspension of work on the Orange Line Metro Train (OMLT) project. Through a short order issued earlier, the court had stopped the government from undertaking any construction activity for the project within 200 feet of historical sites along the route. The court had also suspended the no-objection certificates (NOCs) issued by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) director general allowing the project contractor to undertake construction in these areas. In the detailed judgment released on Tuesday, the court observed that the government had failed to come up with a plan before start of work on the project to preserve heritage sites along the route. "Lahore is a city of rich culture and heritage. It has many archeological sites and historical monuments.

The Antiquities Act of 1975, the Punjab Special Premises (Preservation) Ordinance of 1985 and the Punjab Heritage Foundation Act of 2005 were among laws enacted to protect such sites," it noted. The order said the country was a signatory to the UNESCO conventions on protection of cultural and heritage sites. It said several heritage sites were located in close proximity to the proposed route for the metro train. It said Shalamar Gardens, Gulabi Bagh Gateway, Buddha's Tomb, Chauburji, and Zebunnisa Tomb had been declared protected antiquities. It said that Lakshmi building, the General Post Office (GPO) building, the Aiwan-i-Auqaf (Shah Chiragh) building, the Supreme Court Lahore Registry building and the Mauj Darya shrine were declared as special premises under the 1985 ordinance. Construction activity within 200 feet of these sites would adversely affect the buildings, it noted. The LHC bench said that the NOCs allowing construction had been issued based only on the opinion of the LDA chief engineer. It said the chief engineer could not be considered an expert on archeology so his opinion was not relevant to the purpose and heritage sites could not be threatened by allowing construction in their close proximity.

The order stated that the damage apprehended to the protected antiquities was not assessed before the issuance of the NOCs. "The NOCs are of general nature. A blanket cover has been given to the project. They do not refer to particular heritage sites," it said. "The NOCs are based on irrelevant considerations and cannot, prima facie, be treated as reasoned and rational decisions," it said. The bench said that the NOCs had been issued despite serious reservations raised by the UNESCO over construction activity near heritage sites. The UNESCO had communicated its reservations to the government in a letter sent on October 20, 2015. The government had responded to the letter on December 17, 2015, and invited a UNESCO team to visit the construction site and hold meetings with the government officials concerned.

Commenting on lack of adequate reasons given for the NOCs, the bench said the government needed to clearly state its reasons for an action under Section 24-A of the General Clauses Act of 1897. The bench also referred to an amendment in the Antiquities Act of 1975 under which the government was required to notify an advisory committee to oversee any construction activity likely to endanger heritage sites. It noted that archaeologists, architects, historians and provincial assembly members were required to be a part of this committee. The bench observed that no such committee had been formed for the OMLT project. Even if such a committee was not formed at the outset, it said the LDA director general was still required to seek expert opinion before granting the NOCs for construction near heritage sites.

ISLAMABAD: Indus Cultural Forum in collaboration with Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) and Lok Virsa is arranging a two-day Pakistan mother languages literature festival on February 20. The festival is planned to coincide with the International Mother Languages Day on February 21, declared by UNESCO, an official of Indus Cultural Forum said here Wednesday. "More than 150 writers from over 15 Pakistani mother languages will participate in the event as speakers and moderators," he added. He said that the objectives of the festival are to promote Pakistan's linguistic and cultural diversity as an instrument of social harmony, peace and tolerance; and, encouraging reading culture in mother languages.

Iranian cultural exhibition continues at Lok Virsa

The News, February 3, 2016

"The festival will be an occasion to showcase a wide range of literary works in these languages," he said. He further said that discussions on various topics of languages, literature and culture would also be part of the festival. While a number of books in various languages would be launched during the two-day event. "Mother languages mushaira, Mother languages music evening, Audio-visual screening, performances, Mother languages book stalls, Food courts, Cultural exhibitions and mobile library would also be part of the festival," he concluded.

ISLAMABAD: To mark the Iranian cultural week being celebrated in Pakistan from February 1-4, four Iranian master artisans in different craft fields displayed their work at National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa). Iranian artisans can be seen actively interacting with their counterparts from Pakistan, who have displayed their skills at the Kashmiri Folk Crafts under 'Engagement with Artisans' programme organised to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The Iranian artisans who are displaying their works include Ali Raza Sheikh, Syeda Fahimi Kazmi, Ramzan Mohamar and Farangis Shadkam. Sharing details about his work, Iranian artisan Ali Raza Sheikh said that he is happy to showcase his work here in Islamabad. "Pakistani craftspeople are very creative and have excellent knowledge of various crafts. I exchanged my views with some of the artisans. They are also happy to see our work here in Pakistan," he said. Raza Sheikh is a student of PhD in Islamic History and Art at the University of Arts, Tehran. He possesses vast knowledge and experience of over 17 years. He engraves metal dishes and creates wooden frames. Syeda Fahimi Kazmi does miniature painting. She is a teacher at the Iranian Tourism Department having experience of over 20 years. Ramzan Mohama is an expert in stone carving and wooden cutwork. He also does Minakari in metal utensils. He has been participating in many international exhibitions and winning prizes. Mrs. Farangis Shadkam is doing beautiful embroidery work and traditional dresses.

Talking to media, Lok Virsa Executive Director Dr. Fouzia Saeed informed that the objective of the program is to familiarize the people of Pakistan about the rich craft heritage of the brotherly Muslim country Iran. "Pakistan and Iran have a lots of similarities in culture including traditional costumes, miniature, carpet, brass, metal, paintings, etc. The culture and traditions of our Balochistan province are very much similar to the culture and traditions of the neighbouring areas provinces of Iran. Knowing this important cultural linkage between the two Muslim countries, Lok Virsa has created a three-dimensional creative link passage with Iran at the Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology, popularly known as Heritage Museum, for which crafts have been contributed by the Iranian side and Lok Virsa has provided space and looks after their maintenance and upkeep," she said.

A female Pakistani artisan, Gul-e-Zehra, said that Lok Virsa has provided a unique opportunity to Pakistani and Iranian artisans to share their experiences and ideas regarding craft making with each other in a very interactive and meaningful manner. "Their work is quite similar with us. We, all artisans and artists are the peace lovers and want to spread the message of peace and love all over the world through our creative approach". The Iranian craft exhibition will continue till tomorrow (Thursday), at Lok Virsa Heritage Museum. Daily timings are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tourists throng Murree to enjoy snowfall

Pakistan Telegraph, January 31, 2016

ISLAMABAD: Tourists from across the country thronged Murree and adjoining areas on Saturday to enjoy snowfall.

A large number of people especially from the urban areas have come to Murree. Galyat, Hazara and Bhurbhan received more snow as compared to Murree. All restaurants are packed with tourists. Mohsin Khan a visitor from Gujranwala told APP that Murree had all the facilities for enjoyment. He said that he and his family have come to enjoy this awesome weather. The entry of heavy vehicles has been banned in Murree. Meanwhile Met Office has forecast mainly cold and dry weather in most parts of the country during the next 24 hours. Light foggy conditions would continue over plains of Punjab, Peshawar and Sukkur divisions during morning hours.

Khewra mines hoping to increase tourism potential

Express Tribune, January 31, 2016

ISLAMABAD: The picturesque Khewra salt mines came alive this Friday as bustling crowds came to attend the First International Rock Salt Trade and Tourism Festival. The place was abuzz with cordons and high-profile convoys. The narrow road leading to the salt range was crammed with stalls displaying rock salt lamps, a children's play area with jumping castles, and of course, cars.

The Punjab government, in an effort to attract international tourists to the salt range, launched the festival at Khewra Salt Mines. A rubab player welcomed visitors with the tunes of famous Pushto songs, while a flutist sitting nearby chose to stay closer to the town's own culture, playing famous Punjabi songs. The famous mosque made out of salt bricks and the miniature Minar-e-Pakistan stood in their full glory, awing visitors, many of whom had not been to the world's second largest salt mine before. "We drove up from Sargodha to visit the mines. The journey was worth it," said Mrs Adnan. She also appreciated the provincial government's initiative.

High hopes

The festival has proven to be a ray of hope for residents of Khewra, who believe that the event will not only help highlight the area, but would also draw attention of the high-ups to assist in its development.

"The event will have a positive impact on the people living in Khewra. Since most of these people are either labourers or artisans, the festival provides them with an opportunity to display their products and attract foreign tourists," said Ali Sabih, a local resident. He further said that it was the need of the hour for the government to make efforts to improve the living conditions in the area and the festival would serve as a stepping stone.

Another local trader, Muhammad Zubair, believed the festival would help attract more tourists. "We get a good number of local tourists, but after the event, we expect foreign tourists to visit the area as well." He was of the opinion that highlighting Khewra Salt Mines would eventually lead to foreign investment, consequently assisting in the development of the area.

CM expects 1 million tourists to turn up in Gilgit-Baltistan

The News, January 30, 2016

Court stays metro train project near historical places

The News, January 29, 2016

Govt aims

The government envisions Khewra as a tourist spot and is also banking on the decorative items produced from the mines to become important trade products. Boats and more: Tarbela to get much-needed tourism boost. Federal Commerce Minister Khurram Dastagir Khan stated that one of the purposes of the festival was to highlight the products of the salt mine in the international market. "We want to develop Khewra and export products from the mine," the minister said at the inauguration ceremony, adding that the government was working to make the most of its resources.

"God has given us a lot of resources. What we lack is good governance that can help us utilise our resources to their full potential". He further said that peace was being restored in Pakistan with Balochistan and Karachi becoming more stable, and that Pakistan was on the road to development.

Sri Lankan Ambassador Maj-Gen (retd) Jayanath Lokuketagodage said the festival was a good initiative and that the Sri Lankan government would help Pakistan to organise similar events in the future.

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman has said that following policies adopted by the PML-N Government, over one million domestic and foreign tourists are expected to turn up in the northern areas of the country during next tourism season. Talking to 'The News' Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman said that he believed in reflecting soft image of the country through promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan which offers tremendous tourist places and diversified culture. He pointed out during the last summer season, the inflow of domestic tourists increased from 50,000 to 500,000 which was a record. "Now we expect to receive around one million tourists, this year," he added.

The GB chief minister maintained that the law and order situation in Gilgit-Baltistan was exemplary, which provides suitable environment for tourism. "As per Global Peace Index, GB region has been declared as 100 per cent peaceful region," he said. He pointed out that the northern areas carry religion, cultural and language diversity, which never turns into a disaster. In order to promote tourism in GB, Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman the government was focusing on development of road infrastructure. He said that in addition to existing road network including Karakorum Highway and Babusar Road, the federal government plans to take up Rs82 billion project of road link passing through Shauntar Pass from Muzaffarabad to Gilgit. The government had hired Chinese consultants to carry out feasibility study of the mega project, which if found feasible would be completed in three to four years. He said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had also been signed between governments of Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan for promotion of tourism and cooperation with each other in this particular field.

Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman appreciated the Jang Media Group for planning Social Sciences Expo-2016 to be held at Pak China Friendship Center Islamabad from February 24 to 26 having theme 'Social Sciences-Bridging the Socio-Political Divide'. "This will be a good Initiative to highlight crucial role of Social Sciences in human lives," he said. The GB chief minister also observed that the Jang Group has also been playing important role in strengthening and continuation of democratic system in the country.

LAHORE: A division bench of the Lahore High Court has granted stay order against any construction of Orange Line project within 200ft of historical places falling in its way. The court issued this order and put off hearing till February 04. The bench comprising Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh and Justice Shahid Karim issued this order on a petition of different affectees and civil society representatives. Eleven different historical buildings were falling in the way of the Orange Line, including Chauburji, Saint Andrew Church, GPO building, Supreme Court Registry Branch, Shalimar Gardens, Budhu ka Awa, tomb of Baba Mauj Daria, Shah Cheragh Building, and others.

The court stopped the government while issuing a short order in this regard after holding the proceedings on the petitions. Appearing before the court, the counsel for the petitioners submitted that the government initiated this project in September last year but for money, the government signed contract with a Chinese bank in January this year which means the government so far is continuing the work without taking any loan and wasting the public money on this wasteful project. At this, the court asked about it to Khawaja Haris, the counsel for the government, who could not satisfy the court. The court also asked him about any steps the government have taken to preserve the preserved buildings prior to this project. The court also asked him if the government took clearance from different departments before starting this project but he also could not satisfy the court on it. The counsel for the petitioners submitted that the government had transferred director general of archeology to get permission from its favourite DG. He said so far 26 people died because of this project. He also submitted that the project was initiated without proper planning. He said before initiation of the project, electricity, water and Sui gas lines were not shifted to the proper places and no vehicular traffic was managed. He said because of non-availability of the alternative roads, traffic jams can be witnessed on every road throughout the day. He said even ambulances remain stuck for hours in the traffic jam. He said that the Rs365 billion project of the metro train was not approved by the Punjab Assembly. They said the project put heritage of the Lahore city on stake as 26 historical and protected monuments, including Shalimar Gardens, General Post Office, Supreme Court-Lahore registry, Lahore High Court and Chauburji were going to lose their significance. He added that the government was utilising funds allocated for other sectors like education and health for the project of metro train. He pointed out that Unesco also opposed the project for being a serious threat to environment and other reasons. The petitioners asked the court to suspend all process, including initiation of Orange Line Project, demolition, building of any part, and as well as allocation and spending of funds pertaining to the project until decision of the petition. **LDA:** Following the order of the Lahore high Court, Lahore Development Authority (LDA) has immediately stopped ongoing construction work at all the

historically important buildings here Thursday. Officials said the sites where construction activity was stopped included Shalamar Gardens, Gulabi Bagh's Tomb, Buddu's Tomb, Chauburji, Zaib-un-Nisa's Tomb, GPO, SCP, Mauj Darya Darbar and church. They said contractors of the Orange Line Metro train project were directed to immediately halt all kind of construction activities until further orders.

All these historical monuments are protected either under the Antiquities Act 1975 or Punjab special premises (Preservation) Ordinance, 1985 and LDA got special permission from the archaeology department for the ongoing construction work. Under the Act, development schemes within a distance of 200ft of protected immovable antiquity cannot be taken up without the approval of DG Archaeology or committee. LDA's spokesman said Orange Line Metro Train project was not going to damage any of the monuments on Multan Road and GT Road as the project was being constructed in conformity with the Antiquities Act 1975 as well as Punjab Special Premises (Preservation) Ordinance, 1985. Recently a meeting of the LDA officials held to discuss the issue and a presentation was prepared, which was submitted to the chief minister. As per the document, the LDA officials claimed that all apprehensions expressed regarding the proximity of Orange line project to several historical monuments, the elevated track causing visual barrier and effects of vibrations due to high speed Orange line train on heritage structures.

It said all the above-mentioned five sites were protected either under the Antiquities Act 1975 or Punjab special premises (Preservation) Ordinance, 1985. Under the Act, development schemes within a distance of 200ft of protected immovable antiquity cannot be taken up without the approval of DG Archaeology or committee. The document revealed that a formal request for NOC from DG Archaeology for construction of Orange line has already been moved.

LDA's spokesman said that the elevated structure of the Orange line was very slim and sleek and would not create any visual barrier. The alignment of the metro train follows the available corridor along Multan road, Mcleod Road and GT Road. The piers are placed on the centre of the road to minimise disturbance to the adjoining properties and land acquisition. He said that it would not be possible to deviate from the centre line of the road as demolition to lot of urban area, massive land acquisition and relocation of the local population would be involved. He added that also for train projects, sharp turning radius and curves near these monuments to create distance could not be allowed. The document revealed that the trains to be operated for Orange line project do not fall in the category of high speed trains since the maximum operating velocity of the train will be less than 80km/hr. Generally, the ground-borne vibrations due to passage of such trains are limited.

It said according to the German Standard DIN 4150 Part 3-1999 "structural vibration in buildings", the maximum vibration velocity at the foundation level of the heritage structure shall be less than 3mm/sec. Based on the theoretical 2D FEA model of pier-ground system of light rail train viaduct system similar to Orange line project (by Xia. H at el. 2001), it is concluded that beyond a distance of 10-12m from the main pier of rail the ground-borne vibrations (GBV) are negligible (<0.03mm/sec). The document further revealed that the closest distance of the heritage sites listed above from the main pier of Orange line rail are 95ft (29m) for Shalamar gardens, 69ft (20.9m) for Gulabi Bagh's Tomb, 59ft (18.1) for Budda's Tomb, 80ft (24.5m) for Chauburji monument and 110ft (33.5m) for Zaib-un-Nisa's Tomb.

The document about Supreme Court Building claimed that no part of Supreme Court building shall be affected due to metro orange line construction. The maximum efforts shall be made to protect the boundary wall of the Supreme Court building as well. In order to save the façade of the Supreme Court Registry Building, the Orange line has been kept underground near the Building. To ensure the structural integrity of the Supreme Court Building, continuous monitoring through requisite instrumentation of the Supreme Court building shall be carried out to devise appropriate protection measures wherever required. Appropriate shoring/bracing system shall be employed to ensure safety of the building. All the utilities shall be relocated first for the un-obstructed supply of services to the said building.

About the GPO Building, the document claimed that part of GPO triangular courtyard towards Mall Road shall be used for the entry structure comprising of elevator, escalator and stairs and land shall be acquired for the same (This entry structure also serves the purpose of ventilation for underground central station). In order to save the facade of the GPO heritage building, see-through architectural arrangement will be proposed for the entry structure walls. To ensure the structural integrity of the GPO building, continuous monitoring through requisite instrumentation of the GPO building shall be carried out to devise appropriate protection measures wherever required. The GPO building shall be protected while the boundary walls of GPO shall be temporarily removed and restored to its original condition after the construction. GPO's gate near the GPO chowk has to be shifted/relocated due to the entry structure of the central station. All the utilities shall be relocated first for the un-obstructed supply of services to the said building.

About the high Court building, it said part of high court parking/Aiwan-e-Auqaf courtyard shall be used for ventilation shafts and entry structure comprising of elevator, escalator and stairs and land shall be required for the same. Appropriate shoring/bracing system shall be employed to ensure safety of the building especially the area in the vicinity of central station. It said Nabha road side boundary wall will be affected during construction and shall be restored to its original condition after the construction.

About the church near Supreme Court building, it maintained that portion of foundation and the part of church building towards Nabha Road side shall be affected due to its interference with underground structure and due to construction/space requirements of construction equipment. The affected part of the church and boundary wall during construction shall be restored to its original condition after the construction. Due to the curvature (turning radius) constraints of the metro train, the re-alignment of the track is difficult in this area. But still negotiations are in progress to mitigate the impact of construction on the said building.

Pakistan, Maldives can benefit from trade, tourism potential: PM:

Urdu wire, January 29, 2016

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said Pakistan and Maldives need to benefit from the vast potential in trade and tourism, and assured to support Maldives under Special Assistance Programme for South Asia.

Talking to Maldives Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon at the Prime Minister's House, Nawaz said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Maldives, which are based on cordiality and common interests. He said Pakistan had been successfully waging a relentless war against terrorism, adding that the ongoing military operation Zarb-e-Azb had produced positive results. He emphasised that Pakistan would extend all possible cooperation to the initiatives of neighbouring countries to eliminate terrorism.

Maumoon invited Prime Minister Nawaz to visit Maldives and delivered a letter of the Maldives president on the occasion. The foreign minister thanked the prime minister for Pakistan's continued support to Maldives. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the trajectory of the brotherly bilateral relations between the two countries and agreed to maintain the momentum. In a meeting between Maumoon and Adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. Welcoming the Foreign Minister and her delegation to Pakistan, Sartaj Aziz noted that relations between Pakistan and the Maldives were marked by cordiality, mutual respect and commonality of interests. The adviser observed that the tourism industry of Maldives had been growing and Pakistan would like to develop cooperation in this sector. He said that the development of shipping lines between the two countries held a lot of importance and efforts should be made towards this. The adviser emphasised the need to follow up the MoUs/agreements in the fields of sports, health, education, and narcotics, which were signed during the visit of the president of Maldives to Pakistan in May 2015. The foreign minister stressed the need to further strengthen bilateral relations by promoting people-to-people contacts.

Ice-capped mountains boost Azad Kashmir tourism

Dunya News, January 27, 2016

MIRPUR: Snowy mountains and rains have lowered Azad Kashmir's temperatures among other northern areas, boosting tourism there, Dunya News reported Wednesday. Flocks of people have reached different tourist points including Saran in Muzaffarabad and surrounding areas. Few tourists were seen using drone cameras to capture the beauty around them. Drones were flown parallel to the flaky mountains.

On the other hand, tourists have complained about inadequate facilities in different areas that worsely affect tourism there. Rough roads among other issues are awaiting tourists who are heading there. Groups reportedly are also heading towards Sudhan Gali, Ganga Choti and Toli Pir after it recently snowed there. However, several roads leading to these areas are shut due to land-sliding.

Separately, Azad Kashmir-based militants in alliance with Jaish-e-Mohammad have recently warned the government against crackdown on operatives after Indian airbase attack on January 2. Foreign Secretary-level talks were postponed following the attack. However, Indian media have claimed today that the talks are to be rescheduled soon.

Tourism Department announces schedule of 11th Cholistan Jeep Rally

Lahoreworld, January 28, 2016

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Tourism Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has said that Provincial Tourism Department has announced schedule of 11th Cholistan Jeep Rally. The rally will be held from February 12 to 14, 2016 near Fort Darawar in Cholistan desert. He said that route of rally has been finalized.

The total distance of the rally will be 230 kilometer and experienced professional drivers will display their expertise in the rally, he added. Besides Rally, other programmes have also been arranged in Cholistan which include culture night, fireworks, camel dance and tent village. He said that a large number of tourists are expected in Cholistan during rally days. He said that special category of women has also been introduced this time. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference with regard to 11th Cholistan Jeep Rally at a local hotel today. MD Punjab Tourism Ahmar Malik and Senator Saud Majeed also talked to journalists.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad said that Cholistan Jeep Rally has become a sign of development of South Punjab and is considered to be the strongest source of soft image for Pakistan abroad. He said that Tourism Department is setting new resorts for tourists at Mithan Kot, Lal Suhanra and Darawar. He said that 275 tourist places in Punjab are being developed through required funding. He said that Cholistan Jeep Rally has become second in number with regard to interest throughout the world after Dakar Jeep Rally.

Expert opinion: Orange Line be allowed after ruling out damage to historic sites, says SCBA president

Express Tribune, January 27, 2016

LAHORE: Supreme Court Bar Association president Syed Ali Zafar on Tuesday suggested that a decision on the construction of the Orange Line Metro Train should be taken only after determining whether or not it would harm historical sites along the route. In a written statement submitted in Lahore High Court, he said governments could construct and develop infrastructure to meet the needs of the people. He said the court could not stop the government from planning, expansion and development of physical infrastructure. However, he said, the court might intervene in policy matters when the policy was in violation of a law or the Constitution. Development projects could not be allowed if they violated fundamental rights of the people or caused harm to desirable features of an urban area.

Therefore, Zafar said, the court needed to examine if the construction of the Orange Line Metro Train would violate any laws or fundamental rights of the people or harm the basic fabric of the city. He submitted the remarks in his capacity as amicus curiae in the court of Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh and Justice Shahid Karim. "An underground train service had been proposed in the original plan for the project. An overhead track is suitable for cities like Dubai where there is no danger of harm to the basic structure of the city," he said. Passenger trains in several cities of the United Kingdom had been running underground for around 150 years, he said. Similar examples could be found in cities like Delhi, Rome and Paris.

Secret attraction: Frozen Khalti Lake becomes winter sporting arena

Express Tribune, January 25, 2016

Shah Jehan mosque started losing tiles in the 70s, claims khatib

Express Tribune, January 22, 2016

Zafar held that several laws dealt with infrastructure projects like the Orange Line Metro Train. The court was empowered to stop the government from undertaking the project if it was found to be in violation of any of these laws, he said. "The government is duty bound to protect antiquities under the Antiquities Act of 1975. The law specifies that monuments as well as objects and sites of historical interest should be protected from damage," he said. He said the law specified that safeguards should be ensured to prevent 'breakage, damage, defacing or alteration' of monuments. "It allows the government to acquire the land in question if needed," he said.

"The law does not allow any construction activity within an area of 200 feet of a protected monument or historical site," he said. Zafar submitted that construction of Orange Line Metro Train should not be allowed if it was determined that it could cause damage to a historical site along the route. However, he said that no permission was needed if the activity was not likely to cause harm to such a site. He said services of experts could be engaged to determine whether or not construction work would endanger historical sites. The government should be asked to submit in court reports prepared by experts engaged for the purpose if it had already done so, he said.

GILGIT: It's not unusual for the youth in Gilgit-Baltistan to risk their lives on the frozen surface of Khalti Lake for a thrill. Even children from adjacent areas go for a stroll on the icy surface. This seems hardly a risk when a rough and tumble football tournament is played every year on Khalti – teams from Ghizer usually participate. At 7,000 feet, the lake is said to be 30 to 70 feet deep. Situated in Gupis Valley in Ghizer district, it is located about 120 kilometres from Gilgit. Khalti freezes over in December and remains so till January, allowing locals an opportunity to hang out and play sports in an otherwise entertainment-strapped region.

"I know playing on the surface is as risky as playing with fire," Muhammad Imran, a young guy from Gilgit who visits every January with his friends, told The Express Tribune on Sunday. "But the joy overtakes the possible consequences of falling in."

[Not] on thin ice

Although there is a restaurant near the lake and a Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation motel in the area, tourists believe facilities can be improved and make more attractive. "There should be boats near the lake during summer," Munir Ahmed, a resident of Faisalabad in Punjab, said. "If this was Europe, Khalti would have been a lucrative source of revenue for the government and locals."

According to Ahmed, who frequently visits G-B, the lake should be a major tourist spot, especially for foreigners. But the crippling cold, coupled with absence of facility keeps all but the very daring away during winter. When winter ends and the temperature rises slightly, the area becomes picturesque and would be an ideal retreat. The neglected state of affairs, a lack of tourist attractions means winter or summer, few put Khalti Lake on their next holiday destination.

Ice depositories no one knows about

Glaciers in Pakistan constitute the biggest mass and collection of glaciated ice found anywhere in the world outside the northern and southern polar regions. These glaciers are heavily concentrated in the three great mountain ranges of Karakoram, Himalaya and Hindukush, situated in G-B and Chitral. The junction point of the three mightiest mountain ranges is in Gilgit.

According to International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Pakistan is home to around 5,218 glaciers; a total area of 15,040 square kilometres. In addition, around 2,420 glacial lakes have also been identified and mapped in Pakistan. Karakoram Range has the greatest share as almost 37% of the region is under the glaciers there. Karakoram is also home to the world's third longest Biafo glacier, which is 63km long. It meets Hispar Glacier at the height of 5,128 metres, creating the longest glaciated highway—100km—in the world from G-B's Askole in Shigar valley to Hispar in Nagar Valley.

KARACHI: The historical Shah Jehan mosque in Thatta started losing its precious tiles as early as 1976 when they were taken apart for preservation, said the mosque khatib [prayer leader] Professor Mufti Hafiz Abdul Bari.

According to him, the theft of the rare stones of Thatta's historical monuments is on the rise. Many of these precious artefacts are now adorning the houses of influential people and very recently the gates of the newly renovated National Museum of Pakistan in Karachi. Apart from the Thatta mosque, engraved tiles have also been stolen from Makli graveyard, one of the largest graveyards in the world that has been declared as a World Heritage Site by Unesco. "Many stones from the tomb of Mirza Essa Tur Khan, Mirza Tughural Baig, Mai Malki, Shaikh Hamad Jamali, Dolah Darya Khan have been taken out," said Prof Bari. "These stones are affixed in the bungalows of the influential. No one can question [them]."

Prof Bari's great grandfathers have also served as prayer leaders for Thatta's mosque, named after Mughal emperor Shah Jehan who built it in 1647. According to him, over 350 carved stones were taken apart in 1976 for preservation but they went missing. Over time, some of them were seen affixed outside houses in Thatta, and recently they were found on the main gate of National museum. "These stones, inscribed with verses of the Holy Quran, were removed from the mosque because they were crumbling," he explained. "The then government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto announced that they will be preserved and then fixed to their original spots. Instead of working on it, the government put these rare stones in the National museum. Now, they have fixed them on the gates of the museum in Karachi."

The culture department does not shy away from its actions. These stones were lying in garbage in front of the mosque in the 1970s and the department safely transported them to Karachi's National museum, said a department official, talking to the media on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Sindh chief minister's adviser on culture Sharmila Farooqui, whose department looks after the National

Walled City of Peshawar trampled by urbanization *Express Tribune, January 19, 2016*

Preserving Kalhoro tomb of Hyderabad - what to do and what not to do *Express Tribune, January 15, 2016*

museum and Shah Jahan Mosque, was irked by Prof Bari's claims. "He [Prof Bari] is doing politics on this issue. He should not interfere in a government department's affairs," she said.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, Farooqui said that since the tiles are government property, it is their discretion where to place them. "These stones were rotting in the museum," she said. "We have preserved them and placed them on the National museum gate. What is wrong with it if we have used it for a good cause?" She pointed out that replicas were placed in Thatta's mosque when these tiles were removed. "We have put rare items from Moen Jo Daro and other monuments at the National museum seemingly because the artefacts were not safe over there," she said.

PESHAWAR: The master plan to conserve the walled city of Peshawar might have been officially approved, but the problem of spatial growth management to regulate the expansion of the inner city remains an unresolved dilemma. The plan — the PC-1 of which has been prepared — delineates a comprehensive strategy to document the condition of all buildings of historical and cultural significance, to build a complete profile of each building, and then to prepare a conservation/rehabilitation plan. A master plan has been made to assess the provision of municipal services, including water supply; sewerage, sanitation and solid waste management; street lighting; accessibility; and encroachment. The master plan will also suggest measures to resolve parking issues and build sidewalks for better pedestrian movement in the area. Above all, the plan would analyse the existing legal and institutional framework—including building bylaws—for the conservation and rehabilitation of buildings of historical and cultural significance, and planning permissions. This was stated in official documents available with The Express Tribune. However, a government official involved in the project said although the plan was much needed, unfulfilled previous efforts and a lack of political will necessitates a more rigorous approach for the execution. "There are legal lacunae surrounding the entire project," the official said, while referring to the recent demolition of the Kapoor Haveli in the city. The police were initially hesitant to file an FIR when the owner of the building started knocking down portions of the haveli. "There can be no preservation unless the government releases funds for implementation," he added, stressing a majority of heritage buildings were private properties now.

A distant dream

The old city, as it is referred to, is now a distant dream with the drastic changes it has been forced to go through. A walk through the main arteries paints a picture vastly different from what Dr Ahmad Hasan Dhani, a famous historian, described. He wrote the walled city had "its own characteristics such as surrounded by substantial walls, about 20-feet high and two-feet thick, interspersed with 16 gates, closely spaced wooden tall structures with zigzag and narrow streets". The old city was further enhanced by the British in 1848-49 when the colonial rulers established a planned community called Cantonment, covering an area of five square miles. The city in its current state of affairs remains an urbanised cluster with a large and overwhelming number of problems. "Electricity was introduced first here in January 1932," the official said. "But since then, the wires have only grown to form a nest around a city of utter neglect."

Last-ditch efforts

The master plan prepared by the Urban Policy Unit (UPU) seems to address these issues—and more—at length. With the plan exists the affirmation that if not implemented, "all buildings of historical/architectural value and other assets of social and environmental significance will disappear forever, and nothing will be left for future generations".

But such studies are not unique, a similar plan called Peshawar: Development and Planning Programme was designed in 1987. It also stressed on the same issue, citing the lack of available data, unplanned urbanisation and structural changes to the heart of city. Suggestions were made to restore the city's "old look", but only partial efforts were made. Now, 29 years later, the word used to describe the city remains frozen in time – dilapidated. UPU is a subsidiary of the Planning and Development Department. It has kept a short-term development strategy with the stance that any piecemeal approach intended for the conservation of one building is not going to bring fruitful results. Instead, the unit proposed a historic unit should be dealt as a whole, and its various parts and parcels should then be identified and conserved in a stage-wise manner.

HYDERABAD: If you are someone who values heritage, prepare to grieve in the historic city of Hyderabad where every inch of its two 18th century forts is under encroachment. The tombs and mausoleums built by the rulers of the same era have remained forsaken and in ruins. The 19th century Victorian structures, built during the British reign, are also in shambles, barring a few.

Fading from memory: Kalhoro's tiled marvel beckons those who wish to renew its glory. The palatial mansions built in the late 19th and early 20th century in Hyderabad – named the 'town of diamonds' for its wealthy residents – and other parts of the city are being demolished to build new structures. The fate of old markets, such as Shahi Bazaar and Tower market, has been no different. The government's conservation efforts at some of these heritage sites have often done more harm than good. Understanding this predicament, a non-profit Endowment Fund Trust (EFT) for Preservation of the Heritage of Sindh began restoration work at some archaeological sites a few years ago. It completed a project at Talpur's Haveli in Latifabad and another one at the two-century-old mausoleum of Mir Karam Ali Talpur, which is a complex of tombs in Hyderabad. Around six months ago, EFT embarked upon a journey to restore an 18th century mausoleum of the Kalhoro dynasty's ruler Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro, the man who founded Hyderabad and ruled from 1757 to 1772. The Rs29.8-million project, slated to complete by June 2017, aims to preserve the interior, exterior, platform, an adjacent vaulted tomb, main gate, fortified wall and landscaping of the open yard.

According to the project director Mohan Lal, the EFT has so far completed over 20 per cent of the targeted work but mostly at the fortification wall. However, keeping the restored features indistinguishable with the original class of these structures seems to have eluded the

conservationists in both the Talpur and Kalhoro tombs. In the on-going restoration work, the quality of the new Kashi Kari tiles made of traditional glazed mosaic hardly matches the original ones. The missing dome on top of Kalhoro's tomb is also a bone of contention with those involved in EFT's project arguing to build a new one but preservation experts insisting on preserving the structure as it is. At a training workshop held for artisans on Wednesday at the Kalhoro tomb, preservation experts from Karachi and Lahore shared their reservations. The scaffolding whose thick iron rods penetrated the heritage building's facade apparently left a stinging effect on the experts.

"You should take samples of the original material for research and lab tests so that you know what the original formulation was," suggested Kamil Khan Mumtaz, a Lahore-based architect, educator, author and a member of the board of governors for Lok Virsa and Pakistan National Fund for Cultural Heritage. "The samples of tiles, mortar and base should have been sent for a lab test to check the quality of the material and its composition," said Khwaja Rizwan Qadeer, a graduate of the University of Houston involved in the construction of new structures with Mughal-era architecture in the Punjab. Nabahat Lotia, an expert of ceramics from Indus Valley School, also felt that the quality of mortar was not good. "You need to [conduct] research on astar [mortar, which binds the tiles to the base]." The experts also insisted on preserving what is left of the mausoleum instead of opting for reconstruction. "Modern technology allows us to create a much better structure but it won't be the same [18th century] tomb," said Mumtaz.

Lime grouting vs new tiles

"We advised [the EFT] to do lime grouting instead of fixing new Kashi tiles in place of the lost ones," said architect Marvi Mazhar, who specialises in restoring historic buildings, told The Express Tribune while pointing to the sequence of arch shaped panels on the exterior. The tiles have fallen from most of the panels that decorate each of the four sides of the tomb walls left blackened by pollution, algae and fungus. Qadeer explained that the new tiles lack glaze because the manufacturers are using ready-made glass powder instead of following the old method of preparing fine glass, breaking into small fragments before turning them into powder. He pointed out similar differences in the old and new processes of making bricks. The manufacturers of Kashi tiles from Hala and Matiari also shared their lack of ability to produce the same 18th century tiles. "We don't have the same quality of sand, wood [for burning], colours and other material to produce such fine quality," admitted Manzoor Memon, whose manufacturing unit is competing for the contract that, according to an official, the EFT is likely to give at a rate of Rs400 per square-foot. Memon and other makers of Kashi tiles, Khuda Dino Arbab, Jani Soomro and Abdul Hafeez Memon, said they use gas to heat the tiles while the ancient artisans burnt the acacia tree for this purpose. The Kashi tiles are painted in blue. When the Kalhoro and Talpur rulers built the tombs, the artisans used pure cobalt, a chemical element, unlike their present day counterparts who mix 80 to 90 per cent clay. The reason, according to Arbab, is the high price of cobalt.

Do not disturb

The tomb's interior, exquisitely decorated with paintings, gilding, frescoes, Kashi tiles and arched windows filled with terracotta grilles of geometrical and arabesque patterns, has lost its lustre. Its central dome collapsed in the 1890s.

Mumtaz, Qadeer and Mazhar opposed the EFT's plan to reconstruct the dome in whose place iron beams fixed during the British rule, hold the roof. "My advice is not to disturb the present form," said Mumtaz. Qadeer suggested washing the tiles with water and hands even if it harms the skin. "You can't use cloth or detergent or any other chemical to remove dirt. If you do, they will spoil the colours." The experts believed that the structure, which has been weakened by moisture and fungus, is too weak to sustain the weight of the dome. "The [newly built] dome may fall," feared Qadeer. Learning from experience. The views shared by the preservation experts convinced the EFT that the approach they used previously for the restoration of Talpur tombs was not the best. "We have learnt from that experiment," said EFT trustee and secretary Abdul Hameed Akhund, as he spoke to The Express Tribune. The restoration work on the Talpur tombs has transported the historical structures into the present times instead of taking the visitors back to the 19th century. The specks and brushes of limestone dot the colourful tiles and panels on the restored exterior of the tomb. The interior was left in its original form.

New wooden doors were also fixed in many of the gates at Talpur's mausoleum. Akhund agreed with the experts' suggestion about the preservation of exterior and interior walls of Kalhoro's tomb but he still wants to go ahead with the construction of the dome. "I want to make the place look attractive, the way it was when constructed." He said that EFT will purchase sand from the mountainous regions in Dadu and Tharparkar and the acacia tree from forests in upper Sindh. The expensive chemicals copper and cobalt, both used to colour the tiles, will be imported from Europe, he added.

"Initially, we will buy limited supplies of these materials for testing," he shared. Materials such as river sand, hill sand, gypsum, semi-grounded gypsum, wet gypsum, unsalted gypsum, soapstone, soapstone powder, jaggery, fenugreek, jute fibre, tiles and bricks are being currently used for the conservation works, he explained. "The problem is not just with the materials but the artisans and labours of our times, who are far less skilled than their predecessors," he remarked.

From Nerunkot to Hyderabad

Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro, whose reign lasted from 1757 to 1772, founded Hyderabad in 1768 and named it Nerunkot, which he declared to be the capital of the Kalhoro dynasty after shifting it from Khudabad, south of present-day Dadu. Kalhoro was the one to build the famous Pakka Qila and Katcha Qila forts as well as the shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. Before his death in 1772, he set the foundations of his mausoleum, built inside a rectangular-shaped fort, which also served as the second line of defense on a northern hillock of Pakka Qila. His 15-year rule saw Sindh's reunification in its present shape and expansion beyond Multan to Dera Ghazi Khan. He is credited for leading successful campaigns against the Maratha's Rao of Kutch. War, religion, architecture,

Five traditional Pakistani foods that are a must try

The new stribe, January 13, 2016

agriculture and a peaceful reign, remain salient features of his era.

Pakistan has a rich, diversified cultures which has many colors being depicted in the localities. Of Every locality has their own style of attiring, their own specialties regarding food and dishes. We have regional dishes and food and then there are dishes popular country wide.

In KPK, food and recipes are inspired from neighboring Afghanistan, Punjab has a rich culture, whereas Sindh and Balochistan have their own traditional food. Some traditional and popular food throughout stand apart all and are equally liked by everyone.

Here are some of the dishes that we all love and their aroma has reached across borders and we are no more alone to fuss over these foods.

Biryani & Pulaos

Biryani and Pakistani foods are directly linked. No Pakistani feast is complete without its presence. It is basically a South Indian dish but it became a smashing hit in Pakistan for people here are crazy about it. It is made from rice and meat of any type. Biryani took many forms and shapes and even recipe variations here such as Mutton Biryani, Sindhi Biryani, Tikka Biryani, aloo Biryani etc.

Similarly, Pulao comes second after it. It has many forms and methods of cooking because of the variation of culture and differences of areas.

Makai Ki Roti & Sarsoon ka Saag

Makai ki Roti with Sarsoon da saag is a famous Punjabi recipe. It involves mustard leaves, makai flour and that's it. Whenever there is a need to represent village culture of Pakistan, it is shown to be eaten.

Kababs /Naan

Naan Kababs are not dishes actually but kind of essential add-ons or pop-ups of a Pakistani dining table. Kebab is made from minced meat and naan with flour dough. There is a wide variety of kababs in a Pakistani dinner table like Shami Kabab, Tikka Kabab, Gola Kabab, Seekh Kabab, Aalo kabab, Chapli Kabab, Chappli Kabab and many more. They are either used together or separately or with other dishes such as Pualo Kabab, Bun kabab or naan nehari etc.

Naan also has many forms like Qeema Nan, Aalo Nan, Roghni Nan and so on, especially Roghni naan is very popular among Pakistanis.

Korma & Nehari

Korma & Nehari are also yummy Pakistani food items. Meat is involved in cooking both the dishes. People enjoy eating them on special occasions such as weddings, dinners, parties and hangouts etc.

Haleem and Hareesa

Haleem and Hareesa involve a lot of food items like lentils; rice, meat, maze etc. but the amalgam of such product is surely is super-duper tasty in the form of Haleem or hareesa. They are majorly served with Naan.

Seeji & Dampukht

Seeji or Saji and Dumpakht are two especial Baluchi cuisine that have become so famous all over the country now. It is made out after skewing whole lamb that makes it unique and scrumptious for all. Dampukht is also made from meat but its cooking involves a lot of fats.

Halwa Puri

Halwa Puri is the last but not least especial breakfast item of Pakistan. It is originated from Punjab but famous all over the world for its yummy taste and halwa eye-catching color. Halwa is a sweet dish that involves Suji, a kind of flour and sugar majorly; while Puri is made out of gram-flour and then deep fried in the oil.

KARACHI: Only those nations thrive that revisit their history and later on revive it accordingly, said the president of the Friends of Sindhu Civilisation, Khadim Hussain Soomro, during a talk organised on the second day of the Sindh Literature and Culture Festival on Sunday.

The festival was organised by the Friends of Sindhu Civilization at Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, where Professor Sahar Ansari and Professor KS Nagpal read their papers while Nasir Soomro recited the work of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, Shaikh Ayaz, Hassan Dars and Ibrahim Munshi. Soomro said it's very important to host such festivals and conferences to promote culture, civilisation and literature. He said only those nations thrive that revisit their history and later on revive them accordingly. He told the audience that on page 16 and 17 of the book, "Jesus lived in Asia", by Holger Kersten, it is written that 'Sindh is a land loved by God'. He also said we should appreciate philanthropists like Mitharam who donated Rs100,000 for the construction of DJ Science College in Karachi.

Professor Nagpal said culture is a broad term in which civilisation, national identity, historical realities, heroes, literature and society are the key aspects. He said the people living in Sindh are the caretakers of the entire culture. He said an artefact such as the sooti kapro (cotton cloth) from Sindh was used 600 BC in Greece. He said that gilam (carpets) were used in the palaces of Egyptian Pharaohs. He further told the audience that the word Hindu has been derived from Sindhu as Arabs used to pronounce it that way. According to him, Raja Dahir was defeated because the Buddhists of Sindh were pacifist and they did not fight to even defend their land. He said the people of Sindh have remained non-violent and non-martial throughout history. According to him, no boundary wall and weapons were found from the remains of Moen Jo Daro, which clearly shows that Sindh has always remained a peaceful land. He said that Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai has become a poet of the people — whether they are educated or not, they appreciate and

Sindh Literature and Culture Festival: 'Only those nations thrive that revisit their history'

Express Tribune, January 4, 2016

Overload's 'Lahore' protests against harm to historical sites

Express Tribune, January 1, 2016

sing the recitations of Bhattai. He added that to become a successful nation we have to give education to the women of Sindh.

LAHORE: Of late, the music industry has somewhat shifted its attention from issues pertaining to the society. Luckily, there are those for whom playing for entertainment alone defies their true calling. By that definition, Overload's latest single, Lahore, is a protest song. It encapsulates the concerns reverberating with the city's children who have been left unnerved with the constant moving in and out of bulldozers and road rollers. For the dwellers of the city, its historical sites define their connect with the land they prize the most. Talking to The Express Tribune, band frontman Farhad Humayun said, "This is a very recent song that I did. Usually I have stuff lying around for years but this wasn't one of those." The outspoken musician has not particularly been involved in activism of any kind so this theme was a first for the band. "My mother Navid Shahzad and my grandfather were both very vocal so people assume I would be too," he said. However, he stated his way of putting his views out is a little different. "I prefer to do it through music."

Since this is the medium Humayun is most comfortable with, he avoids partaking in the various events that he is invited to. "I never wanted to attach my name to that of an organisation or NGO that has another agenda altogether." One wonders whether songs like these really have an effect on policies and mindsets at the end of the day. "On its own it can't. But a song can provoke thought. Music is expression and when we voice our opinion, other people often resonate with it and come forward. Otherwise they'd be afraid to do so," the drummer-vocalist said.

Humayun feels protest music has the power to make people realise that they are not alone in their ideas and beliefs. "It can create a sense of community, which allows individuals to organise themselves and bring about change." People have started responding to the music and lyrics and they are beginning to see the underlying message too, he shared. A quick glance across Overload's Facebook page explains the statement, wherein many are echoing Humayun's protest. The harm to historical sites at the cost of urban development has long been causing uproar in the provincial capital and this is the first artistic response to it. "In the writing stage, I wanted to enforce the idea of identity which I did through palm trees because they are very Arab and belong in the desert."

He wrote the song with Tahir Shaheer, a well-known Urdu poet. Humayun also revealed that vocals have been distorted as he screams into a loudspeaker like "an announcement from a mosque". I wanted to add character to the song and make it more authentic, he stated. "Before this, I did two ballads that were soulful and heavy so people were expecting we would continue with that." When asked whether social awareness has now become a mainstay with the Overload philosophy he referred to the Ho Mann Jahaan premiere incident where he walked out over mistreatment at the hands of the organisers. "I want to write a song about VIP culture after the cinema incident but I don't plan on becoming a protest musician. That requires a lot of anger, resentment and bitterness."

Preserving the past: 60-day heritage conservation project concludes

Express Tribune, January 1, 2016

MANSEHRA: A 60-day project launched by the department of archaeology at Hazara University in Mansehra to ensure conservation of cultural heritage concluded on Wednesday. Speaking to The Express Tribune, Dr Shakirullah Khan, head of the department of archaeology at the varsity, said the initiative was launched with the financial support of United States Education Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) and Pak US Alumni Network (PUAN). "Under this project, some important archaeological sites were selected," he said. According to Shakirullah, the sites included a monument in Naukot village, Gulibagh Monument, Zardheri Buddhist Stupa near Shinkiar, Mansehra Rock Edicts and Shiva Lingham Temple at Chitti Gatti, Gandhian.

A series of activities were organised to preserve these sites for the purpose of posterity.

"We installed signboards which carried information about the sites in both English and Urdu," he said. "We distributed brochures in both languages among the public, held meetings with locals living close to these sites and arranged seminars at the university campus." According to Shakirullah, the objective is to raise awareness among the public about the importance of cultural heritages. "Most of these monuments are in poor condition and vulnerable to harm," he said. "During the campaign, locals promised to protect them from damage."

Appointment case : PTDC chief challenges court decision

Express Tribune, December 28, 2015

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) managing director has filed an intra-court appeal against the Islamabad High Court (IHC)'s decision declaring his appointment illegal. The high court, on December 23, had declared appointment of PTDC MD illegal with directions to the corporation's board of directors to appoint a new head of the body. "He [Kabir Ahmed Khan] is no more managing director of the PTDC," Justice Noorul Haq Qureshi said in his order. The Board of Directors (BoD) shall follow Article 112 of the Memorandum of Association in appointment of MD as prescribed by the law, he added.

Petitioner Tanweer Akhtar had challenged appointment of Khan as head of the tourism body on contract in 2014 for a period of two years. He maintained that Khan's appointment was illegal, against rules and without completion of formalities. Chaudhry Kabir Ahmad Khan through his counsel Abdur Rehman Siddiqui has challenged the decision. The counsel said that under Article 199 of the Constitution, read with section 56 of Specific Relief Act, no injunction could be granted in the cases where interference is sought in the functions of public duties of any department. "Interference by the learned Single Judge into the matter was an exception and not a matter of course," Siddiqui stated.

In the petition, he said that Akhtar had not come with clean hands, his contention was tainted with malice and mala fide and he could not have been allowed to resort to discretionary relief under Article 199 of the Constitution. The discretionary power has not been exercised justly, fairly and in accordance with the dictum laid down by the apex court time and again in numerous judgments, he said. The impugned order "suffers from serious legal infirmities," not sustainable and liable to be set aside, he added. The petitioner has requested the court to set aside the impugned judgment.

16 Pakistani tourist spots you must visit in 2016

Dawn News, December 26, 2015

The BoD in its 81st meeting held on May 4, 2015, noted that “the regularisation wing of the Finance Division has already issued the notification on terms and conditions for MP-II scale, which may be followed by the PTDC and Cabinet Division. No further notification in this respect is required,” the verdict read. In the judgment, Justice Qureshi noted that bare reading of the decision did not indicate induction of Khan by the federal government. It merely follows a notification setting terms and conditions for MP-II and does not include any other detail by the board for subsequent appointment of the MD, he added. Visibly, Justice Qureshi had stated, it is seen that law has been violated while appointing Khan as PDTC MD.

2015 is about to end and it is time to plan for year 2016. Whenever we think of Pakistan, all that comes to our mind is terrorism, extremism, sectarianism, corruption, load shedding and inflation but despite all these issues, we immensely love our country. Amidst all the chaos we have forgotten the beauty of our landscape.

Pakistan is full of breathtaking locations which will make you fall in love with this country all over again. If you are a tourist or love travelling then you must compile a list of places you plan to visit next year. Dawn.com frequently publishes pictures of stunning tourist spots and historic places of Pakistan to highlight the positive image of the country and to generate awareness among the people. Here are 16 destinations from our list which you must visit in 2016. Your experience would be, indeed, unforgettable:

1. Naltar valley

Naltar is famous for its colourful lakes, it is situated at a drive of 2.5 hours from Gilgit. World's tastiest potatoes are cultivated here. Covered with pine trees, this valley doesn't seem to be a part of this world.

If you really want to experience paradise in this world, you should visit Naltar at least once. This place will make you fall in love with it.

2. Neelum Valley, Azad Kashmir

Opposite to the Keran sector of Indian-held Kashmir. From the Chella Bandi Bridge – just north of Azaad Kashmir's capital Muzaffarabad – to Tau Butt, a valley stretches out for 240 kilometres; it is known as the Neelum Valley (literally, the Blue Gem Valley).

Neelum is one of the most beautiful valleys of Azaad Kashmir, and it hosts several brooks, freshwater streams, forests, lush green mountains, and a river. Here, you see cataracts falling down the mountains; their milky-white waters flowing over the roads and splashing against the rocks, before commingling with the muddy waters of River Neelum.

3. Shangrila resort, Skardu

In the extreme north of Pakistan, Skardu the central valley of Gilgit-Baltistan, is an epitome of beauty, serenity and wilderness. After Jaglot on the Karakoram Highway, a narrow road turns towards Skardu. During the seven-hour journey, one is greeted with several streams, springs, and the hospitality of the local people. After crossing the old wooden bridge built over the River Indus, one reaches Shangrila, a paradise on earth for tourists. It is a famous tourist spot in Skardu, which is about 25 minutes away by drive. Restaurant in Shangrila rest house is highlight of this place, which is built in the structure of an aircraft.

4. Gojal Valley

The Gojal Valley borders China and Afghanistan, with its border meeting the Chinese border at Khunjerab — 15,397 feet above sea level — and remains covered with snow all year long. In the north west, there is Chiporsun, whose border touches the Wakhan region of Afghanistan. Wakhan is about six square miles in area, after which starts Tajikistan. The Karakoram Highway which connects Pakistan to China also passes through Gojal Valley and enters China at Khunjerab.

5. Deosai Plains

Deosai is located on the boundary of Karakoram and the western Himalayas, and at no point it is less than 4000 meters above sea level. It remains covered with snow for 8 months. The rest of the year, it hosts a range of beautiful flowers of all hues and colours, but not a single tree is found in this plateau spread over 3000 sq. km.

Sheosar lake is also part of this. This lake is one of the highest lakes in the world. The deep blue water, with snow-covered mountains in backdrop, and greenery with wild flowers in foreground offer such a view in summers, that one is left amused for the rest of his life.

6. Rama Meadow

Just a little ahead of Rama Village, which is 11 kilometres from Astore, is a beautiful and serene plain called Rama Meadow. If you ever happen to find yourself in plain, ice-cold and milk-white water flowing in streams, sheep and cows grazing in peace, pine trees, Chongra's ice-covered peak in background, and Nanga Parbat's southern ridge is in view, then you are probably in Rama Meadow.

7. Paye

Shogran had seen an influx of tourists, who trampled over its beauty, leaving it jaded. Siri Paye, nonetheless, still retains its strong attraction for tourists as a green plateau on top of the Hindu Kush. Engulfed in clouds and fog more often than not, it entices many as a rendezvous which allows one to observe Nature play peek-a-boo.

Here, you see numerous small ponds filled with freshwater, meet horse-riders wandering about, and smell wild yellow flowers blooming everywhere. With the Makra Peak set as a backdrop, the beauty of the Siri Paye meadows comes to life.

8. Ayun and Bamburet Valley

Ayun district is a village of Chitral. Located 12 kilometres south of the city at the confluence of the River Bamburet. There are no words to describe the beauty of the mountains surrounding the village. Beyond Ayun valley is Bamburet Valley, it is one of the three Kalash valleys.

Bamburet is nearly two-hour journey from Chitral. Locals trace their roots to Alexander the Great and Greece. Bamburet valley is a picturesque valley with lush greenery and mountains that give you a sense of calm and solitude.

9. White Palace Swat

White Palace Marghazar is the only breathtaking location in the Swat district that's situated at a distance of around 12 km from the city of Mingora. Not only do tourists visit Marghazar for its natural beauty and pleasant weather but also to visit the historic White Palace (1941), built during the era of Swat state.

After the White Palace was constructed on the directives of the founder of modern Swat state, Miangul Abdul Wadood also known as Badshah Sahab, Marghazar became the capital of Swat state during summer season. Even today, after seven decades, White Palace remains an attraction for tourists. The Palace doesn't just look beautiful in summer; even during winter it remains enchanting especially after snowfall. Also read: Swat's White Palace: Cut from the same stone as the Taj Mahal.

10. Kerthar area

The Kirthar range stretches from Sindh to Balochistan, serving as a natural border between the two provinces. This mountain range includes the scenic Gorakh Hill (5700), Kutte Ji Qabar (6877) and Bandu Ji Qabar (7112). This region is not just known for its breathtaking beauty but also for its rich history. Spread across 150 miles, it is an ideal tourist spot due to several streams, springs and historic locations, however, it's unfortunate that few tourists prefer to visit. The local population is eager to welcome visitors and want to make this area a better place.

11. Mubarak Village Karachi

Mubarak remains the second largest fishermen village in Karachi. Bordering with Gadani (Balochistan), the landscape encircles a stark contrast of golden hills and turquoise clear waters. Away from the city frenzy, this place welcomes you with a lot of love. As soon as you park near the shore, numerous boats are anchored floating on crystal clear waters, beneath the expansive blue sky.

12. Rural areas near Punjab river

Punjab has been gifted with countless blessings including fertile land and lush green farms. Nature has also blessed Punjab with colors of every season, as winter ends vivid colors of spring spread around. According to Syed Mehdi Bukhari, Sialkot, a city standing near the banks of River Chenab, is also known as the centre of artisans. Perhaps, not only the soils straddling this river, but also the people living near its banks owe their fertility to Chenab. Iqbal, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Shev Kumar Batalvi, and many other fertile minds have their roots here. The River Chen 13. Ghanche District, Gilgit-Baltistan.

Gilgit-Baltistan's Ghanche district stands almost aloof with its beautiful valleys and settlements inhabited by the most hospitable locals and river irrigated lands. The central location in the district is Khaplu, which is a beautiful landscape with high summits, flowing blue waters and waterfalls. The people of this small settlement on the bank of River Shyok, are warm and loving, as they were centuries before. Going a little ahead from Khaplu, the curvy road takes one to the delta of River Shyok, where it splits up, flowing through the gravel filled river plain. The peak of Mashabrum mountain can also be seen in the backdrop. It flows from Marala, 24 kilometres from the city of Sialkot.

14. Ranikot Fort

Ranikot, with a circumference of about 26 km, is the largest fort in the world. However, this has not been enough to convince the authorities to develop it as a major tourist attraction. This fort is easily accessible from Karachi through the National Highway. After departing from Karachi, head to Dadu through on the Indus Highway. The road is in excellent condition. It's an hour-long journey to San, the home of Sindhi nationalist, GM Syed. A little further from the town there comes a diversion. A rusty board announces that Ranikot is some 30 km away. Even though the road is in pathetic condition, the distance can be covered in 30 to 40 minutes.

15. Bahawalpur

The princely state in Punjab boasts a treasure of historic buildings, monuments and parks that many have never heard of. Bahawalpur – a city located along the left bank of the Sutlej river. Along with desert areas, Bahawalpur is known as the land of lush gardens that soothe your eyes whereas the splendor palaces don't fail to impress you.

16. Gorak Hill

Snowfall in Sindh — sounds more like fantasy but no, there's one place in Sindh where it really snows in winter, to the extent that in 2008 the mountains got entirely covered with a layer of snow. Gorakh is a scenic plateau situated at a height of over 5,688 feet and is part of the Kirthar Mountain Range that covers the entire Sindh's border with Balochistan in the west.

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Pervez Khattak has directed the relevant authorities to expedite progress on implementing his orders to establish development authorities in various parts of the province.

This was stated in a handout issued by the CM's Secretariat on Wednesday. He said this while

Tourism returns in full swing: Khattak orders authorities to expedite development projects

ExpressTribune, December 24, 2015

Back to history: Art exhibition honours Jinnah's life, sacrifices

ExpressTribune, December 22, 2015

Tell it like it is: Historians call for rewriting Pakistan's history

ExpressTribune, December 18, 2015

chairing the 20th meeting of the Tourism Corporation Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) Board of Directors. He also urged them to finalise a draft legislation to bring all proposed and existing development authorities within the ambit of the proposed law. According to the handout, TCKP affairs, including the Annual Development Schemes 2015-16 for tourism sector, progress on tourism promotional initiatives, annual budget and accounts and numerous decisions to enable TCKP achieve its target fixed for the current year were discussed in detail at the meeting.

Meeting proceedings

Khattak directed tourism and environment departments to conduct a feasibility study to establish a recreation park under construction near Pashtun Garhi Bridge and a wetland park in the same area to preserve wildlife.

As per the handout, Khattak also directed authorities to expedite progress on construction of zoo and stressed on the need to complete beautification, rehabilitation and renovation project of Nathiagali by the forthcoming tourist season. Participants were informed that Rs244.124 million would be spent on 12 tourism schemes under ADP 2015-16.

"These schemes include establishment of picnic spots at Malam Jabba, water sports facilities, better tracks for walking and jeeps, camps and other tourist facilities throughout K-P and traditional events at local, national and international level," stated the handout. "Different tourism promotional events planned for 2016 including Huner Mela, Huner-e-Hawa, FITUR Spain, Madrid, ITB Berlin, Germany, Kalash Festival, Shandur Polo Festival, Broghil Festival, World Tourism Day and World Travel Mart, London were also discussed at the meeting." The chief minister also approved a proposal presented by tourism secretary about holding a car rally from Abbottabad to Peshawar through the tourists' trail of Mansehra, Chilas, Shandur, and Chitral. He directed the proposed event be coincided with the next Shandur Polo Festival. Khattak asked the finance department to grant sanction to all new posts demanded by the government departments in the larger public interest.

The past

TCKP MD said the corporation carried out 18 tourism promotional activities in different parts of the province and abroad this year. "Jewels of Peshawar held at Sethi House, K-P Cuisine and Cultural Festival, Frontier Jeep Rally, Swat, Kohat Festival, Train Excursion Trip, Ladies Summer Festival, Vintage Car Rally, Dilip Kumar's Birthday, Pakistan International Mountain Film Festival, innovative Train Ride to Attock Khurd, Tour de Galliat Cycle Race, Shandur polo Tournament, Train Safari on Iqbal Day and Opening of Government Rest Houses for tourists were all done this year," the handout quoted him as saying.

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition of artwork to honour Quaid-i-Azam went on display at Aiwan-i-Quaid gallery in Fatima Jinnah Park on Monday. Organised by Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications of Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, the show features works of Mazhar Alam, Wasim Akhtar, Muhammad Iftikhar, Syeda Humaira Nayyar Zafar, Nayyar Sultana Kazmi and Riffat Khattak. Aiwan-i-Quaid Director Programmes Ishrat Masoom told The Express Tribune that the idea to host the event was to honour founder of the nation. He said the six artists were given the theme by the Directorate. "We are hosting a series of events including a lecture on the life of Jinnah, Naat recitation, speech competitions and activities for students to celebrate his [Jinnah's] birthday and pay tribute to him," he said. Akhtar said it took him six months to complete the artwork featuring sketches, oil and water colour on canvas.

"The idea is to educate students about historical and prominent figures through art," he said. He was of the view that art and culture, and interactive activities must be used to educate future generation about national heroes. Alam said he used oil and colour on canvas to create the artworks. He also mentioned that the idea, to host this exhibition and produce works on such a theme, was to create awareness about message of Jinnah. "We need to remind the future generation about forgotten wisdom of the founder of the nation," he said.

Most artworks on display are portraits of Jinnah and other prominent leaders of Pakistan Movement. It also includes portraits of Quaid's family in order to create awareness about his personal and professional life among students. Some of the paintings depict his famous sayings and quotations, leaving an impact on the viewers.

Iftikhar, another artist featured in the exhibition, said art is an effective way to inspire youth and attract them towards a particular theme. "This is precisely the reason why I love to explore patriotic and historical themes through my artwork. I believe doing so can create awareness at a greater level to reach out to the masses," he said.

PESHAWAR: Khan Abdul Jabbar Khan, popularly known as Dr Khan Sahib, was assassinated in 1958 when he was serving the West Pakistan's government as its first chief minister. However, he has not been declared a "state martyr". "The historians in Pakistan must research this issue," University of Peshawar Vice Chancellor Dr Rasul Jan said. He was speaking at an event of Alumni Association Department of History University of Peshawar held at the varsity on Thursday. Jan said the government declared Liaquat Ali Khan, the first prime minister of Pakistan, a martyr when he was assassinated. "However, Dr Khan was not declared a martyr," he said.

While shedding light on other issues the historians can research, he gave an example of his own family. He said it had been forced to migrate three times in history. "I belong to Swat and my family has migrated thrice from its hometown," Jan said. "Historians must research why Pukhtuns are always compelled to migrate while others are not." He said all 26 universities in K-P – with the exception of UoP – do not have a department dedicated to researching and teaching history.

"There should be more departments to promote interest in the subject," Jan said. He added universities should create JOB OPPORTUNITIES for historians and researchers in the field. "Pukhtuns have a rich culture and history," Jan said. "But our historians have not paid it the

Tourism to contribute over Rs1 trillion by 2025

ExpressTribune, December 17, 2015

attention it deserves."He said the university will finance the project to chronicle the history of UoP – a project initiated by the alumni association.At the event, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women's University Vice Chancellor Dr Razia Sultana announced a history department has been opened in her university and said classes had started in the department.

"K-P has been heavily affected by militancy for decades," she said. "This has destroyed its culture, and it is upon the historians to research this issue."While commenting on the number of female teachers in the province, Razia Sultana said even though a large number of women have been enrolled in the department, there is a shortage of women lecturers in the region.Asfandiyar Durrani, the president of Alumni Association Department of History University of Peshawar, said there is a lack of history departments in all universities in K-P except for UoP. "However, this problem is not limited to universities but extends to colleges as well," he added.A resolution was also passed by the participants where they condemned the removal of Dr Waqar Ali Shah from the chair of National Institute for Historical and Cultural Research over his statement of rewriting Pakistan's history.

KARACHI: The travel and tourism industry's direct contribution to the country's economy was in excess of Rs500 billion in 2014 and the number is projected to surpass Rs1 trillion in 2025, says the first such report on the country's hospitality sector.

With local tourism on the rise, domestic spending accounted for 92% of the total travel and tourism's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014, said the report, prepared by hotel-booking website Jovago Pakistan, that was unveiled at 'The Patio' on Wednesday.A further breakdown revealed that out of the total travel and tourism GDP, 83% was spent on leisure travel while 16.9% was spent on business engagements.The purpose of the report is to strengthen the tourism sector and share insights regarding the industry in Pakistan, Jovago said in its press release.

"Our objective is to promote local tourism by educating tourists," Jovago's Managing Director Nadine Malik said, adding they want to make sure customers feel safe when making online bookings. "We want to create a market for online booking."Domestic tourism is being promoted mainly because of social media; we now see more people willing to travel within Pakistan," she said.Briefing a select group of journalists and bloggers, the MD said that although the company operated globally, it was trying to localise Jovago as much as possible. For example, she said, the company has introduced a 'book-now-pay-later' option to suit people in Pakistan.

A subsidiary of Germany's Rocket Internet, Jovago launched its operations in Pakistan in April, 2014. It now boasts 50 employees and has grown a network of more than 2,000 hotels from 160 cities registered on its website.Though Malik talked about the achievements of Jovago, she refused to disclose financials. The company has witnessed up to 40% month-on-month growth in the number of bookings on its website, according to its global chief Paul Midy whom The Express Tribune interviewed earlier this year..The company is heavily betting on local tourism, fine-tuned the report to attract foreign tourists as well.

For example, it talks about five of the world's highest peaks, which are in Pakistan; the UNESCO-recognised heritage sites; the country's cultural and geographical landscape, the scenic beauty of its northern areas and different sectors of the economy.In 2015, the report says many famous international tourists, such as Mike Horn, Brandon Stanton, Sophee Southall and Billy Bierling visited Pakistan.

Though there is very low percentage of foreign tourists visiting the country, the company is confident that the number would increase. Total spending by foreign visitors stood at a meagre 8% of the sector's economic output in 2014.

TDCP to buy three more tourist buses

ExpressTribune, December 16, 2015

LAHORE: The Tourism Development Corporation of Pakistan (TDCP) is going to expand its fleet of double-decker tourist buses, TDCP Managing Director Ahmar Malik said on Tuesday."Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has given approval for the expansion of the project. The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) has also approved the procurement of three new double-decker buses and building new terminals in Lahore," he said.

He said that the PDWP had approved an expenditure of Rs120 million for the project. "A tender for buying the new buses will be issued next week," he said.He said the bus service, Sightseeing Lahore, had received a tremendous response from tourists and the general public. "Buses are mostly overbooked, especially on weekends. A lot of people ride the buses on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The buses are reserved for school children during early hours," he said.

He said that once the new buses reached Pakistan, the corporation would start more routes. "We are providing an international-standard service. We have studied the operation of similar services in cities like London, Dubai and Budapest," he said. Earlier, the corporation had imported two double-decker buses from China for \$376,000. Each bus has a capacity to carry 67 passengers. The vehicles are equipped with a public address system, allowing guides to inform passengers about the city's history and places of interest along the route.

KARACHI: When outsiders think of Sindh, all they see is Karachi. Refreshingly, local tour guides have taken upon the task to change that image. Their modus operandi: Facebook.Even though the responsibility of promoting tourism rests with the provincial government, their lack of interest for various reasons has left a vacuum that is being filled by the private sector.Travel enthusiasts residing in Karachi, and even outside the metropolis, now have the opportunity to tour the myriad scenic spots of Sindh via various private tours operating through Facebook.

Tourist localities such as Gorakh Hills, Tharparkar, Kund Malir Beach, Ranikot Fort and Manchar Lake are marketed on the social networking site. Travel groups offer various kinds of tours; from just a day trip to those involving several nights' stay.Saad Hassan, a civil engineer and frequent traveller, visited Nagarparkar and Kund Malir Beach by signing up with Travelindus. Hassan came back satisfied with what such groups are offering Karachiites. "Travelling with such groups is a far

The best of Sindh is now a click away

ExpressTribune, December 16, 2015

History Matters: Walled City Authority to be expanded

ExpressTribune, December 15, 2015

Tourists throng Murree for season's first snowfall

ExpressTribune, December 12, 2015

Cultural heritage: Sindh Topi Day to be held on Dec 13

ExpressTribune, December 10, 2015

better experience [than going alone or without a tour guide] as all the famous spots along one's route are not missed; and above all time is saved as the organisers have already explored the places before and know the areas inside out," he said. Hassan explained that his colleague went to Hingol National Park on his own but failed to see as many sites. He added that security issues, which otherwise force travellers to rethink their plans to the province's interior, are not a concern when travelling with such groups. We only have to enjoy the journey and landscapes along the route, he boasted. The tours can cost anything from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 9,000 per person, depending on the number of days involved. The packages cover the costs of transportation, lodging, meals and snacks, shared Ghulam Murtaza Lashari, the managing partner at Travelindus. "Our aim is to promote destinations across Sindh which travel enthusiasts of Karachi have not heard of." Compared to tourist spots in the Northern areas of the country, which require several days of travelling, such areas in Sindh can be explored in a couple of days, he added.

Lashari explained that they use Facebook to motivate people to travel and at the same time inform them about different destinations across the province. Dr Sitara Soomro, another travelling enthusiast, has travelled across Sindh from Kund Malir Beach to Tharparkar and Gorakh with such groups. She appreciated the work of these tour operators and said their travel guides are professional and ensure that travellers come back richer from the experience. Travel photographer Dania Shah said "these Facebook communities are playing a positive role and with such activities the local tourism industry will see a rise which will ultimately benefit the local communities of Sindh."

Rover Adventure Club, another travelling group operating through Facebook, offers tour packages to Kund Malir Beach, Gorakh Hills and Khanpur Dam (in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa). "Most of the places in Northern areas become inaccessible this time of the year, whereas winter is the peak travelling season for Sindh," said Babar Saeed, one of the group's owners. When contacted, Sindh Minister of Culture and Tourism Sharmila Faruqi said the Sindh Tourism Development Corporation too offers travel packages to Mohenjo Daro, Gorakh Hills, Keenjhar Lake and Makli Necropolis but said the effort requires a good media awareness campaign to reach out to the larger public. However, till the time the government gets it act together vis-à-vis promoting tourism, it seems this business will continue to boom for the private sector.

LAHORE: Chief Secretary Khizar Hayat Gondal has directed the authorities to devise a strategy for expanding the purview of the Walled City Authority to six more cities – Bhera, Multan, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Gujrat and Bahawalpur. Gondal gave the directions while chairing a meeting of the Walled City Authority. He said preserving historical and cultural heritage was a national obligation. Funds are being allocated for the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of Lahore Fort and Wazir Khan Mosque, he said. Gondal stressed the need for educating people on the importance of preserving historical sites. Earlier, Walled City Authority Director General Kamran Lashari gave a briefing on preservation work. Alam said he used oil and colour on canvas to create the artworks. He also mentioned that the idea, to host this exhibition and produce works on such a theme, was to create awareness about message of Jinnah. "We need to remind the future generation about forgotten wisdom of the founder of the nation," he said. Most artworks on display are portraits of Jinnah and other prominent leaders of Pakistan Movement. It also includes portraits of Quaid's family in order to create awareness about his personal and professional life among students. Some of the paintings depict his famous sayings and quotations, leaving an impact on the viewers. Iftikhar, another artist featured in the exhibition, said art is an effective way to inspire youth and attract them towards a particular theme.

"This is precisely the reason why I love to explore patriotic and historical themes through my artwork. I believe doing so can create awareness at a greater level to reach out to the masses," he said.

MURREE: A number of tourists, mainly from the twin cities, took to Murree to enjoy the first snowfall of the season.

About a foot of snow had fallen on Friday night in the area, while about two feet had fallen in the Galyaat region. The morning after the snowfall was sunny and pleasant, allowing tourists to enjoy the weather at various locations, including Thanda Jungle and Bhurban Road. Buses full of students also came to Murree to enjoy the weather. However, the snow created difficulties for local residents, especially those residing in rural areas. Link roads were closed to transport, forcing many schoolchildren to travel to their schools on foot. And while the forest department will be providing firewood at subsidised rates, firewood has yet to be provided to various areas.

Ansar Abbasi, the nambardar of Aliot Danna village, told Dawn that despite various attempts to pursue the forest department, firewood has not yet been provided in his village and the lack of firewood has created problems for residents. He said LPG is too expensive for poorer locals, and that the government should subsidise LPG in the colder parts of Murree to end deforestation, and added that firewood must be provided well before the start of winter. Last year, traffic police also stopped tourists' vehicles on the expressway, which the traders and hoteliers in Murree claimed was tantamount to 'economic murder'. They claimed that tourism during the winter season is a significant part of the industry, and blocking traffic in the name of better management would damage their business. This year PML-N Murree chapter president Raja Daftar Abbasi appealed to traffic police officials not to stop traffic so that business is not disrupted.

HYDERABAD: The people of Sindh will celebrate a unique cultural day, the Sindhi Topi Day (Ekta Day) on December 13. Several rallies were held on Saturday and Sunday in various cities of Sindh to welcome Sindhi Topi Day. In anticipation of the celebrations, the sale of Sindhi caps has significantly increased and in some cities, the traditional Sindhi cap has already disappeared from the markets. The Sindhi cap is regarded as one of the most essential parts of Sindhi culture and usually Sindhi people offer this traditional cap and ajrak to their guests as a token of respect.

Pakistan's 6 UNESCO world heritage sites

ExpressTribune, December 2, 2015

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites are the natural and cultural properties that, according to the World Heritage Committee's original operational guidelines from its establishment in 1977, "can be considered of outstanding universal value for the people of the world" and deserve protection.

UNESCO's mission is to encourage countries to sign the World Heritage Convention and to ensure the protection of their natural and cultural heritage, encourage countries to nominate sites in their territories for inclusion in the World heritage list and help countries protect the selected sites by providing technical assistance and professional training.

"Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration," a statement on UNESCO's website says. While Pakistan has many buildings on the tentative list, so far it has six such sites that are declared of universal significance because of their historical and cultural value.

We look at the six sites that have made it to the list:

1. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (1980)

A metropolis of the Indus Civilization, Moenjodaro dates back to around 2500 BC. The site is steadily deteriorating due to material decay, salt action, moisture infiltration and poor drainage.

UNESCO and the Government of Pakistan are working on the restructuring of the site management. Harappa, Mehrgarh and Rehman Dheri have been nominated as extensions of the archaeological site of Moenjodaro.

2. Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Neighbouring City Remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol (1980)

Founded in early 1st century A.D., situated on various hilltops ranging from 36.6 metres to 152.4 metres in height the Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi (Throne of Origins) and Neighbouring City Remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol are one of the most imposing relics of Buddhism in the Gandhara region of Pakistan.

3. Fort and Shalimar Gardens in Lahore (1981)

Dating back to the 17th century, both the Lahore Fort and Shalimar Gardens are outstanding examples of Mughal artistic expression at its height. The two sites were inscribed on the World Heritage List.

4. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (1981)

Spread over 10 kilometres and host to around half a million tombs, The vast Muslim necropolis of Makli is one of the largest in the world. Kings, queens, governors, saints, scholars, and philosophers are buried here in brick or stone monuments.

5. Rohtas Fort (1997)

Built by Sher Shah Suri in 1541, about 16 kilometers north-west of the city of Jhelum, Rohtas Fort is an extraordinary example of early Muslim military architecture in central and south Asia.

6. Taxila (1980)

A complex archaeological site in Rawalpindi district, which was developed during the Harrapan (3100-2500 BC) and Ashokan periods, is one of the most important archaeological sites in Asia. The ruins of Taxila depict the pattern of urban evolution on the Indian subcontinent through more than five centuries.

Lahore Tourism

Lahore Lahore Aye!



Educational Capital of Pakistan

With more colleges and universities than any other city in Pakistan, Lahore hosts some of Pakistan's oldest educational institutes: Government College Lahore & Forman Christian College, established in 1864; Government Islamia College Lahore, established in 1892; and University of the Punjab, established in 1882

Food City

Lahori's love their food! So much so that there are whole street devoted to eating out. Gawwamandi Food Street & Anarkali Food Street. Famous food include Halwa Puri, Siri Paye, Naan Chanaay, Dahi Bhalle, and Channa Chaat

City of Festivals

Lahore is known for its lively atmosphere. Festivals celebrated include Basant (Jashn-e-Baharan), Mela Chiraghwan, World Performing Arts Festival and Shab-e-Barat

Literary Figures

Alama Iqbal
Faiz Ahmed Faiz
Abdul Hameed Adam
Agha Shorish Kashmiri
Asif Ali Khan
Habib Jalib
Munir Niazi
Qateel Shifai
Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi
Saddat Hasan Manto
Hajira Masroor

Lahore Museum

Established in 1865, Lahore Museum is the biggest museum of the country. The Fasting Buddha from the Gandhara period is one of the most famous objects of the museum

Connecting City

In the heart of the city, Lahore Railway Station is biggest Railway Station in Pakistan and serves as a connecting center for commuters to distant parts of the country. Lahore is home to Allama Iqbal International Airport and first metro bus service in Pakistan, Lahore Metrobus Service.

Lahore Zoo

Established in 1872, Lahore zoo is thought to be the 4th oldest zoo in the world! Today the zoo houses a collection of about 1300 animals of 136 species.

City of Gardens

Lahore is known as the City of Gardens. Gardens and Park in Lahore include Shalimar Bagh, Hazuri Bagh, Iqbal Park, Mochi Bagh, Race Course Park, Gulshan Iqbal Park, Nasir Bagh, Wild Life Park, Jallo Park, Changa Manga and Begh-e-Jinnah

Architectural City

Lahore is full of beautiful and historical architecture - Lahore Fort, Shalimar Bagh (both named UNESCO World Heritage Sites), Tomb of Emperor Jehangir and Queen Nur Jehan, Chahuburji Gate, Badshahi Masjid, The Walled City, and so much more!

Historical City

Lahore has been the regional capital for numerous empires since the 11th century due to its central location. Lahore is an ancient city with more than 200 archaeological sites and historic places. Some historians trace Lahore's history as far back as 4000 years

Metropolitan City & Economic Hub

Lahore is the second largest city of Pakistan and one of the most densely populated cities in the world! Known for its industrial belt and home to largest IT Park in Pakistan, Lahore is the country's second largest economic hub after Karachi and commercial capital of Punjab



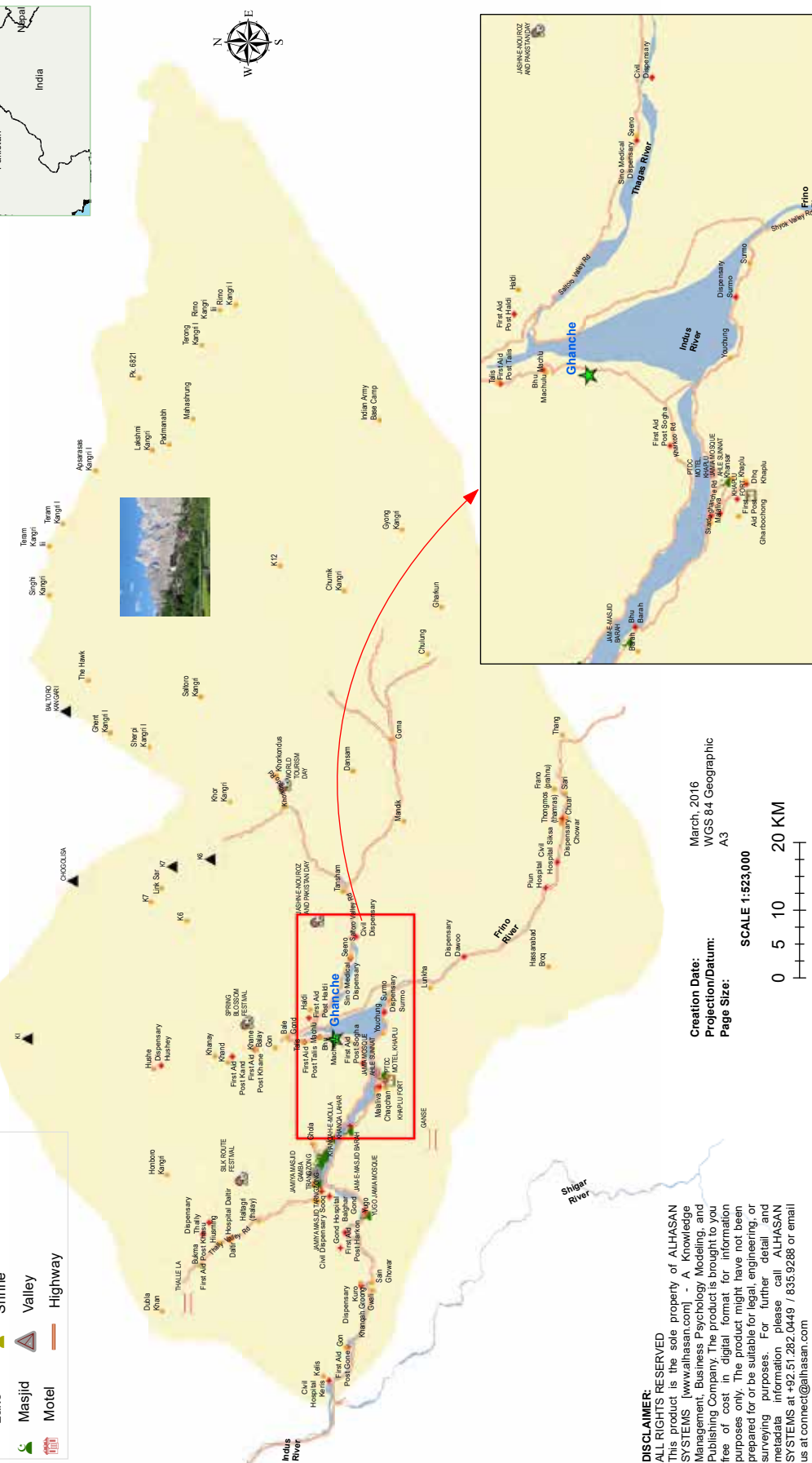
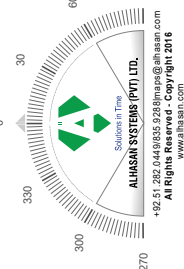
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GHANCHE TOURIST GUIDE MAP

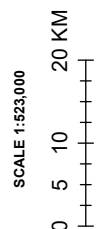
Legend

Event	Park	Main Road
Fort	Pass	Street
Hospital	Peak	Stream
Hotel	Settlement	River
Lake	Shrine	
Masjid	Valley	
Motel	Highway	

Ghanche has two sub-division, Khaplu and Masherbrum. Hushe, under the shadow of Machabrum peak, is the gateway to various important peaks and glaciers. A 102 km drive from Skardu mostly along the Shyok River takes to Khaplu, the district headquarters of Ghanche. Khaplu Fort Palace and Chapkan Mosque are the interesting places to visit. The mosque built around 1500 AC is the oldest mosque in Baltistan. The building shows Buddhist influence and Tibetan architecture. Ghondogoro Pass at 5650 m is one of the most popular and challenging trekking routes in the world.

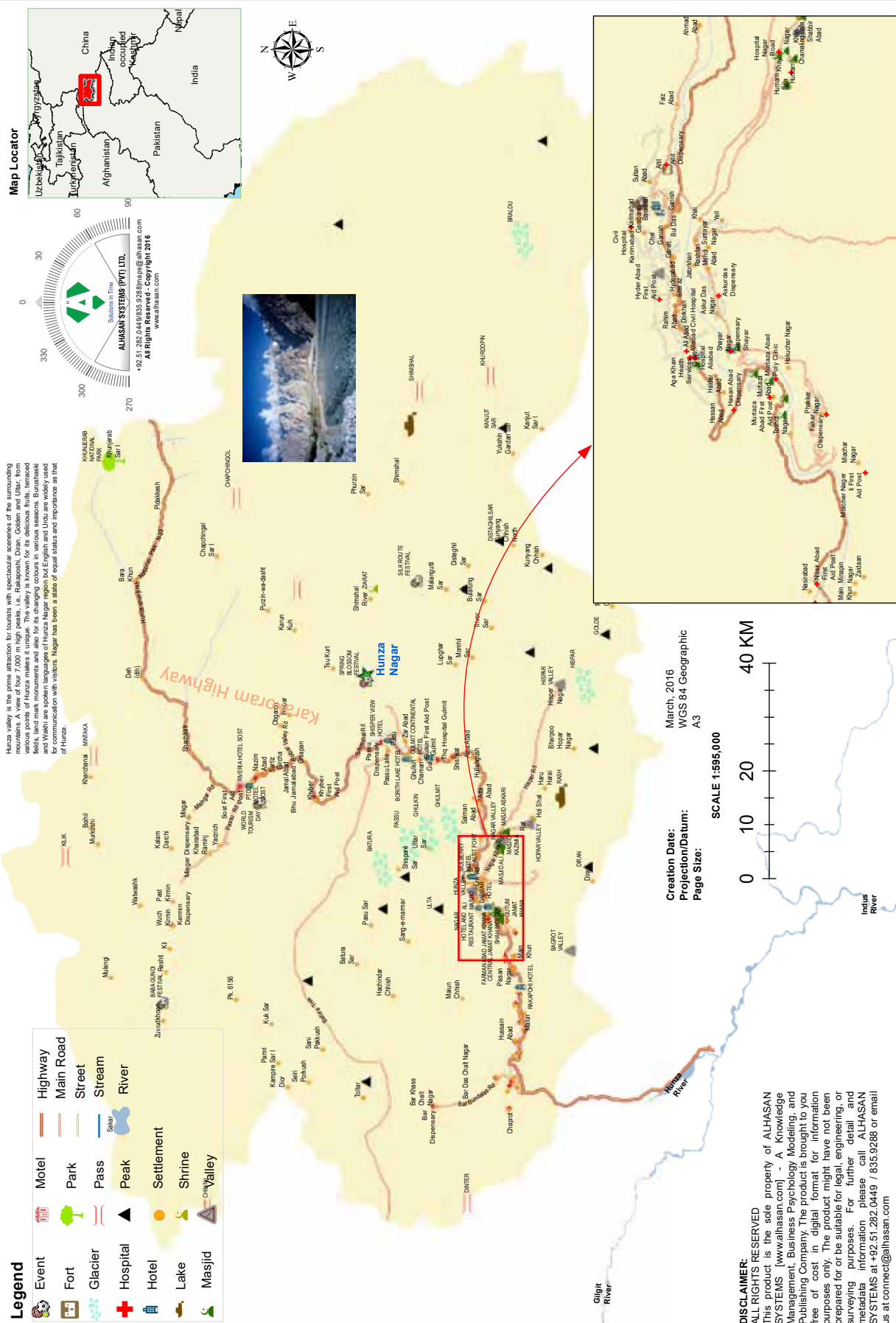


Creation Date: March, 2016
Projection/Datum: WGS 84 Geographic
Page Size: A3



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HUNZA NAGAR TOURIST GUIDE MAP



Keenjher/Karli Lake Tourist Guide Map

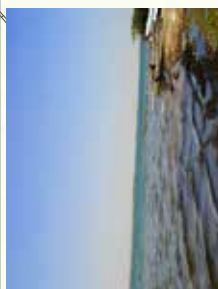
Keenjher Lake or Kalri Lake is located 22 kilometers away from Thatta and about 122 kilometers from Karachi and 80 Kilometers from Hyderabad. It is one of the largest man made lake in Pakistan.

Keenjher lake was build possibly in the 12th century by the local rulers as a watr reservoir for the then capital of Sindh Thatta.

Today Keenjhar lake is an extremely beautiful blue water lake which plays an important ecological role in the functioning of the Indus River basin. It is extremely important for a wide variety of breeding, passage and wintering waterbirds. The mid-winter birding counts of the late 1980s averaged 140,000 birds per winter. Today lake receives numerous migratory birds from Siberia and there is active bird protection and information center for visitors at the Keenjhar lake, established by the world wild life fund. Keenjhar lake has been symbolic in the poetry of Sindh and was referred to a serene turquoise water lake where romances happen and where poets say poetry with devotion.

and where poets say poetry with devotion. The famous legend of Sindi legend of Noori Jam Tamachi took place here at this lake and was created into a sufi poetry chapter in the book of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. The legends main character Noori has still a shrine on an island in the lake known as Noori's Island. Everyday hundreds of devotees visit the shrine.

Water for Karachi
Karachi gets about 78% drinking water from Keenjhar Lake thru 2 canals specially built for this purpose.
















Keenijher Lake



Moori Jam Tamachi Tomb



Legend	
Masjid	
Restaurant	
Hotel	
Education Facility	
Health Facility	
Tomb	
Villages	
Road Network	
Main Road	
Canal	
Railway Line	
Lake	
River	

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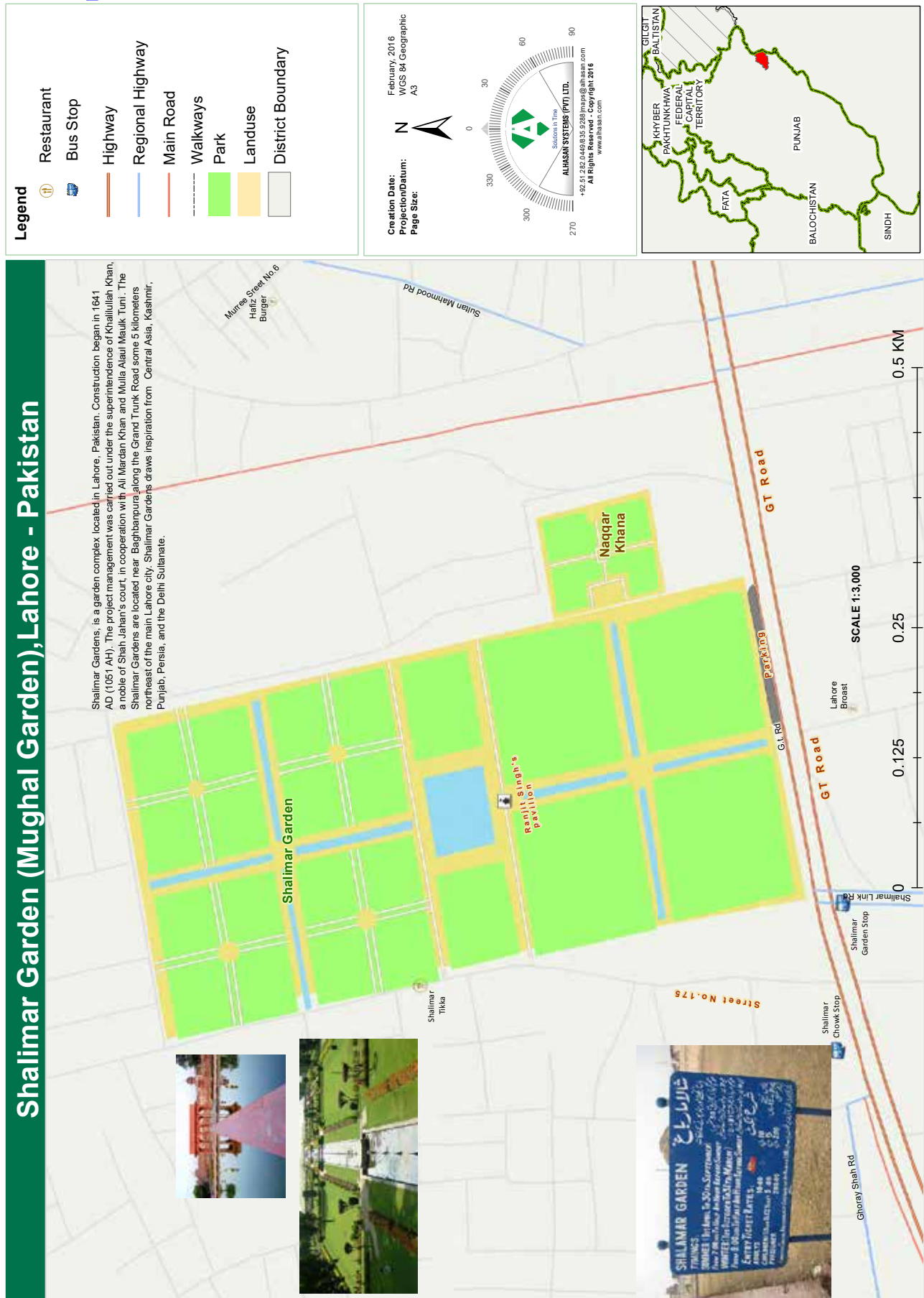
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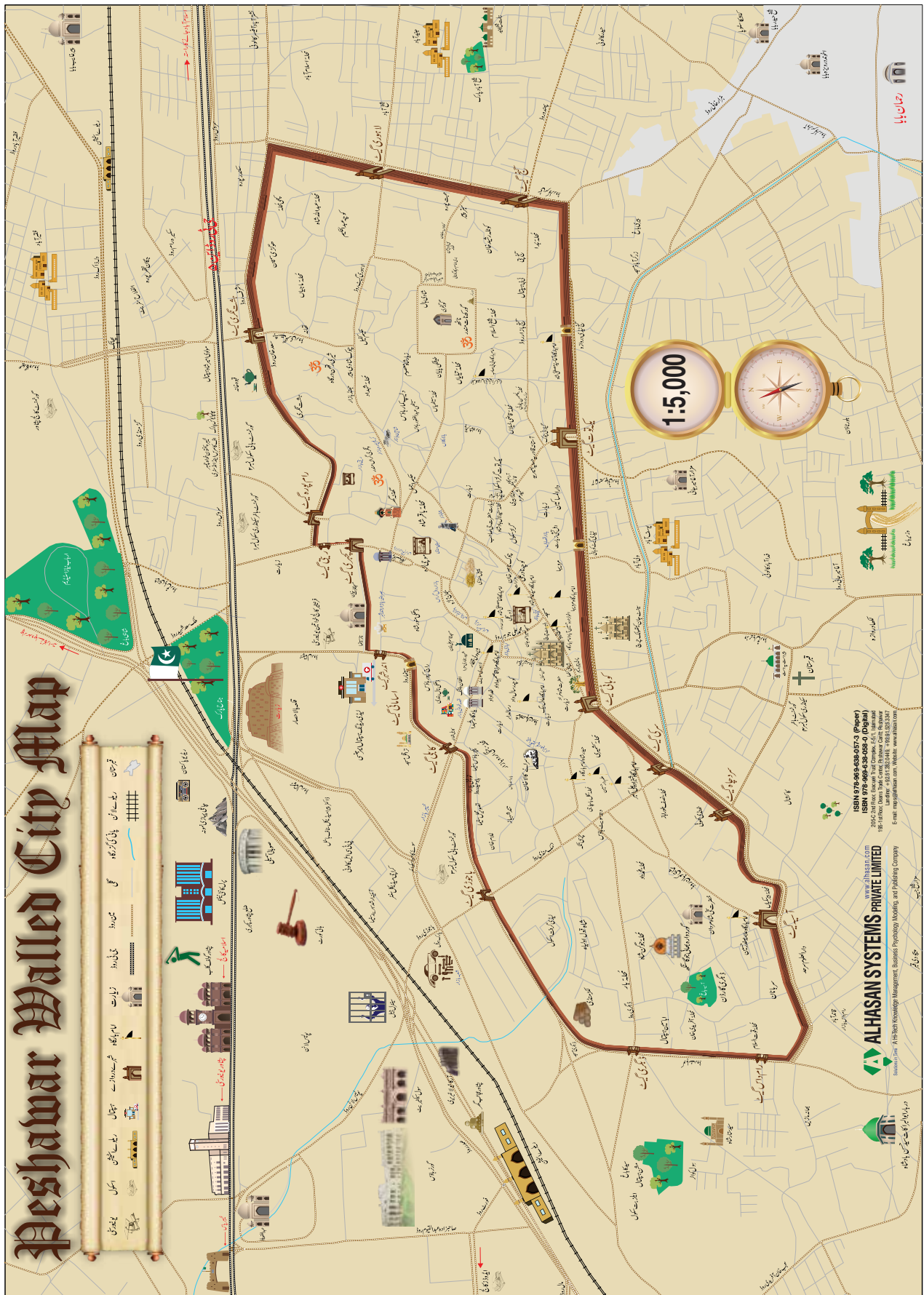
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Sheraton Karachi Hotel Club Road Phone: 0092-021-35633333 Website: www.sheraton.com/karachi	Marriott Hotel Karachi Marriott Hotel 9, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-111-22-33-44 Fax: 0092- 21-5680981 Email: Kmh@fascom.com
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Sarah hotel 30-SB-6, Parr Street, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 009292-21-35211513, 35218262	Hotel Sarawan Raja Ghazanfar Ali Rd, Saddar, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-5216001 9
Hotel Shams Fatima Jinnah Road, Cantonment Station, Saddar	Hotel Shaheen 44, Fatima Jinnah Road, Near Cantonment Station,

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Umpire Hotel 35/36, Lilly Road, Near Cantonment Station, Cantonment, Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5213896, 5652991, 5653270	Beach Luxury Hotel Molvi Tamizuddin Khan road, Karachi, Pakistan UAN: 111-254-111 Phone: 0092-21-3561-1031 Fax: 0092-21-3561-1625 Email: beachluxury@avari.com
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Hotel Hilltop Dr. Mahmood Hussain Rd, Nr. Tariq Rd. Adj Ferozabad police Station Landmark, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-4532440, 4532441, 4532442, 4532443, 4532444, 4542648 Fax: 0092-21-4539111	Mehran Hotel Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. 75530 Phone: 0092-21 3566-085
Midway house Stargate Road, Karachi Airport Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-4570371 Fax: 0092-21-4571815	Pearl Continental hotel Club Road, PO Box# 8513, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-3568-5021 [50 lines], 111-505-505 Fax: 0092-21-3568-1835, 3568-2655 Email: pchk@hashoogroup.com

MAJOR RESTAURANTS

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

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

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

منہدم ہو گئے تھے۔ بر فانی سردی کا موسم سر پر ہے لیکن ان مکانوں کی از سر نو تعمیر کا بندوبست نہیں ہو سکا۔

کراچی، لاہور: ڈرامہ نگار و اداکار کمال احمد رضوی کے انتقال پر لاہور میں مختلف شعبہ زندگی سے وابستہ شخصیات نے تعزیت کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ چیئر مین الحمرا آرٹس کونسل عطاء الحق قاسمی، الحمرا آرٹس کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر کیپٹن (ر) عطاء محمد، مسلم لیگ (ن) کلچرل ونگ پنجاب کی صدر مسز ملک، ڈائریکٹر پلاک ڈاکٹر صغیر اصف، ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر پنجاب آرٹس کونسل صوفیہ بیدار، نامور شاعر و رائٹر سعید واثق، شاہدہ منی، افتخار عفی، مسعود اختر، خلیل الرحمن قمر، قیصر جاوید، سہیل احمد، افتخار ٹھاکر اور امان اللہ سمیت دیگر نے کہا کہ کمال احمد رضوی جیسے لوگ مدتوں کے بعد پیدا ہوتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے اپنے قلم کو معاشرے کی اصلاح کے لئے استعمال کیا اور ادب کی دنیا میں جس طرح ان کی جونا قابل فراموش خدمات ہیں ان کو ہمیشہ یاد رکھا جائے گا۔

ان حلقوں نے کہا کہ کمال احمد رضوی کے انتقال سے فن و ادب کی دنیا کو گہرا نقصان ہوا ہے جس کی تلافی نہیں ہو سکتی۔ کمال احمد رضوی کثیر جہتی خصوصیات حامل تخلیق کار تھے مگر انہیں سب سے زیادہ شہرت اپنے ٹی وی کے مزاحیہ شو ”الف نون“ سے ملی جس میں فلم انڈسٹری کے مزاحیہ اداکار نضابھی شامل تھے یہ مزاحیہ ڈرامہ سیریل آج بھی لوگوں کے ذہن میں نقش ہے۔ کمال احمد رضوی نے اپنی زندگی کا آخری پروگرام سینئر اداکار مسعود اختر کے ساتھ کیا تھا۔ کمال احمد رضوی کو خراج عقیدت پیش کرنے کے لئے الحمرا میں تعزیتی ریلیز فرس بھی منعقد کیا جائے گا۔ بے پناہ صلاحیتوں کے اعتراف میں حکومت کی جانب سے انہیں 14 اگست 1989ء میں صدارتی تمغہ برائے حسن کارکردگی سے نوازا گیا تھا۔

کراچی (دنیانور) کراچی شہر میں لندن جیسی ایک شاہراہ ہے، شاہراہ پر جگہ جگہ گٹر کے خوب صورت جالی دار اور چوکور ڈھکن لگے ہیں۔ سائیڈ میں تھوڑے تھوڑے فاصلے پر دیہ زیب بیچنی ہیں، ایک جانب بہت سلیقے سے مختلف دکانیں سبکی ہیں تو دوسری جانب صدیوں پرانا ایک مندر ہے۔ خوبصورت شاہراہ دونوں کناروں سے ٹریفک کے لئے بند ہے اور تار کول کے بجائے چھوٹی چھوٹی سرخ اینٹوں سے مل کر بنی ہے۔ شاہراہ کے عین درمیان میں شروع سے آخری کوئے تک چار یا پانچ پاؤں فٹ کے فاصلے سے مخصوص برطانوی طرز کے پول لگے ہیں۔ ہر پول پر ایک جانب پاکستان کسٹم اور دوسری جانب سبز قومی پرچم لگا ہوا ہے۔ ان میں سے ایک پول پر سنہ 1950ء کا سنہ اور اسی دور کی کمپنی کا نام درج ہے۔ پولز پر برقی قفے نصب ہیں جو رات کے وقت کا منظر مزید دلکش بنا دیتے ہیں۔ مختلف اقسام کے پھول دار پودوں اور پارک لینز نے اس روڈ کی خوبصورتی مزید بڑھادی ہے۔ کسٹم کی بلڈنگ 1916ء میں تعمیر کی گئی تھی اور وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ اس عمارت سے متصل ایڈلجی ڈسٹاروڈ کی خوبصورتی ماند پڑ گئی تھی جسے اب اصل حالت میں بحال کر دیا گیا۔ بحالی کا کام گزشتہ سال شروع کیا گیا اور اس پر ساڑھے 6 کروڑ روپے لاگت آئی، رواں بیٹے کے آغاز پر ہی اس شاہراہ کا افتتاح گورنر سندھ ڈاکٹر عشرت العباد نے کیا ہے۔ افتتاح کی یادگاری تختی بھی شاہراہ پر پاکستان کسٹم کی عمارت کے مین دروازے کے باہر نصب ہے۔ ان گنت شہری شام کے اوقات میں یہاں آتے اور فرصت کے لمحات سے محفوظ ہوتے ہیں اور شاہراہ پر دسمبر کی ٹھنڈی ہوا کا مزہ اٹھاتے ایک بزرگ نے وی او اے کو بتایا یقین نہیں آ رہا ہے کراچی ہے، گلتا ہے جیسے میں لندن کی کسی سڑک پر گھوم رہا ہوں۔ ایک نوجوان نے اپنے احساسات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بحالی کے کام کے بعد اب یہ سڑک عوام کیلئے عمدہ تفریحی مقام بن گئی ہے۔

لاہور: اداکار صائم علی اور فلمسٹار نور نے فلم ”عشق پازیو“ میں اپنے سینکسبند کردار کے سیٹ پر موجود اداکاروں سے زبردست داد حاصل کی۔ فلم ”عشق پازیو“ کا پونٹ ان دنوں بہاولپور میں موجود ہے جہاں گزشتہ روز بہاولپور کے تاریخی نور محل میں فلم کی شوٹنگ ہوئی جس میں اداکار صائم علی اور فلمسٹار نور نے اپنے سینکسبند کردارے۔ ان کی عمدہ اداکاری پر سیٹ پر موجود اداکاروں نے دونوں کو بھرپور داد دی۔ فلم کی شوٹنگ میں ولی حامد خان، مسعود، شفقت چیمہ، دردانہ بٹ، فریحہ بخاری نے بھی حصہ لیا۔ فلم کی ہدایتکاری کے فرائض اداکارہ نور سرانجام دے رہی ہیں۔ توقع کی جارہی ہے کہ وہ ایک ہی سپیل میں اپنی فلم کا کام مکمل کر لیں گی۔

اسلام آباد وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں پرانی اور نایاب کاروں کا تیسرا سالانہ میلہ منعقد ہوا جس میں گزشتہ سالوں کی نسبت نہ صرف گاڑیوں کی تعداد زیادہ تھی بلکہ شائقین کی تعداد بھی قابل ذکر رہی۔ ونیچ اینڈ کلاسک کارز کلب آف پاکستان کے زیر اہتمام ان گاڑیوں کے شوقین مالک ہر سال کراچی سے پشاور تک کا سفر کرتے ہیں اور راستے میں مختلف شہروں میں ان کی نمائش بھی کی جاتی ہے۔ اسلام آباد کے ایک بڑے نجی ہوٹل میں منعقدہ نمائش میں اس مرتبہ 1922ء سے لے کر 1980ء کی ساختہ 75 مختلف گاڑیاں شائقین کی توجہ کا مرکز بنیں۔

ادبی حلقوں کا کمال احمد رضوی کو زبردست خراج تحسین

نیو
19 دسمبر 2015

کراچی میں لندن شہر کی طرز پر بنی خوبصورت شاہراہ

شاہراہ
دنیانور
17 دسمبر 2015

بہاولپور کے تاریخی نور محل میں فلم عشق

پازیو کی شوٹنگ جاری
نیو

12 دسمبر 2015

اسلام آباد میں سچا نایاب کاروں کا میلہ

وائس آف امریکہ
03 دسمبر 2015

پاکستان: میوزیم ڈے منانے کا اعلان

ڈی ڈبلیو اردو

28 دسمبر 2015

پاکستان میں نوے سرکاری اور نجی عجائب گھروں کے کیوریٹرز اور ڈائریکٹرز پر مشتمل میوزیم ایسوسی ایشن آف پاکستان (میپ) کی پہلی جنرل اسمبلی کا اجلاس پیر کو اسلام آباد کی ایک یونیورسٹی "کامیسٹس" میں منعقد کیا گیا۔ جنرل اسمبلی کے شرکاء نے پاکستان میں عجائب گھروں کو درپیش مسائل کے حل، عجائب گھروں کی اہمیت سے متعلق عوام میں آگاہی پیدا کرنے کے اقدامات سمیت متعدد امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ اس جنرل اسمبلی میں پانچ قراردادیں بھی منظور کی گئیں۔ یہ قراردادیں میپ کی تشکیل، ایڈوائزری گروپ کے قیام اور اس کے کام کرنے کے طریقے کار سے متعلق تھیں۔

کانفرنس کے شرکاء سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے سندھ کے محکمہ نوادرات کے سربراہ ڈاکٹر کلیم لاشاری کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان تاریخی طور پر ایک انتہائی اہم ملک ہے اور اس لحاظ سے اس میں عجائب گھروں کی ضرورت ناگزیر ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ پاکستان کے عجائب گھروں کو جدید تقاضوں سے ہم آہنگ کیا جائے۔ "مختلف تاریخی دستاویزات اور نوادرات کو محفوظ رکھنے کے لیے جدید لیبارٹریوں کی اشہ ضرورت ہے۔ بد قسمتی سے اس حوالے سے ہمارے پاس بنیادی سہولیات مینس نہیں اگر کسی کے پاس لیبارٹری موجود بھی ہے تو وہ فعال نہیں ہے۔" انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ خاص طور پر کتب اور دستاویزات کو سنبھال کر رکھنے کے حوالے سے ٹیکنالوجی انتہائی اہم ہے۔ لاہور سے آنے والے صدام پیرزادہ کا کہنا تھا کہ انہوں نے ذاتی عثیت میں ایک عجائب گھر قائم کر رکھا ہے، جس میں پتلیوں کی ایک بڑی کلیکشن موجود ہے۔ ڈی ڈبلیو سے بات کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا "ہم نے سوچا کہ حکومت کی اس معاملے میں دلچسپی کم نظر آتی ہے تو ہمیں خود ہی مل کر اس کام کو آگے لیکر چلنا چاہیے اور میرے خیال میں میوزیم ایسوسی ایشن کے ملک بھر سے آنے ہوئے نمائندوں کا ایک چھت کے نیچے اکٹھے ہونا اور ملک میں عجائب گھروں کے احیاء کے لیے سنجیدگی سے سوچ بچار کرنا ایک بڑا اور اہم کام ہے۔

خیال رہے کہ پاکستان میں دارالحکومت اسلام آباد کے نزدیک ٹیکسلا کے تاریخی مقام پر ایک بڑا میوزیم قائم ہے، جہاں ہر سال ہزاروں کی تعداد میں غیر ملکی سیاح آتے ہیں۔ اس میوزیم کی خاص بات ہزاروں سال پرانی بدھ تہذیب کی باقیات کے علاوہ اس میوزیم کے ارد گرد بدھ مذہب کی عبادت گاہوں کی موجودگی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ پنجاب کے دارالحکومت لاہور میں مغل دور کی یادگار اشیاء کے علاوہ متدہ برصغیر اور تقسیم برصغیر کی تاریخ کو محفوظ کیا گیا ہے۔ اسی طرح کے پی کے اور سندھ میں سرکاری سرپرستی میں چلنے والے عجائب گھروں میں عوامی دلچسپی کی متعدد چیزیں موجود ہیں۔ تاہم ماہرین کے خیال میں مختلف وجوہات کی بناء پر وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتیں ان عجائب گھروں کے تحفظ اور بہتری پر خاطر خواہ توجہ نہیں دے پاریں۔ میپ کانفرنس کے دیگر شرکاء میں ایک جرمن خاتون پروفیسر جولیانے اک عزیز بھی شامل تھیں۔

جولیان کامیسٹس یونیورسٹی لاہور میں آرکیٹیکچر ڈیزائن کے شعبے میں بطور اسسٹنٹ پروفیسر خدمات سرانجام دے رہی ہیں۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ وہ یونیورسٹی کے پہلے میوزیم کی کیوریٹر بھی ہیں۔ ڈی ڈبلیو سے بات کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا "عجائب گھر یقیناً کسی بھی معاشرے کے لیے انتہائی اہم ہوتے ہیں۔ یہاں نہ صرف اس معاشرے کی اپنی بلکہ دیگر تہذیبوں کی تاریخ کو بھی محفوظ کیا جاسکتا ہے اور پاکستان جیسے ملک میں تو اس کی اہمیت اور بھی زیادہ ہے کیونکہ میرے خیال میں یہ خطہ بہت تاریخی ہے۔" ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں عجائب گھروں کے لیے اس طرح کا اقدام بہت خوش آئند ہے اور یہ اس شعبے کی بہتری کے لیے مددگار ثابت ہو گا۔ ان کے بقول "میں نے لاہور کے میوزیم میں دیکھا کہ تصویریں جنہیں بہت سخت حفاظت کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے ان کو عام فریموں میں ڈال کر دیواروں پر لٹا دیا گیا تھا۔ اس پر مجھے خاصا تعجب ہوا لیکن میرے خیال میں پاکستان کو میوزیم میں انتظام و انصرام بہتر کرنے اور چیزوں کو محفوظ بنانے کے لیے خاصی محنت درکار ہے، جو وہ اس بارے میں دوسرے ممالک کے تجربے سے استفادہ کر کے حاصل کر سکتا ہے۔" جنرل اسمبلی کے اختتام پر پنجاب حکومت کے محکمہ اطلاعات کے ایڈیشنل ڈائریکٹر اور میپ کے کوآرڈینیٹر میاں عتیق کا کہنا تھا کہ ان کی تنظیم آئندہ پانچ سالوں میں پاکستان کے عجائب گھروں کو ملکی اور بین الاقوامی سطح پر توجہ کا مرکز بنانے کے لیے متعدد اہم اقدامات کرے گی۔

گلگت کی منجھد جھیل بن گئی کھیل کا میدان

بی بی سی اردو

24 دسمبر 2015

گلگت کے قریب گوپیس کے علاقے میں جب جھیل شدید سردی میں جم گئی تو بچوں کو کھیلنے کی جگہ میسر آ گئی۔ گلگت سے 110 کلومیٹر دور گوپیس کے مقام پر خلی نامی گاؤں واقع ہے۔ اس گاؤں کے پاس ایک جھیل واقع ہے جو سردیوں میں جم جاتی ہے۔ گاؤں کے بچوں کے کھیلنے کے لیے کسی میدان کی سہولت دستیاب نہیں ہے، لیکن جھیل جم جانے سے کم از کم سردیوں کے موسم میں انہیں ایک وسیع میدان میسر آ جاتا ہے۔ بچے گرم کپڑے پہن کر جھیل کے کنارے پانیوں پر کھیل کودتے اور اودھم مچاتے ہیں۔ اس جھیل میں ٹراوٹ مچھلیاں پائی جاتی ہیں، لیکن اس وقت وہ بھی برف کی موٹی تہہ کے نیچے آرام کر رہی ہوں گی۔ یہ جھیل ایک کلومیٹر طویل ہے اور اس کی اوسط گہرائی ایک سو فٹ کے قریب ہے۔ بظاہر اتنے گہرے پانی کے اوپر برف پر چلنا خطرناک لگتا ہے لیکن مقامی بچوں کو کوئی خوف محسوس نہیں ہوتا۔ بین الاقوامی کھیل فٹبال کے علاوہ اس علاقے کے بچے اپنے مقامی کھیلوں میں بھی خاصی دلچسپی رکھتے ہیں۔ اکتوبر میں آنے والے زلزلے سے یہ علاقہ بھی متاثر ہوا تھا اور کئی مکان

اے پی پی

اسلام آباد میں جاری بارش کے باعث موسم خوشگوار اور ٹھنڈا ہو گیا۔ سردی بڑھتے ہی شہریوں نے فشن پوائنٹس کا رخ کر لیا۔ خوشگوار موسم کے ساتھ ساتھ اسلام آباد کے شہریوں کے دل بھی ہو گئے ہیں خوشگوار۔ موسم نے انگریزی کی تو شہریوں نے چٹارے دار مچھلی کھانے کے لیے فشن پوائنٹس کا رخ کر لیا ہے۔ شہری کہتے ہیں سردی اور بارش کے موسم میں مچھلی نہ کھائیں تو لطف ادھور رہتا ہے۔ موسم خوشگوار ہو تو دکانداروں کا بھی کاروبار چمک اٹھا۔ دکاندار کہتے ہیں موسم کے تیز بدلنے سے مچھلی کی مانگ بڑھ جاتی ہے۔ سرد موسم میں جہاں نوجوان مچھلی کا لطف اٹھاتے نظر آئے وہیں شہری اپنے الجھانہ کے لیے بھی مچھلی خریدتے نظر آئے

گلگت بلتستان کے علاقہ ضلع غدر میں غضب کی سردی پڑ رہی ہے۔ اس سردی نے خلتی جھیل کو مکمل طور پر جمادیا ہے۔ خوشی کے یہ رنگ بکھرے ہیں گلگت بلتستان کے ضلع غدر میں۔ جہاں کی خوبصورت خلتی جھیل سردی سے جم کر میدان میں تبدیل ہو گئی ہے۔ اس منظر نے مقامی لوگوں کی خوشی کو دوبالا کر دیا۔ جھیل کے برقیے فرش پر ہوا موسیقی کے ساتھ ہلہ گلہ۔ خلتی جھیل کا درجہ حرارت منفی 20 سے زیادہ ہے مگر دروازے سے لوگ جی جھیل کا انوکھا نظارہ کرنے آرہے ہیں۔

تحریک انصاف کے چیئرمین عمران خان کا کہنا ہے کہ اقوام متحدہ کے ماہرین نے پنجاب حکومت کو اورنج ٹرین منصوبہ روکنے کا کہا ہے۔ ماہرین کے مطابق اس منصوبے سے لوگ بے گھر ہو رہے ہیں اور ثقافتی ورثے کو بھی ناقابل تلافی نقصان پہنچ رہا ہے۔ سوشل میڈیا پر جاری اپنے پیغام میں عمران خان نے کہا کہ اقوام متحدہ کے ماہرین کے مطابق اورنج لائن ٹرین منصوبہ ثقافتی ورثے کو تباہ کر رہا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اسلام آباد راولپنڈی میٹروپولیٹن کے 27 کلو میٹر لمبے روٹ پر 46 ارب روپے خرچ کیے گئے جبکہ پشاور میں اتنے ہی طویل ٹریک پر صرف 13 ارب روپے لاگت آئے گی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پشاور بس سیکم سے ٹریفک مسائل حل کرنے میں مدد ملے گی، وزیر ریلوے نے کئی درخواستوں کے باوجود پشاور بس منصوبے کے لیے ریلوے کی فاضل اراضی فراہم نہیں کی۔

لاہور (کچنل رپورٹر) کل پاکستان موسیقی کانفرنس کے زیر اہتمام کلاسیکی موسیقی کے فروغ کیلئے برسوں تک اپنی خدمات پیش کر نیوالے حیات احمد خان کی 11 ویں برسی کے حوالے سے فوک میوزک پروگرام 6 فروری کو الحمد اہل نمبر 2 میں ہوگا

لاہور (کچنل رپورٹر) پنجاب آرٹس کونسل کے زیر اہتمام باغ جناح اوپن ایئر تھیٹر کے پنجاب ہال میں محفل موسیقی ہوگی جس میں معروف گلوکار صدیقی ابوالرؤف یافتہ استاد قمر الزماں بدر الزماں، اور ذوالقرنین نے پرفارمنس کیا۔ سامعین فن کاروں کی پرفارمنس سے محظوظ ہوئے اور انہیں دل کھول کر داد دی۔

لاہور (کچنل رپورٹر) لاہور آرٹس کونسل (الحمراء) کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر کیپٹن (ر) عطاء محمد خان نے کہا ہے کہ الحمراء ثقافت اور فنون لطیفہ کے فروغ کے لئے اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے اور اپنی مثبت اور تعمیری سرگرمیوں کی وجہ سے الحمراء بین الاقوامی اہمیت اختیار کر چکا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے الحمراء اکیڈمی آف پرفارمنگ آرٹس کے طلبہ و طالبات کی دوروزہ تربیتی ورکشاپ کے پہلے دن افتتاحی نشست سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ الحمراء پرفارمنگ آرٹس اکیڈمی کے ذریعے فنون لطیفہ کے تمام شعبوں کو نہ صرف زندہ رکھا جا رہا ہے بلکہ ان میں توسیع کے لئے بھی ٹھوس منصوبہ بندی کی جا رہی ہے تاکہ یہ اکیڈمی بڑے ادارے کے روپ میں سامنے آئے۔ ورکشاپ کے پہلے روز اکیڈمی کے اساتذہ سجاد طاہر (گٹار نواز) محمد سیلم خان (تار نواز) نوشاد خان (بانسری نواز) اور اسرار بنی بخش (سارنگی نواز) نے معلوماتی لیکچر دیئے۔ ساز سیکھنے والے طلبہ و طالبات نے بھی پرفارمنس دی۔

کراچی: سیکورٹی خدشات کے پیش نظر مزار قائد کی سیکورٹی کو مزید سخت کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا گیا۔ باؤنڈری وال نوٹ تک بلند کی جائیں گی۔ منصوبے پر ساڑھے چار کروڑ روپے خرچ ہوں گے۔ بابائے قوم کے مزار کی سیکورٹی کے نئے منصوبے کی منظوری دے دی گئی۔ وفاقی حکومت نے سیکورٹی خدشات کے باعث مزار کے حفاظتی انتظامات کو مزید بہتر بنانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ مزار قائد کی باؤنڈری وال گرل سمیت نوٹ تک بلند کی جائے گی۔ گاڑیوں کی چیکنگ کے لیے انڈرو بیکل انسپکشن سسٹم لگانے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔ سیکورٹی کے لئے 38 جدید نائٹ وژن سی سی ٹی وی کیمرے نصب کیے جائیں گے۔ مزار کے اندر مختلف مقامات پر 10 واچ ٹاورز بنانے کی منظوری دی گئی۔ چالیس نئے بیریز بھی بنائے جائیں گے۔ عملدرآمد کے لیے مزار مینجمنٹ بورڈ نے ٹینڈر جاری کر دیا۔ منصوبے پر ساڑھے 4 کروڑ روپے لاگت آئے گی۔

اسلام آباد: بارش کے باعث شہریوں نے فشن پوائنٹس کا رخ کیا

نیوز 24

29 جنوری 2016

غضب کی سردی نے خلتی جھیل کو مکمل طور پر

جمادیا

نیوز 24

26 جنوری 2016

اورنج ٹرین منصوبہ ثقافتی ورثے کو تباہ کر رہا ہے، اقوام متحدہ ماہرین نے بھی روکنے کا کہ

دیا: عمران خان

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

24 جنوری 2016

فوک میوزک پروگرام 6 فروری کو الحمد اہل نمبر 2 میں ہوگا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

24 جنوری 2016

باغ جناح اوپن ایئر تھیٹر میں محفل موسیقی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

12 جنوری 2016

میوزک کے طلبہ و طالبات کی الحمراء میں 2 روزہ ورکشاپ

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

11 جنوری 2016

مزار قائد کی سیکورٹی کے لیے نیا منصوبہ تیار کر لیا گیا

30 دسمبر 2015

گذشتہ سال تین دنوں میں ایک لاکھ افراد نے اس میلے میں شرکت کی۔ کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول کی کامیابی صرف یہ نہیں کہ اس میں غیر ملکی ادیبوں اور فن کاروں کی تعداد بڑھتی جا رہی ہے اور بڑی تعداد میں شہری شریک ہوتے ہیں۔ اس سے بڑھ کر یہ کہ اب لاہور، اسلام آباد اور فیصل آباد میں بھی ایسے ادبی میلوں کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے۔ دو ہفتے بعد شیڈول لاہور لٹریچر فیسٹیول کا یہ چوتھا سال ہے۔ کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول میں ڈھائی سو سے زیادہ ادیب، شاعر، صحافی، تاریخ دان، مصور، فوٹو گرافر، فلم ساز اور پبلشر شرکت کر رہے ہیں جن میں سے 37 غیر ملکی ہیں۔ ادبی میلے میں عوامی دلچسپیاں میلے کو یہ ساتواں سال ہے۔ 2010 میں جب یہ سلسلہ شروع ہوا تو کراچی کے پانچ ہزار شہری لکھنے پڑھنے والوں کی باتیں سننے آئے تھے۔ خیال ہے کہ گذشتہ سال تین دنوں میں ایک لاکھ افراد نے اس میلے میں شرکت کی۔ ہندوستان سے آنے والے 16 مہمانوں میں اینکر پرسن برکھادت، تاریخ دان رخشندہ جلیل اور سجاد ظہیر کی بیٹی نور ظہیر بھی شامل ہیں۔ نور ظہیر نے عصمت چغتائی کا انگریزی میں ترجمہ کیا ہے اور اس کتاب کی رونمائی ہوگی۔ انوپم کھیر کے نام کا اعلان کیا گیا تھا لیکن وہ ویزا نہ ملنے یا ویزا نہ مانگنے کی وجہ سے نہیں آ رہے۔ برطانیہ سے ممتاز سکالر ضیاء الدین سرکار بھی شریک ہوں گے۔ فیسٹیول میں تقریباً سو سیشن ہوں گے جن کے گونا گوں موضوعات میں پاک بھارت تعلقات، تعلیم اور مطالعے کا تعلق، قومی زبان کی الجھن، حقوق دانش کا معاملہ اور کتابیں چھاپنے کے مسائل ہی نہیں، تھر پار کا المیہ، تیسری صنف کے دکھ اور سبز بلالی پرچم پر سفید حصے والے پاکستانیوں کا نقطہ نظر بھی شامل ہے۔ ایک سیشن میں منو پر فلم بنانے والے سرد کھوسٹ گفتگو کریں گے، ایک میں آسکر لینڈی شرمین عبید چنائے سے سوال ہوں گے، ایک میں سینئر سفارت کار جمشید مارکر اظہار خیال کریں گے، ایک شام انور مسعود کے نام کی جائے گی، ایک میں زہرہ نگاہ کلام سنائیں گی۔ خورشید محمود قصوری، سلمان خورشید، برکھادت اور جرمن ادیب اسٹیفن کوپینز کی کتابوں سمیت 31 کتابوں کا اجرا ہوگا، نئے لکھنے والوں کی پذیرائی ہوگی، کالموں اور ڈائجسٹوں پر گفتگو کا اہتمام کیا گیا ہے، کئی سیشن کامیڈی کے ہیں، اردو کے علاوہ انگریزی کا مشاعرہ بھی ہے، کم از کم دو فلمیں بھی دکھائی جائیں گی۔ برکھادت، خورشید محمود قصوری، سلمان خورشید اور جرمن ادیب اسٹیفن کوپینز کی کتابوں سمیت 31 کتابوں کا اجرا اس ادبی میلے میں ہو گا فلشن پڑھنے والوں کو نوید ہو کہ برطانیہ کے مرزا وحید اور جرمنی کے کرسٹوف پیٹرز کے خیالات جاننے کا موقع ملے گا۔ ان کے علاوہ کاملہ شمسی، بینا شاہ، عظمیٰ اسلم خان اور محمد حنیف بھی موجود ہوں گے۔ مستنصر حسین تارڑ، امر جلیل، فہمیدہ مرزا، امداد حسینی، پرویز ہود بھائی، شکیل عادل زادہ اور ندیم فاروق پراچہ کے پرستار ان سے مل سکیں گے۔ اور کیا چاہیے؟ منتظمین نے اس سال چار ادبی انعامات کا اعلان کیا ہے جن میں پہلی بار ایک انعام کسی اردو کتاب کو بھی دیا جائے گا۔ اس بار گفتگو کرنے والوں کی فہرست میں ضیاء الدین کا نام شامل نہیں۔ دو سال پہلے کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول کے ایک سیشن میں ضیاء صاحب نے انتظار حسین کا تعزیت نامہ پڑھ کر سنا تھا۔ یہ تحریر مرحوم کی اپنی لکھی ہوئی تھی اور انھوں نے اگلی صف میں بیٹھ کر سنی تھی۔ کیا ہی اچھا ہو کہ ضیاء صاحب آجائیں اور وہی تحریر دوبارہ پڑھیں۔ کیا خبر، انتظار صاحب وہیں بیٹھ کر سنیں۔

مری: ویک اینڈ کے موقع پر مری میں سیاحوں کا سیلاب اٹھ آیا ہے۔ دوسری طرف ملکہ کوہسار کا موسم بھی سیاحوں پر مہربان ہو گیا ہے۔ تفریحی مقامات پر میلے کا سماں ہے۔ ملک بھر سے ہزاروں سیاحوں کی بڑی تعداد نے تفریحی مقام ملکہ کوہسار مری اور گلیات کار چ کیا ہوا ہے۔ ہفتہ کے روز بھی وقفے وقفے سے بوند اباندی اور ہلکی بر فباری کا سلسلہ جاری رہا جبکہ کالی گھاٹوں اور دھند نے ملکہ کوہسار کی وادی کو مکمل طور پر اپنی لپیٹ میں لے رکھا ہے۔ ایک طرف مری میں سیاحوں کا غیر معمولی رش ہے تو دوسری طرف بر فباری کے بعد سیاحوں کے چہرے خوشی سے کھل اٹھے ہیں اور وہ تفریحی مقامات پر نکل کر خوب ہلہ گلہ اور موج مستی میں مصروف ہیں۔ سیاح فیملیز مری میں اپنی سیر کو یاد گار بنانے کے لئے ہر طرف سیلفیاں بناتی اور ان یاد گار لمحات کو اپنے کیمرے کی آنکھ میں محفوظ کرتی نظر آ رہی ہیں۔ اس دلفریب موسم سے نہ صرف سیاح بلکہ مقامی لوگ اور کاروباری حلقے بھی خوش دکھائی دے رہے ہیں۔

اسلام آباد: وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان المالدیپ کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے، دونوں ممالک کے روابط مشترکہ مفادات پر مبنی ہیں، تجارت کے شعبہ میں وسیع تر مواقع سے استفادہ کی ضرورت ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں وزیراعظم نواز شریف سے المالدیپ کی وزیر خارجہ دونیامامون نے ملاقات کی، انہوں نے المالدیپ کے صدر کامر اسلم بھی وزیراعظم کو پہنچایا۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ دونوں ممالک کو تجارت کے شعبہ میں وسیع تر مواقع سے استفادہ کرنا چاہیے، پاکستان جنوبی ایشیاء کیلئے خصوصی تعاون پروگرام کے تحت المالدیپ کی معاونت جاری رکھے گا، پاکستان اور المالدیپ کو سیاحت کے شعبے میں بھی تعاون کو بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان دہشت گردی کیخلاف روزنامہ جنگ کامیابی سے لڑ رہا ہے، آپریشن ضرب عضب کے مثبت نتائج برآمد ہوئے ہیں، وزیراعظم نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ پاکستان دہشت گردی کی لعنت کی روک تھام اور خاتمے کیلئے ہمسایہ ممالک کے اقدامات کیلئے حمایت اور تمام ممکنہ تعاون فراہم کرے گا۔ دونیامامون نے وزیراعظم نواز شریف کو المالدیپ کے دورے کی دعوت دی اور المالدیپ کیلئے پاکستان کی مسلسل معاونت پر شکریہ بھی ادا کیا۔

مری: بر فباری کا سلسلہ پھر شروع، سیاحوں کے چہرے کھل اٹھے

دنیابور

30 جنوری 2016

پاکستان اور المالدیپ کو تجارت و سیاحت کے شعبوں میں فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے، وزیراعظم

سلائیو

28 جنوری 2016

مصنف بلایا گیا تھا۔ وہ یہاں آتے تو یقیناً کچھ غلط فہمیاں دور ہوتیں مگر انھوں نے بات کو بالکل ہی الگ رنگ دے دیا جس پر سب کو بہت حیرانی ہے۔ نندتا اس کے حوالے سے ایسے سید کا کہنا تھا کہ ”ان کے تو تمام کاغذات مکمل تھے اور وہ آج بھی رہی تھیں مگر عین وقت پر انھوں نے فون کیا کہ ”میری طبیعت ٹھیک نہیں ہے۔۔۔ اب میں نہیں جانتی کہ اس بات کا کیا مطلب ہے۔“

بہر کیف 15 بھارتی شخصیات کو فیسیول میں سر آکھوں پر بٹھایا گیا۔ فیسیول کے دوران جس جس سیشن میں بھی ان شخصیات نے شرکت کی وہاں لوگوں کی تعداد دیدنی تھی۔ سب سے زیادہ برکھادت کو عوام نے سنا اور ان کی گفتگو میں حصہ لیا۔ بھارت کی نمایاں صحافیوں اور ٹیلی ویژن اینکرز میں شمار ہوتی ہیں اور چونکہ 1999ء میں بھارت اور پاکستان کے درمیان پیش آنے والے کارگل محر کے حوالے سے ان کے پاس بولنے کے لئے بہت کچھ تھا اور وہ چونکہ محر کے وقت فرنٹ لائن سے رپورٹنگ کر رہی تھیں لہذا ان کے سیشن میں پورا ہال کچھ بچھا بچھا ہوا تھا۔ دلچسپ بات یہ ہے کہ بھارت کے سابق وزیر خارجہ سلمان خورشید بھی برکھادت کے اس سیشن کے سامعین میں شامل تھے۔

برکھادت پاکستان، افغانستان، عراق، مصر اور لیبیا سے بھی بھارت کے لئے رپورٹنگ کر چکی ہیں۔ اپنی انہی خدمات کے عوض انہیں چالیس سے زائد ایوارڈز مل چکے ہیں۔

سیشن میں برکھادت کے ساتھ پاکستان کے سینئر صحافی غازی صلاح الدین، فرانسسی صحافی ایلویز ترک اور فرحان بخاری شریک تھے۔ فیسیول میں جہاں بہت ساری کتابوں کی تقریب رونمائی ہوئی وہیں برکھادت کی بھی ایک کتاب کی رونمائی ہوئی۔ فیسیول میں بھارت کی جانب سے ایک ایسی شخصیت نے بھی شرکت کی جن کا ذکر پہلے دن زبان زد عام رہا۔ یہ نام ہے کشمیری نرائن ترپاٹھی کا جو دراصل بھارت کے بہت مشہور خواجہ سرا ہیں۔ ان کے سیشن نے بہت ”رش“ لیا۔ خواجہ سراؤں کے حقوق سے متعلق لکھی گئی ان کی کتاب کو بڑی تعداد میں لوگوں نے نہ صرف خرید بلکہ قطار میں لگ کر ان سے کتاب پر دستخط بھی لیے۔ میلے کے افتتاحی سیشن میں امریکی قونصل جنرل کراچی برائن پتھ بھی شریک ہوئے۔ فیسیول کو امریکی ادارہ برائے انٹرنیشنل ڈیولپمنٹ، یعنی پوائس ایڈ اور قونصل خانے نے اسپانسر کیا تھا۔ خود امریکی قونصل جنرل بھی یہ کہے بغیر نہ رہ سکے کہ دنیا بھر میں مصنفین، دانشوروں اور فنکاروں کو ایک جگہ اکٹھا کرنے کا اتنا بڑا فورم کراچی لٹریچر فیسیول کے علاوہ کوئی اور نہیں۔ فیسیول کے ایک سیشن میں برائن پتھ خود بھی شریک ہوئے اور پینل ڈسکشن میں میزبان کے فرائض انجام دیے۔ پاکستان میں افسانہ نگاری کو اپنے قلم کے ذریعے نئی جہت دینے والے انتظار حسین کو بھی اس فیسیول کا حصہ قرار دیا گیا تھا لیکن عین وقت پر موت کا فرشتہ انہیں ملک عدم کے لئے منتخب کر کے اپنے ساتھ لے گیا۔ لیکن فیسیول کے شرکانے انتظار حسین کو دل و جان سے خراج عقیدت پیش کیا۔

بھارتی مہمانوں سے ملاقات اور ان کے خیالات سننے کے بعد فیسیول کا دوسرا سب سے بڑا ایٹرکشن پاکستان میں سنیما کی بحالی رہا۔ اس موضوع کا احاطہ کرنے والے سیشنز میں لوگوں نے اس قدر بڑی تعداد میں شرکت کی کہ ہال کے بجائے اسے گارڈن میں انجام دینا پڑا۔ اس سیشن میں ٹی وی اور فلم سے جڑی نامور شخصیات نے حصہ لیا ان میں نمرا بچہ، ثانیہ سعید، فرجات نبی، ندیم ماہڈوی والا اور ٹیپو شریف شامل تھے۔ اس سیشن کی نظامت شہناز مری نے سنبھالی۔ فن وثقافت، فلم، ٹی وی، تھیٹر، ایکٹنگ اور پروڈکشن کے حوالے سے کئی سیشنز رکھ گئے کیوں کہ منتظمین کو اندازہ تھا کہ لوگ ان سیشنز میں زیادہ دلچسپی لیں گے۔ ان سیشنز کی ایک خاص بات یہ بھی تھی کہ حالیہ دنوں میں کامیاب ہونے والی فلم ”منمو“ کی اسکریننگ ہوئی تو دوسری جانب پاکستان کے لئے دنیا کا سب سے بڑا ایوارڈ ”آسکر“ جیتنے والی ڈائریکٹر اور پروڈیوسر شریں عبید چنائے کے سیشن کے دوران رواں ماہ ہی آسکر ایوارڈ کے لئے نامزد ہونے والی فلم ”اے گرل ان دی ریور“ کے بھی کچھ شارٹس اور پروموز دکھائے گئے جن میں لوگوں نے بہت زیادہ دلچسپی لی۔ فیسیول کے دوران خاص کر پہلے روز لائیو رپورٹس اور میوزک کی محفلوں نے لوگوں کو بڑی تعداد میں اپنی جانب مبذول کیا۔ فیسیول کا ایک اور سیشن جسے خوب پذیرائی ملی اس کا عنوان تھا ”سرکاری اردو۔ عوامی اردو۔ اس سیشن میں عارفہ سید زہرہ، ناصر عباس نیئر، مسعود اشعر اور فاطمہ حسن شامل تھیں۔

یہ جو لفظ ہے لٹریچر، اگر اس کا تعلق صرف لکھنے پڑھنے سے ہے تو کراچی لٹریچر فیسیول کا نام بدل دینا چاہیے۔ لیکن جیسے اس لفظ کا دامن کشادہ ہوتا جا رہا ہے اور فنون کی جدید صورتوں کو بھی انھیں معنوں میں لیا جا رہا ہے، ویسے ہی کراچی کا جشن ادب ایک آرٹس فیسیول میں بدل گیا ہے۔ یہ فیسیول حلقہ ارباب ذوق کی مجلسوں سے کچھ بڑھ کر ہے کہ جہاں چند ادیب شاعر جمع ہوتے ہیں اور ایک یا کئی تحریروں پر اظہار خیال کرتے ہیں۔ اب لٹریچر فیسیولز میں فقط افسانے اور شاعری پر بات نہیں ہوتی۔ تصویر کشی، چاہے برش سے کی جائے یا کیمرے سے، پر بھی گفتگو کی جاتی ہے، حالات حاضرہ پر اظہار افسوس کرنے والے بھی آتے ہیں، امر ہو جانے والے فن کاروں کا ذکر خیر بھی آتا ہے اور تاریخ کے گڑے مردے بھی اکھاڑے جاتے ہیں۔ تین روزہ کراچی لٹریچر فیسیول پانچ فروری سے حسب روایت بیچ لگژری ہوٹل میں شروع ہو رہا ہے۔ اس میلے کو یہ ساتواں سال ہے۔ 2010 میں جب یہ سلسلہ شروع ہوا تو کراچی کے پانچ ہزار شہری لکھنے پڑھنے والوں کی باتیں سننے آئے تھے۔ خیال ہے کہ

میلہ لوٹنے والے آگئے

بی بی سی اردو

5 فروری 2016

شریک مقامی اور غیر ملکی ادیبوں کی بیشتر کتابیں مناسب نرخوں پر دستیاب تھیں۔ ایک سال پر ہندوستان میں چھپی ہوئی کتابیں بھی نظر آئیں۔ سیشن بریک کے دوران غیر ملکی مہمان بھی کتابیں خریدتے دیکھے گئے۔ ادبی میلے میں ایک سیشن نور الہدی شاہ کے ساتھ تھا۔ ڈاکٹر آصف فرخی نے ان سے گفتگو کی اور ان کی فرمائش پر نور الہدی شاہ نے ایک افسانہ پڑھ کر سنایا۔ نور الہدی شاہ کی مادری زبان سندھی ہے لیکن انھوں نے طویل افسانے میں تلفظ کی ایک بھی غلطی نہیں کی۔ پھر انھوں نے بتایا کہ ان کا ایک ڈرامہ دیکھ کر جمیل الدین عالی نے فون کیا، ان کے سکرپٹ کی تعریف کی اور اس امر پر حیرت کا اظہار کیا کہ وہ اہل زبان نہیں ہیں۔ نور الہدی شاہ نے جواب دیا، ”جی ہاں، میں بے زبان ہوں۔“ کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول نے اس سال ہجڑوں، نسلی اور مذہبی اقلیتوں اور تھرپار کر کے بے زبانوں کو آواز دینے کی کوشش کی ہے۔ کاش کسی کے پاس سننے کے لیے کان بھی ہوں۔

کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول اپنے اختتام کو پہنچا لیکن کراچی والوں کے دلوں میں گہرے نقوش چھوڑ گیا۔ ادیبوں، شاعروں اور نغمہ نگاروں کی ایسی ٹریلی آواز کراچی والوں کے کانوں میں اگلے سال تک رس گھولی رہے گی۔ کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول اس قدر کامیاب ہو گا کسی نے سوچا نہ تھا۔ اس فیسٹیول کی سب سے اہم بات یہ تھی کہ اس میں بے زبانوں کو آواز دینے کی کوشش کی گئی۔

جس ملک میں مکالمے کی اجازت نہیں، وہاں کسی سرکاری یا قومی زبان کی کیا ضرورت؟ عارفہ سیدہ ہرا کی اس بات پر کچھ بھڑکے ہال میں خوب تالیاں بجائی گئیں۔ یہ کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول کے ایک سیشن کا ذکر ہے جس کا موضوع ’سرکاری اردو، عوامی اردو‘ تھا۔ فائیسٹار ہوٹل میں میلہ لگانا کوئی آسان کام نہیں لیکن کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول کے منتظمین یہ کام بہت سلیقے سے کرنا سیکھ چکے ہیں۔ بے شک لٹریچر یعنی گاڑھے ادب پر بہت گفتگو ہوئی اور اردو کے علاوہ انگریزی میں بھی مشاعرہ ہوا، لیکن اس بار کامیڈی کے کئی پروگرام بھی رکھے گئے، محافل موسیقی کا اہتمام تھا، آرٹ فوٹو گرافی اور فلموں پر کئی سیشن ہوئے، دو فلمیں دکھائی گئیں اور تیسری کی بھلیاں پیش کی گئیں۔ اس سال فیسٹیول کو پہلے دن پہلے سیشن کے بعد ہی ختم کر دیا جاتا تھا اب بھی اسے مدتوں یاد رکھا جاتا۔ اس دن کی مہمان بھارت کی سب سے ممتاز ہجڑا لکشی نرائن تری پاتھی تھیں۔ اتنی خوش لباس، خوش اطوار، طویل قامت، قبول صورت اور شان دار انگریزی بولنے والی ہجڑا اس سے پہلے کراچی کے شہریوں نے کبھی نہ دیکھی ہوگی۔ اس سیشن کی ماڈریٹر کا دھیمانداز جو الا کھٹی لکشی کی تاب نہ لا سکا۔ ان کے مستور سوالات کے بعد بعض حاضرین نے عریاں سوال کیے لیکن لکشی نے ایسے بے باکانہ جواب دیے کہ سننے والوں کے کان بند اور منہ کھلے رہ گئے

بھارت کی مقبول ٹی وی اینکر برکھادت نے کئی مجلسوں میں شرکت کی اور ہر بار مودی حکومت کی کھل کر طرف داری کی۔ ان کے خیال میں کشمیر میں سب ٹھیک ہے اور بھارت میں عدم برداشت نہیں بڑھ رہی۔ حاضرین میں سے ایک دل جلے نے کہہ دیا کہ آپ میں نہ مانوں والی ذہنی کیفیت کا شکار ہیں۔ ایک شخصیت نے اس بار شرکت نہیں کی لیکن ہر دوسرے سیشن میں اسی کا ذکر کیا گیا وہ تھے انتظار حسین۔ مستنصر حسین تارڑ نے کہا کہ انتظار صاحب کے بعد ایسا لگتا ہے کہ دھوپ بڑھ گئی ہے، سایہ کم ہو گیا ہے۔ کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول نے اس سال ہجڑوں، نسلی اور مذہبی اقلیتوں اور تھرپار کر کے بے زبانوں کو آواز دینے کی کوشش کی ہے۔ کاش کسی کے پاس سننے کے لیے کان بھی ہوں۔

کراچی میں ادبی وثقافتی محفلوں میں ایک بڑا نام کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول ہے۔ جس نے پچھلے تین دنوں سے فنون لطیفہ سے جڑے حلقوں کی رونقیں دوبالا کی ہوئی تھیں۔ بلاخر اتوار کی رات اپنے اختتام کو پہنچا۔ میلے میں شرکت کرنے والے سینئر صحافی، شاعر اور کراچی پریس کلب کے صدر فاضل جمیلی کے بقول ”فیسٹیول نے تین دنوں تک پاکستان اور بھارت سمیت کئی ملکوں کے ادیبوں، شاعروں اور مصنفین کو ایک ہی چھت اور “ایک ہی جگہ اکٹھا کر کے ایک ایسا احسان کیا ہے جو اگلے سال سننے والا یہی میلہ اتار سکے گا۔

کراچی فیسٹیول میں یوں تو سات ممالک کے لوگوں نے حصہ لیا لیکن اصل میں یہ فیسٹیول دو ملکوں - پاکستان اور بھارت کے قلم کاروں کو قریب لانے کا ذریعہ بنا۔ وائس آف امریکہ سے بات چیت میں دونوں ممالک کی اہم شخصیات نے اس رائے کا اظہار کیا کہ پاکستانی عوام نے جس فراخ دلی سے بھارتی مہمانوں کا استقبال کیا، ان کے خیالات جاننے میں جس قدر دلچسپی لی اور ان کی کتابوں اور تحریروں کو جو پذیرائی بخشی وہ ہمیشہ ریکارڈ پر رہے گی۔

اوکس فورڈیونیورسٹی پریس کی منیروژ نامہ جنگ ڈائریکٹر اور کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول کی ڈائریکٹر امینہ سید کے بقول بھارت کی 17 شخصیات کو اس میلے میں شرکت کے لئے مدعو کیا گیا تھا۔ ان میں سے صرف دو شخصیات کو چھوڑ کر تمام لوگوں نے پاکستانی عوام اور ادب نوازوں کی دعوت پر لبیک کہا۔ افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب میں امینہ سعید نے ان دو شخصیات کے ناموں سے بھی پردہ اٹھایا جو اس فیسٹیول میں نہیں آسکے۔ یہ تھیں بھارتی اداکارہ نندتا داس اور سینئر اداکار انوپم کھیر۔

امینہ سید کے بقول ”انوپم کھیر نے پاکستانی ویزا کے معاملے کو سیاسی رنگ دینے کی کوشش کی حالانکہ انہیں ایسا نہیں کرنا چاہیے تھا۔ انوپم کھیر کو بطور

کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول دل و دماغ میں گہرے نقوش چھوڑ کر اختتام پذیر

نیو

8 فروری 2016

ساتواں سالانہ ادبی میلہ کراچی میں اختتام پذیر

وائس آف امریکہ

7 فروری 2016

لاہور (پ) نیشنل کالج آف آرٹس میں نوجوان مصورہ عفت عرفان کے آرٹ کے نمونوں کی نمائش جاری ہے۔ نوجوان مصورہ کی جانب سے نمائش میں رکھے گئے آرٹ کے نمونوں میں ماڈرن آرٹ اور ٹریڈیشنل آرٹ کے فن پارے بھی شامل ہیں، کہیں کیلی گرافی کو خوبصورت انداز میں پیش کیا گیا تو کہیں کیونس پر آرٹ کو مہارت کے ساتھ اتارا گیا ہے۔ نمائش میں دیگر مصوروں نے بھی اپنے فن پارے رکھے ہیں۔ یہ نمائش 13 فروری تک جاری رہے گی۔

نیشنل کالج آف آرٹس میں عفت عرفان کے آرٹ کے نمونوں کی نمائش

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

10 فروری 2016

لٹریچر فیسٹیول: بے زبانوں کو آواز دینے کی کوشش

بی بی سی اردو

8 فروری 2016

جس ملک میں مکالمے کی اجازت نہیں، وہاں کسی سرکاری یا قومی زبان کی کیا ضرورت؟ عارفہ سیدہ زہرا کی اس بات پر کچھ کچھ بھرے بال میں 'خوب تالیاں بھائی گئیں'۔ یہ کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول کے ایک سیشن کا ذکر ہے جس کا موضوع 'سرکاری اردو، عوامی اردو' تھا۔ لٹریچر فیسٹیول مکالمے کی اس ضرورت کو پورا کرنے کے لیے بہترین فورم ہیں اور گزشتہ تین دن کے دوران کراچی میں پیشتر اہم قومی، معاشرتی اور سیاسی معاملات پر مباحثے ہوئے۔ کسی مسئلے کا کوئی حل تو برآمد نہیں ہوا لیکن یہ کیا کام ہے کہ شرکائے گفتگو نے تمام اختلافی نقطہ ہائے نظر اور تلخ بلکہ بعض اوقات ناگوار باتیں حوصلے کے ساتھ سنیں۔ یہ مباحثے سننے کے لیے کراچی کے ہزاروں شہری موجود تھے اور تینوں دن تمام وسیع و عریض ہال اور پنڈال مکمل طور پر بھرے رہے۔ فانیو سٹار ہوٹل میں میلہ لگانا کوئی آسان کام نہیں لیکن کراچی لٹریچر فیسٹیول کے منتظمین یہ کام بہت سلیقے سے کرنا سیکھ چکے ہیں۔

بے شک لٹریچر یعنی گاڑھے ادب پر بہت گفتگو ہوئی اور اردو کے علاوہ انگریزی میں بھی مشاعرہ ہوا، لیکن اس بار کامیڈی کے کئی پروگرام بھی رکھے گئے، محافل موسیقی کا اہتمام تھا، آرٹ فوٹو گرافی اور فلموں پر کئی سیشن ہوئے، دو فلمیں دکھائی گئیں اور تیسری کی جھلکیاں پیش کی گئیں۔ اس سال فیسٹیول کو پہلے دن پہلے سیشن کے بعد ہی ختم کر دیا جاتا تھا۔ اس دن کی مہمان بھارت کی سب سے ممتاز بیچوہ لکشمی نرائن تری پاتھی تھیں۔ اتنی خوش لباس، خوش اطوار، طویل قامت، قبول صورت اور شان دار انگریزی بولنے والی بیچوہ اس سے پہلے کراچی کے شہریوں نے کبھی نہ دیکھی ہوگی۔ مباحثے سننے کے لیے کراچی کے ہزاروں شہری موجود تھے اور تینوں دن تمام وسیع و عریض ہال اور پنڈال مکمل طور پر بھرے رہے اس سیشن کی ماڈریٹر کا دھیمہ انداز جو الاکھی لکشمی کی تاب نہ لا سکا۔ ان کے مستور سوالات کے بعد بعض حاضرین نے عریاں سوال کیے لیکن لکشمی نے ایسے بے باکانہ جواب دیے کہ سننے والوں کے کان بند ہو گئے اور منہ کھلے رہ گئے۔ بھارت کی مقبول ٹی وی اینکر برکھادت نے کئی مجلسوں میں شرکت کی اور ہر بار مودی حکومت کی کھل کر طرف داری کی۔ ان کے خیال میں کشمیر میں سب ٹھیک ہے اور بھارت میں عدم برداشت نہیں بڑھ رہی۔ حاضرین میں سے ایک دل جلے نے کہہ دیا کہ آپ میں نہ مانوں والی ذہنی کیفیت کا شکار ہیں۔ تین دن میں 20 کتابوں کی تقاریب اجرا ہوئیں جن میں پاکستان کے سابق وزیر خارجہ خورشید محمود قصوری، ہندوستان کے سابق وزیر خارجہ سلمان خورشید، برکھادت اور ترقی پسند ادیب سجاد ظہیر کی بیٹی نور ظہیر کی کتابیں شامل ہیں۔ جرمن ادیب سٹیفن کیسٹنر کی کے ناول رسک کے لیے بھی تقریب ہوئی لیکن دلچسپ بات ہے کہ یہ ناول جرمن زبان میں ہے۔ اس کا انگریزی میں ترجمہ ابھی نہیں چھپا۔

اس سال فیسٹیول میں شرکت کرنے والے دیگر اہم مہمانوں میں تاریخ داں باربرا ڈی میٹ کاف، برطانوی سرکار رضا الدین سردار، سینئر سفارت کار جمشید مارکر، سابق وزیر خارجہ حنا ربانی کھر، فلسفہ شرمین عبید چنائے، ناول نگار کاملہ شمسی، محمد حنیف، دانشور امر جلیل، پرویز ہود بھائی، غازی صلاح الدین، کہانی کار شکیل عادل زادہ، کالم نویس ندیم فاروق پرچہ، وجاہت مسعود، وسعت اللہ خان، شاعرہ فہمیدہ ریاض، افسانہ نگار زاہدہ حنا، علی اکبر ناطق اور سرکار ناصر عباس نیر جیسے معتبر نام شامل تھے۔ بھارت کی مقبول ٹی وی اینکر برکھادت نے کئی مجلسوں میں شرکت کی اور ہر بار مودی حکومت کی کھل کر طرف داری کی جن مہمانوں کے ناموں کا اعلان ہوا اور وہ نہیں آ سکے، ان میں بھارت سے اداکار انوم کھیر، نندتا داس، تاریخ داں رخشندہ جلیل اور برطانیہ سے ناولسٹ مرزا وحید شامل ہیں۔ ایک شخصیت نے اس بار شرکت نہیں کی لیکن ہر دوسرے سیشن میں اسی کا ذکر کیا گیا وہ تھے انتظار حسین۔ ان کا نام فیسٹیول کے کتابچے میں چھپ گیا تھا۔ بعد میں اس کتابچے کو اپ ڈیٹ کیا گیا لیکن ان کی وفات کے باوجود ان کا نام خارج نہیں کیا گیا۔ جس سیشن میں انتظار حسین کو آنا تھا، اس میں انھیں چاہنے والے آئے اور زہرا نگاہ، افضال احمد، اصغر ندیم سید، آصف فرخی اور مسعود اشعر نے ان کی یادیں تازہ کیں۔

مستنصر حسین تارڑ نے کہا کہ انتظار صاحب کے بعد ایسا لگتا ہے کہ دھوپ بڑھ گئی ہے، سایہ کم ہو گیا ہے۔ لٹریچر فیسٹیول میں ایک ادیب ایسے نظر آئے جو شریک گفتگو نہیں ہوئے لیکن تینوں دن اہم محفلوں میں گفتگو سنتے رہے۔ ان کا نام ڈاکٹر ادیب رضوی ہے۔ ان کے علاوہ بھی کئی ممتاز شخصیات عام شہریوں کے ساتھ حاضرین میں بیٹھی نظر آئیں۔ ان میں پاکستان کرکٹ بورڈ کے چیئرمین شہریار خان، سینئر قانون داں حامد خان اور ایم کیو ایم کے رہنما فیصل سبزواری شامل ہیں۔ مستنصر حسین تارڑ نے کہا کہ انتظار صاحب کے بعد ایسا لگتا ہے کہ دھوپ بڑھ گئی ہے، سایہ کم ہو گیا ہے فیسٹیول کے موقع پر کتابوں کے سٹال بھی لگائے جاتے ہیں۔ اس بار ان کی تعداد پہلے سے زیادہ تھی۔ اچھی بات یہ ہوئی کہ فیسٹیول میں

حالانکہ اسی فیصد آبادی ماہی گیروں پر مشتمل ہے، حالانکہ تین طرف سے سمندر سے گھرا ہونے کے باوجود یہاں پینے کا پانی گیارہ ہزار روپے فی ٹینکر کی صورت میں دور دراز سے پہنچتا ہے، حالانکہ یہاں دس سے پندرہ گھنٹے لوڈ شیڈنگ ہے، حالانکہ یہاں ڈگری کالج میں بائیس اساتذہ کی آسامیوں پر بارہ اساتذہ کا تقرر ہے (ان میں سے بھی چار بلوچی زبان کے ٹیچر ہیں) اور کلاسیں دوپہر سے پہلے ہی ختم ہو جاتی ہیں۔ مگر میلے میں انا اور غیرت کے مارے گواہوں نے اپنی محرومیوں کا رونا نہیں روایا بلکہ عقل، علم، فلسفہ، ادب، مصوری، معاشی مستقبل کے بارے میں جاننے پر توجہ مرکوز رکھی۔ ایک ایک کو دھیان سے سنا اور تنہی ظاہر کئے بغیر سوال و جواب میں حصہ لیا۔ گواہ کی بند گاہ میں جین خصوصی دلچسپی لے رہا ہے منتظمین کہتے ہیں کہ گواہ ادبی کتب میلہ اگلے برس بھی ہو گا اور اس سے اگلے برس بھی حالات اپنی جگہ میلہ اپنی جگہ۔ جنہیں آنا ہے وہ ضرور آتے رہیں گے۔ جو زندہ بلوچستان کے بجائے اپنی ذاتی تصوراتی بلوچستان پر یقین رکھتے ہیں وہ اسی پر یقین رکھتے رہیں۔ تیرے خوش پوش فقیروں سے وہ ملتے تو سہی جو یہ کہتے ہیں وفا بیرہن چاک میں ہے

نگار خصوصی) لاہور ہائیکورٹ کے دور کنی بیج نے عدالتی حکم کے باوجود اور نج لائن میٹروٹرین منصوبے کی راہ میں گیارہ تاریخی عمارتوں کی 200 میٹر کی حدود تک کام روکنے کے حکم امتناعی میں بائیس فروری تک توسیع کرتے ہوئے وفاقی حکومت کو نوٹس جاری کر دیئے۔ جسٹس عابد عزیز شیخ اور جسٹس شاہد کریم پر مشتمل دور کنی بیج نے سماعت کی۔ پنجاب حکومت کے وکیل خواجہ حارث ایڈووکیٹ پنجاب حکومت اور ایل ڈی اے کی وکالت کے حوالے سے زیر سماعت درخواستوں سے علیحدہ ہو گئے اور اس کیس میں پیش ہونے سے معذرت کر لی تاہم پنجاب حکومت کی جانب سے نئے وکیل کے لئے عدالت سے مہلت طلب کی گئی۔ انٹرنی جزل کی جانب سے عدالت میں درخواستوں پر حکم امتناعی خارج کرنے کی درخواست دائر کی گئی جس پر عدالت نے استفسار کیا کہ وفاقی حکومت اس کیس میں فریق کیوں بن رہی ہے؟ انٹرنی جزل نے عدالت کو بتایا کہ اور نج لائن میٹروٹرین منصوبے کی فنڈنگ وفاقی حکومت کے ذریعے ہو رہی ہے لہذا اس کیس میں وفاقی حکومت کا موقف سنا جائے۔ انہوں نے عدالت سے استدعا کی حکم امتناعی خارج کیا جائے۔ ہم نے اس مسئلے پر کمیٹی بھی بنادی ہے۔ جس درخواست گزاروں کے وکلاء نے اعتراض کیا کہ یہ صوبائی معاملہ ہے وفاقی حکومت کا اس کیس سے کوئی تعلق نہیں بنتا۔

لاہور (شوبز ڈیسک) پاکستان کے دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں امریکی سفارت خانے کے تعاون سے ایک منٹ یعنی ساٹھ سیکنڈز کے دورانیے پر مشتمل فلموں کا میلہ سجایا گیا۔ 60 سیکنڈز فلم فیسٹیول کی تقریب سرسید میموریل سوسائٹی میں منعقد ہوئی جہاں مختلف ممالک سے منتخب شدہ 35 فلموں کی نمائش کی گئی۔ منتظمین کے مطابق اس فیسٹیول کا آغاز 2012 میں ہوا تھا اور اس کا مقصد دنیا بھر کے نوجوانوں کو اپنی صلاحیتوں کے اظہار کے لیے پلیٹ فارم مہیا کرنا تھا تاہم وہ اپنے خیالات کا اظہار دنیا بھر کے ناظرین تک پہنچا سکیں۔ فلمی میلے میں بچوں اور نوجوانوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد نے شرکت کی جبکہ دکھائی جانے والی فلموں کے موضوعات میں ماحولیات، ثقافت، مزاح، تجرید فن، تخلیقی صلاحیت، تعلیم اور صنفی امتیاز جیسے موضوعات کو موضوع بحث لایا گیا تھا۔ اس فلمی میلے میں افغانستان سے تعلق رکھنے والے فرزار سمیسی اور واحد امیدی کی فلم بہترین فلم قرار دی گئی جبکہ دوسرا انعام خواتین کے خلاف تشدد پر بھارتی شیطان کو دیا گیا۔ یہ فلم سورہا بالی کی تخلیق تھی۔ تیسرا انعام پاکستانی فلم طوفانی کڈو کے حصے میں آیا۔ طوفانی کڈو گجرات سے تعلق رکھنے والی رومیہ شاہد کی تخلیق تھی۔ رومیہ شاہد نے حال ہی میں یونیورسٹی آف گجرات سے مٹی میڈیا میں گریجویشن کی ہے اور ان کی تیار کردہ فلم فلپ موشن انڈیا میں تیار کی گئی تھی۔

اسلام آباد: قومی اسمبلی اجلاس میں اور نج لائن ٹرین منصوبے پر اپوزیشن ارکان اسمبلی نے شدید ہنگامی آرائی کی، وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات پرویز رشید کا کہنا ہے کہ اور نج لائن ٹرین منصوبے کی وجہ سے تاریخی ورثے کو کوئی نقصان نہیں ہو گا۔

تفصیلات کے مطابق اسپیکر ایاز صادق کی زیر صدارت اجلاس میں اپوزیشن ارکان نے اور نج لائن ٹرین منصوبے پر شدید ہنگامہ آرائی کی، اپوزیشن ارکان اسمبلی کا کہنا تھا کہ اور نج لائن ٹرین منصوبے کیلئے لاہور کے تاریخی مقامات کو مسمار کیا جا رہا ہے۔ جس پر جواب دیتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر پرویز رشید نے کہا کہ حکومت پنجاب نے یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ اور نج لائن ٹرین منصوبے کی وجہ سے تاریخی ورثے کو کوئی نقصان نہیں ہو گا۔ دوسری جانب اپوزیشن لیڈر سید خورشید شاہ نے پی آئی اے نجکاری اور ایل این جی منصوبے پر حکومت کو شدید تنقید کا نشانہ بنایا۔

اسلام آباد: وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں برف باری شروع ہوئی تو شہری سب کام چھوڑ چھاڑ کر بیر سوہا کی جانب سریٹ دوڑ پڑے۔ برف باری کے مزے لیے دل کھول کر خوب موج مستی کی۔ برف کی چادر اوڑھ کر اسلام آباد کے پہاڑوں کا حسن اپنے جوبن پر ہے۔ قدرت نے اسلام آباد کو مری بنایا تو سیاح بھی خوشی سے پھولے نہیں سمار ہے۔ شہری خوش ہیں کہ اسلام آباد میں برف بھاری نے اس بار سردیوں کا موسم ان کے لیے یادگار بنا دیا ہے۔

اور نج ٹرین: تاریخی عمارتوں کے گرد کام روکنے کے حکم میں 22 فروری تک توسیع

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

16 فروری 2016

اسلام آباد میں 60 سیکنڈز فلم فیسٹیول 'افغان فلم' نے میدان مار لیا

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

15 فروری 2016

اور نج لائن ٹرین منصوبے سے تاریخی ورثے کو نقصان نہیں ہو گا: پرویز رشید

نیوز 24

12 فروری 2016

مارگلہ کی پہاڑیوں پر برف باری، شہری خوشی سے جھوم اٹھے

دنیا نیوز

11 فروری 2016

دیں گے

وائس آف امریکہ

18 فروری 2016

منصوبے شروع کئے جانے کے چرچے زبان زد عام ہیں۔ سب سے اہم منصوبہ 'گرین لائنز' پروجیکٹ ہے۔ ناگن چورنگی، ناظم آباد اور گوہماڑ چورنگی پر تو اس منصوبے پر کام کا آغاز بھی ہو گیا ہے۔ ٹرانسپورٹ اینڈ ماس ٹرانزٹ ڈپارٹمنٹ حکومت سندھ کی جاری کردہ معلومات کے مطابق، 'گرین لائنز' منصوبے کی تکمیل کے لئے ایشیائی ترقیاتی بینک مالی معاونت کر رہا ہے۔ اس منصوبے کا مقصد کراچی کے لئے برق رفتار پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ فراہم کرنا اور اسے بلار کے چلانے کے لئے نئی سڑکوں اور پلوں کی تعمیر کرنا ہے تاکہ ٹریفک کی روانی کسی طرح اور کبھی بھی متاثر نہ ہو۔ 'گرین لائنز' منصوبے کے ذریعے سفر کی سہولت، برق رفتار اور سستی سروسز دستیاب ہوں گی جس میں یومیہ تقریباً 10 لاکھ افراد سفر کریں گے۔ سندھ ماس ٹرانزٹ اتھارٹی بل ایس ایم ٹی اے سندھ اسمبلی میں پیش کر دیا گیا ہے۔

لاہور میں علامہ اقبال کے مزار کو سیوریجی خدشات کے پیش نظر بند کئے جانے کے بعد اب اقبال میوزیم پر بھی تالے لگادیئے گئے ہیں، انتظامیہ کا کہنا ہے کہ سیوریجی خدشات اپنی جگہ، میوزیم کو ضروری مرمت کے لئے بند کیا گیا ہے۔ حکومت پنجاب نے کچھ عرصہ قبل سیوریجی خدشات کے پیش نظر شاعر مشرق ڈاکٹر علامہ اقبال کے مزار کو عام افراد کے لئے بند کر دیا تھا، اب لاہور ریلوے سٹیشن کے قریب علامہ اقبال روڈ پر واقع اقبال میوزیم کے داخلی دروازے کو تالے لگا کر سیل کر دیا گیا ہے، جس سے میوزیم دیکھنے کے خواہش مند افراد کو مایوسی ہو رہی ہے۔ اقبال میوزیم کے کاپورچ کی چھت توڑ دی گئی، مرکزی دروازے سے ملحقہ برآمدے اور کمرے کی چھت بھی گرا دی گئی ہے، انتظامیہ کا کہنا ہے کہ میوزیم کی چھتیں کافی خراب ہو چکی تھیں، اقبال میوزیم کی چار دیواری اونچی کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ اس پر خاردار تار بھی لگائے جائیں گے، مرکزی دیوار پر بھی لوہے کے روزنامہ جنگلے لگائے جارہے ہیں۔

لاہور میں منعقد ہونے والے ادبی میلے، لاہور لٹری فیسٹیول، کی انتظامیہ کے مطابق اب یہ میلہ تین کے بجائے اب دو دن کا ہو گا۔ جمعرات کو لاہور لٹری فیسٹیول کی انتظامیہ کی جانب سے اپنی ویب سائٹ پر جاری کردہ پیغام کے مطابق اب یہ ادبی میلہ 19 تا 21 فروری کے بجائے 20 اور 21 فروری کو منعقد ہو گا۔

انتظامیہ کے ایک اہلکار نے بی بی سی سے بات کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ 'میلے کا ایک دن کم کرنے کا فیصلہ پنجاب حکومت کے مشورے پر کیا گیا ہے، اور اسے کس جگہ منعقد کیا جائے گا اس حوالے سے ہماری حکومت سے بات چیت جاری ہے۔' خیال رہے کہ گذشتہ روز لاہور کی ضلعی حکومت کی جانب سے مال روڈ پر واقع الحمر آرٹس کونسل میں منعقد ہونے والے تین روزہ میلے کے لیے جاری کردہ این او سی سیوریجی وجوہات کی بنا پر منسوخ کرنے کی خبریں گردش کر رہی تھیں۔ اس پر لاہور ادبی میلے کی انتظامیہ کی جانب سے وضاحتی اعلان کیا گیا کہ ادبی میلہ منسوخ یا ملتوی نہیں کیا گیا ہے اور نئے پروگرام کا اعلان جلد کیا جائے گا۔ واضح رہے کہ لاہور ادبی میلے میں شرکت کے لیے ملک بھر سے ادیبوں اور فنکاروں کے علاوہ بیرون ملک سے بھی مہمان شرکت کر رہے ہیں۔ ادبی میلے میں شرکت کے لیے بھارتی اداکارہ شرمیلا ٹیگور بھی واگدہ کے راستے لاہور پہنچی ہیں۔ ادبی میلے میں صحافت، ادب، فنون لطیفہ اور سیاست پر مباحث کے علاوہ کتابوں کی تقریب رونمائی بھی منعقد کی جائے گی۔

اس میلے میں بلوچستان کی ممتاز شخصیات بھی نظر آئیں اگر بلوچستان میں کوئی قتل عام، خودکش حملہ، فوجی آپریشن، تخریبی کارروائی یا کسی ممتاز لاپتہ کی لاش ملے یا پاک چنانا کٹاک کارڈ کے تعلق سے کوئی بیان یا ہڑتال ہو تب تو قومی الیکٹرونک اور پرنٹ میڈیا میں بلوچستان کی جگہ بنتی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ وہاں کچھ بھی ہو رہا ہو کسی غیر بلوچستانی کو کوئی مطلب نہیں۔ یہی کچھ اس ہفتے گوادر میں آر سی ڈی سی کے زیر اہتمام تیسرے سالانہ ادبی و کتب میلے کے ساتھ بھی ہوا۔ اس میں کونہ اور کراچی تک سے مہمان آئے۔ مکران بھر سے مطالعے اور ادب کے شائقین اپنے خرچے پر فاصلے طے کر کے پہنچے۔ مگر ایک مقامی بلوچی ٹی وی چینل کے سوا کسی کو یہ جاننے کی طلب نہ ہوئی کہ بلوچستان میں میڈیا کی پسند خوروں کے علاوہ بھی زندگی کے کئی رنگ ہیں۔ گوادر میں ہونے والا یہ میلہ قومی ذرائع ابلاغ کی توجہ حاصل نہ کر سکا۔

اس میلے کے منتظمین نے کراچی کے بڑے بڑے پبلشرز سے درخواست کی کہ میلے میں اپنے اپنے اسٹالز لگائیں۔ مگر جو بھی بلوچستان بالخصوص مکران کا نام سننا کانٹا کو ہاتھ لگالیتا۔ حتیٰ کہ کراچی اور اسلام آباد لٹری فیسٹیول کے بانی آکسفورڈ یونیورسٹی پریس نے بھی عین وقت پر ہاتھ کھینچ لیا۔ مگر کچھ چھوٹے پبلشرز ضرور صحیح سلامت آئے اور خوش خوش واپس لوٹے۔ خود منتظمین نے کراچی کے معروف پبلشرز کی کتابیں خریدیں اور گوادر کے میلے میں فروخت کے لئے رکھیں۔ سب سے زیادہ مانگ تاریخ، فلسفے اور ادب کی تھی۔ اس ادبی و کتب میلے میں گوادریوں کے علاوہ دیگر نواحی شہروں اور قصبات سے لگ بھگ سات ہزار لوگوں نے شرکت کی (اسی فیصد نوجوان تھے)۔ چار دن میں ساڑھے چھ لاکھ روپے کی کتابیں فروخت ہوئیں۔ مشاعروں اور تھیٹر پر فارمنس کے علاوہ صوبے کے علمی، سماجی، اقتصادی اور سیاسی مستقبل اور تاریخی ورثے پر کھل کے گوادر کی بندرگاہ اپنی جغرافیائی محل وقوع کی وجہ سے بہت اہمیت رکھتی ہے حالانکہ bbc خالی خالی نعرے بازی کے بجائے محققانہ گفتگو ہوئی۔ اس وقت گوادر ادھڑی ہوئی گلیوں اور اجڑے محلوں کا ایک ایسا 'سلم' ہے جس کی بلدیہ کے پاس ایک پیسہ بھی نہیں۔

لاہور: سیوریجی خدشات پر مزار اقبال کے بعد
اقبال میوزیم پر بھی تالے لگادیئے گئے

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

18 فروری 2016

لاہور ادبی میلہ اب دو دن پر مشتمل ہو گا

بی بی سی اردو

18 فروری 2016

گوادر کے لوگ بھی کتاب پڑھتے ہیں

بی بی سی اردو

16 فروری 2016

مظفر آباد۔ پاکستان کے زیر انتظام کشمیر میں روزنامہ جنگلی حیات کے تحفظ کے لیے امریکہ کے ادارہ برائے بین الاقوامی ترقی (یو ایس ایڈ) کے تعاون سے ایک منصوبے کا آغاز کیا گیا ہے جس میں مقامی لوگوں کو روزنامہ جنگلی حیات کو محفوظ بنانے سے متعلق آگاہی فراہم کی جائے گی۔ اس منصوبے کے تحت ضلع ہٹیاں بالا میں کشمیر کو تقسیم کرنے والی حد بندی سے ملحقہ علاقے قاضی ناگ میں نسل کی معدوم کی خطرے سے دوچار مارخور، برفانی ریچھ، مرغ زریں، کستوری ہرن جیسے جانوروں کو تحفظ فراہم کرنے کے بارے میں مقامی آبادی کو ترغیب اور تربیت دی جائے گی۔ حکام کے مطابق لائن آف کنٹرول پر بھارت کی جانب سے باڑ لگائے جانے سے بھی جانوروں کی بقا کی کوششیں متاثر ہوئی ہیں۔ پاکستانی کشمیر کے سیکرٹری روزنامہ جنگلات و روزنامہ جنگلی حیات فرحت میر نے وائس آف امریکہ کو اس منصوبے کی تفصیلات بتاتے ہوئے کہا۔ اس منصوبے میں ذرائع ابلاغ کے نمائندوں کو بھی تربیت فراہم کی جائے گی تاکہ وہ اس پیغام کو زیادہ موثر انداز میں لوگوں تک پہنچا کر روزنامہ جنگلی حیات کے بچاؤ میں اپنا کردار ادا کر سکیں۔ پاکستانی کشمیر میں بعض قیمتی اور نایاب نسل کی روزنامہ جنگلی حیات پائی جاتی ہے جسے معدوم ہونے سے بچانے کے لیے یہاں تین سال کے لیے شکار پر پابندی بھی عائد کی گئی لیکن اب بھی مختلف علاقوں سے غیر قانونی شکار کی خبریں موصول ہوتی رہتی ہیں۔

کراچی: دنیا بھر کی طرح، پاکستان میں بھی، سرکس کی روایات قدیم ہیں، جہاں عوام کی تفریح کے لئے ہر سامان مہیا ہوتا ہے، وہیں 'موت کا کنواں' اس سارے سرکس کی جان سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ موت کے کنویں میں موٹر سائیکل چلانے والا اپنی زندگی داؤ پر رکھ کر 'لکڑی کے ٹکڑوں' اور لوہے سے جڑے ایک گول دائرے میں زمین سے کئی فٹ بلند موٹر سائیکل چلانے کا کرتب دکھاتا ہے، جسے دیکھنے والے دیکھتے رہ جاتے ہیں۔ بہاولپور سے تعلق رکھنے والے، محمد عمران بھی ایسے ہی پیشے سے وابستہ ہیں جو پچھلے 20 برسوں سے ملک کے مختلف حصوں میں لگنے والے مختلف موٹر سائیکل کو لکڑی کی بیٹیوں پر تیز رفتاری سے چلانے میں مہارت رکھتے ہیں، موت کے کنویں میں موٹر سائیکل چلانا ان سرکسوں میں اپنی پرانی کے بائیں ہاتھ کا کھیل ہے۔ محمد عمران بنا کسی حفاظتی بند کے 'موت کے کنویں' میں موٹر سائیکل کی سواری کرتے ہیں، جس میں وہ کئی بار زخمی بھی ہو چکے ہیں۔ وائس آف امریکہ کی نمائندہ کو دئے گئے ایک خصوصی انٹرویو میں عمران کہتے ہیں: 'یہ زندگی اور موت کا کھیل ہے۔ لوگ اسے 'جادو' کہتے ہیں مگر یہ جادو نہیں ایک بہت مشکل کام ہے، اس کام سے ان کی روزی روٹی جڑی ہے۔' اپنے اس خطرناک پیشے کے حوالے سے عمران مزید کہتے ہیں کہ "لوگ ان کے اس خطرناک کھیل کو دیکھ کر خوش ہوتے ہیں۔"

لاہور: لاہور کی ضلعی انتظامیہ نے ادبی میلے کے منتظمین کو دو روزہ ایونٹ کا این او ایس جاری کر دیا ہے، لٹریچر فیسٹول میں اور ایکس فروری کو مقامی ہوٹل میں ہو گا۔ شیڈول کے مطابق لاہور لٹریچر فیسٹول انیس سے ایکس فروری تک الحما آرٹس کونسل میں منعقد ہونا تھا لیکن ضلعی انتظامیہ نے سیکورٹی غمخیزات کے باعث اجازت نامہ منسوخ کر دیا۔ نئے اجازت نامے کے مطابق فیسٹول انتظامیہ کو دو روز کے لئے مال روڈ کے مقامی ہوٹل میں فیسٹول کی اجازت دی گئی ہے۔ ادبی میلے میں مختلف ممالک کے ادیب، شاعر، لکھاری اور فنکار شرکت کریں گے۔ سماء

وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ گریٹر اقبال پراجیکٹ تاریخی اعتبار سے منفرد اور اپنی نوعیت کا بہترین منصوبہ ہے، اس میں ہسٹری میوزیم بھی شامل ہو گا۔ ایوان وزیر اعلیٰ میں ہونے والے اجلاس میں وزیر اعلیٰ کا کہنا تھا کہ تحریک پاکستان کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرنے کے لیے گریٹر اقبال پراجیکٹ انتہائی اہم ہے، اس کی مدد سے نئی نسل کو تحریک پاکستان کی قربانیوں سے روشناس کرایا جاسکتا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پراجیکٹ میں ہسٹری میوزیم، قومی ہیرو وزنگیلری کے ساتھ حصول پاکستان کے سفر کے حوالے سے آڈیو اور ویڈیو سینیٹر بھی ہو گا جو نئی نسل کی کردار سازی اور حب الوطنی کے جذباتوں کے فروغ میں انتہائی معاون ثابت ہو گا۔

دریں اثنا وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب میاں شہباز شریف سے چینی قونصلر جنرل یو بون نے ملاقات کی اور پنجاب میں چین کے تعاون سے جاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں پر بات چیت کی۔ قونصلر جنرل نے وزیر اعلیٰ کو پاکستان کے مختلف حصوں میں جاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں میں تعاون کا یقین دلایا۔ شہباز شریف نے اس موقع پر پاکستان کی ترقی کے لئے چینی تعاون کو سراہا اور چین پاکستان راہداری منصوبے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔

تفصیلات کے مطابق راولپنڈی کے ایوب نیشنل پارک میں روزنامہ جنگلی سازوسامان کی نمائش میں تاریخی روزنامہ جنگلی اسلحہ، ٹیک اور توپیں رکھی گئیں ہیں۔ اس نمائش میں 1965 کی روزنامہ جنگ میں بھارتی فورسز سے چھینے جانے والے ٹیک اور گاڑیاں بھی رکھی گئی ہیں۔ کرنل (ر) شہزاد کا کہنا ہے کہ نمائش میں امریکا، جاپان اور روسی ساختہ ٹیک، ہندو قیں اور ریڈار کو رکھا گیا ہے۔ اہم روزنامہ جنگلوں میں استعمال ہونے والے اس سازوسامان میں شہریوں نے دل چسپی کا ظہار کیا ہے۔ شہریوں نے اس نمائش کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ مقامی طور پر تیار کردہ روزنامہ جنگلی سازوسامان دنیا کے لیے ایک مثال ہے۔

کراچی میں ایک طویل عرصے بعد پھر سے قلائچیں بھرتے لے لے پلوں، چوڑے چپکے راستوں اور ان پر ٹرانسپورٹ۔۔ خاص کر 'گرین لائنز'،

پاکستانی کشمیر میں نایاب روزنامہ جنگلی حیات کے تحفظ کا

منصوبہ

وائس آف امریکہ

20 فروری 2016

ہر سرکس کی جان، 'موت کا کنواں'

وائس آف امریکہ

20 فروری 2016

لاہور لٹریچر فیسٹول کیلئے این او ایس جاری

سماء

19 فروری 2016

گریٹر اقبال پراجیکٹ تاریخی اعتبار سے منفرد

منصوبہ ہو گا: شہباز شریف

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

19 فروری 2016

ایوب نیشنل پارک کی نمائش میں تاریخی

روزنامہ جنگلی ٹیک، توپیں رکھی گئیں

نیوز 24

19 فروری 2016

کچھ جدید منصوبے جو کراچی کا نقشہ ہی بدل

جارہے ہیں، یہی آج گلوبلائزیشن کا بڑا چیلنج ہے جو دنیا کو درپیش ہے۔ پاکستان نے خطے کی صورت حال کو بہتر بنانے کی بنیاد رکھ دی ہے۔ امید ہے کہ جدوجہد ضرور کامیاب ہوگی۔ وسط ایشیائی ریاستیں اور پاکستان کا کردار بہت اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ معاشی ترقی خطے میں امن کی ضامن ہے۔ قبل ازیں انتظار حسین کی دنیا کے عنوان سے ایک نشست ہوئی جس میں ایرج مبارک، اکرام اللہ، کشور ناہید اور ناصر عباس نیز نے کہا انتظار حسین ترقی پسند مصنفین سے اتفاق نہیں کرتے تھے تاہم وقت کے ساتھ ان کے خیالات میں تبدیلی آگئی۔ اردو ادب کی وہ واحد شخصیت تھی جس نے ہر صنف پر اپنی مخصوص چھاپ چھوڑی، لاہور ان کے بعد احوال ہے۔ اگرچہ حکومت نے انکے نام ایک ایوارڈ موسوم کرنے کا اعلان کر دیا ہے لیکن ہم مطالبہ کرتے ہیں۔ ایک میوزیم یا یادگار بھی قائم کی جائے۔ سابق وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات شیری رحمان نے کہا ماضی میں پاکستان کے امریکہ کیساتھ تعلقات بہت اچھے رہے ہیں، خصوصاً 60ء کی دہائی میں امریکہ نے پاکستان کے ساتھ بہت محبت کی جس کے نتیجے میں پاکستان میں تریلاڈیم جیسے بڑے پراجیکٹ بنے۔ تاہم اب ماضی جیسے تعلقات نہیں رہے۔ پاکستان نے ہمیشہ امریکہ کے ساتھ تعلقات بہتر کرنے کی کوشش کی ہے مگر امریکہ کی طرف سے کبھی نیوکلیر کا مسئلہ اٹھایا جاتا ہے اور کبھی اسے خطرناک علاقہ کہا جاتا ہے۔ ہم امید کرتے ہیں امریکی صدر پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات بہتر بنائیں گے۔ ”فرینڈز، ناٹ ماسٹرز؟ ایڈرلنگ دی پوسٹ۔ اوہائیو ایس پاکستان ایکو لیشن“ کے عنوان سے منعقدہ نشست میں معروف تجزیہ نگار شجاع نواز نے کہا امریکہ اور پاکستان کے تعلقات بہت پرانے ہیں، صدر اوہاما نے پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات میں بہت دلچسپی لی۔ اس بات میں کوئی شک نہیں امریکہ کی بھارت میں دلچسپی بڑھی ہے کیونکہ وہ ایک بڑا ملک اور بڑی معیشت ہے مگر امریکہ، پاکستان کو بھی نظر انداز نہیں کر سکتا۔ امریکی صحافی سٹیو کول نے کہا اگلا امریکی صدر ڈیو کرکریٹ ہو یا ری پبلکن، پاکستان کیلئے پالیسی ایک ہی رہے گی۔ بلیری صدر بنتی ہیں تو وہ پہلے پاکستان کا دورہ کر چکی ہیں اور پاکستان کو سمجھتی ہیں ان کیلئے پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات بہتر بنانا آسان رہیگا۔ نیٹ نیوز کے مطابق سابق وزیر خارجہ حنا ربانی کھر نے کہا کہ ماضی میں پاکستان کے حوالے سے یہ تاثر راہدہ دہشت گردوں کو سپورٹ اور دوسروں کے خلاف استعمال کرتا ہے، یہ تاثر اب بدل رہا ہے۔ پاکستان میں دہشت گردوں کیلئے جگہ سکڑ رہی ہے جبکہ پڑوسی ملکوں میں دہشت گردوں کی جگہ بڑھ رہی ہے۔

لٹیرری فیسٹول میں شرکت کے لئے آنے والی بھارتی اداکارہ شرمیلا ٹیگور کو وطن واپس جاتے ہوئے پولیس رپورٹ نہ ہونے کے باعث واگڈ باڈر پروک لیا گیا، کلیرنس ملنے میں تاخیر کے باعث امرتسر سے دہلی کی فلائٹ مس ہونے پر لاہور میں مزید ایک روز قیام بڑھا دیا۔ واگڈ باڈر حکام کے مطابق کسی بھی بھارتی شہری کو پاکستان کے دورے کے موقع پر متعلقہ پولیس سٹیشن کو رپورٹ کرنا ہوتی ہے اور ویزے کی مدت پوری ہونے پر واپس جاتے ہوئے بھی اطلاع کرنا ہوتی ہے جس کے بعد یہی رپورٹ امیگریشن کو بھی بھیجی جاتی ہے تاکہ معلوم ہو سکے کہ بھارتی شہری اپنے ملک واپس اور خیریت سے روانہ ہو رہا ہے۔ لٹیرری فیسٹول میں شرکت کے لئے آنے والی بھارتی اداکارہ شرمیلا ٹیگور جب بھارت روانگی کے لئے واگڈ باڈر پر پہنچیں تو امیگریشن حکام نے انہیں سفری دستاویزات کے ساتھ پولیس رپورٹ لف نہ کرنے پر روک لیا۔ شرمیلا ٹیگور کی جانب سے اپنے میزبانوں سے رابطہ کر کے صورتحال سے آگاہی دی گئی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ دورے کے سارے انتظامات لٹیرری فیسٹول کی انتظامیہ نے کئے تھے اس لئے پولیس رپورٹ بارے علم نہیں تھا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق لٹیرری فیسٹول انتظامیہ کی طرف سے متعلقہ پولیس سے رپورٹ لے کر امیگریشن حکام کو پہنچائی گئی اور انہیں واپس کے لئے کلیرنس دیدی گئی تاہم اداکارہ کی امرتسر سے دہلی کی فلائٹ مس ہوگئی جس کے باعث انہوں نے لاہور میں ایک روز قیام بڑھا دیا اور وہ پیر کے روز بھارت روانہ ہو گئی۔

لاہور: (دنیانویز) یونیسکو کے وفد سے ملاقات میں وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب نے کہا کہ اورنج لائن میٹرو ٹرین منصوبہ عام آدمی کو آرام دہ سفری سہولتیں فراہم کرنے کیلئے انقلابی قدم ہے، تاریخی ورثے کے تحفظ کیلئے ہر ضروری اقدام اٹھایا گیا ہے۔ وفد کی قیادت ورلڈ ہیئرٹیج سنٹر، یونیسکو کی پروگرام سپیشلسٹ جونہائی بین نے کی۔

لاہور میں 2 روزہ ادبی میلے کے پہلے روز سابق وزیر خارجہ حنا ربانی کھر، چیئرمین پی سی بی شہریار خان اور بھارتی اداکارہ شرمیلا ٹیگور سمیت ادب سے تعلق رکھنے والی ملکی و غیر ملکی شخصیات کی کثیر تعداد نے شرکت کی۔ لٹیرری فیسٹول کا افتتاح بھارتی اداکارہ شرمیلا ٹیگور کی ڈاکیومنٹری سفر سے ہوا جسے شرکاء نے خوب سراہا۔ لٹیرری فیسٹول کے شرکاء کا کہنا تھا کہ ادبی میلہ لاہور کی ثقافت کا عکاس ہے جہاں ادب سے تعلق رکھنے والے لوگوں اور نوجوانوں کے لئے معلومات کا ذخیرہ موجود ہے۔ ایونٹ میں دنیا کے مختلف ممالک سے ادیب، مصنفین شریک ہیں جو اپنی اپنی کتابوں پر بحث و مباحثہ کریں گے۔ ادبی میلہ میں جہاں ملکی سماجی و سیاسی شخصیات نے شرکت کی وہیں غیر ملکی شخصیات کی بڑی تعداد نے ادبی میلے کو امن کا پیغام قرار دیا ہے۔

شرمیلا ٹیگور کی بھارت واپسی ایک

روز کیلئے موخر

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 فروری 2016

اورنج ٹرین سے تاریخی مقامات متاثر نہیں

ہونگے: وزیر اعلیٰ کی یونیسکو کو یقین دہانی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 فروری 2016

لاہور میں دو روزہ ادبی میلہ سچ گیا، ملکی و غیر ملکی

افراد کی شرکت

نیو

20 فروری 2016

سرخیاں

تفصیلات

الحرماء میں محفل موسیقی کم مارچ کو ہوگی

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

28 فروری 2016

حبیب جیسے فنکار صدیوں بعد پیدا ہوتے ہیں:

شوہز شخصیات

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

28 فروری 2016

لاہور (کلچرل رپورٹر) لاہور آرٹس کونسل (الحرماء) اور کل پاکستان موسیقی کانفرنس کے زیر اہتمام ”محفل موسیقی“ کا ایک پروگرام کم مارچ میں منعقد ہوگا جس میں نامور گلوکار رفاقت علی خان، بخت علی خان اور فوزیہ خان اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کریں گی۔ III شام 6:00 بجے الحرماء ہال نمبر اس پروگرام کے نواز اہل قادی، طبلہ پرکاشف علی، ہارمونیم پر اسد علی اور سارنگی پر زویب حسن اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کریں گے۔

لاہور (کلچرل رپورٹر) پاکستان فلم انڈسٹری کے سینئر اداکار حبیب کے انتقال پر شوہز کے حلقوں میں گہرے رنج و غم کا اظہار کیا جا رہا ہے۔ معروف نغمہ نگار، کالم نگار چودھری اصغر علی نے کہا کہ فلمسٹار حبیب بہت بڑے فنکار تھے۔ فلم کیلئے میری لکھی ہوئی حمد اور نعت بہت مقبول ہوئی۔ پی ٹی وی چیز مین عطاء الحق قاسمی، جی ایم لاہور بشارت خان، پروگرام منیجر چودھری افتخار ورک اور ایمپلائوز یونین کے مرکزی صدر جہانگیر خان نے کہا کہ فلمسٹار حبیب نے سینکڑوں فلمیں کرنے کے بعد چھوٹی سکرین پر کام کا آغاز پی ٹی وی کی ڈرامہ سیریل ”راہیں“ سے کیا جو پی ٹی وی کے لئے اعزاز کی بات ہے۔ پاکستان فلم ڈسٹری بیوٹرز ایسوسی ایشن کے چیز مین چودھری اعجاز کامران نے کہا کہ ان کے انتقال سے فلم انڈسٹری کو ناقابل تلافی نقصان پہنچا ہے۔ اداکارہ بہار بیگم نے کہا کہ حبیب نہ صرف اچھے اداکار تھے بلکہ اچھے انسان بھی تھے۔ اداکار مصطفیٰ قریشی نے کہا کہ حبیب کے انتقال سے مجھے دلی صدمہ پہنچا ہے۔ وہ بہت اچھے انسان تھے۔ کلچرل جرنلسٹس فاؤنڈیشن آف پاکستان کے صدر طاہر بخاری اور جنرل سیکرٹری شاکر لاہوری نے کہا کہ اداکار حبیب نے نصف صدی تک فلم انڈسٹری پر حکمرانی کی۔ فلم انڈسٹری کیلئے ان کی خدمات ہمیشہ یاد رکھی جائیں گی۔ معروف فلمساز اور میاں فرزند سرکس کے چیز مین میاں راشد فرزند نے کہا ہے کہ حبیب جیسے فنکار صدیوں میں پیدا ہوتے ہیں۔ فلمساز سہیل خان نے کہا کہ حبیب ور سٹائل اداکار تھے۔

کراچی: (دنیا نیوز) ترکش فیسٹیول میں شرکت کیلئے خصوصی طور پر ترکی سے آئے فنکاروں نے کراچی والوں کے دل موہ لئے۔ فیسٹیول کے آخری روز پورٹ گریڈ میں پرفارمنس کے لیے پہنچا خوبصورت ترک ڈانس جوڑا۔ پورچن اور قدیر رواجی ترک ڈانس میں مہارت رکھتے ہیں۔ رواجی دھنوں پر جوڑے نے ترکی کا خاص زیبک اور رومن رقص پیش کیا۔ پرفارمنس پر ملنے والی داد سے پورچن اور قدیر پھولے نہ سائے۔ انکا کہنا تھا کہ کراچی والوں کی جانب سے ملنے والی پزیرائی سے انکا حوصلہ بڑھا۔ بڑی تعداد میں فیسٹیول میں پہنچنے والے شائقین نے پورچن اور قدیر کی پرفارمنس کے ساتھ ساتھ ترکی سے آئے دیگر فنکاروں کی پرفارمنس کو بھی خوب انجوائے کیا۔ فنکاروں کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستانیوں کے خلوص کو بھلا نہیں پائیں گے۔

لاہور (کلچرل رپورٹر) ایل ایل ایف کے زیر اہتمام دوروزہ ادبی میلہ مقامی ہوٹل میں شروع ہو گیا۔ میلے کا آغاز معروف بھارتی اداکارہ شرمیلا ٹیگور کی گفتگو سے ہوا۔ انہوں نے کہا آگے بڑھنے کیلئے آزادی اظہار اور روشن خیالی ضروری ہے۔ ہم سب ملکر خطے کا سیاسی اور ثقافتی رویہ تبدیل کر سکتے ہیں۔ بھارت میں پاکستانی کلچر بہت مقبول ہے وہ چاہے، میوزک کی صورت میں ہو یا فیشن، بھارت میں پاکستانی ڈرامے زیادہ پسند کئے جاتے ہیں، میں خود فریدہ خانم کی غزلوں سے لیکر کوک سٹوڈیو کا میوزک، بہت پسند کرتی ہوں۔ بھارتی پاکستانی ڈراموں کے پُرستار ہیں۔ اسی طرح پاکستانی فیشن بھی بھارت میں بہت مقبول ہے۔ اگرچہ میں زیادہ تر ساڑھی پہنتی ہوں لیکن مجھے پاکستانی شلوار قمیض بہت پسند ہے۔ میرے 60 سالہ کیریئر میں بہت سی حیران کن اور یادگار باتیں ہیں جو آج بھی میرے ذہن میں محفوظ ہیں، میں جو انٹرویو فیملی میں پبلی بڑھی۔ میرے دادا نہایت با اصول آدمی تھے۔ ہمیں فلم دیکھنے کی اجازت نہیں ہوتی تھی۔ 13 سال کی تھی جب پہلی بنگالی فلم میں کام کیا۔ نواب منصور علی خان پٹودی سے پہلی ملاقات کرکٹ پارٹی میں ہوئی تھی کیونکہ مجھے بھی کرکٹ بہت پسند تھی، ہم دونوں بہت جلد دوست بن گئے۔ اس وقت میری عمر 23 سال تھی۔ شرمیلا ٹیگور نے کہا لاہور آکر بہت خوش ہیں۔ ویک اینڈ خوبصورت ہو گیا، لاہور بہت پسند آیا، ہوٹل پہنچیں تو ہندی اولڈ میوزک چل رہا تھا۔ انکا کہنا تھا پاکستان، بھارت کلچر ایک جیسا ہے، ایسے آئیڈیاز پر کام کیا جانا چاہئے کہ رویوں میں بھی تبدیلی آئے۔ لاہور میں امریکہ کے قونصل جنرل زچرے ہارکن رائیڈر کے علاوہ دیگر ادبی اور دانشور شخصیات کی کثیر تعداد ادبی ذوق کی تسکین کیلئے پہنچی۔ سابق وزیر خارجہ حنا ربانی کھرنے کہا گزشتہ دو دہائیوں سے پاکستان مشکل دور ہے پر تھا لیکن خدا کا شکر ہے اپنی منزل کی طرف رواں دواں ہے۔ امید ہے جلد خطے کو امن نصیب ہو گا۔ ”زمانے کے بڑے کھیل“ کے عنوان سے منعقدہ نشست سے خطاب کرتے انہوں نے کہا خطے میں وسطی ایشیا کی ریاستوں اور چین کے تعلقات میں پاکستان کا کردار بہت اہم ہے، مہاجرین نے معاشی حالت کو خراب کر دیا۔ گریٹ گیمز کے تناظر میں ملکوں کی سرحدوں کی تقسیم پر نظر ثانی کرنا وقت کی اہم ضرورت ہے۔ نان سٹیٹ ایکٹرز خطے میں انتشار پھیلانے کی کوششیں جاری رکھے ہوئے ہیں جن کا قلع قمع کرنا بہت ضروری ہے۔ اس نشست کے دیگر شرکاء فیصل محمود، روزا اوٹوے ایوا، سٹیو کال اور یوینا مازانے کہا کہ ہم کون ہیں کیا ہمیں اور کس طرف

کراچی: گریڈ ترکش فیسٹیول کے آخری روز

فنکار جوڑے کی شاندار پرفارمنس

دنیا نیوز

21 فروری 2016

ادبی میلہ شروع، لاہور بہت پسند آیا، شرمیلا

ٹیگور: حنا کھر، شیریں رحمان کا بھی خطاب

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

21 فروری 2016



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Keenjher/Karli Lake Tourist Guide Map

Keenjhar Lake or Kall Lake is located 22 kilometers away from Thatta and about 122 kilometers from Karachi and 80 Kilometers from Hyderabad. It is one of the largest man made lake in Pakistan.

Keenjhar Lake was build possibly in the 12th century by the local rulers as a water reservoir for the then capital of Sindh Thatta.

Today Keenjhar lake is an extremely beautiful blue water lake which it plays an important ecological role in the functioning of the Indus River basin. It is extremely important for a wide variety of birds and animals. The waterbirds, The mid-winter waterbird counts of the late 1980s averaged 140,000 birds per winter. Today lake receives numerous migratory birds from Siberia and there is active bird protection and information center for the birds in Keenjhar lake.

Keenjhar lake has been a symbol in the poetry of Sindh and was referred to a serene turquoise water lake where romances happen and where poets say poetry with devotion.

The famous legend of Sindh legend of Noori Jan Tamachi took place in Keenjhar lake. It is a well known story which is in the book of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. The legends main character Noori has still a shrine on an Island in the lake known as Noori's Island. Everyday hundreds of devotees visit the shrine.

Water for Karachi

Keenjhar lake supply about 78% drinking water from Keenjhar Lake thru 2 canals specially built for this purpose.



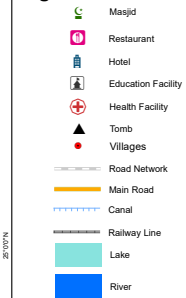
Keenjher Lake



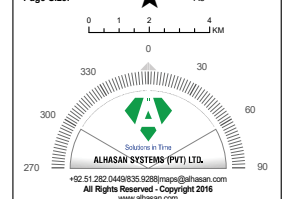
Noori Jam Tamachi Tomb



Legend



Creation Date: March 06, 2016
Projection/Datum: WGS 84 Geographic
Page Size: A3



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ISSN 2312-1335

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