

TOURISM BULLETIN

May 2015 - Volume: 3, Issue: 5

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A Hi-Tech Knowledge Management, Business Psychology Modeling, and Publishing Company

ISSN 2312-1335

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NEWS HEADLINES

Breath of fresh air: Kohat residents welcome spring at festival

The Express Tribune
April 28, 2015

Learning Thai tourist trade tricks

Daily Times, April 28, 2015

DETAILS

PESHAWAR: A two-day long festival to celebrate the arrival of spring concluded in Kohat on Monday. The event was put together by the Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the 9th Division of the Pakistan Army at Kohat Garrison.

K-P's cultural representation remained a vivid part of the festival which was packed to capacity. Visitors were treated to musical and dance performances throughout the event. Dancers moved to the beats of folk music in the Khattak and Mehsud Betani dance styles. Children donned Punjabi, Sindhi, Gilgiti and Chitrali outfits and walked the stage.

Speaking on the occasion, TCKP MD Muhammad Mushtaq Khan said the event served the dual purpose of providing locals with a breath of fresh air and fostering Pakistani culture.

Women entrepreneurs were also provided with an opportunity to set up stalls of handicrafts, readymade garments, hand-woven traditional dresses and culinary delights of different parts of the country.

The highlights of the festival were performances by Pashto band Khumariyaan and renowned singer Zeek Afridi. The encore display of skill by the instrumental ensemble, which has gained acclaim at the Pakistani music scene, left the audience craving for more. Afridi sang most of his hit numbers and another band, Sakan, played devotional semi-classical tunes that set the tone of the closing day.

Local performers from Kohat and adjoining districts also got their share of the limelight, much to the delight of an enthusiastic audience.

Tourism in Pakistan has been stated by the Lonely Planet as being "tourism's 'next big thing' for more years than we care to remember" but "world media headlines [always] send things off the rails". Tourism in Thailand has on the other hand been the current big thing for a number of years.

Where Pakistan, with its diverse cultures, people and landscapes, attracted 1 million tourists in 2012, visitors to Thailand exceeded 22 million in the same year.

Pakistan's tourism industry was at its peak during the 1970s when the country received unprecedented amounts of foreign tourists, thanks to the Hippie trail. The main destinations of choice for these tourists were the Khyber Pass, Peshawar, Karachi, Lahore, Swat and Rawalpindi. Thailand is a country on Southeast Asia's Indochina peninsula known for tropical beaches, opulent royal palaces, ancient ruins and ornate temples displaying figures of Buddha, a revered symbol. In Bangkok, the capital, an ultramodern cityscape rises next to quiet canal and riverside communities. Commercial hubs such as Chinatown consist of labyrinthine alleys crammed with shops, houses, markets and diners. Bangkok is the capital and the most populous city of Thailand. The city occupies 1,568.7 square kilometres (605.7 sq mi) in the Chao Phraya River delta in Central Thailand, and has a population of over 8 million, or 12.6 percent of the country's population. Over 14 million people (22.2 percent) live within the surrounding Bangkok Metropolitan Region, making Bangkok an extreme primate city, dwarfing Thailand's other urban centres in terms of importance.

Tourism is a major economic factor in the Kingdom of Thailand. In 2013 it is estimated that tourism directly contributed 9% to Thailand's GDP. When including the indirect effects of tourism, it accounted for 20.2% of Thailand's GDP. On 1 June 2013, Time magazine reported that Bangkok was identified as the most visited city in the world by the 2013 Global Destination Cities Index, while Suvarnabhumi Airport was the world's most geotagged location on Instagram in 2013. According to the World Tourism Rankings, in 2013, Thailand was in the Top Ten Tourist Destinations in the world with 25.5 million international arrivals. In 2008, Bangkok ranked 3rd after London and New York in Euromonitor International's list of "Top City Destinations" with 10,209,900 visitors, Pattaya 23rd with 4,406,300 visitors, Phuket 31st with 3,344,700 visitors, and Chiang Mai in 78th place with 1,604,600 visitors. The Global Destinations Cities Index of 2013, compiled by the MasterCard Worldwide Corporation, ranked Bangkok as the "top destination city by international visitor arrivals", while London and Paris were second and third respectively. Asian tourists primarily visit Thailand for Bangkok and the historical, natural, and cultural sights in its vicinity. Western tourists not only visit Bangkok and surroundings, but in addition many travel to the southern beaches and islands. The north is the chief destination for trekking and adventure travel with its diverse ethnic minority groups and forested mountains. The region hosting the fewest tourists is Isan in the northeast.

In Pakistan there is a diversity of landscape which results in the country's attraction ranging from the ruins of the Indus Valley Civilization such as Mohenjo-daro, Harappa and Taxila, to the Himalayan hill stations, which attract those interested in winter sports. Pakistan is home to several mountain peaks over 7000 m, which attracts adventurers and mountaineers from around the world, especially K2. The northern part of Pakistan has many old fortresses, ancient architecture and the Hunza and Chitral valley. The romance of the historic Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is timeless and legendary; Punjab province has the site of Alexander's battle on the Jhelum River and the historic city Lahore, Pakistan's cultural capital, with many examples of Mughal architecture such as Badshahi Masjid, Shalimar Gardens, Tomb of Jahangir and the Lahore Fort. Before the Global economic crisis Pakistan received more than 500,000 tourists annually. However, this number has now come down to near zero figures since 2008 due to the instability in the country. Nevertheless, in 2009, the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report ranked Pakistan as one of the top 25% tourist destinations for its World Heritage sites. While

'Peace March' to encourage tourism

The News, April 22 ,2015

Pakistan has the raw material for a booming tourist trade, it lacks the infrastructure, support facilities and the dedicated will to facilitate tourism. The Kingdom of Thailand has capitalized on the interest in the natural beauty of the country to increase the tourism. Recently, the Royal Thai Government launched a new 1111 hotline to receive complaints from foreigners in Thailand, in addition to the existing 1155 Tourist Police Call Centre. In case of emergency, foreigners are advised to dial 1155. The 24-hour Tourist Police Call Centre is ready to offer assistance to both tourists and foreign residents in Thailand. There will be interpreters on standby to receive all emergency calls. If the pressing cases are beyond the centre's jurisdiction, they will be referred to the respective government agencies. For non-emergency matters, foreigners are advised to call 1111. The centre, also available 24-hour daily, is staffed by representatives from all 20 ministries to ensure prompt response for all complaints received from foreigners in Thailand. Complaints received will be coordinated through the centre to related government agencies, state enterprises, and non-governmental organisations. The move is part of the government's tireless effort to review all safety measures and standards, as well as to offer prompt assistance to foreigners who may need help while in Thailand.

Bangkok has been voted as the "Favourite City for Leisure in the Asia-Pacific" by readers of DestinAsian magazine, a leading travel and lifestyle magazine. The cosmopolitan capital of Thailand was recognised "for its vibrant mixture of historic sites and modern style." Nearly 4,000 readers participated in this year's poll, which was conducted between August and October 2014. The voting process involved naming a winner in each of 35 different categories including hotels and resorts, service residences, spas, airlines, airports, and destinations.

Despite the booming industry, in 2015, the Tourism Authority of Thailand has set the target of 28 million visitors generating an estimated 1.35 trillion Baht (35.8 billion Euros) from international visitors, and 151 million trips generating an estimated 800 billion Baht (21.2 billion Euros) from domestic visitors. Source markets that are indicating positive growth trends are China, India, the Philippines, Hong Kong, the UAE, Singapore, France, Italy, the UK, Brazil and East Europe. In order to boost Thailand's tourism industry even further, they have launched the "2015 Discover Thainess" campaign, recommending 12 emerging new destinations that tourists must not miss, especially repeat travellers. This is coupled with the 12 Months of Happiness Festival, in which each month of this year is devoted to a celebration.

The way Thailand continues to be a booming tourist is not by resting on past glories, untapped natural beauty and existing infrastructure and facilities. Every year, Thailand ups the game, raising the bar higher for tourism industry players. With safety and sustainability the new watchwords, the Thai Government is on the ball, putting in those features that will appeal to the world traveler and allow Thailand to remain uniquely Thai!

Lahore: Hassan Jan, a porter from a remote village in Gilgit-Baltistan, along with 11 of his companions, has completed a 1,200 kilometer journey over a period of three days through a difficult mountainous terrain to the final destination of Islamabad.

The purpose of this endeavour called 'Peace March', according to the porter, who helps foreign tourists trek the world famous mountain peaks of North Pakistan, is to encourage the resumption of tourism in the region at a time of security fears. Since the onset of Pakistan's engagement in the war on terror in the post 9/11 years, Pakistan's northern region has experienced a drastic decline in the number of trekkers and tourists visiting the country to scale its vast Himalayan range. Locals primarily dependent on foreign tourism for their livelihood have been badly affected by this decline and poverty has grown dramatically in the villages surrounding mountains and deep valleys. Before the onset of terrorism, the area has typically drawn 8,000 to 10,000 foreign tourists.

Talking to The News, Hassan Jan lamented that the government in Pakistan did not treat this drop in tourism with due seriousness, whereas the industry in the North is worth billions of dollars and trekking groups are typically charged \$8,000 for permits for a group of seven and \$10,000 for rented helicopters by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC). Besides income for porters lugging luggage for foreign climbers, he said local businesses of restaurants, small hotel accommodation, and handicrafts had suffered huge losses as more and more foreigners are reluctant to visit the country. Those living in Europe and the US are bombarded with images of suicide attacks and other acts of terrorism by international media outlets, which undoubtedly plays a decisive role in making Pakistan an unattractive tourist destination, the porter said.

Starting from his village in Hushe Valley situated at the east Skardu in the foot of Masherbum Mountains which leads to Ghandogoro La to K-2 base camp, Hassan Jan and 11 other porters decided to undertake this initiative. Contributing Rs50,000 each out of their modest income, Hassan and his companions began their long arduous journey on April 11 documenting their trip with pictures displaying the awe-inspiring beauty of majestic peaks, crystal clear lakes, and lush green valleys. Concluding their journey on their arrival in Islamabad on April 13, Hassan told The News that no government delegation had received them despite sending information of their venture to the Tourism Department.

Although Hassan and his companions attribute the decline in tourism to terrorism, the porter told The News that violence in Gilgit-Baltistan had threatened harmony. The purpose of Peace March is to encourage peace amongst locals and transcend the binaries of religion, he said. During the course of the journey, he informed that they would stop in villages and talk to the residents about the need for tolerance and brotherly love. Referring to Nepal, the Himalayan country home to Mount Everest and the Himalayan-Annapurna range, Hassan Jan said the government in Pakistan should invest in its tourism.

Another promise of uplift The Express Tribune

April 16, 2015

Peace walk: A walk from Baltistan to Islamabad for peace

The Express Tribune
April 15, 2015

Education, tourism sectors welcome Pakistan- India talks

The News
April 15, 2015

GILGIT-BALTISTAN (G-B) has been on the receiving end of innumerable pledges and promises by successive governments for the last 50 years. Often they come to nothing, or are only partially achieved. Some never get beyond the purely conceptual stage. Now it is the turn of the government of Nawaz Sharif to tackle the woes and grievances of the many and varied peoples of G-B. Top of their wish list is the unresolved issue of its constitutional status which has remained unresolved — indeed largely unaddressed — since Partition. This means that the people of G-B are unable to get representation in the legislature, a long-standing bone of contention. A committee has now been formed to decide the constitutional status of the region, but as Pakistan administers G-B under a United Nations Mandate and India still has claim over some or all of the area, there is unlikely to be much by way of a resolution in the foreseeable future.

Another matter tabled by the prime minister on his one-day visit to G-B was the much-vexed issue of the extension to the runway which would enable jet passenger aircraft to come and go. The land for this has been available since the early 1990s but wrangling between local groups and the passing tensions of the area have meant that the much-needed extension has never been built. There may be a more achievable goal in the widening of the Skardu-Jaglot road, another piece of long-overdue infrastructure improvement, and the news that Hunza and Nagar are to be administratively separated is to be welcomed. There was a time not so long ago that G-B was the hub of a thriving tourism industry, thronged with trekkers and other tourists who come to wonder at the basket of natural marvels that bejewel our northern areas. The tourism industry is largely collapsed, principally because of the deterioration in the national security situation. With improvements on that front beginning to be felt it is not impossible to believe that tourism could once again flourish in G-B. Let us hope this is not another false dawn.

Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan (IUCPSS) on Tuesday hosted a reception in honour of 11 mountaineers who conducted a 'peace walk' from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) to Islamabad.

The 1012-kilometre walk from Khaplu in GB to Islamabad took the volunteers 32 days. Along the road, they visited 202 towns in 12 districts to promote peace, said a press release.

The team leader, Ghulam Hussain, said the main objective of their month-long walk was to convey the message to international community that Pakistan was a peaceful country and that Pakistanis are a tolerant and hospitable people. He said the team got the chance to talk to the people in different town along the way on peace, tolerance and tourism. "We have received overwhelming response from the people."

IUCPSS Chairman and the University of Haripur Vice-Chancellor Dr Nasser Ali Khan said that Pakistan was abundant in natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. "Through such walks and events, we can promote the soft image of the country and attract foreign tourists and investors to Pakistan", he said.

Civil society activist Tahira Abdullah called for active participation of women in sports, climbing and other healthily activities.

"People of Gilgit-Baltistan are peace-loving and hospitable. We are here to convey this message to international community," said Hassan Jan, a mountaineer and participant of the walk.

The mountaineers also urged the government to support local mountaineers in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The 'peace walk' team led by Ghulam Hussain comprised Hassan Jan, Ghulam Mehdi, Yousaf Ali, Muhammad Iqbal, Ibrahim, Hussain Parwana, Muhammad Bashir, Ali Rozi, Ali Hassan and Ibrahim Shahid.

The consortium is an alliance of 26 Pakistani universities.

KARACHI: People in education, hospitality and tourism industries have welcomed commerce minister Amin Fahim's statement about starting negotiations to open these sectors between Pakistan and India.

They said that such industries have potential to strengthen people-to-people contact, which is a must for growing trade and long-lasting peace in the region.

Nasreen Kasuri, founding chairperson of Beaconhouse Group, welcomed the idea of opening negotiations between education sectors of two countries. She said that the negotiations would help two countries strengthening people-to-people contact through launching programs for exchange of students, exchange of faculty members and exchange of knowledge between Pakistan and India.

"Today's students are leaders of tomorrow," she said, adding that youth should be made part of ongoing peace process through students exchange programs.

"Youth should be given responsibility of nourishing the peace process from here onward."

Beaconhouse school branches are in nine countries across the world including Pakistan. It was not necessary to open a branch in India. "The two countries can fulfil the purpose and strengthen relationship through student exchange programs."

Mrs. Kasuri said that her group offered two scholarships to Indian students every year, but only one student has so far availed it.

"I hope that Pakistani students would also get scholarships from India."

Tahir Khan, spokesperson of Hasho Group - an international hotel chain in Pakistan, said that

Preserving history: Renovation of Harappa Museum ordered

The Express Tribune
April 12, 2015

development of hotels was a must for the growth of tourism, trade ties, and cultural exchange.

"The revival of relationship between Pakistan and India would also revive hospitality business in the region and particularly in Pakistan."

In fact, the availability of hotels and tourist spots in any country plays a primary role in attracting businessmen visits and cultural shows from other countries, he said, adding that the same lies in case of Pakistan and India.

"The event of Basant in Pakistan has a lot potential to grow hospitality business, as a lot of Indians want to participate at such annual event."

The negotiations may also result into constructing more hotels at regional level to welcome and accommodate visiting celebrities of two countries and their fans from other parts of the world as well.

Yahya Polani, chairman of Travel Agents Association of Pakistan, said that negotiations on tourism between two countries must address the problem of issuing visiting visas for across the country instead of two-three cities.

Indian and Pakistan should not only resolve to issue visa of their full countries, but they should also talk about issuing SAARC visa for tourism purposes so that one visa would be enough to visit all eight countries in the region.

"The growth in tourism industry would help countries in creating more employment opportunities and control crime rate," he said.

LAHORE: Education and Archaeology Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said on Saturday the government was committed to renovating historical sites and tourist attractions.

He was speaking at a meeting on the renovation of Harappa Museum, Sahiwal.

He said nations were recognised by their heritage. "The government will provide all available resources to renovate historical sites."

The minister ordered that steps be taken to improve the museum's condition. He also said security should be tightened. He directed the Tourism Department Corporation of Punjab Managing Department Ahmer Malik to visit the museum and prepare a plan for its improvement. He said negligence would not be tolerated in this regard.

Khan directed the Tourism Department to set up an information desk at the museum and make a documentary film about it. Earlier, Harappa Museum Curator Muhammad Hassan briefed the meeting.

Archaeologist Prof Rafiq Mughal and Archaeology Department Director Salimul Haq also attended the meeting.

Reliving the past: Buddhist Heritage Week in May

The Express Tribune
April 6, 2015

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) will hold Gandhara Civilisation and Buddhist Heritage Week in the month of May in order to promote tourism and highlight Buddhist heritage in Pakistan. "PTDC would arrange Gandhara Celebration/Buddhist Heritage either in the month of May or in September to revive Gandhara Civilisation and to recover the soft image of Pakistan among the Buddhist countries", Managing Director PTDC Chaudhary Kabir said while talking to media. In the north, it has an endless array of some of the highest and most captivating peaks in the world that would be a tourist's paradise while, in the south, it's deserts and beaches give seekers an unforgettable experience. The Managing Director said that the celebration will be studded with innumerable informative and educative programmes that will give the participants an insight into the richness of the Gandhara Civilization.

Promoting Tourism: Mountain Film Festival on May 29-30

The Express Tribune
April 4, 2015

LAHORE: An International Mountain Film Festival would be arranged in the city on May 29 and 30, Commissioner Abdullah Khan Sumbal said on Friday. "The two-day event at Alhamra Arts Council will help promote tourism and culture of Pakistan," he told a meeting. He said several foreign delegations would attend the festival that would be first of its kind in Pakistan. The commissioner also formed a committee to make arrangements for the event. The committee would submit a report in a week. "The festival will promote the local talent and improve the country's image. Pakistan is blessed with beautiful landscapes," he said. The festival will feature documentaries on mountaineering. Several mountaineers will deliver speeches and share their experiences with people. Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab Managing Director Ahmar Malik, DCO Muhammad Usman and Information Additional Secretary Tahir Raza Hamdani attended the meeting.

Tourist attraction: Rangeela rickshaw tours launched in the Walled City

The Express Tribune
April 4, 2015

LAHORE: An environment-friendly rickshaw tour was inaugurated by the Walled City of Lahore Authority at a ceremony on Friday. The Rangeela Rickshaw tour features smoke- and noise- free rickshaws that are decorated in patterns reminiscent of those associated with trucks widely used in the country for goods transportation. Some of the decorative stickers glow at night.

The inauguration ceremony featured a musical performance by Sayeen Muhammad Ali. Those in attendance included city district government officials and students from the Punjab University. Walled City of Lahore Authority Director General Kamran Lashari said the tour service was part of WCLA's efforts to attract more tourists to the Walled City. He said the routes were carefully selected for the tour to ensure that they included the important historical sites of the city.

WLCA Communication Director Tania Qureshi said she was confident that the rickshaw rides would attract a large number of people to the area. She said a trial carried out for few days period

Govt mulling over creating Tourism Authority: PTDC MD

The News, April 4, 2015

Lok Mela starts spreading cultural hues

The Nation, April 4, 2015

to the inauguration had been extremely popular.

Initially, the WLCA is running the rickshaws on two routes. One is from Delhi Gate to Fort Road. Rickshaws on this route travel along Shahi Hamam, Wazir Khan Masjid and Sonehri Masjid. The route also covers the popular Kinari Bazaar and Akbari Mandi markets and a bangles market.

The second route is from Bhati Gate to Fort Road. It passes along Allama Iqbal's House, Fakir Khana Museum and Naqsh Art Gallery.

The WLCA has set a Rs250 per person charge for a trip along the entire route. The tourists have the option to stop the rickshaw on the way and explore a particular site. Shehzad Ahmed, a PU student, said he was looking forward to his first ride in the rickshaw.

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is considering seriously to create a Tourism Authority and this process is under consideration and likely to be implemented in near future.

Talking 'The News' here Friday, PTDC Managing Director Ch. Kabir Ahmed Khan said that after formation of the authority, all bodies of provincials tourism would work with the coordination of PTDC. The matter of forming Tourism Authority is under negotiation with the concerned departments.

Similarly, the managing director informed that his meeting is likely to take place with the Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif in the second week of the current month to give presentation of PTDC and its working. Restructuring the PTDC and making reforms in it would also come under discussion. To a question related to non-payment of salaries to employees varying more than 20 months because of financial crunch in PTDC, occurring since last seven years, Ch. Kabir said that he has demanded provision of funds worth Rs1.5 billion, enabling PTDC to clear all kind of dues including payment of longstanding salaries to the employees both regular and working on contractual basis besides clearance of utility bills.

During presentation, summary of new tourism policy would be submitted with the prime minister for review.

ISLAMABAD: A 10-day folk festival, popularly known as Lok Mela, dedicated to the dying crafts of Pakistan began here on Friday.

The Lok Mela, which is an annual event of Lok Virsa, is showcasing a special exhibition of dying crafts of the country together with mesmerising culture performances.

Zarsanga, a famous Pashto singer also known as Queen of Pashto Folklore, inaugurated the mega culture event which will continue till April 13.

Muhammad Azam, secretary information, broadcasting and national heritage, said, "Pakistan has very diverse culture; it is a cradle of different civilisations like Mohenjo-Daro and Gandhara".

He said that Pakistan is home to sacred places of different religions like Hinduism and Sikhism.

"We have different kinds of languages, poetry, music and arts and this Mela is an effort to showcase these things", he added.

Lok Virsa Executive Director, Dr Fouzia Saeed, gave a brief overview of the concept and objectives of the festival with special references to music and regional languages.

"This Mela is one of the most amazing things that Lok Versa puts up; Lok Virsa has already done amazing job in documenting and researching on folklore and my focus will be more on dissemination.

Documenting and preserving is not enough; the research materials need to be translated to digestible and acceptable products.

She said that culture and folklores have magic and it is need of the hour to make magic in real time and real space.

According to Dr Fouzia, "Music is not entertainment; music has a power to transform life.

During the inauguration ceremony, different folk singers and artists performed on the stage.

Silk Route Karawan Group from Shamshal Gilgit-Baltistan was first to perform.

The artists performed typical Karakoram dance while a group of singers sang Rubayat in Persian.

"We are travelling; we have loaded camels and are travelling," was the theme of the songs that represented the life of nomads.

Next group of artists represented Hindu Kush.

Mansoor Ali Shahbab sang in Kwar language while a group of women representing Kailash culture danced to the music.

Folklore Queen Zarsanga mesmerized crowd with Pashto "Tapa".

The crowd cheered, whistled and clapped with her "Ya Qurban.

"The theme of her singing was the life of and hardships faced by nomads and travellers.

Ganpat Bheer and Wardho Bheer, a pair of young singers, dressed in typical Thar dress, presented Marwari music.

Bushra Sadiq sang the poetry of Sufi poet Sultan Baho while singer Akhtar Chahal did representation for Brahui language.

TCKP makes ambitious plans for attracting tourists

The News, April 2, 2015

Dastarbandi or Chaddar Posh is one of the most important features of the opening ceremony of Lok Mela.

Dastarbandi ceremony is paying tribute to the numerous services of artisans/artists in keeping the cultural heritage of the country in limelight.

Previously it was restricted to established folk artists while this time a master craftsman was also included in this segment.

Zarsanga was with a chadar (shawl) while Imdad Ali Vighio, a block maker from Hala, Mityari district of Sindh, got the shawl of honour.

He has more than forty years in the field of block-making and had contributed immense in safeguarding the old techniques of the craft.

During the ten days Lok Mela, apart from folk music and dance, a Lok Virsa Pavilion is being set up wherein 18 master artisans representing different specialised dying crafts will showcase their work and expertise.

PESHAWAR: The Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) has planned a number of events for the upcoming season to lure more domestic and international tourists to the province, said an official communiqué on Wednesday.

The first event of the many projects is arranging one-day excursion through Abaseen safari train from Peshawar to Attock Khurd and the tourists visit to the historic King Akbar Fort located on the bank of mighty River Indus on April 11.

It will be followed by a two-day Khanpur festival on April 17-18 wherein water sports, traditional foods, folklore and pop music, exhibition of cultural and heritage items and others will be the major features of the event.

The TCKP is also making special arrangements for holding Kalash and Shandur festivals in May and June, respectively. This time, the Shandur festival has been brought forward from the routine schedule and is being organized in the first week of June due to Ramazan.

The national and international tourists have also another good news, as the corporation is soon launching minibus service from the historical Peshawar city to the scenic Naran valley. Besides these, the TCKP is making efforts for the image building of the province and people, marketing of tourism, investment road show events, infrastructure projects and official launching of web portal.

In addition to these events, the TCKP has also planned to promote religious, eco-friendly and adventurous tourism in the province. A religious tourism resort will be established at the historic Takht Bhai archaeological ruins, a zoological and botanical garden with recreational water sports facilities at Kheshgi village in Nowshera district, chairlift project from Naran to Saiful Maluk Lake, Adventure Theme Park at Nathiagali, tourist resort at historic Hund village on Indus River, upgradation of chairlift resort at tourist spot in Ayubia and outsourcing of government resthouses.

The policy envisions developing an internationally competitive tourism sector to fully realise its diverse potentials, making tourism a leading economic sector for the province through public-private partnership, said TCKP Managing Director Mushtaq Ahmad Khan.

He said the vision would be realized through an ambitious agenda for private sector-driven tourism development in the province to boost economic growth. The official said that according to the Annual Development Programme 2014-15 no amount of the corporation has lapsed, adding almost all benchmarks had been achieved.

These benchmarks included nine ongoing schemes and three new schemes: Establishment of an artisan village at Gor Khatri which has been completed and is being inaugurated this month.

While working is in process for the water sports tourist facilitation at Khanpur, capacity building of Tourist Services Wing, Development and Restoration of properties transferred to TCKP which will be further leased through Public Private Partnership and establishment of tourists facilitation centres in Chitral, Galiyat, Naran, Kaghan and Kohistan.

The new schemes of year 2014-15 are establishment of picnic spots at Malam Jabba, feasibility study of development of Sum Elahi Mung Mansehra as a tourist resort and the establishment of Tourist Information Centres (TICs) in other cities of the country to facilitate tourists. The corporation has already established two new TICs at Lahore and Karachi.

Giving details, Mushtaq Ahmad said that Rs30 million were allocated in the ADP 2014-15 for holding traditional events that portrayed the local, cultural and traditional galas.

The corporation organised Khanpur Festival, Gor Khatri Arts & Craft Festival, Jashn-e-Hazara at Haripur, Shandur Polo Festival and Broghul Festival.

ISLAMABAD: The government has been making efforts to promote tourism and make Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) a financially viable organisation, said an official. Along with these initiatives, nine other projects of PTDC are on the cards to generate income and revive the dying tourism sector, the PTDC official said. PTDC intends leasing out motels for 30 years to enhance their quality and provide better services to tourists. PTDC and the University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore signed a MoU for the sponsorship of PTDC's publicity material including banners, website, seminars and conferences. Products and service of PTDC will also be promoted through social media. PTDC's recent launched Pakistan Tourism Friends Club, in which members of the club will get exclusive 20% discount on PTDC facilities.

Tourism: PTDC making efforts to revive sector

The Express Tribune
April 2, 2015

Walled City of Lahore Authority Introduces Rickshaw Tourism

Daily times, April 1, 2015

LAHORE: The Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) on Tuesday introduced Rickshaw Tourism to attract tourists local as well as foreigner tourists to visit the historical part of city. Equipped with latest technology and truck art, these Rickshaws would give tourist a ride through the historical streets and buildings of walled city of Lahore. While talking about a unique idea, Director General WCLA Kamran Lashari said that WCLA is working for the development of walled city as this would attract more tourists from other cities of Pakistan and other countries as well. Reason behind the Rickshaw tourism to create a uniqueness to spread the tourism of cultural hub of Pakistan, this step would definitely attract hundreds of tourist across the globe, he added.



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WCLA to launch 'Rangeela Rickshaw' to promote tourism

The News

March 31, 2015

LAHORE: WALLED City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) is going to introduce Rangeela Rickshaw in the provincial capital, which will be a new trend in tourism activity in the provincial capital.

The new rickshaws are open and decorated nicely with truck art and other patterns. It was always seen that foreign tourists enjoyed rickshaw rides, so these rickshaws will be their ultimate choice and drivers in uniform will increase the beauty of these rickshaws.

Officials said the launching ceremony of this new type of rickshaws will be held on 3rd April at Fort Road Food Street. They said these rickshaws are made to promote tourism in the Walled City of Lahore and would be an attractive tourism activity being held for the first time inside the Walled City of Lahore.

These rickshaws will ply on various city roads and their initial routes will be Delhi Gate to Lahore Fort, Circular Road - historic gates, Bhatti Gate to Fort Road Food Street and Fort Road to Lahore Fort. They said a pre-hype activity for the rickshaw tourism was already ongoing in different parts of Lahore.

Director Marketing WCLA Asif Zaheer said these rickshaws would be noiseless and smoke-free. 'We have got these made keeping in view the environmental safety,' he said, adding that they will ply on designated routes only. The tourists would be able to ride through the historic sites by rickshaw. This is an open rickshaw made for tourism purposes. The rickshaws would station at Delhi Gate and Fort Road Food Street for tours. A tourist guide will also be available.

As per the WCLA's plan for route 1 (Delhi Gate to Lahore Fort), the new rickshaws will take the tourists to Delhi Gate, Shahi Hammam, Haveli Bejnath, Wazir Khan Masjid, Sonehri Masjid, Baoli Bagh, Pani Wala Talaab, Langa Mandi, Food Street, Fort. Other important places these rickshaws will cover are Delhi Gate Bazaar, Akbari Mandi, Dabbi Bazaar, Chowk Rang Mehal, Waan Market, Kasera Bazaar, Kinari Bazaar, Sarafa Bazaar, Bangle Market, Moti Bazaar and Langa Mandi Bazaar. On route 2 (Bhatti Gate to Fort Road), the tourists will see Bhatti Gate, historic houses and streets, Qamar Manzil, Faqir Khana Museum, Naqsh Art Gallery, Sheikhpurian Bazaar, buggies and Doli walay, Food Street, Bhatti Gate bazaar, Bazaar-e-Hakeeman, Tehsil Bazaar, Bazaar Judge Muhammad Latif, Tibbi Gali, Neecha Chaitraam and Fort Road Food Street.

Special food spots are also developed on the route of these rickshaws where the tourists can enjoy traditional desi and Lahori food, including Halwa Pori, Pathooray, Dahi Bhalay, Siri Paye, Nihari and etc.

DG WCLA Kamran Lashari said introducing new trends in tourism would enable us to attract tourists. He said walled city could be the largest hub of tourism if it promoted well, and we aimed at achieving this target. 'Rickshaw rides are always fascinating for the tourists and experiencing heritage would be a charm for them,' he concluded. Media Manager WCLA Tania Qureshi said these colourful rickshaws would be decorated on local truck art patterns and designed to attract tourists, especially foreigners. 'So far tourists are enjoying the pre-launch free ride,' she said and maintained that in future WCLA would be starting Tonga and bicycle tourism as well.

Four AJK rest houses leased to private sector

Dawn

March 31, 2015

MUZAFFARABAD: March 30: The AJK government has leased out four tourism department rest houses and lodges to private sector to reduce fiscal burden on the one hand and ensure provision of quality services to tourists on the other, Dawn has learnt.

The tourism department owned more than 30 rest houses across the state but ironically the process of booking of room(s) as well as the standard of services in these facilities had been in total disarray due to a number of reasons, leaving a bad taste in the mouth of visitors. Every year, these facilities were eating up huge resources in shape of maintenance expenses and salaries of the employees.

Last year, chief secretary Mohammad Shahzad Arbab decided to take the private sector on board in maintenance and operation of the rest houses and lodges on the basis of long-term leases. The tourism department published advertisements in October last year initially offering long-term lease of its nine rest houses in Muzaffarabad and Neelum districts.

According to sources, five parties submitted their bids but only two were declared technically qualified by a committee. Of them, M/S Valley Lodges was approved for possession of a 26-room rest-houses in Karen, a 10-room rest house in Sharda, a seven-room rest house in Kuttan and a two-room anglers' hut inn Dawarian, all located in Neelum valley. A notification in this regard was, however, issued by the tourism department only recently after obtaining approval from Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan. According to sources, of these facilities only the Karen rest house was operational, whereas Sharda rest house was without electricity and water supply for the last five years; Dawarian hut was under occupation of a schoolteacher and Kuttan rest house was without an independent access road.

Interestingly, the only operational rest house in Karen was netting a paltry sum of Rs124,000 per year whereas its annual maintenance cost was Rs700,000. Salaries of the 19 employees in all the four facilities, to the tune of Rs1.1 million, were in addition to the annual maintenance costs, sources said.

The successful bidder had pledged to make advance deposit of Rs603,000 as yearly rent of the four facilities besides payment of salaries of the staff placed on its disposal. However, sources said, the tourism department had decided to retain eight rooms of Karen and four rooms of Sharda with it.

KP tourism falls prey to wrong priorities

The Nation

March 30, 2015

"How can be there two managements and two types of services on the premises of one unit," the private entrepreneur was reported to have asked the department with a request to review the decision. The term of lease, supposed to be at least 25 years, was also reduced to 15 years but that was not a big issue, according to the entrepreneur.

PESHAWAR : Instead of focusing the natural sites of tourism, Pakistan Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has spent huge funds of 30.7 million rupees on only five festivals organized in different parts of the province showering blessings on government employees and their blue-eyed people.

As per information provided by Right to Information Commission, five festivals were organized in 2014 spending about 30.7 million rupees having no positive impact on tourism. In the first festival held in February, near Khanpur the total cost was 15.4 million rupees, while another festival held in tehsil Gorgatri area on the name of art and craft charged 7.03 million rupees. The festival was aimed to protect the old skill of crafting.

On 14 May another festival was held on the name of Jeshn-e-Hazara in district Haripur, where 0.

5 million rupees were used. Later, Shandoor festival was held from June 19 to 21 in which total expenses were 12.7 million rupees. In the month of August another festival was held in the name of Broghal in Chitral where total 0.8 million rupees were spent

As per the tourism department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the aim of these festivals was to attract foreign tourists to the country, however, no one was informed regarding these festivals. Due to lack of proper information, these festivals could not attract people as per the expectation of the government.

Instead of spending on these festivals, the government should focus the natural sites of Kalam and Swat which now present deserted look due to the dilapidated condition roads there.

On one hand the tourism department is making tall claims for the promotion of tourism while on the other hand no work has started to reconstruct 36-kilometer road from Bahrain to Kalam.

GULMIT: Pakistan has been suffering from the war on terror and its consequences for a decade. This war has taken a huge toll on our tourism sector. The inflow of foreign tourists has witnessed a decline since the 9/11 attacks. Currently, the security situation does not allow even domestic tourists to visit tourist spots. The issue is of serious concern for tour operators and hotel owners. About 25 per cent of the total population of Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) was directly or indirectly engaged in the tourism business but now, this is not the case due to terrorism in the country. The government needs to take concrete steps to promote the tourism business in Pakistan, especially in G-B. The tourism department, along with private tour operators, should discuss the issue at a platform to make tourist spots a safe haven for all. Here are a few ways for the promotion of tourism in G-B:

- 1) The government, as well as private organisations, needs to play a role in rehabilitating historical places so that a large number of tourists can be attracted due to the unique designs of the buildings.
- 2) Local festivals play a dynamic role in tourist attraction. Traditional festivals and rituals need to be promoted at the international level to represent the diverse beliefs of the people who live amongst us. Local festivals should be celebrated with the collaboration of government departments. Civil society, as well as the government, needs to preserve cultural norms.
- 3) The government needs to focus on private tour operators who can be sent abroad so that they can gain multicultural dimensions and introduce their culture to others as well.
- 4) The civil society also needs to play its role in building a peaceful society through advocacy and campaigns. Seminars and walks should be arranged through civil society organisations for building a peaceful environment for tourists.
- 5) The G-B Hotel Association should motivate hotel owners to grant special discounts and offers to tourists on their products and services upon regular visits. This will be helpful in enhancing domestic and foreign tourism.
- 6) National level private tour operators should have direct relations and contact with those working abroad. Information about cultural and social norms can be exchanged between countries. A network of tour operators can be helpful in disseminating information.
- 7) Young people should gain expertise in holding multilingual conversations. The government needs to arrange training programmes for the youth in order to promote the tourism business. Diplomas in different languages should be offered as this could help in promoting foreign tourism in the region. The government, local NGOs, people associated with the tourism business and civil society need to put in collective efforts and cooperation in order to enhance tourism in G-B. Tariq Rahim Baig

ISLAMABAD: A dozen countries have supported Pakistan to lead the global initiative for protection of dwindling population of snow leopard.

Ministers, bureaucrats and conservation organisations from 12 countries including Russia and China had voted for Minister of Climate Change Mushahidullah Khan as chairman of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) programme, at its first steering committee meeting held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on March 20. "We saw unprecedented support from Central

Promoting tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan

The Express Tribune

March 30, 2015

Pakistan to lead global initiative to save snow leopard

Dawn

March 28, 2015

A visual record of Pakistan's cultural heritage

The News
March 25, 2015

Display of military prowess, cultural heritage

Dawn
March 24, 2015

Asian countries, Bhutan, Nepal and India among other nations for saving the dwindling population of the precious species. We will make the best of this support," said the minister at a press briefing to share the news here on Friday.

"It's a huge task. We will bring all the conservationists and wildlife specialists together to make use of their expertise. There is little information and research done on one of the most elusive predators in the world," Mushahidullah Khan told the mediapersons.

He said about 4,000 and 6,000 leopards were found in these 12 countries including Central Asian States, Afghanistan, China, Bhutan and India while Pakistan had 200 to 400 that roamed from the Hindukush, Karakoram and Himalayan ranges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

"The exact numbers are not known. The beautiful animal is the favorite and easy prey for shepherds. Loss of habitat is another reason for their shrinking population," said the minister said. Describing the snow leopard as an integral part of biodiversity and natural beauty, the minister shared some initiatives such as getting provincial governments on board, which he described as a challenge.

"We will work for a common goal. Establishing a national steering committee, setting up cells in provinces and working on transboundary issues for free movement of the animal between Pakistan, Afghanistan and India are some of the other challenges that we will take up to ensure survival rates of the beautiful cat," said the minister. He said in 2006, the first ever global positioning system (GPS) collar was fitted on a snow leopard in Chitral to study the extent of its home range, habitat use and movements.

In 14 months, the collared snow leopard traversed more than 1, 500 square kilometers between Pakistan and Afghanistan. According to the minister, this new information underscored the critical need for international cooperation to protect the beast.

ISLAMABAD: Presenting a valuable visual record of Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, artist Salim Ansari showcases his vibrant collection of watercolour paintings at an exhibition 'Colours of Punjab' opening at Jharoka Art Gallery.

About 34 works displayed at the exhibition reflects brilliant use of water colours to recreate the spirit of Lahore and Punjab in an exquisite merger of concepts and innovation. With his intense creative passion, Ansari recreates the spirit of Lahore and Punjab. Salim Ansari's water colours focuses on the culture and spirit of old city of Lahore with rundown verandas, muddy and crowded streets and bazar's along with fragments of Mughal heritage. The paintings on display take one back to the good old glorious times of this ever thriving city with its dynamic culture and rich heritage.

Sharing his thoughts and aesthetic philosophy, Salim Ansari says that his water colours are not just a record of facades, but of time, where the buildings and activities assume an aura of their own and become symbol of culture and life.

Ansari says that his work is dictated by the mood of the reality that exists within his paintings as he explores in his creative sojourn to capture the old dilapidated balconies, quaint dusty bazaars, as well as some vestiges of Mughal grandeur, all evoke nostalgia for a way of life that has vanished into the mist of time.

Introducing the artist, Director and Curator of Jharoka Art Gallery Nahida Raza said that Salim Ansari's paintings show the cultural history and heritage of Pakistan, and as he lives in Lahore, he preferred to paint the historical buildings of Lahore and the ancient walled city of Lahore to make an effort to preserve the antiquity of different places.

Salim Ansari has done his BFA from NCA, Lahore in 1971 and has exhibited his works in Islamabad a number of times, receiving great accolades from the art connoisseurs for his elaborate heritage paintings.

Salim Ansari's exhibition will continue till April 2 at Jharoka, House no. 8, Street 28, Sector F-8/1, Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan exhibited on Monday its military prowess and rich cultural heritage at the Pakistan Day parade held here at the new purpose-built venue after a break of seven years.

The parade, held at a time when security forces are engaged in intense counter-terrorism operations in tribal areas and elsewhere in the country, was meant to shed the climate of fear that had gripped the country for close to a decade now.

The parade was one of the many steps taken by the government for reclaiming the psychological advantage enjoyed by terrorists. The event had been cancelled for six consecutive years because of fear of terrorist attacks.

Security was tight and the neighbourhoods surrounding the venue in leafy Shakarparian came to a standstill for about three hours for the event. Cellphone and internet services were suspended and most of Islamabad's major roads remained blocked for traffic. Hundreds of security and intelligence sleuths kept a hawk's vigil in and around the parade venue.

President Mamnoon Hussain, who presided over the event, in his address hoped that the unity of nation would defeat the twin menace of extremism and terrorism once and for all.

Welcoming spring: Hundreds of Pakistanis and Afghans celebrate Navroze together

The Express Tribune
March 24, 2015

Echoing what military had been saying all along, the president said: "Operation Zarb-i-Azb would continue till its logical conclusion. I myself would go to the battle fronts and embrace the brave sons of soil gallantly fighting the dark forces of terrorism and extremism." Mr Hussain also inspected the parade. He was accompanied by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and other services chiefs at the podium. The highlight of this year's parade was the display of unmanned aerial vehicles developed by the country — Shahpar, Burraq, Sentry and Uqab — particularly the recently tested armed version of Burraq that has been fitted with Barq missile. The event featured a flight display of armed Burraq drone, while other UAVs were carried on long vehicles.

Also participating in the parade for the first time were Pakistan Navy's hovercrafts, P3C Orion Aircraft and Zulu Niners helicopters; and PAF's Airborne Surveillance platforms — SAAB 2000 AEW&C aircraft and Karakoram Eagle-3 aircraft.

The military displayed some of the nuclear-capable missiles in its arsenal — short-range ballistic missile Shaheen I, medium-range Shaheen II, cruise missile Babur and battlefield missile Nasr.

Main battle tank Al-Khalid, T-80UT tank and Zarrar tanks were exhibited by the armoured corps. Among the infantry vehicles put on display were armoured personnel carriers of various configurations — Maaz, VCC series and M113P. The artillery weapon systems shown at the ceremony included M109-A2 23km range guns, M110A2 30km range howitzer guns, SLC-2 radars, multi-barrel rocket launchers and 120km long-range weapon systems.

The Air Defence Division showcased its radars — Sky guard equipped with Orlicon anti-aircraft gun and Giraffe Radar with APC mounted RBS-70 missile system. The marching columns were drawn from Army's Infantry, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, Mujahid Force, Police (Islamabad Police), Frontier Corps, Rangers and Boy Scouts. Taking part in the march-past for the first time were contingents of lady officers, nursing services and girl guides. The tri-services band played the military tunes.

Camel-mounted columns of Rangers were also among the many firsts for the March 23 parade.

Flypast by aircraft and helicopters of PAF, Navy and Army and freefall by Special Services Group's sky divers were the other highlights of the event keenly watched by spectators. The sky diving teams were Army's Shahbaz, Navy's Sea Eagles and PAF's Shahpar.

FLYPAST: Flying F-16 Block 52 aircraft, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman led the flypast. The air chief's aircraft was followed by a four-ship box formation of F-16 aircraft, under the command of Air Vice Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command.

The F-16s were followed by a formation of JF-17 Thunder aircraft led by Wing Commander Noman Khalil. A four-ship formation of F-7PG aircraft led by Wing Commander Sohail Akbar was also part of the flypast. Next to enter the arena were the formations of Mirage and F-7P aircraft under the command of Wing Commander Mushfiq ur Rehman and Wing Commander Asim Zia, respectively.

Besides the fighter aircraft, Airborne Surveillance platforms of the PAF also participated in the flypast for the first time. First, the SAAB 2000 AEW&C aircraft, flown by Wing Commander Syed Inamullah flew past the venue following which Karakoram Eagle-3 AWACS aircraft, flown by Wing Commander Zulfiqar Ali made its maiden public appearance.

The flypast was followed by breathtaking aerobatics of 09 ship formation of 'Sherdils', the aerobatics team of Pakistan Air Force Academy, Risalpur. Wing Commander Amjad Mehmood led the Sherdil Formation of the K-8 Advanced Jet Trainer aircraft. Spectacular manoeuvres by JF-17 Thunder and F-16 jets kept the spectators mesmerised. The next to follow were the floats depicting country's rich cultural diversity.

A team of commentators led by ISPR's Col Mohammad Shafiq heightened the national fervour at the event as they explained the various segments of the show.

SWABI: Hundreds attended Navroze celebrations at the historic Hund Park in Swabi and participated in various musical and social events organised by the Pak-Afghan People's Forum.

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Adviser to Chief Minister on Sports, Culture, Youth Affairs and Tourism Amjid Afridi was the chief guest. In addition to the festivities on Sunday, a Navroze conference was also held.

People from K-P, Fata, Quetta and Afghanistan attended the Navroze conference. The event was addressed by renowned figures such as Pervez Shaheen, Professor Noorul Ameen Yusufzai, former Radio Pakistan director Nisar Mohammad Khan, Professor Sadiq Jarak, Afghan Cultural Attaché Abdul Rehman Habibzai, Pak-Afghan People's Forum Chairman Alamzeb Khan, its Fata wing President Iqbal Khyberwal, Dr Fomanullah, Afghan Trade Commissioner Dr Mirwaiz Yusufzai and Liaqat Simab.

They shed light on Jashn-e- Navroze, saying it was not just a religious occasion, but also a social and cultural event to welcome the spring season. For the last three thousand years, Afghans and Pukhtuns have been celebrating Jashn-e- Navroze.

On the occasion, comprehensive dialogues were held on Pukhtun culture, civilisation, language, literature and history. Singer Arshad Yusufzai and renowned artist Kamal Khan were given awards during the event. A Pashto mushaira was also held and famous poets Aziz Manerwal, Akbar Siyal, Iqbal Hussain Afqar and others presented their works which were highly appreciated by the

Untapped potential: 'Better security cover could lure UAE tourists

The Express Tribune
March 24, 2015

Diplomatic calendar : Tunisian National Day

Dawn
March 22, 2015

Embassies next door: Foreign Office seeks more time to shift missions

The Express Tribune
March 22, 2015

audience.

KARACHI: Prominent business figure of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Suhail M Al-Zarooni, has said UAE businessmen and tourists spend millions of dollars on trips to Switzerland and other countries for tourism but if the law and order situation improves and security is provided, they could surely be diverted to Pakistan.

"The country is blessed with beautiful landscapes but the lack of importance given by government departments to providing security to foreign guests is having a negative impact on foreign direct investment and tourism in Pakistan."

Al-Zarooni, who is also the Chairman of Al-Zarooni Foundation, appealed to the federal and provincial governments to especially provide security for foreign investors, businessmen and prominent dignitaries so that they could fearlessly tour Pakistan.

"This will help restore global confidence, besides promoting the positive image of Pakistan all over the world."

The Tunisian ambassador, Adel Elarbi, hosted a reception in Islamabad on March 20 to celebrate his country's 59th independence day. Tunisia was under the Ottomans from 1674, and it was a French protectorate from 1881 to 1956. The chief guest on the occasion was Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister of Inter-Provincial Coordination.

Tunisia, situated on Africa's northern shores, is a member of the African Union, the Arab League, the Arab Maghreb Union, La Francophonie, and it has an association agreement with the European Union.

The country, with about 11 million people and a GDP per capita of about \$10,000, has close cooperation with Europe, especially France and also Italy, forged through history, geography and private sector cooperation. In 2011, the 'Jasmine Revolution' led to the autocratic President Ben Ali seeking exile abroad with his wife and three children. The first free elections of parliament and president were held in 2014.

The participation of women in politics is higher than usual in many other Muslim countries. Corruption was a major problem earlier, and in many other fields, the country is consolidating its recent democratic development. Tourism is an important sector of the country's economy.

Last week's sad terrorist attack at the National Bardo Museum in the capital Tunis, which killed 21 people, mostly foreigners, may affect the tourist sector negatively. However, Tunisia is generally seen as a peaceful country.

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office has sought more time from the Supreme Court over the shifting of foreign embassies from residential sectors to the Diplomatic Enclave. "As regards clearance of roads and footpaths blocked by embassies, the Foreign Affairs director has intimated that the chief of protocol is engaged with the diplomatic community and state guests in connection with the March 23 parade. He has requested more time to complete the task due to his engagements," the Capital Development Authority (CDA) stated in a report submitted before the SC.

The Diplomatic Enclave in Sector G-5, according to the report, houses 43 embassies and high commissions, and is totally closed for the general public. The embassies of Norway, Denmark, Kuwait, Sudan, Hungary, Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, Greece, Czech Republic, Philippines, Libya, Portugal, Turkmenistan, and Oman have blocked roads, streets and footpaths in different areas. Meanwhile, Attaturk Avenue, Margalla Road, 3rd and 4th Avenues, and School Road have also been blocked at different points.

The court was also informed that the Diplomatic Enclave is a designated area for the establishment of foreign missions. The report says that only 36 countries have completed construction of their embassies in the enclave, while seven embassy buildings are under construction, and 21 plots are still vacant. The list of embassies operating in residential areas has been referred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for proceeding in line with the necessary rules and regulations.

The report further said that the CDA has allotted additional land to the embassies of three countries the United States, China and Saudi Arabia. It explains that the USA Embassy got additional land in 2010, while the Chinese Embassy was allotted land for residences and allied facilities in 2008. The Saudi embassy was allotted an additional 2.45 acres in 2008.

The CDA has also revealed that the Directorate of Municipal Administration and the CDA Enforcement director are issuing notices to institutions which have set up encroachments due to security concerns and have advised them to submit requests to get licenses or permission for their encroachments. Blockades in the federal capital have been placed, among others, by the police, ISI, IB, FIA and Rangers. The report says that action against non-confirming land use has been accelerated by the CDA management over the past 18 months.

Notice to Chief Secretary KP over alleged taking over possession of PTDC's property

Aji News

March 20, 2015

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday issued notice to Amjad Ali Khan, the Chief Secretary, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over alleged forcibly taking possession of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), properties in KP.

The court also issued notices to Aftab Akbar Durrani Secretary Tourism, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Managing Director (MD), Tourism Corporation (TC KPK) Commissioners of Hazara, Malakand Divisions and sought comments regarding the allegations within ten days.

A single-judge bench of Justice Noor ul Haq N. Qureshi initiated hearing on writ petition filed by Kabir Ahmed Khan Managing Director (MD) Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC),

During the course of proceedings, Raja Saim ul Haq Satti alleged that respondents apprehending the properties of Petitioners' corporation situated in KP province.

He prayed for an interim order restraining the respondents from illegal activities while calling comments from the respondents to examine the legal question involved therein.

Satti alleged that those respondents as a preliminary step issued impugned office order No: SO (TSY&M) PTDC/2015/5-73, dated 17-03-2015 in this regard assuming administrative control on the PTDC's property and prayed before the court to summon the respondents.

The court after due hearing of the petition issued notices to the respondents and adjourned the case date in office.

Wildlife conservation: 50 black bucks, 250 chinkaras released at wildlife park

The Express Tribune

March 20, 2015

BAHAWALPUR: Fifty black bucks, 250 chinkara deer and 600 partridges were released on Wednesday in the Laal Sohanra National Park by the Punjab government and the Houbara Foundation International.

A ceremony was held at Laal Sohanra Research Centre in this regard. Abu Dhabi government's representative Sheikh Majeed al Mansoori freed the deer and partridges.

He said that Abu Dhabi and the Pakistani governments were making efforts for the breeding Chinkara deer and partridges in Cholistan. "The research centre has been established for the protection of animals. It is a symbol of the strong relationship between the two countries," he said.

"The wildlife protection programme was started by Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan in 1973. Under the project, 40,000 partridges have been freed so far," he said.

Provincial Cooperatives Minister Malik Muhammad Iqbal Channar said that the government had started several wildlife conservation projects in cooperation with the Houbara Foundation International.

"A safari park has been built near Laal Sohanra National Park to promote tourism. New steel cages have been installed at the research centre as well," he said.

Minister for Forests Malik Asif said long-term steps were being taken to promote wildlife tourism in Cholistan. "The atmosphere in Cholistan is appropriate for partridges and chinkara deer," he said.

Forests Secretary Captain (retd) Jahanzeb Khan said that the government had hired 10 forest security guards and two drivers for the Research Centre. He said that the Houbara Foundation would take control of the administration of the centre in coming months.

The officials were informed that GPS transmitters had been installed on 30 partridges for research purposes.

Easy access: Pakistan sees launch of online hotel-booking portal

The Express Tribune

March 18, 2015

KARACHI: Unveiling its latest business venture in Pakistan, Rocket Internet AG announced the official launch of jovago.com, an online hotel-booking platform.

The portal, operational in Pakistan since May 2014, aims to cater to the tourism industry – long suffering at the hands of law and order – and serves as a reminder that companies still look to Pakistan as an investment opportunity. Jovago Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Paul Midy, via a recorded message, said Pakistan is home to several vacationers and business travelers who seek convenient travel arrangements. "For the first time in Pakistan, an online booking company is going to guarantee the cheapest hotel price." He said the company sees vast potential in South Asia, especially Pakistan, citing internet access through smartphones and cost-effective packages as the reasons. "In various parts of the country, a lot of guesthouses provide accommodation. But, very few people are aware of these."

While the company maintains a strong online presence, Midy added that it is working towards marketing through other mediums as well. "Soon, you will hear about us on the radio or see us on billboards." Jovago Managing Director Nadine Malik reiterated the company's mission to provide the ideal accommodation at the best prices. "We have signed up to 1,000 hotels all over Pakistan."

Malik added that pictures of hotels are taken by the website staff, in a bid to present a fairer view of accommodation and details on security measures. "The website is constantly being modified and upgraded to ensure it remains user-friendly, in addition we take customer feedback very important and build on any suggestions."

Francophone nations' festival kicks off to fete culture

The Nation

ISLAMABAD: The ambassadors of different French speaking nations have hosted an opening reception of Francophonie Festival with an array of cultural events here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

Ambassador of Austria Dr Brigitta Blaha, Ambassador of Belgium Peter Claes, Ambassador of Bulgaria Roumen Pirontchev, High Commissioner of Canada Heather Cruden, Ambassador of

March 18, 2015

Czech Republic Miroslav Krenek, Ambassador of France Martine Dorance, Ambassador of Greece Dimitrios Zoitos, Ambassador of Hungary Istvan Szabo, Ambassador of Lebanon Mona Eltannir, Ambassador of Morocco Mustapha Salahddinne, Ambassador of Poland Andrzej Ananicz, Ambassador of Romania Emilian Ion, Ambassador of Switzerland Marc P George, Ambassador of Tunisia Adel Elarbi, and Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Xuân Lê hosted the reception.

The event was well attended by the participants from different circles.

Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Muhammad Azam Khan, was the chief guest while the Dean of European Union Emilian Ion was the guest of honour.

Secretary Muhammad Azam Khan considered the festival as a unique opportunity for the people of Pakistan to know about the lively, inspiring and progressive cultural and social values, fine arts and performing arts of francophone countries. He encouraged other regions of the world to follow and create such associations for enhanced people to people contacts. "This will help not only in resolving outstanding political and economic issues but will also provide an opportunity to celebrate diversity of cultural and social values of other countries," he added.

"The term Francophonie refers to the world community of French-speaking nations who believe in the unity and diversity of cultures," said Peter Claes, the Ambassador of Belgium. Addressing the ceremony, Peter Claes said that the special exhibition is put together with the contributions of 6 different member and associate states of the Francophonie — Belgium, France, Tunisia and Vietnam, as full-fledged members, and Austria and the Czech Republic as associate members. "Despite their very diverse nature, they also show a great cultural diversity and offer the public in Islamabad glimpses of different kinds of history, artistic creativity, cultural heritage and traditions," he added further in his speech. He appreciated the cooperation extended by the government of Pakistan in its outstanding work for promoting the cultural life in Islamabad. He thanked the ministry of foreign affairs as well as the ministry of information, broadcasting and national heritage for facilitating the cooperation with PNCA.

Director General PNCA Muhammad Naeem highlighted the role of cultural diplomacy in intercultural discourse having interconnecting diverse impact on each other's art patterns. The PNCA, he said, has facilitated cultural communication to broaden the cultural heritage in Pakistan and it will always help promote the interaction of world cultures.

Ambassador of Belgium Peter Claes took a round with the chief guest and briefed him about the artwork displayed at the exhibition. Besides, the Tunisian ambassador also briefed about the pictures highlighting the tourist sites in Tunisia which, he said, will help promote tourism from Pakistan. For now Tunisia stands among those countries from Asia and Africa where the number of tourists is high.

The ambassador of Romania was very active at the ceremony. He attracted a large number of participants to Romanian food stalls and explained to them the Romanian dishes. The chief guest also admired the Romanian cuisine.

International organization of La Francophonie was created in 1970 with an aim to organize political and multicultural activities and above all to promote French language and culture. It has now 57 members along with 20 observers and 3 associate member states. Its head office is situated in Paris while it has also four permanent and three regional offices around the world. The organisation represents around 800 million people including 220 million French speaking people worldwide.

The festival will continue till March 21 at PNCA which will be remarkable addition to the cultural cooperation among diverse states, especially Pakistan and West.

PESHAWAR: The Fourth Snow Jeep Rally 2015 competitions were held at the Shahi Ground in the scenic Kalam valley of Swat district. The provincial sports, tourism and archeology department and the Frontier Four-Wheel Club organised the event in which the 25 vehicles and four-wheel jeeps from across the country participated, said a news release issued here by the Tourism Corporation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday.

Former Kalam nazim Ameer Said Khan was the chief guest on the occasion, where Frontier Four-Wheel Club president Babar Khan Yousafzai, vice president Yasir Khan and founder Asad Sethi, officials of the sports and tourism department, army and police, and a large number of people were in attendance. The organisers established a dangerous and tricky 800 metres long track for the drivers of the rally at Shahi Ground. The racers covered the distance twice showing their skills.

At the end of the competitions, Shah Nawaz Khan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was declared the winner followed by Mohammad Zeb and Asad Sethi. Zulfiqar Khan was given the jeep of the event award.

Speaking on the occasion, Ameer Said Khan said the event not only provided an opportunity to the local residents and tourists to enjoy but it gave a message of peace to the world as well and would attract professional and amateur drivers and tourists from across the country and world.

He said the tourism department and other organisations should continue arranging such events to promote peace and tourism in the country, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Yousafzai said his club was arranging five events a year, including snow crossing, water crossing, desert race, hills climbing and summer camps. He said the international community shouldn't ignore the people of Swat, who needed long-term cooperation and support for their wellbeing. He praised drivers and tourists for actively participating in the event to make it a success.

Testing driving skills in snow

Dawn

March 17, 2015

Cultural, youth and tourism policies soon: minister

The News
March 16, 2015

SWABI: Provincial Minister for Sports, Tourism and Youth Affairs Amjad Khan Afridi Sunday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would soon announce cultural, youth and tourism policies.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of the three days Science Society programme in Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology here, he said that the cultural, youth and tourism policy were in final stages.

"The people of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and tribal belt have unique rich culture and we want to preserve our culture for the next generation while highlighting its importance," he said. He said that GIK Institute had played a vital role in the progress of the country.

Dr Jameel-un-Nabi, dean faculty of Engineering Sciences and Hammad Iqbal, president of Science Society also spoke on the occasion. The minister gave away shields and certificates to the outstanding students.

Artists pay homage to cultural heritage

Dawn News
March 13, 2015

RAWALPINDI: A group painting exhibition, featuring the works of three talented artists, opened at Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) on Thursday.

The large exhibition features over 70 paintings by Seemi Fakhar, Sajid Khawaja and Younis Roomi and showcases a variety of ideas, thoughts and experiences.

These diverse works are brought together by a strong cultural element which can be seen in each work.

The vocabulary and the subjects are very local and reflect the artists' love for the subject chosen, whether it is Sindhi women in colourful clothes or the Faisal Mosque. There is also variety in the mediums and forms included in the exhibition as the pieces include landscapes, portraits, abstract works, impressionism and calligraphy.

At the opening ceremony, Parliamentary Secretary Cabinet Division Raja Javed Akhlaas was invited as the chief guest. A large number of art-lovers from various walks of life attended the exhibition. Speaking at the occasion, Raja Javed Akhlaas said the paintings were excellent and testament to the skill and hard-work of the three artists.

He appreciated the efforts made by the RAC to promote young talent and provide them with a platform to display their work. He said he especially liked Seemi Fakhar's work because she showcases Pakistan's folk cultural heritage in a very attractive manner. "These artists are assets for the country," he said. Naheed Manzoor, former RAC resident director, also appreciated the paintings. She said both Seemi Fakhar and Sajid Khawaja have presented a diverse range of works which reflects their versatility. "Younis Roomi is an artist who focuses on strong themes such as women's issues and Sufism. His paintings give a message of peace," she said.

RAC Resident Director Waqar Ahmed said the artists had created a balance of colour and skillfully employed various techniques in these works. "The paintings show how skilled these artists are," he said. "There is simplicity in these works which make them easy for the viewer to comprehend," he added.

He said RAC's aim is to promote arts and culture in the garrison city and is striving hard to achieve this aim.

Pakistan signs Unesco ICH list 'Nowruz'

The News
March 12, 2015

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, along with eleven other countries, has signed the Multi-National Nomination File of Unesco's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) 'Nowruz.'

The countries include Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. A series of meetings from March 2 to 6, 2015 were organised to review, discuss and finalise the Nomination File in Tehran.

For Pakistan and Lok Virsa, this is a unique and historic achievement as this marks Pakistan's grand entrance on international scene as one which aims to promote and bridge cultural diversity even beyond its borders.

The mandate of Lok Virsa encompasses research, documentation, communication, preservation and promotion of country's intangible and tangible cultural heritage.

It was during the meeting of 'The Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage of the United Nations', held between September 28 to October 2, 2009 in Abu Dhabi, that Nowruz was officially registered on the 'Unesco List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'. The UN's General Assembly in 2010 recognised the International Day of Nowruz, describing it as a spring festival of Persian origin which has been celebrated for over 3,000 years.

In Pakistan, Nowruz celebrating communities and areas include Balti, Shina, Burusho, Wakhi & Khowar (Gilgit-Baltistan), Chitral, Hangu and Peshawar (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Areas of Kurram Agency (Federally Administered Tribal Areas), Hazara (Baluchistan), Shias (Kashmir), Shias (Multan-Punjab), Sindhi Shia Ismailis and Zoroastrians or Parsis (Karachi-Sindh).

These communities celebrate Nowruz as an "Eid" i.e. special ceremonies and prayers are offered while sweets, fruits, perfumes, flowers usually mark the offerings of Nowruz followed by spell-binding dance performances, songs, traditional games and dishes.

At the signing ceremony, Pakistan was represented by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Mashhood Ahmad Mirza and Director, Lok Virsa Sajeela Naveed, who prepared the Nowruz Nomination File inclusive of detailed documentation work,

Army clinch GB ski event

The Dawn

March 12, 2015

An introduction to heritage sites of Hindus

The News

March 10, 2015

Tourism: Envoy woos Germans to visit Pakistan

The Express Tribune

March 7, 2015

Ski tour to Malam Jabba

The Dawn

March 6, 2015

Pakistan a safe tourism

photographs, videos and formulation of inventory of the element 'Nowruz'.

GILGIT: Pakistan Army won the Gilgit-Baltistan Ski Gala that concluded in Rattu valley of district Astore, Gilgit-Baltistan on Wednesday. This is Pakistan Army's fourth All Pakistan National Cross Country Ski Championship victory held across the country during the current season.

The three-day Gilgit-Baltistan Gala was organised by the Army High Altitude Snow School and District Astore of Gilgit-Baltistan in collaboration with the Ski Federation of Pakistan (SFP). Skiers from different organisations and departments including Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Army, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts featured in the competitions. Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts remained second, Gilgit-Baltistan third and the CAA fourth.

Mohammad Ramazan of Pakistan Army won gold for his team whereas Ishaq Khan and Zubair Khan, both of Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts, got bronze respectively. Commandant Army Snow School Rattu Sajjad Hussain, Assistant Commissioner Shontar Astore Dildar Malik and Assistant Tourism Kifayat Hussain distributed prizes among teams. Addressing the participants on the occasion, Sajjad appreciated their skills. "There is a lot of young talent in Gilgit-Baltistan and it is high time they are attracted towards winter sports in the country," Sajjad said, adding Pakistan Army Snow School and the SFP were playing their due role in promoting winter sports.

ISLAMABAD: 'The Hindu Heritage of Pakistan' is the third in the series of a trilogy of coffee table books published by Constellation Plus, Islamabad, to document the customs, traditions and architecture of the minorities living in Pakistan. The earlier ones have been 'The Churches of Pakistan' and 'The Sikh Heritage of Pakistan'.

The text for this book has been provided by the eminent scholar and educationist Dr Safdar Ali Shah and the credit for the photographs goes to Syed Javaid A Qazi, the winner of the president's medal for Pride of Performance. The narrative is succinct and perfectly complements the high quality photographs that make the book pleasing to the eye.

For someone not familiar with Hinduism, this book provides a short introduction of its philosophy, religious rites, relics, symbols, architecture, festivals and the way of life of its followers living in Pakistan. It is a valuable addition to the wide body of anthropological accounts of an ancient religion, which predates modern Pakistan and which we sadly tend to overlook in the misplaced bid to forget our pre-Muslim past.

'The Hindu Heritage of Pakistan' fully lives up to the classic definition of a coffee table book. It is meant to attract the eye and makes for light reading or browsing as one makes for intelligent small talk around a coffee table or waits in an airport lounge or an office reception.

It has an eye-catching jacket design showing one of the most beautiful of Hindu temples in the Salt Range — the Katas Raj. It is a photo book, which satiates the sensory perceptions of a connoisseur of living art. Pages consist mainly of photographs and illustrations, accompanied by captions and small blocks of text, as opposed to long prose. It is a light read, provides basic information and carefully avoids heavy scholarly jargon.

'The Hindu Heritage of Pakistan' has done a great service in depicting Pakistan as a nation of many faiths and creeds and how this forms part of its rich multi-cultural legacy. I thoroughly recommend that this book be circulated widely outside the country and should be placed in all our missions abroad. I would also suggest that it should form essential reading in all schools and colleges. An Urdu translation would help spread the word wider.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Embassy in Berlin organized a seminar on "Tourism and Cultural Heritage of Pakistan" in collaboration with the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD) on the sidelines of the Trade Exhibition on Tourism Industry, International Tourism Berlin (ITB-2015) in Berlin on Friday. Speaking to the participants, Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed said that Pakistan was one of the best countries that were endowed with beautiful landscape, topography, and natural resources, according to a message received here from Berlin. It is a birthplace of many civilizations and a centre of many religions that flourished in this region thousands of years back, he said and added that hardly only 2% of Pakistan's tourism potential has been explored and there is a need to promote this important sector of the economy as it has a potential of high growth that could stimulate Pakistan's economic revival.

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is taking steps to empower youth and womenfolk by providing opportunities to them to play their role in development of the province.

This was stated by adviser to the chief minister on sports, tourism and youth affairs, Amjad Afridi, on the occasion of an adventurous ski tour to Malam Jabba on Thursday.

"Those who think that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a backward province with no female empowerment, should think again because the Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Thrill Seekers have proved them wrong by conducting an adventurous ski tour to Malam Jabba. The opportunity provided to the youth, especially females, would enhance their skills and leadership potential," he said.

The advisor said that skiing was an emerging Olympic sport gaining popularity across the country, according to a handout.

RAWALPINDI: Leading European adventure tour operators should send mountaineering and trekking groups to Pakistan as the country is a safe tourism destination.

destination: MD PTDC

The Nation
March 6, 2015

This was stated by Chaudhry Kabir Ahmad Khan, Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) while attending the panelists in the meeting "Tourism, Terrorism and Totalitarianism: Traveling to High Risk Countries and Authoritarian Regimes" organized by M/s Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit (FNF), in 49th International Tourism Exchange (ITB) held at Berlin, Germany, informed PTDC spokesman here on Thursday.

He said that all the tourist destinations in Pakistan are safe and trouble-free for tourists. Therefore, Pakistan cannot be considered as high risk area for tourists.

He added that tourist groups arriving in Pakistan are being provided with foolproof security arrangements all the way throughout the country during their stay in Pakistan by means of security escort and accommodation security.

Pakistan has been blessed with great tourist attractions and enormous potential for the development of tourism.

There are numerous types of tourism Pakistan offers that include nature, adventure, culture, heritage and religious tourism.

People of Pakistan are very peaceful, hospitable, and friendly towards the foreign tourists. Ch.

Kabir Khan briefed that through this forum, the main tourist generating countries are being requested to amend their negative travel advisories for Pakistan as it is safe for tourists along the major touristic routes / places in Pakistan.

Pakistan also welcomes investments in tourist sector and the Government of Pakistan provides a number of incentives for investors like group tourist visa on arrival, tax relief upto 75% and only 5% import duty imposed for plant, machinery and equipment.

Chartered flights are also allowed on point to point basis from different cities of Pakistan. By the sideline of ITB Berlin, Ch.

Kabir Khan will also attend a number of UNWTO Conferences and Seminars that include 5th U N WTO Silk Road Ministers' Meeting on Strengthening Cooperation through Transnational Route Development, 4th Silk Road Tour Operators' Forum: Unlocking the Silk Road's Adventure Travel Potential, Meeting on Community Empowerment through Creative Industries and 30th Meeting of The World Tourism Network on Child Protection.

More than 100 ministers of tourism and state secretaries from around the world - increase in international buyers and business deals - attendance at the ITB Berlin Convention and eTravel World grew by 25 per cent.

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The Ambassador gave a comprehensive overview of tourist attractions located in Pakistan ranging from high mountains, beautiful green valleys, rich and diverse cultural heritage, to the delicious culinary of Pakistan. He said that the Federal Government and all the provincial and area governments gave due importance to the development of tourism as a pillar of economic growth.

The rich heritage of the Indus Valley Civilization, Harrappa and Gandhara Civilizations gave the precious social capital to the people of Pakistan, making them one of the most resilient societies in the world, he concluded.

Earlier, Tourism Secretary of Gilgit Baltistan, Syed Hadi made a presentation on tourist spots located in Gilgit Baltistan and the Joint Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan Council, Muhammad Ajmal Gondal made a presentation on Cultural Heritage of Pakistan. In his welcome remarks, the Head of the ICD, Mr Marc Donfried said that Pakistan had a great potential to attract world tourists. Infrastructure development in areas of tourist spots, aggressive marketing and projection is the key to pull the international tourists, he added. A documentary, "Vibrant Pakistan" was also screened on this occasion. The participants were entertained with live Pakistani instrumental music and cuisine, at the end. Earlier in the morning, the Ambassador inaugurated the Pakistan - Gilgit Baltistan at the International Trade Exhibition, ITB 2015 and met Pakistani Tour Operators who were participating in this international tourism trade fair.

He exchanged views with them on marketing strategy and tourism potential of Pakistan.

Portraying the close cultural bond and shared traditional heritage between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, a calligraphic exhibition of renowned artist, Azeem Iqbal, titled 'Colours of Peace and Harmony' opened at National Art Gallery on Wednesday.

Jointly organised by Embassy of Azerbaijan and Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, the two-day exhibition offers the art lovers a unique display of traditional calligraphic art blended in

Tourism can stimulate economic revival: Pak Envoy to Germany

Ajj News
March 6, 2015

Colours of Peace & Harmony at National Art Gallery

The News

March 5, 2015

FIRST OF ITS KIND BOOK MUSEUM OPENS AT NBF

Pakistan Observer
March 4, 2015

AAP's Art Exhibition 2015 starts in Lahore

Daily times
March 4, 2015

rich innovative works by the artist known for his diverse creative vision.

Speaking on the occasion, Dasghin Shikarov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, said that Azerbaijan and Pakistan share various historical traditions, cultural heritage and through the dynamics of sharing these kinds of knowledge and promoting the artist, the relationship between the two countries has grown into multifarious dimension.

While addressing the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition, Muhammad Azam, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage said that Azerbaijan and Pakistan are brotherly countries having century's old cultural values and heritage. Muhammad Azam said that events like this would further strengthen the cultural bond between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. He praised the works of the Azeem Iqbal for his outstanding innovations and use of various mediums to promote not only the great traditional art but also the rich heritage of Pakistani art.

He stressed that organising such events not only provide opportunity for friendly exchanges but also promote unity, harmony, peace and cultural awareness between the nations.

While highlighting the aim of holding this exhibition, Farhat Asif, President Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, said that it was not only to promote the artist and his works, but also showcase the creative aura of the artist community as they promote the peaceful and harmonious face of Pakistan to the world through their diverse art practices.

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Tuesday, called for promotion of book reading culture in society which according to him is must for peace of mind and peace in society. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the National Book Museum at the National Book Foundation (NBF). The minister who has been preaching peace in society whenever time and occasion call for it (on Feb 23 too, he gave a similar message of peace at the book launch of a senior journalist Tahir Mughal) said the establishment of book museum would go a long way in preserving rare books, manuscripts and archaic volumes.

Managing Director of the NBF, Prof Inam-ul-Haq Javed welcomed the minister and gave a briefing on various aspects of the book museum. Pervaiz Rashid appreciated the services of NBF in the field of education, literature, art and culture.

"Promotion of book culture and introducing our rich cultural heritage among the people far and wide in the country, NBF has been playing its vital and central role here", he said. The minister was of the view that the Pakistani nation had diverse cultural heritage and was rightly proud of it. In the museum books relating to the Founder of Pakistan Quaid-i- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Mohammad Iqbal, Mirza Ghalib , Hafeez Jalandri, Saadat Hussan Minto and Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi and many others have been kept in goodform which is a good thing, said Rashid. "It is a great inspiration for young generation and book art lovers to learn about their cultural values, literature, artistic asset and rich heritage," he added.

Prof Inam-ul- Haq Javed while addressing the ceremony said NBF had been promoting Pakistani culture, disseminating knowledge and inculcating book reading habits among Pakistanis. "Books and art bring tranquillity, harmony and softness in our minds which lead to the path of peace and love in the society." He was of the view that establishment of National Book Museum in Islamabad was ideally suited for promotion of our national literary heritage, literacy, education and book culture among all and sundry at each nook and corner of our country.

LAHORE: The Artists' Association of Punjab (AAP) organised the 29th annual Art Exhibition 2015 and a commemorative show titled 'Massacre of Innocents' on Tuesday.

In addition to the art exhibition, the AAP held an 'open discourse seminar' where speakers addressed a lively audience at Alhamra Art Gallery.

This year's annual art exhibition was dedicated to the innocent children who were ruthlessly slaughtered in a Taliban attack at their school in Peshawar. Along with the paintings on the Peshawar incident, artists had come up with a variety of themes including village landscape and others. The exhibition was inaugurated by Lahore Arts Council Chairman Ataul Haq Qasmi.

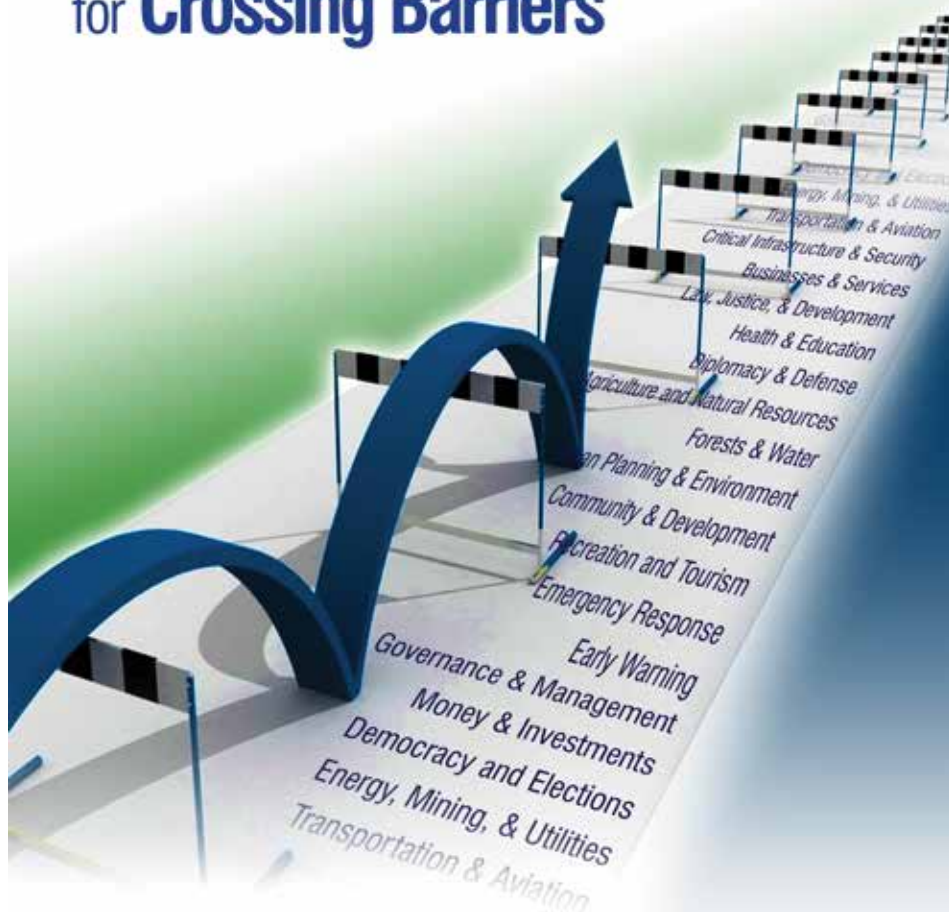
In the opening session, Ataul Haq Qasmi said that these kinds of events and art exhibitions actually had "created tolerance in our intolerant society". He said that extremists are more dangerous than terrorists and sympathisers of terrorists should be exposed in front of the whole nation.

Qasmi said that the Peshawar school massacre somehow united the nation but he showed concerns on some factions of the society who led the agenda of Taliban without disclosing their connection with the terrorist groups. Artists and painters, he said, had always expressed on the sensitive issues and he had observed the same passion which was witnessed in Indo-Pak war in 1965. He said in that war Pakistan' one of the greatest literature was produced including novels, short stories and painters expressing the war-led scenario. Renowned painter, art critic and AAP Chairperson Mian Ijazul Hassan said on the occasion that artists and painters should be involved in policymaking regarding the art. He said that the state's attitude toward promoting art could be observed by this example that no single painting was bought by the National Arts Gallery. He said the best scenario in which arts could be flourished is when the artist and state work together, leading to the 'cultural development of the society'. Another speaker, Asghar Nadeem Syed, a renowned literary figure and drama serial writer, said that artists were sensitive and did not instantly respond to the unusual happening in the society. He said that it takes time for artists and painters to absorb the depression of war like situation and this annual art exhibition is a "response

to the killings of our innocent children by barbaric Taliban, with artists beautifully reflecting through their work the fear present in the nation's collective conscious.

Nadeem said Pakistan has to win this war against terrorists, and this war is actually being fought to "save our heritage and culture". He referred to an example of the famous painting 'Guernica' by Pablo Picasso in which residents of his native city raised their hands and cried out looking at the Nazi Germans warplanes. He said masterpieces were created when artists and painters absorbed more depression of the event. Former foreign minister Sardar Aseff Ahmad Ali said that these type of art exhibitions where artists expressed their emotions were an effort towards opening up space to listen each other's arguments. Commenting on Taliban's so-called Jihad, he said that jihad is absolutely business of the state; privatisation of jihad has to be halted in which individual groups want to impose their extremist agenda and defame the country. Later, he recited a poem 'flowers of field' which included the following lyrical line: 'apologists' souls must bear (naked) in front of nation'.

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Folk heritage 'promotes peace and tolerance'

The News, Feb 27, 2015

Delegation-level talks: Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan to boost ties.

The Express Tribune, Feb 27, 2015

G-B jailbreak: Prisoner involved in Nanga Parbat attack killed

The Express Tribune, Feb 27, 2015

Thar beauty showcased at Jharoka

Daily Times, Feb 26, 2015

ISLAMABAD: A documentary titled 'The Story of a Banyan Tree' and Urdu version of 'Tareeqat: Seven Elements of Living Sufism in Pakistan' were launched at the Lok Virsa. 'Tareeqat' was written by Dr. Kamran Ahmad which outlines the core elements of spirituality in everyday life of the sub-continent. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kamran Ahmad said, "There is a dire need to re-connect with our pluralistic heritage where we co-existed in peace for centuries, respecting and celebrating the faiths and rituals of each other".

Mehergarh has produced the documentary 'The Story of a Banyan Tree: 9000 Years of Spiritual Heritage of Pakistan' which was made by Black Box Sounds. Ahmad Saleem, scholar who edited the Urdu version of Tareeqat, spoke on the occasion and stressed the importance of documenting our cultural heritage.

Executive Director of Lok Virsa Dr. Fouzia Saeed said that Pakistan's folk heritage is full of messages of peace and tolerance. "Pakistan has tremendously rich and diverse traditions and lifestyles and we need to take pride in this pluralistic Pakistan", she said.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan agreed on Thursday to enhance cooperation in all areas including trade and economy. The agreement was reached during talks between the visiting Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev and Advisor to PM on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, a statement issued by the Foreign Office said. In the delegation-level talks, the two sides discussed promoting economic relations, energy cooperation, political-level contacts, regional connectivity through land and air for the promotion of people-to-people contacts, trade and tourism, the statement added. Foreign Minister Abdyldaev paid a courtesy call to President Mamnoon Hussain. He conveyed the greetings of the President of Kyrgyz Republic. President Mamnoon Hussain underscored the importance of cooperation in countering terrorism and extremism. He conveyed Pakistan's interest in proposed railway line among China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Iran. The President highlighted that implementation of the agreement among Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic for Traffic-in-Transit which will give impetus to trade and tourism.

GB: At least one of the two prisoners involved in the Nanga Parbat attack that killed 10 foreign tourists was shot dead, while the other was injured as police foiled an attempted jailbreak in Gilgit-Balistan (G-B) early Friday morning. On June 23, 2013, gunmen dressed as paramilitary forces stormed into the Nanga Parbat base camp, killing Chinese and Ukrainian climbers in an unprecedented attack in the Himalaya mountains of G-B region.

Home Secretary Sibtain Ahmed confirmed that the person killed was one of the assailants who had stormed the camp. Two other inmates – one of them also believed to be involved in the Nanga Parbat attack – however, managed to escape from district jail, Gilgit, where the incident occurred at 2.45am. The inspector general (IG) jails were also suspended on chief secretary's orders over jailbreak that was coordinated and assisted by men from outside the jail. However officials rejected this assertion.

The IG jails had suspended four jail officials including a superintendent soon after the incident. The area was soon cordoned off by police and a search operation was started in the area. A police official requesting anonymity said the deceased inmate was on death row as Anti-Terrorism Court had convicted him. The case was to be tried in military courts. According to a press release issued by G-B administration, a high level committee was formed to carry out investigation in the matter.

ISLAMABAD: The solo exhibition of masterpieces of the renowned artist and painter Shahid Iqbal was showcased in the federal capital at Jharoka Art Gallery with the title of Raqs-e-Sehra.

Being a native of Thar, the artist highlighted the local beauty of desert and depicted the different colours of its daily life through his colorful imagination and deep observation. Through his paintings, the artist captured the landscape of Thar while portraying the lifestyle of desert denizens who were enjoying the natural beauty of sand dunes stretched seemingly endless and experiencing the mirages of desert decorated with glittering sand under the sunlight. Using the colours beautifully, the artist also painted the miseries of desert livelihood, the housing style of its inhabitants and portrayed the fauna and flora of the Thar.

The strong observation and the colours of painting are very sober. Though many artists are interested in painting the beauty of Thar but Shahid has his own way of expression and unique style of portraying the daily routine of the village life and the hard work by the females, which stands out as his favorite field among other topics, he sketches through his paintings.

Even in so many difficulties, the people of Thar try to make themselves happy by dancing on the beats of dhol. So, Shahid in these paintings has tried to grasp the gist of the true picture of Thar by his delicate artwork.

The artist has a master degree in fine arts from the University of Sindh Jamshoro. He is deep rooted in the Thar area, where he belongs and very much inspired by the culture and heritage of the country, overall. Iqbal is showcasing his art pieces in Islamabad for the first time. Shahid's 27 paintings are on display in the ongoing exhibition, which will continue till March 3.

Projects to engage youth in volunteer training, adventure tourism

Dawn, Feb 25, 2015

Ministry seeks control of six heritage sites

The Nation, Feb 25, 2015

Pakistan, Italy share rich cultural heritage: envoy

The News, Feb 22, 2015

PESHAWAR: A non-government youth welfare organisation is going to launch two projects with the financial and logistic support of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to engage youth in volunteer training and adventure tourism.

Speaking at the Peshawar Press Club here on Tuesday, Umair Jamal, chairman of Pak-Khyber Youth Welfare Organisation, announced that two projects named 'Aghaz-i-Junoon' and 'Venture Adventure' would soon be launched in the province to engage youth in healthy activities. The two projects would be launched on March 2 in the historic Islamia College. Mr Jamal said that the organisation was selected by the provincial government after going through a prescribed selection process. He said that directorate general of sports and youth affairs would be sponsoring these projects and the NGO would implement it in seven divisions of the province.

Khaista Rehman, another office-bearer of the organisation, while explaining the two projects said that written tests would be held to assess if the students were serious about it. He said that a three-member committee would ensure transparency in the selection process. Aghaz-i-Junoon programme costing Rs4.5 million would train about 150 male and female students in volunteerism during emergency, and impart skills in youth leadership and career counseling to play an effective role as citizens of Pakistan. The second and more interesting programme called 'Venture Adventure' would take about 100 talented youth on four tours to adventurous and scenic spots for taking part in sports and many other activities to exhibit their talents.

Zahoor Durrani, a consultant working with the Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on youth tourism development, said that the purpose of such initiatives was to encourage established and registered non-government organisations or private sector to take lead in holding healthy activities for youth. He added that the government would provide all required financial and logistic support to the NGOs in this regard. Mr Durrani said that both projects would enable youth to learn and train to be better citizens.

ISLAMABAD - The Information Ministry has decided to raise with the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination the issue of six world heritage sites and three national museums in Pakistan, which are getting deteriorated due to the alleged negligence of the provinces, in order to avoid their delisting from the UNESCO sites of world heritage.

The sites, including Rohtos Fort, Taxila, Lahore Fort and Shalimar Garden, Archaeological Ruins at Mohenjo Daro, Buddhist Ruins of Takht Bhai and Historical Monument of Makli, Thatta and three national museums situated in Swat, Taxila and Karachi, were handed over to the provinces after the 18th amendment. However after going into the control of provinces, the condition of these sites has been deteriorated.

Sources said that due to alleged negligence of the provinces there were chances that these sites might be de-listed from the UNESCO sites of world heritage.

The Information Ministry had already written a letter to the Ministry of Law seeking its opinion over the issue of Devolution of Subjects relating to the Federal Legislative List under 18th amendment. The Law Ministry replied that libraries, museums and similar institution controlled or financed by the federation under the rule 15 of Federal Legislative List and under this rule all museums and similar institution controlled or financed by the federation remained a federal subject. The reply of the law ministry, according to the sources, meant that if federal government wants to take control of these sites then it would have to finance their maintenance, restoration and administration cost.

Furthermore, the rule 3 of the Federal Legislative List categorically gives competence to the federation regarding implementation of treaties and agreements with regard to culture.

Sources disclosed that after getting the legal opinion, Information Ministry decided to raise the issue of control of museums and world heritage sites in Pakistan with the Ministry of IPC. They said that ministry was keen to take back control of these sites and had requested the Ministry of IPC to refer this issue to the Council of Common Interest (CCI). They said that the provinces did not have the capacity to maintain these sites and museums due to financial issues.

One of the senior officials of Department of Archaeology and Museums told The Nation that after 18th amendment the department could not exercise its writ on these sites while the provinces could not have expertise to maintain these sites. He said that provinces did not absolve the staff of these sites and museums so far. He termed the decision of Information ministry for taking back the control of these sites and museums a step into right direction. "It will be great embarrassment for the country if UNESCO delist even one site from its list of world heritage. It will give a wrong message to the world that we cannot preserve our sites and culture." He condemned the act of Sindh government for organizing the Sindh festival at Manjodehro last year. "Such activities can deteriorate these sites further."

KARACHI: Italian Ambassador Adriano Chiodi Cianfarani said on Saturday Pakistan and Italy shared rich cultural heritage and were a paradise for the admirers of art and architecture.

He made these observations during a visit to the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Elena Claudia Di Vito, the first secretary at the Embassy of Italy in Islamabad, and Giulio Iazeolla, vice consul at the Consulate of Italy in Karachi, accompanied him.

The Italian ambassador appreciated the efforts of students, saying that their enthusiasm for art at the campus showed the real image of Pakistan. The students were encouraged to go on study trips to Italy in future. The visit was coordinated by the Italian Development Committee.

Songs, dances, crafts showcase G-B, Chitral heritage

The Nation, Feb 22, 2015

The members present in the visit were Dr Tariq Ikram; president of the IDC, Amnah Gul Muqri, secretary general, and Hasan Askari, founder and executive member of the committee. The visit was hosted by Samina Raees Khan, executive director of the Indus Valley School. He welcomed the visitors and introduced them to different faculties and students. Khan highlighted the salient features of each faculty, which made the visit informative and impressive. The students of the architecture department gave a presentation to the ambassador, where they talked about the historical architecture of Pakistan and other related study trips. Khan thanked the visitors and said the Indus Valley School looked forward to signing a memorandum of understanding with the IDC to promote educational cooperation with Italian institutions in the field of architecture, interior design and fine arts.

ISLAMABAD - As a vocalist started singing "Sha Mubarakbad", a traditional song, it was enough prompting the community elders of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), wearing hand-woven woollen stuffed caps and long coats, to start dancing in enjoyment.

It was the opening of two-day colourful mega event, "Culture for Peace and Pluralism" to mark International Mother Language Day 2015 at Open Air Theatre Shakarparian on Saturday. All the participants represented G-B and Chitral who are based in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Prominent artists and performers presented folk songs, traditional dances, besides the presentations of local cuisines and crafts, to showcase the rich cultural heritage of G-B and Chitral. Initiative for Promotion of Pamiri Arts and Culture (IPPAC) has organised the vent which is striving for the preservation and promotions of the unique and endangered culture and languages of mountain communities.

Manzoor Baltistani, a talent from Baltistan who has represented the region at various national and international platforms sung in Balti Language. He has the honour of being the student of the legendary classical singer Ustad Fateh Ali Khan. "I really enjoyed the mesmerising voice of Manzoor Baltistani; very often we have opportunity to watch such shows," said Himmat Akbar, a student of Islamic International University Islamabad who basically hails from Ghizer district of G-B.

Sheraz Badshah performed some new flavour of Chitrali music which was a blend of both traditional and modern rhythm.

Raja Mohammad Ali, a legendary famous Balti singer, came all the way from Skardu to captivate the participants through his powerful voice and beautiful Balti folk tunes.

Zeshan, a young artist played "Dadang" (drum) who received great appreciation from the participants while some artists also played Taroe and Sunarai (pipes).

Amongst other singers and artist were, Islam Habib, Jabir Khan Jabir, Qazi and Dedarul Amin Group performed on the stage. The vocalists sung in local languages like Shina, Chitrali, Balti, Domaki and Khowar etc.

According to DW Baig, the director of IPPAC, his organisation has been active for the last five years to preserve the dying language of G-B and Chitral. "There are from 25 to 30 languages in G-B and Chitral; some of the small languages there are endangered; if no efforts are made about their preservation such language would die out," he told The Nation.

Apart from such events on Mother Language Day, IPPAC also arranges seminars and cultural programmes to preserve the language and other ingredients of G-B and Chitral cultures. "To preserve a language, one of the best ways the performance of folk artists; we invite folk artists here and gather the settlers of Northern Areas in twin cities to know about their culture," said Baig.

Every year the United Nation and people all around the world celebrate "International Mother Language Day" on February 21 which was proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 1999. According to UN, "More than 50%, of the approximately 7,000 languages spoken in the world, are likely to die out within a few generations; and 96% of these languages are spoken by a mere four percent of the world's population.

Only a few hundred languages have genuinely been given pride of place in education systems and the public domain, and less than a hundred are used in the digital world." Besides major languages like Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Seriaki, Urdu and Balochi, dozens of other languages are being spoken in Pakistan.

However, according to experts a number of smalls languages spoken in Pakistan are likely to die out within a few next generations. Experts are of the opinion that some of the small languages would die even within next two to three decades as such languages are no more being used as a medium of instructions.

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) has set up a Turkish Link Passage at its Pakistan National Museum of Ethnology (Heritage Museum) to provide an insight to the rich heritage of Turkey for the visitors.

Talking to APP, an official of the Lok Versa said the Link Passage would help bring people of two countries even closer as they shared common history, cultural and social values.

The newly established Link Passage depicts similarities between Pakistan and Turkey in the field of art, crafts, culture and traditions with a key focus on design, colors, motifs, kilims, saz, henna,

Lok Virsa establishes Turkish cultural passage at heritage museum

Ajj News, Feb 21, 2015

Cultural gala held to subside terror effects

The Nation, Feb 21, 2015

tea, traditional leather shoes and others.

The area for Link Passage has been provided by Lok Virsa whereas the artifacts which have been put on display have been catered to by the Turkish Embassy.

Heritage Museum which was established in 2004 already showcases the cultures of other brotherly and friendly countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Central Asian States and China.

PESHAWAR - The Cultural Gala of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa held at the Pakistan National Council of Arts late Monday night was a unique one that thrilled the people of the province who were mostly terrorized by a chain of terror-related activities.

The cultural gala was the combination of excitement, thrill, amusement and a variety of folk cultural activities and music, traditional dance, exhibition, stalls, demonstration and cuisine were prominent where the people stormed to see and watch.

Pashtun and others particularly the foreigners living in Islamabad were amazed by the live performances and the exhibition stalls depicting life of the entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The show was a joint venture by PNCA and Cultural Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Minister for information and Culture of the province, Mian Iftikhar Hussain was the chief guest. The people who visited various stalls showed interest in the handicraft and other hand-made items placed at the stalls.

The land of Pashtun has a rich heritage and is known to be one of the ancient civilizations. The scary situation in the province can't deter the Pashtun to love their culture that is itself showing the grandeur of Pashtun nation. The show told the audience one thing that it is the land of such people who know the art of smile even in the worst situation.

The musical night right from the beginning caged the audience and till the end the audience enjoyed and got amusement.

At occasions, some individuals from the audience got to the stage and participated in the traditional dance (Mehsud dance and Attarnh).

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest provincial minister for information and culture Mian Iftikhar Hussain said that we are a living nation and consider problems and hardships as part of the life. Nothing is dearer to us than peace and tranquility and we can't be browbeaten by anyone, nor can be scared into submission.

ISLAMABAD: To promote tourism and adventure sports across the country, a mountaineering and tourism club will be established in the capital. An agreement was signed between Pakistan Youth Hostels Association (PYHA) and Pakistan Youth Outreach (PYO) here on Wednesday. The proposed club will be established with assistance and direction from PYO founders and famous mountaineers Samina Baig and Mirza Ali Baig. "Through this initiative, we want to play our role in doing more for the youth," said project consultant Mazharul Islam. The second phase of the initiative would include student conferences to promote outdoor sports, peace-building activities and gender equality, as well as education for sustainable development. "This is a great initiative," said Saeed Ahmed, deputy director tourism of the Capital Development Authority. He said Samina and Mirza were national heroes who could motivate the youth to traverse hiking trails of the capital and get involved with other adventure sports.

PESHAWAR: The Tourism, Sports, Archeology, Museums and Youth Affairs Department will resume work on tourism-related projects in Malam Jabba in Swat district soon after the snowfall season in the area. An official statement on Sunday said that the work was temporarily suspended on the skiing track, hotel and chairlift projects due to massive snowfall in the tourist spots in Swat. It said the department had initiated a number of projects to restore the natural beauty of scenic Swat valley and attract the local and foreign tourists to the "mini-Switzerland of Pakistan."

The department, it added, planned to construct three state-of-the-art picnic spots in Malam Jabba, which will have a 90-room hotel, skiing track and an international standard chairlift, parks, mosque, and rest areas, rain shelters, public washrooms, tea, coffee and tuck shops.

The Tourism Department and the Board of Investment and Trade (BoIT) have jointly advertised the pre-qualification of interested parties for installation of chairlift and construction of a hotel at the site of Malam Jabba. In response to the advertisement, it said seven private sector parties had submitted their expressions of interest (EOIs) for obtaining the project and subsequently the projects were awarded to the highest bidder.

Formal work for the acquisition of land at the designated sites and subsequent implementation of the projects was already in hand but suspended due to massive snowfall in the tourist resort Malam Jabba. The six identified sites from Manglore to Malam Jabba include Sair village, two each spots at Khamba and Spinay villages and one at Qilla Pattay. The projects will not only boost tourism activities but also enhance revenue of the local communities and create employment opportunities in Swat.

MoU signed: Mountaineering, tourism club for capital

The Express Tribune, Feb 19, 2015

Work on Malam Jabba tourism projects to resume soon

The News, Feb 16, 2015

CJP takes notice of threat to Larkana heritage

The Nation, Feb 15, 2015

Envoy's book on Chinese culture hits stalls

The Nation, Feb 15, 2015

Biodiversity park in Murree opens in March

The Express Tribune, Feb 12, 2015

Afghan Cultural Day to help present real picture of Pakhtuns

The Nation, Feb 11, 2015

Malam Jabba is fast emerging as winter tourist resort of Pakistan

Centreline.com, Feb 9, 2015

ISLAMABAD - Chief Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk Saturday took notice on a story published in an English newspaper under the caption 'Larkana's Ladies Club loses portion to land mafia'. The building was built in 1934 and hence is protected under the heritage laws of Sindh.

According to the story, the club is the significant part of Larkana heritage and has hosted some famous guests in its time. The club was home to cultural activities organised by Hindu, Christians and Muslim women before the partition. The land is property of District Government but in 2004 the government decided to handover it to builder who wanted to convert it into a hotel. A number of heritage buildings all over the country are in dilapidated state and the owners let such building fall to the ground so that they can be declared as dangerous and thereafter new flats or commercial plazas are built upon the sites.

Taking notice of the issue, the Chief Justice passed order: "The matter be registered in Human Rights Case and placed before the Court."

ISLAMABAD - A book on the Chinese culture by Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany Syed Hasan Javed has recently hit the stalls. The book titled "Chinese Soft power Code" is the second book authored by the ambassador on Chinese culture, in a row.

The author of the book, a senior Pakistani diplomat, has almost spent a decade in China and very familiar with the Chinese culture, said a message received here Saturday from Pakistan's Embassy in Berlin, Germany.

The book gives an understanding of the origin and evolution of Chinese values, attitudes and wisdom from the ancient times to the contemporary age.

The book also traces back Pakistan's rich cultural and historical heritage and its linkages with China along the ancient Silk Route.

The book includes teachings of China's great sages Confucius, Lao Tzu, Sunzi, and others.

LAHORE / ISLAMABAD: The first-of-its-kind biodiversity park which opens next month in Murree aims to provide natural habitat to local flora and fauna and will serve as a tourist destination.

The park, developed at a cost of Rs92.183 million by the Punjab Environment Protection Department (EPD) with the technical and professional support of International Union for the Conservation of Nature, will open during the first week of March.

The park is being developed for preserving local flora and fauna, said an official of the EPD. The park will also facilitate research on issues related to biodiversity and provide a natural habitat for the endangered local species, he added.

Spread over 41 acres, the park also aims to remove anthropogenic disturbances such as grazing, wood collection, waste dumping, sewage and land erosion in the biggest tourist spot of the country, the official said.

A library on flora and fauna will also provide relevant information to visitors and researchers and the park management plans to hire services of professional guides to assist tourists, the official said.

EPD Secretary Iqbal Muhammad Chauhan said the third party evaluation of the park's structure was complete and it was now ready to be opened for the general public. "It would provide natural habitat to local flora and fauna according to international standards," he said. The biodiversity director at the Ministry of Climate Change Naeem Ashraf Raja, when contacted, said the park will be a recreational cum awareness park for tourists visiting the hill station.

PESHAWAR - In order to present the real picture of Pakhtun nation, the International Afghan Cultural Day will be celebrated every year on September 23 in Pakistan, Afghanistan and worldwide. "To bridge the gap between people of Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Pak-Afghan People Forum had been formed in June 2012," Chairman of the forum Alamzeb Khan said this while speaking at a news conference here on Monday.

Moreover, a two-day international conference had also been held in Peshawar in December 2013 under the auspices of the same forum, whereas it had been decided to mark International Afghan Cultural Day on September 23 every year. Alamzeb Khan, who is chairman of Pakistan's chapter of the Pak-Afghan People's Forum, said that marking the day would present the true picture of Pakhtun nation across the globe. "These days Pakhtuns are being presented as terrorists, which is totally wrong," he added. Flanked by Shahab Khattak, Syed Bashir, Usman Khalil and others, Alamzeb Khan said through celebration of this day, we want convey a positive message to the world.

SWAT: Looking like an opaque pellet on the faint blue countenance of the sky, the mighty sun is retreating against the rising glamour of the white snow face. Its setting frail yellow rays behind shattering clouds are shying away to shove apart the sky-high mountains rears. For the nature lovers, this would be a perfect view in the spellbinding beauty of Malam Jabba. The gigantic sky-touching mountains would elevate them to spiritual journey, far beyond materialistic realms, where they can find reprieve from the cares of the world.

Wearing thick white snow blanket these days, Malam Jabba is fast emerging to be a magnanimous winter tourist resort of Pakistan. Situated at the height of 8,700 feet above the sea level at one of the rooftops of the world, it is the only ski resort of the country providing skiing

facilities to the general public in its 800 metres gentle slopes.

Unlike other captivating resorts of Swat valley, which get almost a negligible number of tourists in winter season due to non-development of winter tourism in these spots, Malam Jabba is a center of tourism activities in this particular time of the year.

The ski-lovers from around the world make bee lines to the resort. In the past they got disappointed when they found no reservation in the lone three storey building of the PTDC hotel on weekends, which was destroyed during militancy in Swat. However, not constructed thereafter so far, except for the debris were removed from the site.

Nonetheless now a day, there are a number of lodging facilities available to the tourists on easy terms, which are scattering beside the road on the scenic spots. One would have no difficulty in finding reservation, except for the time taken in reaching from one spot to the other due to the road problem.

The resort is an ideal site for skiing because the place receives heavy snowfall during the winter season. Besides, skiing equipment and chair lifts to the top are available to the general public. The owners of the equipment would offer you the equipment on easy terms. They would also show you how to skiing, within the meager amount paid for it. The place has also seen national ski championships. Training camp is arranged for the players. Training is given to the beginners. The increasing number of children, including foreign sky lovers working in Pakistan, visits the spot on weekends and other holidays.

The month of February is an ideal time for the activity. The place had seen a lot of snowfall by this month. The humps and gorges are covered with thick snow. Even the lower parts are covered to knee deep snow. That attracts a large number of the tourists.

Thousands of tourists visit the spot to relish its sights and become one with nature. Here they trespass the conventional bounds of sedateness and enjoy the stuff provided to them by the nature. Rejuvenated by this rich and spiritual elevation, they return home in a peaceful state of mind, to acknowledge the ultimate Creator for this special gift.

Little more than a holiday destination, the place provides an ideal get together equally to the locals and tourists from far-off places. The locals from the surrounding areas come to the place to enjoy picnic on the weekends. The abode cures the past injuries of the militancy hit people with the blessing of forgetfulness and hope. It gives them impetus to keep away the harsh realities of the past for better tomorrow.

"There is no country, like Pakistan anywhere in the world with respect to its changing seasons and fascinating scenic spots", says Daud Khan a resident of Aligrama Swat, who visited many of the world countries as a business man and buildings contractor.

He has come to Malam Jabba many times but the snow capped mountains attract him to the place again and again. He is here once more with a group of friends. They are all playing childishly in the snow. They have soaked themselves head to toe in the snow by recklessly wrestling and hitting one another by snowballs.

Most of his friends are shopkeepers and cloth merchants in Mingora City. They have come to the spot for the Friday picnic, which is a day off for them. Here they throw away the hubbub of city life and the rush of business activities and return home carefree. There is also a problem of increasing traffic jams. Two vehicles can hardly make their way to pass on the road, especially on the weekends. Resultantly, the tourists mostly prefer to be on foot, which is also a cumbersome experience on the slippery tracks. Although Malam Jabba has become a focus of activities round the year, the Tourism Department has no interest in developing the site. So far it has not come up with a comprehensive plan to develop the resort on the principals of eco-tourism.

"There are plenty of sites in Malakand and Hazara Division, which can be developed into sky sports", said a tourist. But the dire need is for vibrant state machinery to develop them on modern lines. Alas! We can just think about it. There is no dynamism here.

Unfortunately, the lack of interest on the part of the responsible has turned many scenic spots of cultural significance, which should have otherwise been preserved as tourist resorts, into wastelands. The print and electronic media is no less responsible for the lack of interest and improper projection of the development of such sites.

"Malam Jabba is a fantastic place". "I want to tell the others to visit the place", says a foreigner. But unfortunately our own authorities are not ready to develop the scenic spots into a full-fledged tourism resorts despite the fact that they can make millions of profits out of it. Besides attracting foreign exchange, tourism may promote the falling good-will of the country and above all it can create employment.

Before the lavishing roof-top of the world, Malam Jabba, is finally dropped one day as a scenic resort, we must think about its preservation for the future generations.

'Heaven on earth': Malam Jabba sees surge in tourists after a white winter

The Express Tribune, Feb 4, 2015

Preserving musical heritage for a decade, and counting

The News, Feb 2, 2015

Tourism Corporation KP is organising a two-day event of cultural and folk performances

Onepakistan.com, Feb 01, 2015

MALAM JABBA: Now that incoming showers and snowstorms have abated, tourists are heading towards Swat Valley in large numbers to enjoy the scenic spectacle. Thousands of people are flocking to Malam Jabba over the past few weeks. Situated over 8,000 feet above sea level, the hill station is one of the most popular resorts of the valley. "The serenity of this place is unbelievable. Snow has blanketed the entire area," Abdul Hai, a visitor from Karachi, told The Express Tribune.

Hai said he was hesitant to come to Swat at first since the security situation has not been ideal over the past few years.

"The environment is quite different from what is perceived in Karachi," he explained. "The valley is peaceful and life here is very normal—better than any other part of the country. It is heaven on earth," he said.

Tourists head to the valley all year round. "Every patch is green during the summer. Water in the streams is crystal clear and the entire countryside is blooming," said Shamim Zahoor, a tourist from Lahore. However, visitors lamented the lack of infrastructural facilities in the area.

KARACHI: This month the National Academy of Performing Arts (Napa) completes the first decade of its inception. The News talked to sitar maestro Ustad Nafees Khan, who heads the music department of the academy.

"The death knell for our musical heritage was sounded 35 years before the birth of Napa. We have at least staved off that death. We have restarted the restoration of culture. So I would say it has been a great success," Khan said while evaluating the 10 years of Napa in a nutshell.

Delving further into the subject, he said they had reoriented the values of the young people in a very subtle way, adding that they had made them feel proud of their cultural-historical heritage.

"We make it very clear to them that music and dance is an evil activity only if used for bad purposes: carnal or sensual."

Khan said music, fine arts and performing arts are the basis of a nation's cultural and intellectual progress and identity; Napa has imparted due respectability to these pursuits.

"Things can only be put in their right perspective if we support the spirit of tolerance in our society, whereby we are prepared to listen to differing viewpoints and try to gauge the validity of dissenting opinion."

As for parents' attitude towards their children taking up music as a career, he said that while resistance on the part of parents might not have completely vanished, "we certainly have gone a long way in reorienting their attitudes. Their resistance has softened considerably".

Khan said the success of their programme could be gauged from the fact that, let alone a cosmopolitan city like Karachi, they had young men and women from remote corners of the country, like Chitral, apart from relatively reputedly conservative cities like Lahore and Rahim Yar Khan.

At this juncture he sent for a student, who was from the not-so-advanced segment of society, hailing from Rahim Yar Khan.

The maestro said it was the boy's first-ever visit to Karachi. He asked him to demonstrate his vocal talent, which was highly impressive: a mellifluous voice with meticulously controlled cadences.

In certain cases, said Khan, parents had escorted their children to the academy; they were absolutely satisfied on seeing the conditions, whereby they would have no undesirable effect on the children's moral uprightness or integrity. Talking about the fee structure, he said it was reasonable and Napa had the less financially privileged students in mind when drawing it up.

"Sometimes we even give a student a 50-percent discount if we find that he or she has an aptitude for music and wants to master the pursuit in earnest. We cater to the lower middle classes, the lower income stratum of society."

PESHAWAR : The Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) is organising a two-day event to showcase the cultural and folk performances and traditional cuisines for enjoyment of the families at the Peshawar Garrison Club tomorrow (Saturday-Sunday). The event titled, Culture and Cuisines Festival, is aimed at to promote the soft image of the province and to provide a changed scene to the people after the recent Army Public School tragedy. There will be a total of 30 stalls in the festival and of them 15 will be reserved for the items showcasing cultural and national heritage and traditions through handicrafts, modern and cultural dresses, metal and clay works etc.

The rest 15 stalls would offer cuisines from all the districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that includes painda or suhbat, rice, Nowshera fish, chapal kebab, Peshawarina, Kabuli Pulao, seekh kebab, lamb sajji etc. Traditional cuisines are strongly influenced by the rich cultural surroundings of the region and the food blends in the mouth-watering flavours of cooking. The roots of the traditional food stuff can be traced to the cookery styles used in Afghanistan and Iran. Chitrali, Kalash dances, Khattak, Mahsud, Waziri and Afghani attan (traditional dances) are also part of the two-day festival. The event, which is only open to families, would be held at Peshawar Garrison Club from 10am to 10pm. Tickets are available on payment and Rs30 will be charged for a ticket. The money collected from the tickets sale would be given to a charity organisation.

UNESCO declares six archaeological sites as world heritage in Pakistan: Senate told

Brecorde.com, January 30, 2015

Pakistan: Is the house that Dr Abdus Salam called home, really a national heritage?

The Express Tribune, Jan 29, 2015

Imran Khan asks for measure to promote tourism in KPK

Aaj News, Jan 28, 2015

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared six archaeological sites/monuments as world heritage in Pakistan, Senate told on Friday.

In a written reply to a question of Col (r) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashahadi in the Senate, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Senator Pervaiz Rashid, informed the House that the sites includes Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro, Archaeological Ruins at Taxila, Buddhist Ruins at Takht-e-Bahi and neighboring city at Sehr-Behlol Mardan, Historical Monuments at Makli Thatta, Lahore Fort and Shalimar garden Lahore and Rohtas Fort Jehlum.

He said that UNESCO provides help/assistance for the preservation and conservation of world heritage sites. He said that UNESCO has provided financial/technical assistance for the preservation and conservation of world heritage sites of Pakistan. The minister said that after the 18th amendment in the constitution all world heritage sites of Pakistan are under the administrative control of the provinces.

LAHORE: Since 1981, a small 400-square foot house comprising two rooms in Mohalla Dawood Nagar in Jhang tehsil has been designated a 'national monument'. This is the house where Pakistan's first Nobel Laureate in Physics Dr Mohammad Abdus Salam was born in 1926.

Today marks what would have been Dr Salam's 89th birthday. However, the house will remain quiet today as its former resident's birth anniversary will pass by unnoticed by many in the country. "There have never been any commemorative ceremonies for Dr Salam at this house as long as I have lived here," said one neighbour Nadeem. A signboard outside the house informs that it is a protected property under the Antiquities Act 1975. Nadeem says the outer wall of the house fell in some time ago, and was repaired by neighbours before the Archaeology Department took the property into its custody and deputed a caretaker for the site. The keys to the house remain with another neighbour, Yasir, who opens the house for the occasional visitor. The caretaker reportedly visits once or twice a month.

"We do not have any plans for repairs or maintenance works for the house in the near future," Archeology Department Deputy Director Maqsood Ahmed told The Express Tribune. He said the government has deputed two caretakers.

Dr Abdus Salam's father was an official in the Department of Education in this farming district. According to the Nobel Prize committee, when Dr Salam "cycled home from Lahore, at the age of 14, after gaining the highest marks ever recorded for the Matriculation Examination at the University of Punjab, the whole town turned out to welcome him." Dr Salam won a scholarship to Government College, University of Punjab, and took his MA in 1946. He was then awarded a scholarship to St. John's College, Cambridge University, where he excelled in mathematics and physics, awarded by Cambridge University in 1950 for the most outstanding pre-doctoral contribution to physics. He obtained a PhD in theoretical physics and his thesis, published in 1951, contained fundamental work in quantum electrodynamics which had already gained him an international reputation.

Dr Salam returned to Pakistan from England in 1951, to teach mathematics at Government College, Lahore. In 1952, he was appointed head of the Mathematics Department of Punjab University. He left Pakistan for Europe in protest against state-sanctioned discrimination and in 1979, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for his groundbreaking research in theoretical physics. Subsequently, Dr Salam's work was celebrated as an estimated 42 honorary doctorates were bestowed upon him by institutions across the world. When Dr Salam travelled to Pakistan in December 1979, he was received in Lahore, Peshawar and Islamabad by the military secretaries to the governors and president at the time Ziaul Haq. When protestors from a politico-religious party threatened to disrupt a commemorative event at Islamabad's Quaid-e-Azam University, the institution was compelled to shift the event to the National Assembly Hall. Similarly, protests disrupted an event at Punjab University, while Dr Salam's alma mater Government College Lahore chose not to invite him to the institution.

Dr Salam passed away in 1996 and was buried in Rabwah, without a state funeral. The epitaph at his grave reads, 'First Nobel Laureate', as the word 'Muslim' has been deleted under court orders.

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports, Tourism, Archaeology, Museums and Youth Affairs Department to devise short and long-term projects for the promotion of tourism and preservation of archaeological sites in the province. There is a dire need to construct accommodation in or near the tourist spots and archaeological sites in line with eco-friendly and conservation principles to attract more tourists and visitors to the scenic valleys and historical sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said this at a briefing held in Banigala in Islamabad.

Advisor to KP Chief Minister on Sports, Tourism, Archaeology, Museums and Youth Affairs Amjad Afridi, Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani, Additional Secretary Humayun, Managing Director Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Director Archaeology & Museums Dr. Abdul Samad, General Manager Administration and Properties TCKP Sajjad Hameed, Advisor Tourism TCKP Dr. Ali Jan attended the briefing. The PTI leaders Saifullah Niazi and Naeemul Haq were also present on the occasion. Imran Khan said that he had now focused all the energies on the development of KP and will check a quarterly progress report of all the provincial government departments in the province.

The PTI chairman was briefed through presentations by Dr Abdul Samad on Archaeology and Museums, MD Mushtaq Ahmad Khan on TCKP and the Additional Secretary Humayun on Sports. The three and a half hour meeting also consisted of apprising Imran Khan of the progress of the individual directorates and corporation along with its achievements in planning both short and

PTDC employees stage demo in Multan

The News, Jan 27, 2015

'WaeKh Lahore' to promote heritage

The News, Jan 27, 2015

long term projects. Sports, Tourism, Archaeology, Museums and Youth Affairs officials said that after the briefing Imran Khan appreciated the efforts of the department and showed keen interest to visit Gor Khattri and Sethi House next month, as he had heard a lot about them and wanted to promote the archaeological and cultural sites. They said the PTI chairman stressed the need for building hotels, rest houses, youth hostels in or near the tourist spots and archaeological sites like Hund, Takht Bhair and Malam Jabba to facilitate the tourists. This will specially be favorable for international tourists like the visit of monks organised in October 2014. India has turned their archaeological sites into hotels to facilitate the tourists and it leads to an increasing rich experience for the tourists, an official quoted Imran Khan as saying. The MD TCKP said, Since June 2014, TCKP has undertaken numerous initiatives to promote the soft image of the province but alongside we need to undertake long term projects that will help in facilitating the tourists e.g. eco-friendly drive at Saiful Muluk and Galayat that will lead to a greener and cleaner environment. The Director Archaeology & Museums Dr. Abdul Samad said, The walled city of Peshawar is very rich and should be preserved. There are many stakeholders here like Auqaf and Local Government should come under the archaeology department. A summary has been put up in this effect to renovate the wall city and bring it back to its glorious image. He also said that The Directorate has been working hard to bring the first Antiquity Act of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in action and very soon good news will be heard regarding it. During the briefing, Imran Khan said that he plans to reattach the Culture Directorate back with its sister department e.g. Sports, Tourism, Culture, Archaeology, Museums & Youth Affairs. He also said Sheikh Badin is a neglected spot by the Department, which is located in the south at 5,000 feet and proposals should be made for its revival.

Later, Director Museums Dr Abdul Samad and MD TCKP Mushtaq Ahmad Khan gave calendars of 2015 year of their respective directorate and corporation to Imran Khan.

MULTAN: Over 400 employees of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) on Jan 26 staged a demonstration against the blockage of their salaries for the last two years after the passage of the 18th amendment. The employees led by PTDC Employees Union divisional coordinator Hasnain Bukhari gathered at Chowk Nawan Shehr and chanted slogans against the government. They said that the federal government had notified and devolved the department to Punjab, which refused to release their salaries. They said that their families were facing starvation and hunger besides expulsion from rented houses. They said that their children had been expelled from schools and colleges due to non-payment of fee and their future was bleak.

Speaking on the occasion, Hasnain Bukhari said that a board of directors headed by Federal Minister for Information Pervaiz Rasheed was looking into the matter. They said that the government was earning millions of rupees from hotels, resorts and bus service across the country.

LAHORE: WAEKH Lahore' the second unique Competition & Exhibition of photographic excellence about this centuries old city also known as the 'City of the lively-hearts', is a mega event in the world of photography, jointly organised by Walled City Lahore Authority (WCLA) and Photographic Society of Pakistan, in collaboration with Lahore Photography Club and Alhamra Arts Council.

The photography exhibition, which opened on Monday evening and housed over three dozen brilliant photographers entries, is a living testimony to the fact that Lahore is a city of lively people and it must be protected and projected in the true spirit it deserves. The official objective of the exhibition, as projected by its principal organisers i.e. the WCLA, remains the promotion of Lahore as our historical heritage. Just for a starter, the display of Lahore's Architecture, which is one of the three categories in which the entries had been divided, is not just a glimpse into our glorious past and a walk down the memory lane, but it is also a great source of learning for the students of architecture and the general public alike about matchless building skills of the master builders we had some 100 years back. The exhibition also helps us to compare the present assets with the glowing heritage of our remarkable past which we have ruined in the name of development and due to our ignorance. The category of 'Street Life' is as thriving and living as the streets of Lahore are especially the Walled City Streets. It provides a unique chance to those living in the same city and other cities of country to see the breathing city through the lenses of a camera, who could never find time in their hectic routine to roam around in this beautiful heart of Pakistan and appreciate its mesmerising grandeur.

In the third and last category titled 'Historic Monuments,' the commitment, dedication and brilliance of the craftsmen, builders and the rulers of the times gone by captivate the viewers.

After all said and done, it will be a gross injustice if the DG WCLA Kamran Lashari and his team's vision and love for Lahore is not appreciated for holding this grand event second time in a row, Kamran Lashari, unlike any other seasoned and senior bureaucrat has a craze to beautify places and cities. He has a fixation with art and heritage, especially Lahore's heritage. The reason is very simple: Kamran is a son of Lahore, born and brought up in this living city. He owes a lot to this city and is trying to pay it back in his own, very innovative style. Although Kamran Lashari could not make it to the prize distribution ceremony of this grand event; however, his presence was felt all over the venue being reflected in his dedicated team bent on changing the Walled City skyline.

Taniya Qureshi of WCLA told this scribe that some 600 photographs were received for the competition, out of which, 350 photos had been displayed in the exhibition. In the Architecture category, Junaid Ahmed, Abdul Rafay and Armagan Nishat bagged the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. In the Street Life Category, Amnah Yaseen (the only female who earned the prize), Hassan Ahmed and Sher Ali got the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. In the 3rd and final category titled 'Historic Monuments,' Hussain Mehmood got the first prize, Sher Muhammad got the 2nd and Muhammad Ali received the 3rd Prize. Likewise another 20 photographers, who came in the first 20s list, were

A drive through desert: Tourism Dept celebrates 10 years of Cholistan Jeep Rally

The Express Tribune, Jan 25, 2015

given the prizes by the chief guests.

LAHORE: The Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) arranged a ceremony on Saturday to celebrate 10 years of the Cholistan Jeep Rally. It also announced that the 10th Cholistan Jeep Rally would take place from February 13 to February 15.

Managing Director Ahmer Malick said more than 90 professional drivers were expected to participate in the rally over a 230-kilometre-long track. The rally, started in 2005, aims to promote tourism in Cholistan, he said. Malick said 250,000 people had come to see the rally last year. He said he hoped that it would become a mega event in the next 10 years attracting tourists from across the world. He said the TDCP had organised various events, including a musical evening, fireworks display and camel dance, to showcase the culture of Cholistan during the rally. Col (r) Kamaluddin Rana from the Houbara Foundation said he believed the rally would help draw attention to various Cholistan issues, including water, education, infrastructure and health.

"Cholistan is a living desert. Great efforts are needed to conserve its flora and fauna," he said. Chief Minister's Inspection Team Chairman Imran Ali Goraya said he was part of the team that had initiated the jeep rally in Cholistan. He said he had remained on the team for four years. Goraya said the first rally had been the most difficult to organise; a large number of drivers had gone off course in the desert. He said the purpose of the rally was to showcase the history and culture of Cholistan. Sports, Youth, Education, Archeology and Tourism Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said the rally had established its identity. He said the rally had helped develop road network in the area. He discussed various projects that his ministry had started over the past few years. He said a tourist bus service would be started in Lahore and a chairlift and cable car project would be started in Murree in a couple of months. He said the rally was not the achievement of one government but of the people who had been working on it since day one. Later, souvenirs were presented to those who had fared well at the last few rallies.

Govt focusing on promotion of tourism: Rana Mashhood

Daily Times, Jan 25, 2015

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Tourism Rana Mashhood has said that the government was focusing on tourism sector for its promotion in the province. Addressing the ceremony here on Saturday to acknowledge the efforts and services of all the stakeholders of Cholistan Jeep Rally started in 2005, he said that time would come soon when drivers from all over the world would take part in this event.

He said that work was being carried out on tourism bus service in Lahore and it would be started soon, adding that the project of chair lift and cable car in Murree was in launching state as the work in this regard was completed.

He said the support of people has great importance for turning the dreams into reality, adding that the people of Cholistan contributed a lot in making Cholistan Jeep Rally a successful event.

Later, talking to media he said that all facilities would be ensured at the venue of the 10th Cholistan Jeep Rally while people would also be able to watch cricket matches on screens over there. To a question, he said that people could see the details of the packages and bus service on the website regarding the event. Punjab Secretary for Youth Affairs, Sports Archaeology and Tourism Muhammad Khan Khichi said that 10th Cholistan Jeep Rally was a big event in terms of winter tourism in South Punjab.

Punjab chief minister Inspection team Chairman Irfan Ali said that the aim behind the event was to highlight the potential tourism of the country. Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) Managing Director Ahmer Malik said that 10th Cholistan Jeep Rally schedule has been announced and the event would be held from February 13 to 15 in Cholistan desert. He added the route of the rally has been finalised and this year the rally distance would be of about 230km while more than 90 drivers would take part in it. The MD said that the event would enable the opportunity to the local artists to highlight the culture of their area whereas Cholistan Fort was a big historical asset and TDCP wanted to conserve it for the coming generations with the support of people. TDCP thanked Pak Army, Rangers, Punjab police, Bahawalpur city district government, Nawab Salahuddin and the sponsors of the event for always extending their cooperation in arranging the event. Awards and souvenirs were also distributed among the stakeholders.

Hamza Ali Abbasi appointed PTI Karachi's culture secretary

The Nation, Jan 24, 2015

KARACHI- Often in the news due to his political views and affiliations; actor Hamza Ali Abbasi has been appointed Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's Secretary Culture for Karachi.

The budding star has been a staunch supporter of Imran Khan's party for some time now. He joined the party late last year and given his continual engagement with PTI it is no surprise that, the party's Karachi President Ali H. Zaidi announced that Abbasi will now take on the role of PTI Karachi's Secretary Culture, reported a private TV channel. The position entails an overall responsibility to develop strategy when it comes to the party's take on culture-related issues as well as the media.

Egypt, Indonesia and Pakistan top countries in Umrah visas

TTN online, Jan 21, 2015

A total of 1.63 million Umrah visas were issued December 23 and January 20, with Egypt, Indonesia and Pakistan ranked as the top countries that received the largest number of visas. Aside from the three, other countries included in the list were GCC and Arab countries like Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey among others. In line with this, the Saudi Arabia has revealed the start of the Umrah Season 1436, which will also signal the start of the implementation of new regulations and guidelines for Umrah pilgrims visiting the kingdom. The regulations, which have been reviewed, revised and updated in partnership with the government and private sectors, will be applied during this new Umrah season. Ziyad Bin Mahfouz, president, Elaf Group, said: "The Elaf Group remains fully committed towards its move to provide world class high quality services to pilgrims performing Umrah this season. We will be working closely with

Three govt depts join hands to set up modern tourist spots in Swat Valley

The News, Jan 17, 2015

Restoring a vital road damaged by the 2005 earthquake boosts tourism and opens livelihood opportunities in Pakistan's Neelum Valley

Jan17, 2015

Tourists throng Murree to enjoy snowfall

Daily Times, Jan 15 , 2015

government authorities in serving these pilgrims from the time they arrive in Saudi Arabia to the time they complete their pilgrimage and depart the country. As a key player in Saudi's tourism industry, we pledge to do our part of providing high quality services that meet the needs of these Umrah visitors like transportation and hotel arrangements—widely helping in the advancement of the country's tourism for religious purposes sector."

The new guidelines were developed by the Ministry of Haj and include new standards for travel and tourism based companies that operate inside and outside of the kingdom. The new standards include provisions in granting visas, offering services and the training and qualification for travel agents and other tourism related positions. The move is part of the government's continuing effort to enhance and upgrade the level of offered services for tourists visiting the kingdom to perform Umrah and Hajj.

PESHAWAR: The three government departments have joined hands for initiating a number of projects, including establishment of modern tourist spots, in the scenic Swat valley to attract national and foreign tourists to the "mini-Switzerland of Pakistan".

The Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) in collaboration with the Revenue, Construction & Works Department and district administration of Swat have planned to construct state-of-the-art tourist spots at various places in Malam Jabba, said a press release on Thursday. It said the TCKP and other partners would construct rooms for the tourists, kids play area, benches, skiing tracks, Malam Jabba hotel and chairlift facilities for the visitors in these spots. The projects also include various steps to promote eco-tourism and boost tourism activities to attract more tourists to the serene valley. A joint team consisting of officials of the TCKP, district administration Swat, Revenue & C & W Department has finalised three spots out of the already six identified sites for the purpose. The official work for the acquisition of land at the designated sites has been completed.

The six identified sites from Mangalore to Malam Jabba include Sair village, two each spots at Khamba and Spinay villages and one at Qilla Pattay. TCKP Managing Director Mushtaq Ahmed Khan said: "This is a big step jointly taken by three government departments for the promotion of tourism in the province". He said the projects will not only boost tourism activities but also create employment opportunities and enhance revenue of the local communities in Swat. Managing Director said that work on all the projects was going on simultaneously and upon completion the tourist spots will open to the public.

Neelum Valley, known in Pakistan as "Paradise on Earth," tourism is booming. A road from Muzaffarabad to Athmaqam has been rebuilt and upgraded after the October 2005 earthquake, making it easier for tourists to travel to this remote area in northern Pakistan. "The number of customers to my restaurant has doubled following the reconstruction of the Neelum Valley road," says Muhammad Javed Awan, 29, who owns a riverside eatery called Marco Polo in Pattika village. "Encouraged by the growing number of tourists, my brothers and I are now building a hotel." The 200-kilometer long bow-shaped valley runs along the Neelum River, flanked by panoramic hills, lush green forests, and streams. The valley is located north-east of Muzaffarabad, which suffered heavy losses in the earthquake. Restoring connectivity was the first and foremost challenge in the short run to enable relief and recovery operations, and in the long run to rebuild homes and restore livelihood activities. The massive 7.6 earthquake struck the mountainous region of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province and Azad Jammu and Kashmir region on the morning of 8 October 2005, taking an estimated 73,000 lives. "The affected areas were in a mainly mountainous region. The earthquake caused major landslides and toppled vital bridges, isolating large numbers of towns and villages and making survivors more vulnerable to the harsh Himalayan winters," says Malik Israr, chief engineer in the State Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Agency (SERRA) in Muzaffarabad. "Thus, restoring connectivity was the first and foremost challenge in the short run to enable relief and recovery operations, and in the long run to rebuild homes and restore livelihood activities."

Post-disaster reconstruction: ADB pledged \$1 billion in bilateral grants and loans to the Pakistan Earthquake Fund to support the government's efforts to rehabilitate damaged areas. On 13 December 2005, ADB approved the Earthquake Emergency Assistance Project, using a grant of \$80 million from the fund and a loan of \$220 million from ADB's Asian Development Fund. Later, ADB increased the funding for the project to \$407 million with co-financing from development partners. In total, ADB rebuilt 301 kilometers of major roads, 492 kilometers of link roads, and 53 bridges spanning about 2.8 kilometers. The project also reconstructed rural houses, power grids, schools, and health facilities to higher standards. "The 85-kilometer road from Muzaffarabad to Athmaqam is the only road that connects us with the rest of the country, and it was badly damaged by the earthquake, totally disrupting transportation," says Mohammad Farooq, 30, who drives a mini-bus from Athmaqam in Neelum Valley and Muzaffarabad. "But now, thanks to better road conditions, more and more people are coming to see the area, keeping us busy and on the run."

In addition, chief engineer Malik Israr says "ADB's timely reconstruction of the road has also reduced the transportation cost of government and private sector-led development projects in the valley, such as the ongoing 969 megawatt Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project.

ISLAMABAD: Snowfall in Murree and surrounding hills on Tuesday attracted a large number of tourists from different parts of the country. Although there were no vacations, holiday or weekend, still a large number of people, especially from the urban areas of Punjab and Karachi, traveled to Murree to enjoy the snowfall. Thousands of tourists from different parts of the country and abroad visited Murree and its suburbs to enjoy the beautiful hills of snow. The resorts including Bhurban,

Architectural Heritage on Death-Bed

The Nation, Jan 11, 2015

New Murree, Kashmir Point, Pindi Point, Mall Road and Ayubia were packed with tourists. Galyaat, Hazara and Bhurbhan received more snow as compared to Murree city. All restaurants were packed with tourists and the demand of woollies also went up, as mercury has gone below the freezing point. A great crowd was observed at hotels and places for eatables, where people were enjoying hot food and hot drinks to keep themselves warm. Businessmen and shopkeepers of the city seem happy to see increased business activity. "I am enjoying the weather here," said a visitor Raza Baloch. "We are spending good family time and the children are especially happy," adding "Murree has enjoyable entertainment facilities he lauded the civic body for construction of numerous attractive picnic spots." Jamshed Ali, a visitor from Lahore, while talking to APP, said Murree has all the facilities for enjoyment. "I am here today with my family and enjoying this awesome weather," he added. The local administration should develop these areas further with additional facilities to attract visitors and promote tourism, he said. Mushtaq Ahmed, another tourist from Karachi complained that eatables, woollies and other accessories available there to beat the cold weather were too much expensive. The shopkeepers are exploiting the situation and fleecing the customers, he said. Meanwhile, traffic police has issued a travel advisory for tourists planning to visit Murree while the hill station is having snowfall. Talking to APP, a senior traffic official urged APP that motorists should avoid using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)-run and old model vehicles to ensure safe journey to the mountainous resort where people from across the country throng to see scenic beauty of Malka-e-Kohsar. He said the traffic police have stopped movement of heavy vehicles on the roads leading to Murree to avoid any untoward incident as the road becomes slippery after and during snowfall. He further stressed motorists to use tyre chains as it ensures better road grip, minimising the risk of slipping.

The commuters were perplexed that as various roads had proper drainage system, the rainwater was flowing on the roads, not only damaging them but also creating problems for the commuters. They demanded that the civic bodies should rectify the situation.

Dr. Shaukat Mahmood

In sura 59, al-Hashr in ayah 2, Allah says,

"Fa'tabiru ya ulul-absar",

Tr: Take warning, then, O ye, with eyes, (the of wisdom).

Care of ancient monument specifically, gained momentum during the 18th and 19th centuries. It was a response to Modernism and its corresponding architectural perspective, which eschewed sentimental attachment to old buildings and structures in favour of technological and architectural progress and change. Prior to this time most of the ancient buildings that were still standing had only survived because they either had significant cultural or religious import, or they had yet to be discovered.

The first step in any building conservation project is a sensitive assessment of its history, building material and merits. Every building has its own biography. An understanding of the whole life of a building brings an essential understanding of its features and its problems. The growth of the architectural conservation movement took place at a time of significant archaeological discovery and scientific advancement. Most ancient buildings are constructed of stone and have survived from antiquity as a result of the stability of this building material. However, stone can deteriorate rapidly without protection, particularly in our modern era of pollution and climate change. Contrary to this brick-built buildings with plenty of wooden adjuncts are more prone to rapid deterioration if not looked after properly.

In addition to the historical interest which an antiquary may cherish, these mementos of the past are valuable because they contribute significantly to the knowledge, building techniques, sociology, knowhow of the people, especially new generations; and economy of the country by acting as key historical attractions for tourists. The need of conserving historical monuments is thus not only a cultural requisite, but it is also a recipe to build and rebuild economy. Unfortunately economy, tourism, knowledge, education is not the concern of our rulers. Our prime concern remains corruption. The result is with every passing day our architectural assets and cultural history is being obliterated and no body is there to bother. The minister of our heritage speaks tirades day in and day out against his political opponent but does not say a word about the plight of our heritage.

What can one say about the political commitment to save our heritage when the Sindh government held a so called a Cultural Festival on the historic site of Mohenjodaro. The 'great' festival was formerly opened by Bilawal Zardari on February 02, 2014. It was indeed a criminal act to project the image of a political party and its newly installed chairman. The act of holding the festival at the world renowned protected site was condemned world-wide. A recent report published in a section of our press said, "A huge sum of \$ 23 million was generated through 'Save Mohenjodaro' international campaign jointly run by federal government and Unesco but very little is known about the usage of that money". Every time I visit this site I see more loss. I see almost no visitors. The Mohenjodaro museum which was in relatively good shape fifty years ago shows no sign of progress. "The visitors and local journalists claim the site is continuously decaying for the last two decades, raising the questions regarding the use of funds generated to save Mohenjodaro". (I would like to write save within apostrophes). Though our heritage has never been in the safe hands ministers and bureaucrats have remained the mail culprits or perhaps beneficiaries. Illiterate ministers are appointed as ministers of culture and bureaucrats who have least idea about heritage become its custodian. The main aim of these high-ups is to remove the precious adjuncts from the sites and decorate their own palaces and bungalows. The Necropolis of Makli has had a variety of

tombs ranging between multi-storied graves, canopies, tombs and tombs mosques. Each monument had excellent stone carvings with infinite variety of motifs. At the same time there were also fine examples of world famous blue, azure and turquoise tiles of Hala. Everything but larger tombs has been looted. Same is the fate of the necropolis of Chaukhandi and the Dabgir Mosque near Thatta. "The historic Dabgir mosque is at the mercy of plundering scavengers, with its degradation of panels, spandrels and arches' showing the tough times it continues to face while a row between the Sindh government's Department of Culture and Department of Antiquities is adding to its woes."

The plight of Lahore monuments is another sordid and morbid story. There are six prime monuments, Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, Jahangir's Tomb, Shalamar Garden, Tomb of Nurjahan and Wazir Khan's Mosque. Only the Badshahi Mosque is in relatively better condition the rest are deteriorating day by day. Neglect, vandalism and dishonesty are sucking the spirit and blood out of these monuments.

Lahore Fort is one of the prime monuments of Lahore. This centuries old relic existed much before the arrival of the Mughals. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazna when he annexed Punjab to his domain he appointed his beloved ghulam Ayaz as the governor. He used this fort as his residence. This fort is not a fort in the military sense rather it's a palace. Mughal emperor Akbar rebuilt the and thus from a mud structure it was transformed into a brick and stone structure. At that time its main gate was on the eastern side now called Masti Gate or Maseeti Gate. It was on this account that Jodha Ba'i Akbar's wife built the Begum Shahi Mosque opposite this main gate. Both the Masti Gate, as well as Begum Shahi Mosque is in bad shape. The Begum Shahi Mosque has suffered the most and it is almost lost in houses built so close to it in violation of all legislation.

Other monuments that have suffered within the fort are the Royal Bath, Shahjahani Khwabgah, Makatib Khana, the Royal Kitchen, and the Great Mural Wall. Roof of the Shish Mahal suffered for neglect and was 'repaired' by a group of so called experts. Its condition has further deteriorated. Naulakha and adjacent building of Shish Mahal has lost quite a few of its precious stones. The takht in the middle of the circular pond has also been stripped of its precious adjuncts some by Sikhs and some by Pakistani Sikhs. Story below the Shish Mahal is closed to public thus its care is no longer required. The Great Mural Wall is also suffering and its present state has drifted it total loss within next 10-15 years.

Very few people know about the Kuri da Bagh. This is the tomb of Marie Charlotte daughter of a French officer M. Allard. The tomb exists to the east of main road from old Anarkali to Jain Mandir (that too is gone). This area is known as Kuri Da Bagh (Daughter's Garden) named after the French officer's daughter. The garden in which this tomb existed was laid by General Ventura (Jean-Baptiste Ventura, born Giovanni Battista Reuben also Rubino) a coach to Sikh army. "French General M. Allard an officer in the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was residing in the same garden remained in service from 1822 to 1889. The daughter of General M. Allard Marie Charlotte died on April 5 in 1827 in Lahore and she was buried in the north-west corner of this garden. General H. Allard also died due to heart attack in January, 1889 during the campaign of Peshawar and his body was brought to Lahore and buried by the side of his daughter in the same tomb. It is a small tomb with a dome octagonal in plan. On the top of the main entrance, a tablet in Persian script is fixed bearing the name of the bidder and the death date of Marie Charlotte."

There is no proper and respectable approach to Jahangir's Tomb. Adjacent to Jahangir's tomb stands the Tomb of Asif Khan. The lesser said the better about this ill-fated monument. Outside the boundary wall there are house almost attached to the wall. Inhabitants of these houses enjoy the luxury of throwing all their litter into the premises of Asif Khan's Tomb. A pavilion on the northern extremity is in ruinous state and no remedy is ever seen forthcoming. As a matter of fact there is no approach to this tomb except an askew hole-like door adjacent to the petit mosque standing in the west of Akbari Sara'i, a forecourt of Jahangir's Tomb. Nearly all chambers of this sara'i are in shambles.

As a cosmetic treatment only that portion of Jahangir has been maintained which is generally visited by the visitors Northern, eastern and southern flanks remain totally neglected. The tomb of Jahangir's love-lady and wife Nurjahan is totally open for all sorts of vandalism. Even the boundary wall is not there. It lawns provide good pitches for upcoming cricketers of the nation. Kite-fliers also grab their share.

In the vicinity of the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore there were a number of outstanding Mughal architectural landmarks. They too are in the process of slow death. One monument belongs to the Sikh period. This is a Lilliputian memorial of General Paolo Crescenzo Martino Avitabile (Abu Tabela for Sikhs) (25 October 1791 – 28 March 1850). He was an Italian soldier, mercenary and adventurer. He joined the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1827, and later also received various civilian appointments. In 1829 he was made administrator of Wazirabad and in 1837 he succeeded Hari Singh Nalwa as governor of Peshawar. He remained in the Punjab until the assassination of Maharaja Sher Singh in 1843, after which he retired to Italy, where his rank as a general was confirmed and he was knighted. Avitabile was also a scholar and an engineer he worked very closely with the most brilliant Sikh engineer Lehna Singh Majithia. This little monument of Avitabile has been encroached upon by numerous auto workshops on G.T. Road opposite UET. For the Department of Museums and Archaeology it was an easy job to shift this monument to Lahore Museum but no one paid heed. The house where Avitabile resided in Peshawar, close to famous site of Goregathi is also in a ruinous state today.

Among the Mughal monuments of this are known as Baghbanpura are Gulabi Bagh Gateway, Tomb of Da'i Angah, Budhu ka Ava, Serve wala Maqbara, Tomb of Ali Mardan Khan, Anguri Bagh

PTDC taking steps to promote tourism: MD

The Nation, Jan 08, 2015

Enchanting display of Japanese cultural heritage through centuries

The News, Jan 08, 2015

(now totally annihilated), Filtration Plant of Shalamar Bagh, Bara-hatta Well of Shalamar Bagh, and Shalamar Bagh itself. None of these mementos of the past is in a state of appreciation. It is believed that Shalamar Bagh was surrounded by many other gardens. In the east it had Bagh-i Dara(Shikoh), in south Gulabi Bagh, in north Chandni Bagh and in the south Angoori Bagh. Nothing survives.

The portion of Qur'anic ayat that I quoted at the beginning of this article is regarding the incident when Jews were ordered under Allah's command to leave the city of Madina. Their conspiracies had become a threat to the new religion. When the Jews were leaving they packed their belongings on animals and carts and set their houses on fire. The burnt houses became symbols of non-cooperating community. Qur'an itself comprises several incidents of the past that provides guidelines for future hence the importance of conservation.

RAWALPINDI - Pakistan Tourism and Development Corporation (PTDC) is a legal corporate entity and it is taking important decisions to promote tourism in the country in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The PM is taking keen interest in promotion and development of tourism in the country and in light of his vision, important decision are being taken for the purpose, said Chaudhry Kabir Ahmad Khan, managing director PTDC, while briefing media persons here at a PTDC restaurant in Daman-e-Koh area of the federal capital on Wednesday.

The MD said that PTDC intended to lease out its motels for 30 years to make PTDC a financially viable organisation. He added that to revive tourism in the country, repair/ maintenance of existing PTDC motels had been carried out. PTDC restaurant at Daman-e-Koh has been renovated and PTDC motel at Wagha has been refurbished and renovated with the help of sponsors, he said. He further added that PTDC had launched Pakistan Tourism Friends Club. Members of this club, especially youth, would get exclusive 20 per cent discounts on PTDC facilities and tour packages on payment of a nominal annual membership fee. Twenty-five rooms special quota for members would be allowed through lucky draw, he added. He said a memorandum of understanding had been signed between PTDC and University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore for sponsorship of PTDC's publicity material, banners, website, and seminars/conferences.

He said that every year, PTDC operates daily air-conditioned coach service between Rawalpindi and Naran. Products and service of PTDC are also being promoted through social media. Kabir said that four new buses had been purchased and being run on Pak-India route, for which, the PM sanctioned special funds. He said tour guide training programme and registration for youth had been launched. Local handicraft bazaars at main PTDC motels are set up on the occasion of Independence Day. He said the PTDC was planning to complete nine ongoing projects, though which income would be generated.

Islamabad: Showcasing an enchanting display of Japanese cultural heritage and history passing through centuries, the exhibition titled 'Dolls of Japan- Shapes of prayer, Embodiment of Love' organised by the Japan Foundation in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts opened at National Art Gallery on Wednesday. The exhibition of Dolls from Japan presents a diverse and intricate ensemble of Japanese Dolls carrying exuberant details marking the height of craftsmanship that is considered an important example of fine decorative art. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, inaugurated the exhibition. While speaking to a large gathering of guests and enthusiasts including Diplomats from various Missions here in Islamabad, the ambassador said 'the purpose of showcasing this exhibition is to give the visitors a close glimpse of the versatility and individuality of the traditional and cultural life of Japanese people through these artistic handmade objects'. Taking pride in his cultural heritage, the ambassador further said 'As no matter how much progress we make in the world through our up-to-date machines and robots, we Japanese, still keep in touch with our traditions and values. For instance these handcrafted dolls are still significant for us today as they were for our ancestors'.

Dolls have been important to the Japanese culture for centuries. They reflect the history of Japan from prehistoric to modern times. Some dolls were thought to have religious meaning or mystical powers while others were appreciated for their beauty. Japan enjoys a rich culture and long history of dolls. Each doll has its own distinct meaning and purpose, and is deeply connected to daily life. The history of dolls is long, with the oldest known doll in the world dating back nearly 24,000 years. The origin of Japanese dolls is also extremely old, beginning in the Jomon period about 3,000 BC. But it is only since the Edo period (1603-1868) that dolls have taken on a wide variety of forms and purposes, and many different types have been produced -- as the embodiment of spirits to be worshipped, as objects endowed with magical powers, as playthings in human form, or simply for the purpose of display and appreciation. More than 70 dolls displayed at the exhibition under the theme "Shapes of Prayer, Embodiments of Love", sent by the Japan Foundation. Among the diverse display, each Doll carries a story of the cultural heritage of different time. From the enchanting 'Ishogi Shinno Kazari, a pair of Dolls wearing the intricate costume that Imperial family wore during Heian period; Ujijin Toko-Kazari, the grand warriors first battle all in beautiful costume and armour in intricate details, there were a variety of dolls representing simple Japanese lifestyle followed by women and children in their day to day life. A women in Kimono from Edo period absorbed in reading a book, a Child in spring, group of children playing, women getting ready to go out, a Sumo wrestler, and a number of Dolls of Emperors and Generals in rich costumes made the exhibition look like a historical journey through Japan.

Japanese dolls traditionally known as "Ningyo (human shape)" are a unique cultural symbol because of their rich history and association with the Japanese way of life. They reflect the customs of Japan and the aspirations of its people, possess distinctive regional attributes, and over the centuries have developed in many diverse forms. Dolls also provide a showcase for traditional

Tourism Corporation Initiates 5 years Tourism Policy

One Pakistan, Jan 05, 2015

Japanese craft products, such as textiles.

Though the human figure in miniature can be found in some form or another within cultures around the world, in Japan, the doll art having risen to the height of craftsmanship, is now considered an important example of fine decorative art. The most popular Japanese dolls are those crafted for two important festivals, Girl's Day (Hinamatsuri) March 3rd and Boy's Day (Tango-No-Sekku) May 5th. Both of these are festivals which honour children with elaborate displays of dolls set up for them. These dolls, constructed of straw, silk brocade, wood and crushed shell (gofun) are impeccably created as delights for both young and old. They would be given on the girl's first Hinamatsuri by relatives and close friends. They are often passed from mother to daughter as family heirlooms. They are works of art to be admired and appreciated, never to be mishandled in play. The Exhibition of Japanese Dolls would remain open for public viewing at National Art Gallery till 30 January 2015.

PESHAWAR: A meeting was held today at the conference hall of Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was attended by the Secretary Sports, Tourism, Archaeology, Museums & Youth Affairs Department Mr. Aftab Akbar Durrani, Managing Director TCKP Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Ex Secretary Tourism Shahibzada Khalid, Ex Minister Tourism Syed Aqil Shah, Aftab Rana, Lt. Col. Sahibzada Anees, Akbar Zeb Swati, Zahoor Durrani and others. The meeting was conveyed to discuss the tourism policy that has been in the pipeline since one and a half year and finally will be submitted to the cabinet at the end of January 2015.

The Tourism Policy became the need of the hour after the 18th amendment and especially cause the National Tourism Policy which was made in 1990 has become outdated and requires immense changes. A policy is a set of rules that lead the path. The Tourism Policy KPK is not an individual effort but includes 200 stakeholders that have participated in it and shared their views in the whole process, through consultation sessions held across the province.

Aftab Rana while giving the presentation on Tourism Policy said According to the World Economic Forum, which is issued on an annual basis, Pakistan is ranked as 113 out of 133 countries, which is a very alarming. He also said that the annual economic impact of tourism in Pakistan is approximately Rs. 12 billion.

According to the draft of the Tourism Policy, there are 7 components of Tourism; Attractions (e.g the flora fauna, landscape etc), Accessibility (e.g. Roads etc), accommodation (e.g. hotel, youth hostels etc), Activities (e.g. to keep the people engaged), Amenities (e.g. telephone, bank, hospitals etc), Acts (laws that regularize the system to increase the quality services) and Actors (stakeholders- private and public sector both).

During the meeting it was stressed that the KP domestic market is very strong and isn't effected by security etc, while the International market is very fragile for which a positive image of the province should be displayed. Speaking at the meeting the Secretary Tourism said Balance in tourism is a must, as it affects both positively and negatively the cultural and economical aspects. That is why it is required to optimize the positive effects and eliminating the negative ones. We are extremely blessed to have 70% of natural resources and Tourism sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but we need to preserve them. Aqil Shah the ex- Minister for Tourism raised an issue of bed tax that all hoteliers have to pay even when the rooms are not used, this is especially unfair for the hotels in Chitral, Kaghan and Naran which have seasonal tourists. It was also suggested that new destinations should be opened for tourists especially as we have a lake District of our own in Swat, which includes 5 breath taking lakes. The Government should preserve them and allow only pony rides to the lakes to eliminate pollution.

The Government should initiate plans like inter cultural programs where foreign tourists will stay at local houses in Pakistan rather than in hotels etc. this will play a huge role in community development and promoting the softer image of our province.

Heritage: Whose tomb is it anyway?

Dawn News, Jan 05, 2015

LAHORE: Amid the myriad historical and archaeological sites of socio-cultural significance in Lahore lay the Tomb of Shahzada Pervaiz, the second son of Emperor Jahangir.

As mentioned in Tuzk-i-Jahangiri, "Jahangir had five sons named Sultan Khusro, Sultan Pervaiz, Sultan Khurram, Sultan Jahandar, Sultan Shehryar and two daughters called Sultan Nisar Begum and Bahar Bano Begum. Khusro, Pervaiz and Jahandar passed away during the king's lifetime." Sultan Pervaiz had a son and a daughter. The son died during his lifetime while the daughter was later married to Emperor Shah Jahan's son, Prince Dara Shikoh. Fond of constructing buildings, like most Mughal rulers, Prince Pervaiz had built a charming palace in Lahore's Kot Khawaja Saeed area. As the people of Lahore greatly loved the prince, that locality, later on, came to be known as Pervaiz Abad.

There is some controversy about Sultan Pervaiz's tomb. Maulvi Noor Ahmad Chishti in his book, Tehqiqat-i-Chishti (Researches of Chishti), writes: "This tomb is of prince Pervaiz, the brother of King Shah Jahan. Its dome is higher even than that of Ali Mardan Khan's tomb. It is surrounded by eight gates that are decaying now. Previously, all the door-frames were made of marble but now everything looks abandoned. Later on, Shah Jahan built a market here by the name Pervaiz Abad and it is still called by this name. The prince died in 1081 Hijra." But some observations by Chishti are not authentic. For instance, he wrote that Pervaiz died in 1081 Hijra, which cannot be correct as Pervaiz died during the lifetime of Emperor Jahangir who himself died in 1037 Hijra.

Other than Noor Chishti, there are some other stories created by several historians. According to them, at the death of Jahangir, Shah Jahan deceitfully called Sultan Pervaiz (who was his elder brother) to Lahore and got him murdered by Asif Jah in Kot Khawaja Saeed. This too seems incorrect. The fact that Prince Sultan died during Jahangir's lifetime has been mentioned in Maulvi

Zaka Ullah Dehlvi, Tuzk-i-Jahangiri, Shah Jahan Nama and other books. The death of Prince Sultan has been described in Tuzk-i-Jahangiri in these words:

"The news of Prince's ailment reached the palace on Ramazan 23, 1035 Hijra. He had been suffering from colic pain for quite some time. Later on, Khan-i-Khanan related the news that the pain started again. He was an excessive drinker and, like his uncle Prince Murad, died of that pain on Safar 6, 1035 Hijra. The same disease caused the death of Prince Daniyal as well." Moreover, in the sixth volume of Tareekh-i-Hindustan (Indian History) Maulvi Zaka Ullah Dehlvi writes:

"The writings of Dakkan relate when King started journey towards India from Ghazna via Kabul, Prince Pervaiz caught liver disease due to excessive drinking. Like his uncle Prince Murad and Daniyal, he passed away as a result of this pain. His date of death is Safar 6, 1035 Hijra and he was buried in the garden in Agra." If we accept Maulvi Zaka Ullah Dehlvi's narrative it means the tomb in Lahore is not that of Prince Pervaiz. Like other historical places in Lahore, the tomb under discussion, too, has gone through different changes. Before partition, one Chaudhry Mohammad Hussain not only got it repaired but also fixed an epitaph displaying that the tomb is that of Prince Dara Shikoh.

However this, too, cannot be correct. Prince Dara Shikoh's head and body are buried at two different places: the head was buried beside his mother Mumtaz Mahal's grave in Taj Mahal, while the body was laid to rest at Humayun's tomb. Apart from Mr Hussain's poor knowledge, other false stories about the tomb were in circulation and after partition people started calling this dome the Tomb of Dai Amma, Dara Shikoh's governess. Whose tomb is this actually? We agree with Syed Lateef's account that this tomb might be that of Prince Pervaiz's son. Major supporting evidence is the presence of Prince Pervaiz's garden in Lahore and the fact that the prince's son had died during his lifetime.

It was one of the charming buildings built during the reigns of Jahangir and Shah Jahan. The palace, as well as the garden, was built under the supervision of Prince Pervaiz himself. Kanhaya Lal Hindi, in Tareekh-i-Lahore (Lahore's History) [circa 1884], described the condition of this tomb in these words: "This tomb, an old building, is located in Kot Khawaja Saeed area, towards the South, and to the East of Lahore city. Its seat is as high as one storey and it has been built on a concrete pedestal. Once, the outer as well as the inner floors of the tomb were covered with marble which was later removed on the orders of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh. Later, it was repaired but it, too, got destroyed. Now, the government has undertaken the work of its repair through me [Kanhaya Lal]."

At present, the tomb looks lost in the crowd of small houses in the narrow alleys. On all four corners of the roof, small minarets can still be seen. There are small doors on all four sides of the tomb. The grave is not properly made and only a small mound of dust exists in its place. Due to the negligence of the archaeology department this site has been left unattended. Not even a nominal plaque, plate or stone can be found here. In the room, under the dome, children play casually. The concrete stature of this tomb has been left at the mercy of this city of unaware people and the elements. It is feared that it will collapse with a heavy rain or a quake.

KP's tourism policy ready for cabinet approval

Dawn News, Jan 03, 2015

PESHAWAR: The Tourism Corporation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TCKP) has completed consultations and by end of this month it would submit the province's tourism policy to the cabinet for approval. According to a press release issued by TCKP, a meeting was held to discuss the tourism policy that had been in the pipeline for last one and a half years. The policy would be submitted to the cabinet at the end of this month. The tourism policy became the need of the hour after the 18th amendment.

The meeting held here on Friday at TCKP was attended by the secretary tourism and youth affairs department Aftab Akbar Durrani, TCKP MD Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, former tourism minister Syed Aqil Shah, Aftab Rana, Akbar Zeb Swati, Zahoor Durrani and others. About 200 stakeholders have participated in preparation of the draft policy and shared their views in the whole process, through consultation sessions held across the province, said the statement. Aftab Rana, one of the consultants, said that according to the World Economic Forum, Pakistan was ranked 113 of 133 countries. He said that the annual economic impact of tourism in Pakistan was approximately Rs12 billion. According to the draft of the tourism policy, there are seven components of tourism, including attractions like the flora and fauna, landscape, accessibility (roads, etc), accommodation (hotels, youth hostels, etc), activities (e.g. to keep the people engaged), amenities (phone, bank, hospitals, etc), laws that regularise the system to increase the quality services and actors like stakeholders. During the meeting it was stressed that the KP's domestic market was very strong, for which a positive image of the province should be promoted. Speaking at the meeting, the secretary tourism said that balance in tourism was a must as it affected both positively and negatively the cultural and economical aspects of a place. That is why it is required to optimise the positive effects and eliminate the negative ones. Aqil Shah raised the issue of bed tax that all hoteliers had to pay even when the rooms were not used. This was especially unfair for the hotels in Chitral, Kaghan and Naran, which had seasonal tourists. It was suggested that new destinations should be opened for tourists, especially as the province had a "lake district" in Swat, which included five beautiful lakes. It was proposed that the government should preserve them and allow only pony rides to the lakes to eliminate pollution. The government should initiate plans like inter-cultural programmes where foreign tourists would stay at local houses in Pakistan rather than in hotels, etc. This would play a big role in community development and promoting the softer image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said the participants at the consultation, which finalized the draft policy.

Renovation of Walled City monuments promotes tourism, economic activities

The News, Jan 02, 2015

LAHORE: The renovation and rehabilitation of the historical monuments such as Delhi Gate, Masjid Wazir Khan, ShahiHamam and several havelies have promoted tourism besides boosting economic activities in the Walled City during the year 2014. The walled city of Lahore had been witnessing a constant ignorance of authorities for the last many years and majority of its residential areas had been converted into commercial zones. Residents were selling their properties or turning them into commercial plazas extending the area of different markets such as Suha Bazaar, Azam Cloth Market, and Shoe Market. This trend of illegal commercialisation has caused various traffic and civic issues but the practice is still continuing and residents are facing these issues every day. However in the year 2014, the Walled City Lahore Authority (WCLA) started a massive campaign against the illegal basements and commercialisation in Walled City area after which the trend had slowed down. The WCLA is responsible for the affairs of the Walled City.

During the year 2014, the WCLA also organised several entertaining events in the Walled City such as Wekh Lahore and KhabaUstad competitions. KhabaUstad was a great hit and Lahories thronged the Fort Road Food Street to participate and enjoy the pure Lahori cuisine. Introduction of guided tours into the renovated Royal Trail has increased the domestic tourism and flux of general public at Delhi Gate, which boosted the economic activities of the local residents. Lighting up of Delhi Gate was a big event in the history of Lahore as it was for the first time ever in the history of Pakistan that Delhi Gate was illuminated. Almost 120 lights have been put up to illuminate the gate. Delhi Gate is one of the most famous gates of Lahore and was built by the third Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great. This gate is situated on the east of the city and has its opening towards Delhi, the capital of Mughal dynasty due to which it was named Delhi Gate.

At an estimated cost of Rs 20 million, the WCLA has installed the first-ever Geographic Information System (GIS) to preserve and monitor the walled city and its important heritage sites in a scientific manner. The GIS allowed the WCLA to ensure effective site monitoring, which was one of the most important aspects of conservation while it was also an effective monitoring tool to ensure timely completion of conservation goals and recognition of potential threats and emergencies. Meanwhile, the WCLA also preserved some 365 buildings while over a dozen havelies were declared high architectural heritage properties. The WCLA also stopped owners of these buildings to demolish or make any kind of change in the structures. The prominent havelies, which were declared high architectural heritage, included Lal Haveli, Inside Lohari Gate, Kimla Building, Inside PaniwalaTalab, Haveli Baijnath, Inside Dehli Gate, Haveli Dhayan Singh, Inside Texali Gate, Bangla Ayyub Shah, Inside Kashmiri Gate, Nori Building, Inside PaparMandi Bazaar, Haveli Awais Mir, Paniwalatalab, Haveli BaroodKhana, Inside Masti Gate, FaqirKhana Museum, Haveli Mian Sultan, Inside Delhi Gate and Haveli Dina Nath. Transfer of administrative control of three high profile historical monuments Lahore Fort, ShahiHamam and HazuriBagh was also an important event during the year 2014. The WCLA has planned renovation and restoration of these three monuments during the year 2015, which will promote both local and international tourism, especially Night Tourism at both Lahore Fort and HazuriBagh. The WCLA also planned to introduce various programmes such as illumination of buildings, Sound and Light shows, Costume shows, Ready to wear dresses of Mughal eras for tourists, guided tours for corporate companies, institutions and individuals at these monuments. On the other hand, excavation of ShahiHamam went on and the WCLA has completed around 65 percent excavation of ShahiHamam, which was originally built in 1634 AD in the period of Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan and was buried under the mud during the British rule. The monument will be like a jewel in the crown of Lahore and after complete excavation, restoration and conservation can be the most visited tourist attraction. The authority is spending Rs four million on the restoration of the monument the amount was donated by the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The ShahiHamam is located just inside the Delhi Gate and was originally built around 1634 AD by Hakim Ilmuddin Ansari, the Governor of Lahore, during the reign of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (1628-58 AD). It was designed as a public bath house to serve both visiting travellers as well as inhabitants of the city. A caravanserai was also located nearby which no longer existed. Hakim Ilmuddin Ansari, who was granted the title of Wazir Khan, was also responsible for the construction of famous mosque inside the Walled City which now bore his name. Excavation of Shahid Hamam was started by the WCLA in November 2013 in collaboration with the Agha Khan Trust for Culture and international excavators started working on the project. In 1955, ShahiHamam was recognised as a cultural asset and declared a protected monument by the Department of Archaeology. The entrance gateway to the west and the main hall in the northern part of the building are exquisitely decorated with frescoed panels depicting angels, animals, birds, floral and geometric designs. The WCLA also introduced building bylaws to regulate the day-to-day affairs of the city area. Kamran Lashari, DG WCLA while talking with The News, said that 2014 had been a happening year as a lot of activities happened. "The WCLA takes over the building control and its urban planning department had started working on the approval of maps and surveys," he said adding this year tourism had also been brought back to the walled city.

FATIMA JINNAH PARK



Kallar Kahar (کالر کھار) - Tourist Guide Map



Margalla Hills Islamabad

Legend

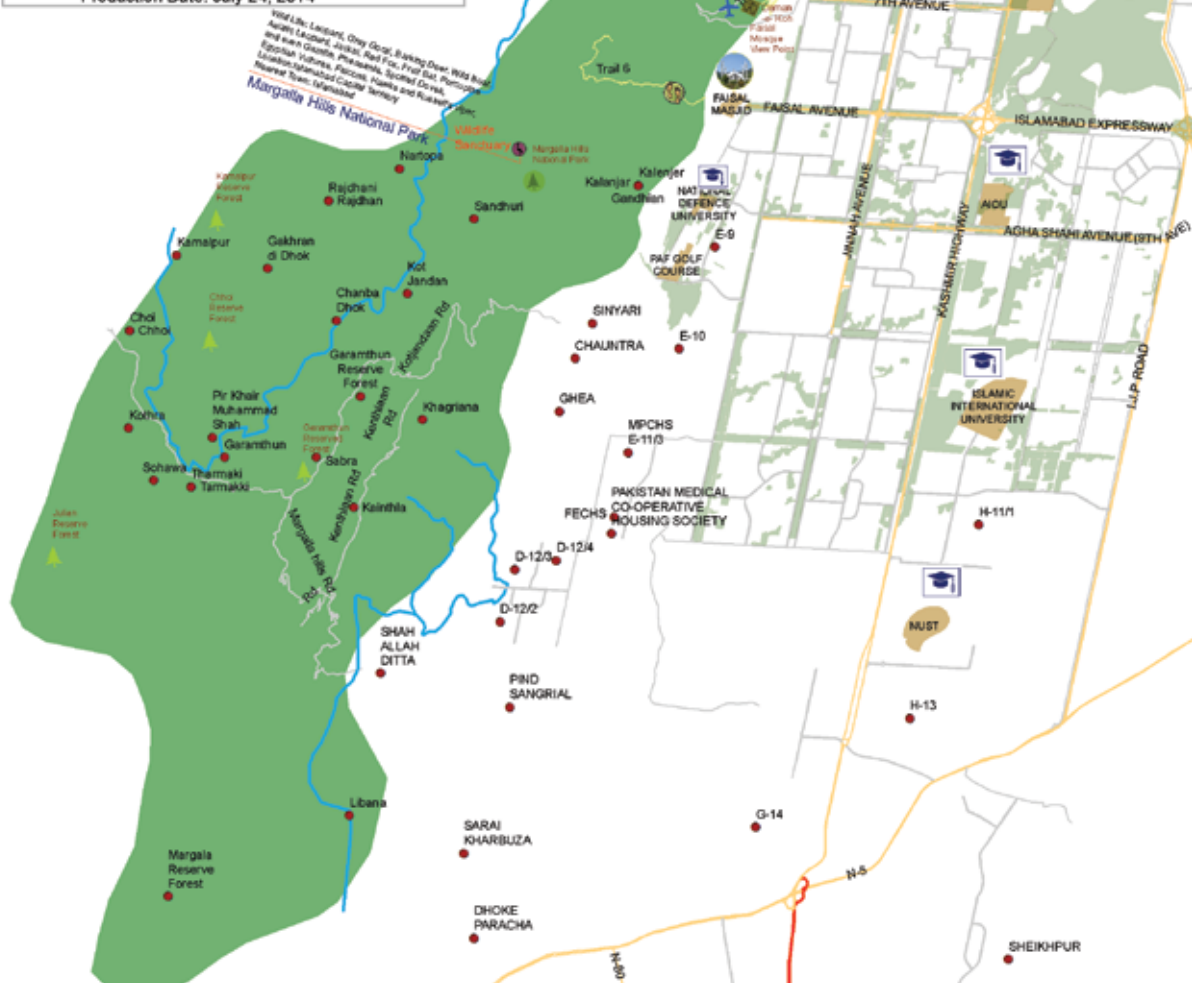
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-  Reserved Forest
-  Restaurant
-  Margalla Hills National Park
-  Settlement
-  Trail
-  Main Road
-  Road
-  Water Feature
-  Green Area
-  Landuse
-  Margalla Hills Boundary



SCALE = 1:87,000

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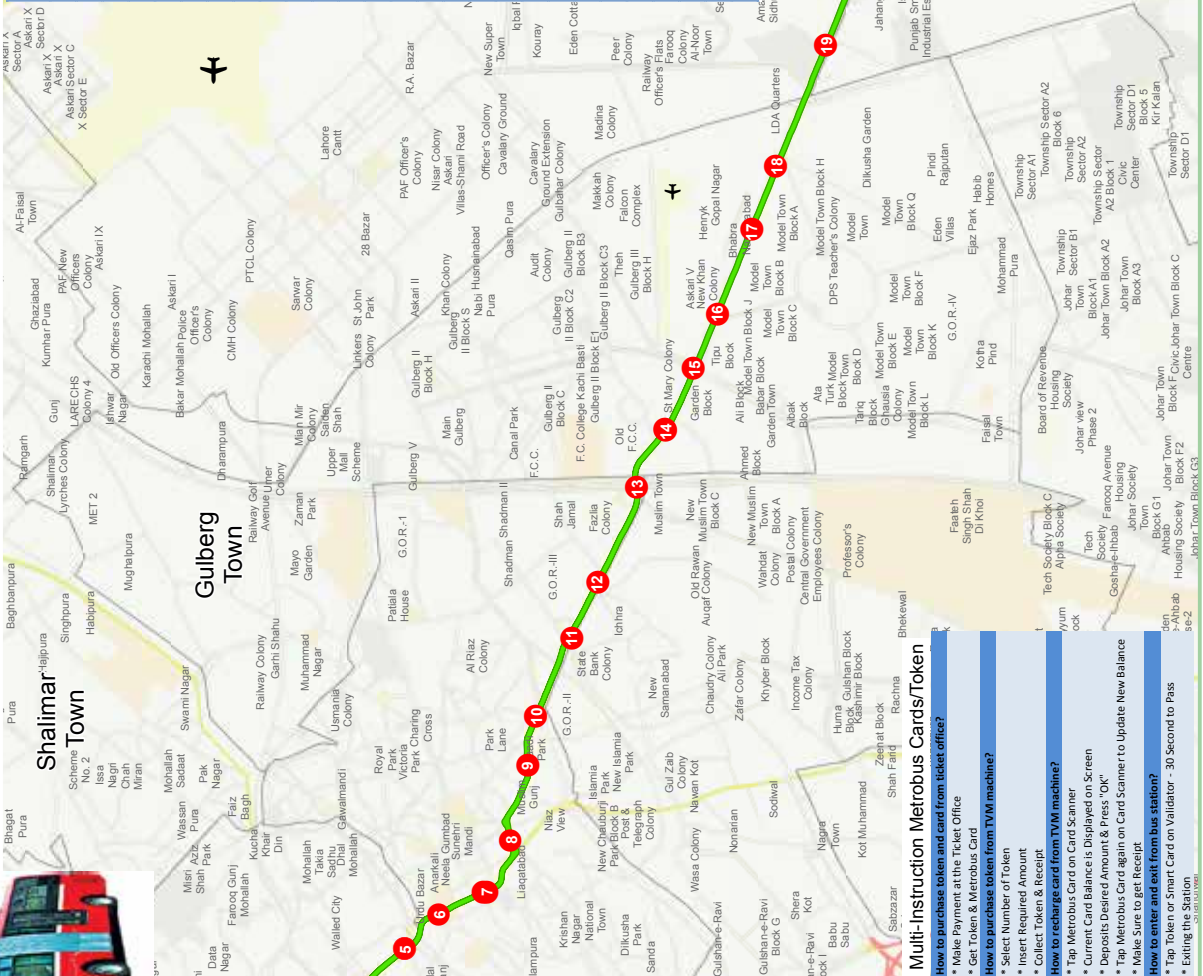
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LAHORE METROBUS SERVICE ROUTE

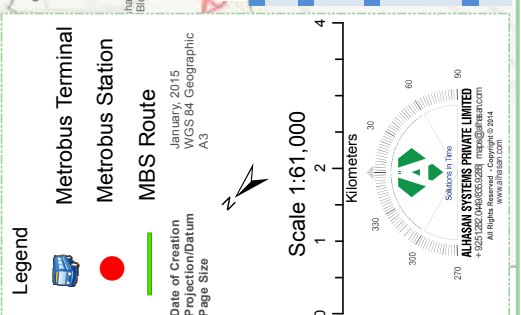


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| 2 | Niaz Chowk | MBS Station |
| 3 | Timber Market | MBS Station |
| 4 | Azadi Chowk | MBS Station |
| 5 | Bhati Gate | MBS Station |
| 6 | District Court | MBS Station |
| 7 | Civil Secretariat | MBS Station |
| 8 | M A O College | MBS Station |
| 9 | Janaza Gah | MBS Station |
| 10 | Mozang chungi | MBS Station |
| 11 | Shama | MBS Station |
| 12 | Ichara | MBS Station |
| 13 | Canal | MBS Station |
| 14 | Qaddafi Stadium | MBS Station |
| 15 | Kalma Chowk | MBS Station |
| 16 | Model Town | MBS Station |
| 17 | Nasirabad | MBS Station |
| 18 | Ittefaq Hospital | MBS Station |
| 19 | Qainchi | MBS Station |
| 20 | Ghazi Chowk | MBS Station |
| 21 | Chungi Amir Sidhu | MBS Station |
| 22 | Kumhan MBS | MBS Station |
| 23 | Atari Saroba | MBS Station |
| 24 | Nistar Colony | MBS Station |
| 25 | Yuhanna Abad | MBS Station |
| 26 | Dulu Khurd | MBS Station |
| 27 | Gujjamata | MBS Terminal |



Multi-Instruction Metrobus Cards/Token

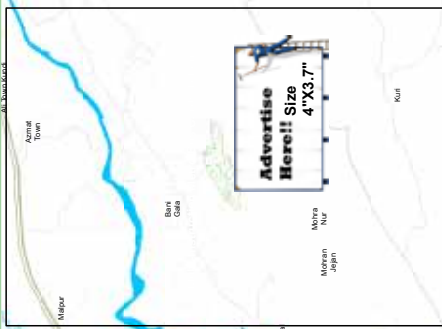
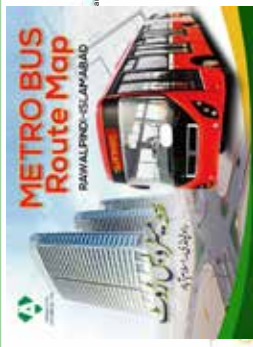
- How to purchase token and card from ticket office?**
 - Make Payment at the Ticket Office
 - Get Token & Metrobus Card
- How to purchase token from TVM machine?**
 - Select Number of Token
 - Insert Required Amount
 - Collect Token & Receipt
- How to recharge card from TVM machine?**
 - Tap Metrobus Card on Card Scanner
 - Current Card Balance is Displayed on Screen
 - Deposits Desired Amount & Press "Ok"
 - Tap Metrobus Card again on Card Scanner to Update New Balance
 - Make Sure to get Receipt
- How to enter and exit from bus station?**
 - Tap Token or Smart Card on Validator - 30 Second to Pass
 - Exiting the Station



RAWALPINDI & ISLAMABAD METRO BUS SERVICE ROUTE MAP

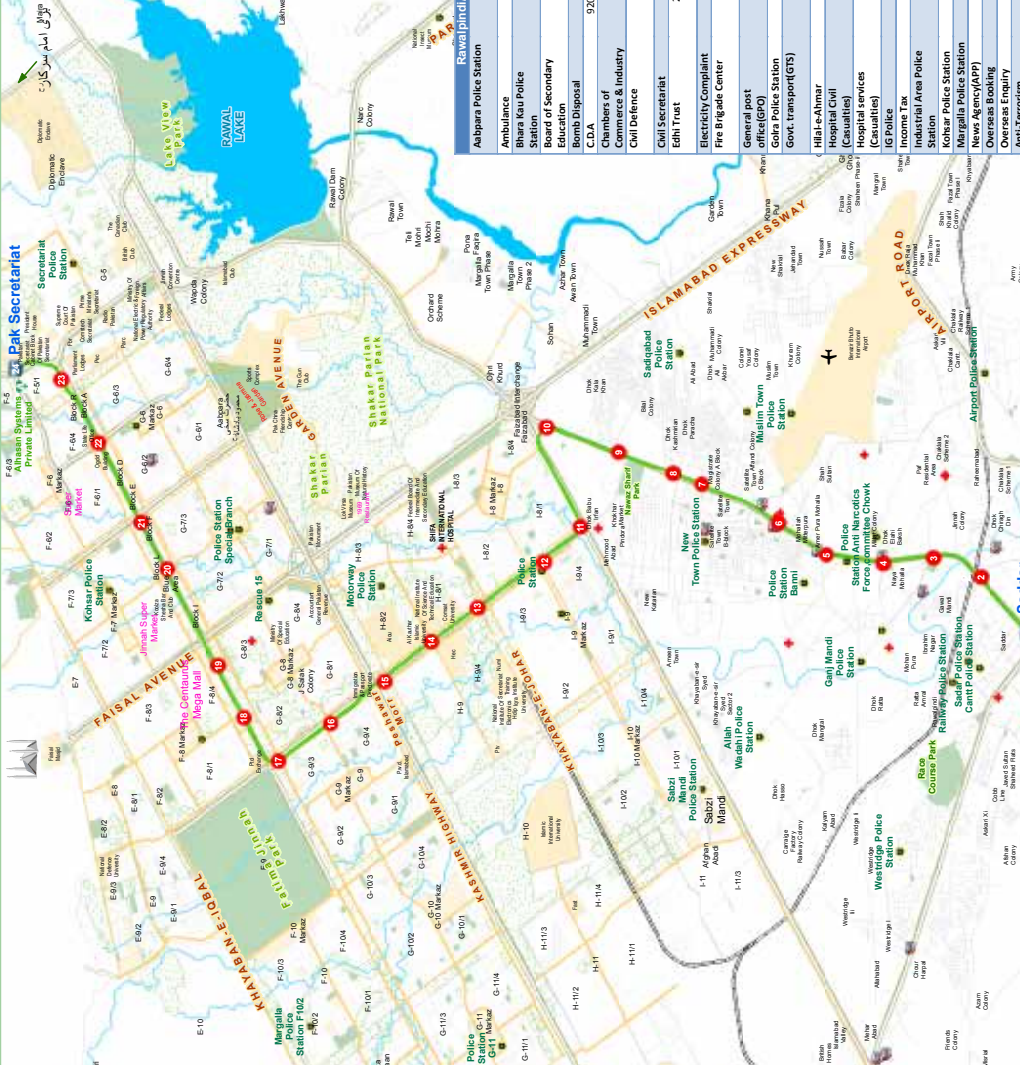
RAWALPINDI & ISLAMABAD METRO BUS SERVICE ROUTE MAP

ISBN No: 978-969-638-007-8



| Station Number | NAME | Category |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 1 | Saddar | Terminal |
| 2 | Marri Chowk | Station |
| 3 | Liaqat Bagh | Station |
| 4 | Committee Chowk | Station |
| 5 | Waris Khan | Station |
| 6 | Benazir Hospital | Station |
| 7 | Rehmanabad | Station |
| 8 | 6th Road | Station |
| 9 | Shamsabad | Station |
| 10 | Faizabad | Station |
| 11 | UP Road | Station |
| 12 | Pothohar Road | Station |
| 13 | Khyaban-e-Johar | Station |
| 14 | Faiz Ahmed Faiz Road | Station |
| 15 | Kashmir Highway | Station |
| 16 | Chaman Road | Station |
| 17 | Ibn-e-Sina Road | Station |
| 18 | Katchehri Station | Station |
| 19 | Centaurus | Station |
| 20 | Saudi Pak Tower | Station |
| 21 | 7th Avenue | Station |
| 22 | Shehsad-e-Millat Road | Station |
| 23 | Pride Ground | Station |
| 24 | Pak Secretariat | Terminal |

| Raviprakash Mahabharat Emergency Contact Number (051) | | | | 2294-7902 |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Aulpara Police Station | 2906848 | Balkan Tourism Dev. Corp. | 9201233 | 2875041 |
| Ambulance | 115 | Passport Office | 116 | |
| Bhara Kau Police Station | 2230029 | Phonogram | | |
| Board of Secondary Education | 2840702 | PIA Cargo | | |
| Bomb Disposal | 9292362 | PIA Flight Enquiry | | 114 |
| CIA | 9209006 | PIA Reservation | | 111-7867-786 |
| Department of Commerce & Industry | 5306238 | Police Emergency | | 13 |
| Civil Defence | 9204027 | Police Railway Station (City) | | 5562664 |
| Civil Secretariat | 2876081 | PTV | | |
| Edhi Trust | 2878444, 5333333, 4415129 | Radio Pakistan | | 9202461, 9214573, 9209030, 2211141 |
| Electricity Complaint | | Railway Enquiry | | 117 |
| Fire Brigade Center | 16 | Railway Reservation | | 2827474 |
| General post office (GPO) | 9209597 | Railway Reservation (city) | | 9232655, 9207474 |
| Garda Police Station | 2293200 | Secretariat Police Station | | 9209132 |
| Govt. transport (GTS) | 4411557 | Sui Gas Complaints | | 119, 9204322, 4410787-9 |
| Hilal-e-Ahmar | 2852592 | TamolPolice Station | | 2295122 |
| Hospital Civil (Casualties) | 5563111-14 | Telegraph Enquiry | | 5565506 |
| IG Police | 2183000-9 | Telephone Complaints | | |
| Income Tax | 2858003 | Telephone Enquiry | | 17 |
| Industrial Area Police Station | 4411936 | Trunk Island Enquiry | | 103 |
| Kohsar Police Station | 9201625 | Trunk Overseas Booking | | 102 |
| Margalla Police Station | 8930340 | Wapiti (Eng) | | 441423 |
| News Agency(ATP) | 2875648 | Water Supply | | 9204654 |
| Overseas Booking | 102 | Weather (Eng) | | 2853983 |
| Overseas Enquiry | 714 | Women's Police Station | | 111-2294-7902 |



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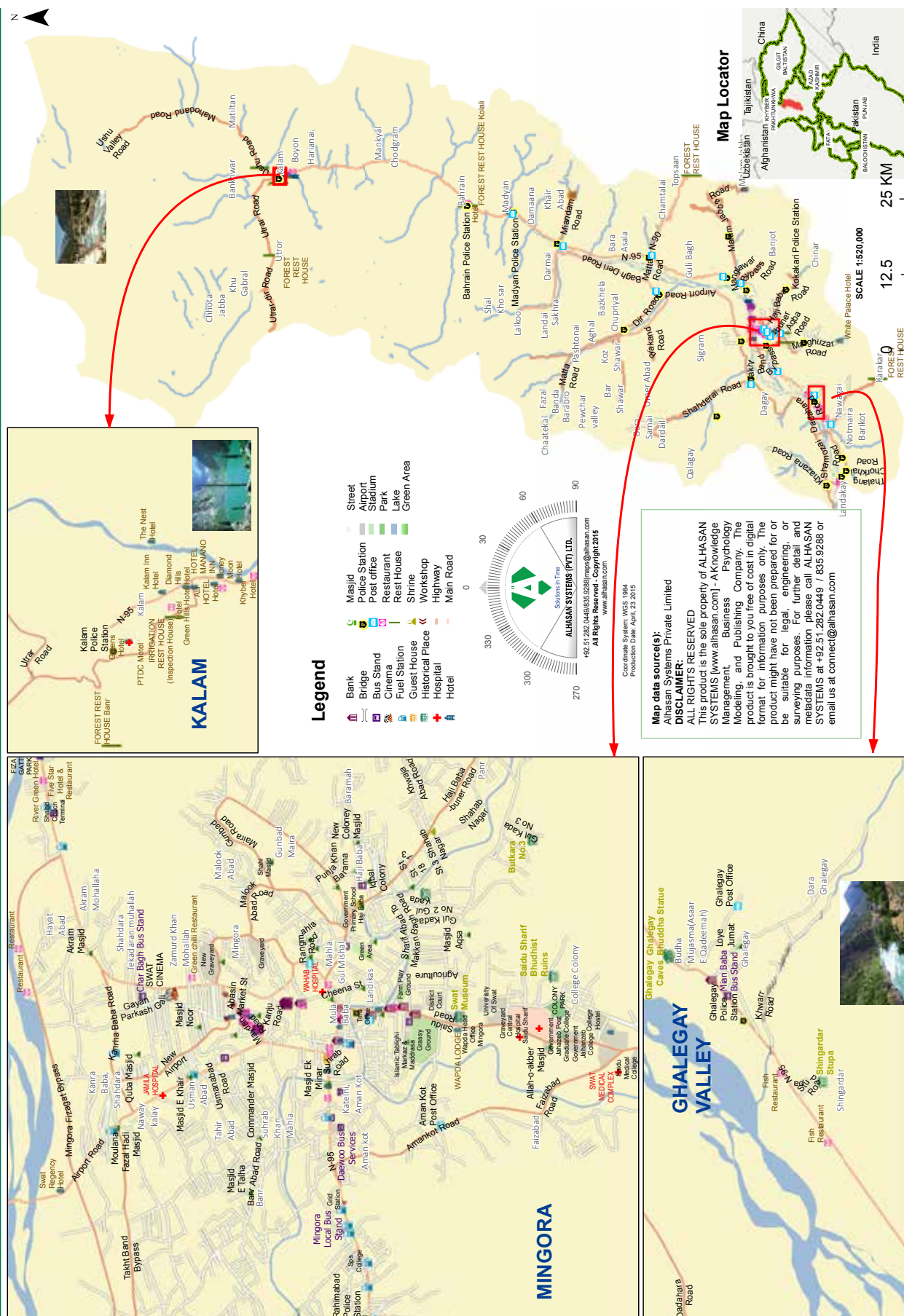
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- Police Station
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- MBS Route
- Highway
- Regional Road
- Main Road
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- Canal/Stream
- Landuse
- Green Area
- Park
- River
- District Boundary
- Rail Road

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SWAT TOURIST GUIDEMAP



TOURISM DIRECTORY

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WORKING IN TOURISM SECTOR

| | |
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| <p>Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation Govt. of Pakistan Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Satti General Manager (Hotel) 051-9272013, 0092-51-9271591-92 info@tourism.gov.pk, support@tourism.gov.pk Flashman's Hotel, The Mall, Rawalpindi www.tourism.gov.pk</p> | <p>Gilgit Baltistan Tourism Department Govt. of Pakistan Syed Akhtar Hussain Secretary akhter@visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk 0092-5811-920690-1, 0092-5811-920690-1, 0092-5811-920573 info@visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk Khomer Chowk, Shahrah-e-Qaid-e-Azam, Near Rupal Inn, Khomer, Gilgit www.visitgilgitbaltistan.gov.pk</p> |
| <p>Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management Govt. of Pakistan Niaz Ali Malkani Director 0092-21-99251281-3 info@pithm.edu.pk Street No. 16, Block No. 4, Scheme No. 5, Clifton, Karachi www.pithm.edu.pk</p> | <p>Planning Commission Government of Pakistan Govt. of Pakistan Ahsan Iqbal Deputy Chairman 0092-51-9211147, 0092-321-5127885, 0092-51-9211147 0092-51-9202783 deputychairman@pc.gov.pk, contact@pc.gov.pk P" block Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad., Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad www.pc.gov.pk</p> |
| <p>Tourism and Archeology of AJK Govt. of Pakistan Pirzada Irshad Ahmed Director 0092-5822- 921421 webmaster@ajk.gov.pk Directorate General Tourism Department B-14 Upper Chattar Housing Colony, Muzaffarabad AJK www.ajktourism.gov.pk</p> | <p>Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab Govt. of Pakistan Habib ur Rehman Gillani Managing Director 0092-42-99231647, 0092-42-99231646, 0092-42-99231644 0092-42-99231649 gilanihabib@hotmail.com, md@tdcp.gop.pk info@tdcp.gop.pk , tdcp@punjab.gov.pk punjabtourism@pk@gmail.com 151, Abubakar Block, New Garden Town, Lahore www.tdcp.gop.pk</p> |
| <p>Tourism Corporation Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (TCKP) Government of KPK 0092 91 9211091 , 0092 91 9213762 Head Office : 13-A New Block, khyber Road, Peshawar www.kptourism.com</p> | <p>Culture Department Government of Sindh Govt. of Pakistan Saqib Soomro Secretary 0092-21-99211478 secretaryculturesindh@yahoo.com 406, First Floor, Sindh Secretariat No. 3, Old KDA Building, Shara-e-Ata Turk, Karachi</p> |

PRIVATE HELD COMPANIES/ NGOs WORKING IN TOURISM SECTOR

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

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| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization United Nations 0092-51-111710745 islamabad@unesco.org UNESCO Office, Serena Business Complex, 7th Floor, Sector G-5, Islamabad www.unesco.org.pk | Vershegom Area Development Organization Local NGO Karamat Ullah President 0092 312 9703311 Vado.org@gmail.com 13 Latif Market Shahra-e- Quaid-i-Azam, Jatial, Gilgit www.Vado.org |
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MAJOR HOTELS

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| Avari Towers Hotel Fatima Jinnah Road UAN: 0092-21-111-282747 Fax: 0092-21-3568 0310 Email: towers@avari.com | Embassy Inn 100B, Main Shahrah-e-Faisal S.M.C.H.S. Nursery Phone: 0092-21-34535461-70 Fax: 0092-21-34526797 Website: www.embassyin.com.pk E-Mail: Embassyinn@cyber.net.pk |
| Ramada Plaza Karachi Airport, Star Avenue Terminal 1 Jinnah International Airport Phone: 0092-21-99242600 Fax: 0092-21-9242978 | Regent Plaza Hotel & Convention Center Main Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-111 111 774 |
| Sheraton Karachi Hotel Club Road Phone: 0092-021-35633333 Website: www.sheraton.com/karachi | Marriott Hotel Karachi Marriott Hotel 9, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-111-22-33-44 Fax: 0092- 21-5680981 Email: Kmh@fascom.com |
| Hotel Al-Mustafa Raja Ghazanfar Ali Road, Saddar, Karachi Phone: 0092-021-35661047/021-35661053 Fax: 021-35660500 | Hotel Al-Harmain tower Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan Road, Saddar Karachi-74400, Pakistan Phone: 0092-213-5223970-82 Fax: 0092-213-5223983-84 Email: alharmaintower@gmail.com |
| Hotel Country inn 19-1-B, Block 6, P.E.C.H.S, Off Shahra e Faisal, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-34556814/34556861/34556881 Fax: 0092-21-34556886 Email: info@countryinn.com.pk | Hotel Crown Inn Saddar Plot no 171 ,Shahrah-E-iraq, Saddar, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-35622001-6 Fax: 0092-21-35622007 Website: www.hotelcrowninn.com |
| Hotel De Paris Plot No. 13, S-B/2, Mir Karamali Talpur Road, Saddar, Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5214204 | Excelsior hotel Inverarity road Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-511386 |
| Falcon Hotel Zaibunnisa Street, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-35215933, 35677185 | Gulf Hotel Gulf Hotel Daudpota Road Saddar Karachi-74400 Pakistan Phone: 00 92-21-356-61235/39 Fax No: 0092-21-356-82388 Email : Gulftl@gmail.com , Gulftl@hotmail.com Web Page: www.gulftlhotels.com |
| Gillani Hotel Fatima Jinnah Road, Near Cantonment Station, Cantonment, Karachi, Pakistan. Phone: 0092-021-5383329 | Hotel Jabees Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar Phone(s) : 0092-215212015/5212011/5678471 Fax(s): 0092-21-5682354 |
| Merry Lodge Guest House 13, Sunny Side Villas, 15-CL-8, Sunny Side Road, Civil Lines, Karachi Karachi, Sindh Phone: 0092-21-5220114 Fax: 0092-21-5220112 | Paradise Hotel Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan, Pakistan 0092-92-21-35680321 |
| Royal Inn 245-2-H BLOCK-6, P.E.C.H.S. Phone: 0092-334-3101990 | Royal city Regal Chowk, Sarmad Road, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-5682378 |
| Sarah hotel 30-SB-6, Parr Street, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 009292-21-35211513, 35218262 | Hotel Sarawan 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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| Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5677322 | Cantonment, Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5218291 |
| Umpire Hotel 35/36, Lilly Road, Near Cantonment Station, Cantonment, Karachi, 74200 Phone: 0092-21-5213896, 5652991, 5653270 | Beach Luxury Hotel Molvi Tamizuddin Khan road, Karachi, Pakistan UAN: 111-254-111 Phone: 0092-21-3561-1031 Fax: 0092-21-3561-1625 Email: beachluxury@avari.com |
| Carlton Hotel Carlton Hotel Resort & Club, DC-5, off Zulfiqar Street # 1, DHA Phase VIII Karachi UAN (0092) 111 72 72 72 Phone: 0092-21-5849172-86 Fax: 0092-21-5849170-71 E-Mail: reservation@carlton.com.pk | Faran Hotel Shara-e-Faisal, Nursery, P.E.C.H.S, Karachi Phones: 0092-21-34532478-85 Fax: 0092-21-3452486-34545752 Email: hotel.faran@yahoo.com, mail@hotelfaran.com.pk, web: www.hotelfaran.com.pk |
| Days Inn 164, B.C.H.S., Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-34388140 Website: www.daysinn.com.pk | Hotel Metropole Club Road, 75520 Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21 512051 Fax: 0092-21-514301 |
| Hotel Hilltop Dr. Mahmood Hussain Rd, Nr. Tariq Rd. Adj Ferozabad police Station Landmark, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-4532440, 4532441, 4532442, 4532443, 4532444, 4542648 Fax: 0092-21-4539111 | Mehran Hotel Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. 75530 Phone: 0092-21 3566-085 |
| Midway house Stargate Road, Karachi Airport Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-4570371 Fax: 0092-21-4571815 | Pearl Continental hotel Club Road, PO Box# 8513, Karachi Phone: 0092-21-3568-5021 [50 lines], 111-505-505 Fax: 0092-21-3568-1835, 3568-2655 Email: pchk@hashoogroup.com |

MAJOR RESTAURANTS

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| Del Frio Restaurant Karachi Atrium Mall, 249 Staff Lines, Zaibunnisa Street, Saddar Phone: 0321-8729919 | Salt n Pepper Village 3-B, Beach Avenue, D.H.A, Opp: Khayaban-e Ittehad. Phone: 0092-21-35843121 Fax: 92-21-35840952 Website: http://www.saltndpepper.com.pk |
| Port Grand Food Street Jinnah Flyover, M.T. Khan Road, Karachi, Pakistan- 7400, Karachi, Pakistan-07400 Phone: 0092-21-3586 3826 Website: http://www.portgrand.com | Al Haaj Bundu Khan Main M.A. Jinnah Road, near Numaish Sindhi Muslim Roundabout Phone: 0092-21 -7780612 |
| Hardee's Restaurant Block-D, Hyderi, North Nazimabad, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-36633853, 36633854 Website: http://www.hardees.com | Dilpasand Board Office Opp. Matric Board Office, Block-A, N. Nazimabad, Karachi 74700 Phone: 0092-021-36722441-7 Email: info@dilpasandsweets.com |
| Shan E Mughlia Dalmia Road, Old Driven-in Cinema, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-213- 4823604 | Lal Qila Opposite Awami Markaz, Main Shahrah-e-Faisal, Block 7 & 8, Karachi, Pakistan Phone: 0092-21-111525745 Fax: 021-34395860 Email: marketing@lalqila.com Website: http://www.lalqila.com |
| Food Center 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 |

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| <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 FI-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> |

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| | 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/ |

شروع ہوا تو خیبر پختونخوا کی لوک دھنوں پر۔ طلباء طالبات نے اپنی آواز کا جادو جگا کر ساتھیوں کو سروں کا چیلنج دیا۔ تاہم ان کے مقابلے پر بھی کوئی عام لوگ نہیں، بلکہ پوری طرح تیار طلباء ہی تھے۔ پشتو لوک موسیقی کی ملکہ زر سانگہ نے جب اپنی سریلی آواز کا جادو جگا تو طلباء نے ساختہ جھوم اٹھے۔ تاہم پشاور سے تعلق رکھنے والے محمد شعیب نے بھی شرکاء کے جذبات کو گرما دیا۔ خیبر پختونخوا کے محکمہ کھیل و ثقافت اور امور نوجوانان کے ڈائریکٹوریٹ کے اشتراک سے میگا پوٹھ چیلنج سماعت کے راستے دل میں اترنے والے گیتوں کے ساتھ اختتام پذیر ہوا۔

لسبیلہ: کراچی سے 280 کلومیٹر دور بلوچستان کے علاقے لسبیلہ مکران کو شل ہائی وے پر واقع ہندوؤں کی مقدس دیوی ہنگلاج ماتا کا سالانہ تین روزہ میلہ آج سے شروع ہو گیا۔ ہنگلاج ماتا کے تین روزہ میلے میں شرکت کے لئے ہر سال کی طرح اس مرتبہ بھی پاکستان کے علاوہ ہندوستان، بنگلادیش، سنگاپور، بنگاک، تھائی لینڈ اور دیگر ممالک سے ہزاروں ہندو بیاتری اپنے اہل خانہ سمیت قافلے کی صورت میں پہنچنا شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔ ہزاروں کی تعداد میں دنیا بھر سے آنے والے ہندو بیاتریوں کی رہائش اور کھانے کا انتظام بھی کیا جاتا ہے۔ آج صبح تھریپارکر سے بلوچستان جانے والی ہندو زائرین کی جس بس کو حادثہ پیش آیا وہ بھی ہنگلاج ماتا کے میلے میں شرکت کیلئے جا رہی تھی۔ اس حادثے میں 20 زائرین زخمی ہو گئے تھے۔

لاہور: لاہور کنٹونمنٹ بورڈ کے زیر انتظام موسم بہار کے پھولوں کی تین روزہ نمائش کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے۔ افتتاحی تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی کور کمانڈر لیفٹیننٹ جنرل نوید زمان اور ان کی اہلیہ تھیں۔ آرمی اور سول ادارے نمائش میں بھرپور حصہ لے رہے ہیں جس میں ڈرائی فلاور، کٹ فلاور اور پھولوں کے اسٹال کی آرائش کے مقابلے کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ نمایاں پوزیشنیں حاصل کرنے والوں کو انعامات دیے گئے۔ کور کمانڈر لاہور لیفٹیننٹ جنرل نوید زمان کا اس موقع پر کہنا تھا کہ پھولوں اور ہریالی کا شوق اجاگر کرنا قومی خدمت ہے۔

اسلام آباد: اسلام آباد میں قومی لوک میلہ آج سے شروع ہو رہا ہے، جو 10 روز جاری رہے گا۔ اس میلے میں پاکستان کے سارے ثقافتی رنگ سچے کو ہیں۔ سارے پاکستان کے ثقافتی رنگ دیکھنے کو ملیں گے لوک میلے میں اور یہ میلہ سچے جا رہا ہے، شہر حسن و جمال اسلام آباد میں۔ اس میلے میں لوک فنکار اپنے فن کا جادو تو جگائیں گے ہی، ساتھ ہی دیکھنے کو ملے گی دیہی ثقافت بھی، شاپنگ کرنے کو دل چلے تو ثقافتی ملبوسات اور روایتی دستکاریوں کے اسٹالز کا رخ کر لیں۔ لوک میلے میں ماضی کا حصہ بنی دستکاریوں کا خصوصی پوئلین بھی لگایا جائے گا۔

جگای

روزنامہ جنگ

7 اپریل، 2015

بلوچستان: ہندوؤں کی دیوی ہنگلاج ماتا کا سالانہ میلہ آج سے شروع

5 اپریل، 2015

روزنامہ جنگ

لاہور کینٹ میں موسم بہار کے پھولوں کی تین روزہ نمائش

روزنامہ جنگ

4 اپریل، 2015

قومی لوک میلہ آج سے اسلام آباد میں سچے گا

روزنامہ جنگ

3 اپریل، 2015

ان طالبات کا ہنر لاجواب ہے۔ ثقافتی رنگوں سے بھری نمائش، طالبات کا اپنی ثقافت سے پیار کا ایک انداز بھی ہے۔ فن پاروں کی یہ نمائش ٹیلنٹ سے بھرپور طالبات کی حوصلہ افزائی اور دنیا بھر میں ملک کا نام روشن کرنے کا ذریعہ ہے۔

کراچی: میڈم جو کو اووچی کا ”فوروشیکی“ (کپڑے کو روایتی طور پر تہہ کرنے کا جاپانی انداز) کے عملی مظاہرے کا اہتمام کیا گیا، میڈم کراچی میں مقیم جاپان کے قونصل جنرل کی اہلیہ ہیں۔ اس ثقافتی تقریب میں ”ایکے بانا“ (پھولوں کو سجانے کا جاپانی فن) کے چاروں گروپس نے شرکت کی، جن میں ایکے بانا انٹرنیشنل کراچی چیمپٹر، ایکے بو اسٹڈی گروپ، اوہارا اسٹڈی گروپ اور سوگیت سوا سٹڈی گروپ نے شرکت کی۔ ”فوروشیکی“ کپڑے کا ایک چوکور ٹکڑا ہوتا ہے۔ یہ صدیوں جاپان میں ایک تھیلے اور اہم چیزوں کو لے جانے اور سنبھال کر رکھنے کی غرض سے استعمال ہوتا ہے۔ جیسے آپ چاہیں، کسی بھی شکل کی چیزوں کو لانے اور لے جانے میں آسانی پیدا کرتا ہے۔ ”فوروشیکی“ مہذب انداز میں تحائف دینے کے لیے بھی استعمال کیا جاتا ہے۔ ”فوروشیکی“ کپڑے میں بہت سے نمونوں کی اقسام ہوتی ہیں، جیسے روایتی انداز میں کپڑے پر طبع شدہ فطرت کا کوئی پہلو یا پھر جدید انٹہار پینڈیگی کا کوئی عمدہ نمونہ۔ یہ کپڑا عام طور پر کاٹن، سلک، پولیسٹر اور دیگر اقسام کا ہوتا ہے، اس کے مختلف ناپ ہوتے ہیں۔ کچھ ان کو اسکارف کے طور پر استعمال کرتے ہیں اور کچھ دیگر استعمال میں لاتے ہیں جیسے میز پر بچھایا جانے والا دسترخوان ہوتا ہے۔ میڈم اووچی نے مختلف مواقع پر ”فوروشیکی“ یعنی کپڑا تہہ کرنے کے اس فن کو مختلف انداز اور ناپ میں مختلف رنگوں اور کپڑوں کی اقسام کے ساتھ اپنے فن کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ میڈم اووچی نے عملی مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے دکھایا کہ اس کپڑے سے کیسے کتاب، ڈبہ، بوتل، گیند اور پھول وغیرہ بنائے جاسکتے ہیں۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ کیسے تھیلا اور ٹشو پیپر رکھنے والا ڈبہ ”فوروشیکی“ کے ساتھ کیسے بنایا جاتا ہے، یہ مظاہرہ بھی کر کے دکھایا۔ تمام شرکاء اس ثقافتی تقریب سے لطف اندوز ہوئے اور انہوں نے اتنا اچھا عملی مظاہرہ کرنے پر میڈم اووچی سے مخلصانہ تشکر کا اظہار کیا، جسکی وجہ سے وہ اس شاندار اور ”فوروشیکی“ کی فنکارانہ ثقافت کے متعلق سیکھنے کے قابل ہو سکے۔

مظفر آباد: وادی کشمیر میں موسلا دھار بارش جبکہ مری میں بارش کے ساتھ ساتھ شمالی باری نے سیاحتی مقامات کا موسم اور بھی زیادہ حسین کر دیا ہے۔ گلگت بلتستان، اسلام آباد، خیبر پختونخواہ اور پنجاب کے کئی مقامات پر آج رات آندھی اور گرج چمک کے ساتھ بارش کا امکان ہے۔ گلگت بلتستان کے ضلع غزنی کی بالائی پہاڑوں پر ہلکی بر فباری اور میدانی علاقوں میں تیز ہوائوں کے ساتھ بارش وقفے وقفے سے جاری ہے۔ ادھر سندھ میں جیکب آباد، بدین، نواب شاہ، میرپور خاص سمیت دیگر علاقوں میں گرمی کے بڑھنے سے معمولات زندگی بری طرح متاثر ہیں۔ گرمی کی وجہ سے کاروباری و تجارتی سرگرمیاں بھی متاثر ہیں۔ پنجاب میں ملتان، بہاولپور، سرگودھا، فیصل آباد سمیت کئی شہروں میں موسم گرم ہونے کی وجہ سے برف اور ٹھنڈے مشروبات کی طلب بڑھ گئی ہے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق آئندہ 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران آج رات مالاکنڈ، ہزارہ، گلگت بلتستان، اسلام آباد، بالائی فائنا میں کہیں کہیں جبکہ پشاور، کوہاٹ، بنوں، مردان، راولپنڈی، گوجرانوالہ، سرگودھا ڈویژن اور کشمیر میں چند مقامات پر آندھی اور گرج چمک کیساتھ بارش کا امکان ہے۔ ملک کے دیگر حصوں میں موسم بدستور خشک اور گرم رہے گا۔

لوئر دیر: لوئر دیر میں موسم بہار کا حسین اور رنگین موسم سیاحوں کو دعوت گزار رہا ہے۔ بر فیہ موسم کے بعد منجھد پانی نے بہنا شروع کیا تو زندگی کی رونقیں اور بھی بڑھ گئی ہیں۔ سخت موسم، سخت بستہ ہوائیں، برف سے ڈھکے پہاڑ اور بارش کی بوندیں یہ سب لوئر دیر کو الوداع کہہ رہے ہیں۔ شدید سرد موسم کے بعد اب موسم بہار کی دستک نے اس وادی کو اور بھی زیادہ خوبصورت بنا دیا ہے۔ دیر کے پر فضاء مقامات لڑم، شامی، عشیری درہ اور کمرات کی حسین وادیاں سیاحوں کو اپنی طرف کھینچ رہے ہیں۔ یہاں امن بھی ہے ہر طرف سیاحت کے بھرپور مواقع ہے میرے کئی دوست ملک کے دیگر حصوں میں رہتے ہیں وہ ہر سال یہاں آکر لطف اندوز ہوتے ہیں۔ لوئر دیر میں جاتی سردی اور بہار کی آمد خوشیوں کا پیغام لیکر آئی ہے اور سیاح بڑی تعداد میں لوئر دیر کا رخ کر رہے ہیں۔ اگر حکومت یہاں کی سڑکوں پر ذرا بھر توجہ دیں تو یہاں سیاحت کی بڑی مواقع ہیں اور لوگ سیاحت کا رخ کریں گے۔ منجھد پانی نے بہنا شروع کیا تو پرندوں کی چہچہاہٹ اور شور نے فطرت میں اور بھی رنگ بھر دیئے۔ موسم کی تبدیلی اور بہار کی آمد کے ساتھ ہی ہر طرف قدرت کے حسین نظارے اور معطر فضا انسان کو تروتازہ کر دیتے ہیں۔

پشاور: پشاور میں نوجوانوں کا میگا یو تھ چیلنج طلباء و طالبات کے بکھیرے گئے خوبصورت سروں کے ساتھ ختم ہو گیا۔ دوروزہ میگا یو تھ چیلنج

میڈم جو کو اووچی کا ”فوروشیکی“ کے فن کا عملی مظاہرہ

روزنامہ جنگ

16 اپریل، 2015

وادی کشمیر اور مری میں موسلا دھار بارش

روزنامہ جنگ

15 اپریل، 2015

لوئر دیر: بہار کا حسین اور رنگین موسم

روزنامہ جنگ

13 اپریل، 2015

پشاور میں میگا یو تھ چیلنج، طلبہ نے آواز کا جادو

جو اس دور کے انسان کی سوچ ہوتی ہے۔ تاریخ سے زیادہ معتبر ہم شاعری کو سمجھتے ہیں۔ اس کا مطلب یہ ہے کہ اگر آپ کے دور کی شاعری نصاب میں نہیں ہے تو آپ اپنی نئی نسل کو چالیس پچاس سال کا جو عرصہ گزر چکا ہے اس سارے شعور سے اسے محروم رکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ ڈاکٹر سعید احمد بھی نصیر احمد ناصر سے اتفاق کرتے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ جو کتابیں ہم انٹریابی اے کی سطح پر پڑھا رہے ہیں وہ تو اس قابل ہیں ہی نہیں کہ جسے ہم کہہ سکیں کہ اس میں اعلیٰ ادب کا انتخاب کیا گیا ہے بلکہ حیرت اس بات پہ ہوتی ہے کہ یونیورسٹیاں جب اپنا نصاب اس طرح سے ترتیب دیتی ہیں کہ جدید ادب کا حصہ اگر نہ ہی پڑھایا جائے یا اسے آپشن پہ چھوڑ دیا جائے تو طالب علم ماسٹر کر لیتا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ نصاب کو ہم تین سو سال پہلے سے شروع کرتے ہیں اور پھر بمشکل اسے اقبال تک لے کر آتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کیوں نہ ایسا کیا جائے کہ آج کے عہد کے اہم نظم نگاروں، افسانہ نگاروں اور ناول نگاروں کو نصاب میں پہلے شامل کریں اور پھر پیچھے روایت کی طرف جائیں۔

مذاکرے میں نوجوان شعراء نے بھی اپنا کلام پیش کیا جس میں شدت پسندی، دہشتگردی، لوڈشیڈنگ جیسے موضوعات نمایاں تھے۔

پشاور: دنیا کے بلند ترین قدرتی اسٹیڈیم شندور میں پولو میلے کی بحالی کے امکانات روشن ہو گئے۔ گلگت بلتستان کی پولو ٹیمیں ثقافتی وفد کے ہمراہ 17 اگست سے شروع ہونے والے تین روزہ شندور میلے میں شرکت کریں گی۔ شندور میلے میں برابری کی بنیاد پر حصہ نہ دینے کی وجہ سے گلگت بلتستان نے دو سالوں سے میلے کا بائی کاٹ کر رکھا تھا۔ شندور میلے کی روئقیں بحال کرنے کے لئے ”شندور برائے امن“ کے عنوان سے پشاور میں منعقدہ سیمینار منعقد ہوا۔ دونوں حکومتوں کے نمائندوں کو ایک پلیٹ فارم پر لانے میں محکمہ سیاحت و ثقافت اور شندور ویلفیئر آرگنائزیشن نے اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ گلگت بلتستان کے 5 وزراء اور خیبر پختونخوا حکومت کے نمائندوں نے تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ خیبر پختونخوا حکومت کی طرف سے تمام تحفظات دور کرنے کی یقین دہانی کے بعد گلگت بلتستان کے نمائندوں نے میلے میں شرکت کی ہامی بھری۔ سیمینار کے اختتام پر مشترکہ پریس کانفرنس میں گلگت بلتستان کے وزیر کھیل و سیاحت عنایت اللہ شاہی اور خیبر پختونخوا کے مشیر ثقافت و سیاحت امجد خان آفریدی نے شندور میلے کی بحالی اور نئے شیڈول کا اعلان کیا۔ تحریری معاہدے کے تحت اس سال شندور میلہ 7 سے 19 اگست تک سبے گا۔ جس کے لئے دونوں صوبائی حکومتیں وسائل فراہم کریں گی۔

سرگودھا: سرگودھا میں پھولوں کی خوب صورت اور دلکش نمائش ختم ہو گئی۔ جشن بہاراں کے موقع پر لگائی گئی نمائش میں 100 سے زائد اقسام کے پھول رکھے گئے تھے۔ سرگودھا کے سرکٹ ہاؤس میں ہونے والی اس نمائش میں مختلف نرسری مالکان، محکمہ جنگلات اور تعلیمی اداروں نے شرکت کی۔ نمائش میں پھولوں کی 100 سے زائد اقسام رکھی گئی تھیں جو شہریوں کی توجہ کا مرکز بن رہے۔ ضلعی حکومت کے زیر اہتمام منعقدہ نمائش میں آنے والے شرکا خصوصاً خواتین اور بچوں نے گہری دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا۔

سوات: سوات میں بارش سے موسم خوشگوار اور سیاحوں کے چہرے خوشی سے کھل اٹھے۔ ادھر سندھ، پنجاب اور بلوچستان میں درجہ حرارت مزید بڑھ گیا۔ سوات شہر اور گردونواح میں موسلا دھار بارش سے موسم میں تبدیلی آگئی جس کے بعد تفریح کے لئے آئے ہوئے سیاح خوشگوار موسم سے خوب لطف اندوز ہوئے۔ حیدر آباد، سکھر، لاڑکانہ، جبکہ آباد، گھوٹکی، نوشہرہ و فیروز سمیت اندرون سندھ میں شدید گرمی کا راج ہے۔ لاہور اور ملتان سمیت صوبہ پنجاب کے متعدد شہروں کو بھی گرمی کی شدید لہر نے اپنی لپیٹ میں لیا ہوا ہے۔ شمال مشرقی بلوچستان کے علاقوں چن پشین، ژوب، ہرنائی سمیت بیشتر علاقوں میں گرم ہوائیں چل رہی ہے۔ گرمی سے نمٹنے کے لئے شہروں میں برف کا استعمال شروع ہو گیا ہے محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق آج اور کل کے روز اسلام آباد، بالائی اور وسطی پنجاب، خیبر پختونخوا، گلگت بلتستان اور کشمیر میں کہیں کہیں گرج چمک اور تیز ہواؤں کے ساتھ بارش جبکہ بعض مقامات پر ژالہ باری کا بھی امکان ہے۔

لاہور: نوجوانوں میں ٹیلنٹ کی کمی نہیں، طلباء کو پڑھائی کے ساتھ تخلیقی صلاحیتیں آزمانے کا موقع بھی مل جائے تو وہ اسے ہاتھ سے جانے نہیں دیتے۔ لاہور کے گرلز کالج میں سالانہ پراجیکٹس کی نمائش میں طالبات نے اپنی صلاحیتوں کو خوب منوایا۔ ہوم اسائنمنٹس کالج لاہور میں طالبات کے سالانہ پراجیکٹس کی نمائش ہوئی، سال بھر جو سیکھا، اسے منفرد انداز میں سامنے لانے کی بھرپور کوشش، طالبات کے تیار کردہ کپڑے، اسکلپچر، زیبنگ اور تزئین آرائش کا عمدہ کام، طالبات کی فنی صلاحیت کا بھرپور عکاس۔ شرکا کا کہنا تھا کہ فن کسی کی میراث نہیں،

گلگت بلتستان کی حکومت شندور میلے میں شرکت

پر آمادہ

روزنامہ جنگ

22 اپریل، 2015

سرگودھا میں پھولوں کی خوب صورت اور

دلکش نمائش ختم

روزنامہ جنگ

21 اپریل، 2015

سوات: شہر اور گردونواح میں تیز بارش، موسم

خوشگوار

روزنامہ جنگ

19 اپریل، 2015

لاہور: گرلز کالج میں طالبات کے سالانہ

پراجیکٹس کی نمائش

روزنامہ جنگ

16 اپریل، 2015

لاہور: (کلچرل رپورٹر) لاہور آرٹس کونسل (الحمر) صاف ستھری اور معیاری ثقافتی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ دینے کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کر رہی ہے۔ 29 اپریل کو دنیا بھر میں رقص کا عالمی دن منایا جا رہا ہے۔ اس حوالے سے لاہور آرٹس کونسل نے انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف پرفارمنگ آرٹس کے تعاون سے پروگرام ترتیب دیئے ہیں جو 29 اپریل سے شروع ہو کر 16 مئی تک جاری رہیں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار لاہور آرٹس کونسل (الحمر) کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر کیپٹن (ر) عطا محمد خان نے گذشتہ روز الحمر میں ایک پریس کانفرنس میں کیا۔ انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف پرفارمنگ آرٹس کی نگہت چودھری اور وہاب شاہ بھی موجود تھے۔ عطا محمد خان نے کہا کہ الحمر کے پاس پاکستان کی اصل ثقافت کو پرموت کرنے کا مینڈیٹ ہے۔ کوشش کی ہے کہ کمرشل سٹیج ڈرامے کو معیاری بنایا جائے۔ اچھے موضوعات پر سیمینارز کے انعقاد کا سلسلہ شروع کیا اور کوشش کی الحمر میں ایسی تفریح ہو جو ہماری ثقافتی اقدار کے مطابق ہو۔ ڈانس کے عالمی دن پر ڈانس فیسٹیول کا انعقاد کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اقصہ نگہت چودھری نے کہا کہ ڈانس کے عالمی دن پر ڈانس فیسٹیول کا اہتمام کیا ہے۔ وہاب شاہ نے کہا کہ فیسٹیول کا دوسرا پروگرام کل الحمر میں پیش کیا جائیگا۔

لاہور: (کلچرل رپورٹر) ست رنگ کلچرل ڈیولپمنٹ آرگنائزیشن کے صدر سہیل اے ڈی اور امید جواں کے تعاون سے ساٹھ ایشیاء یونیورسٹی لاہور کینٹ میں عظیم الشان شام قلندر کی تقریب کا اہتمام کیا گیا، تقریب میں ملک کے ندیم جمیل خان اور ہمنوائے اپنا کلام پیش کر کے حاضرین محفل سے خوب داد تحسین حاصل کی، ورٹائل گروپ کے محمد فیاض اور ان کی ٹیم نے بہترین پرفارمنس پیش کی۔

فیصل آباد: فیصل آباد میں سات روزہ کینال ویو میلہ شروع ہو گیا ہے اور نہر کورنگ برنگی روشنیوں سے سجایا گیا ہے۔ شہریوں کے لیے کھانے پینے کے اسٹال اور میوزک شو کا اہتمام بھی کیا گیا ہے۔ کینال ویو میلہ فیصل آباد شہر کے بچوں سٹیج سے گزرنے والی نہر کے 1 کلو میٹر کے حصے میں سجایا گیا ہے۔ نہر کے دونوں کناروں کورنگ برنگی برقی ققموں سے جگمگایا گیا ہے۔ لال، ہری، نیلی اور پیلی روشنیوں نے کینال کے پانی کو بھی رنگیلا کر دیا۔ پانی میں خوبصورت فلوئس بھی اتارے گئے ہیں جو کہ چاروں صوبوں کی ثقافت کو اجاگر کر رہے ہیں۔ فیسٹیول میں شہریوں کے لیے کھانے پینے کے اسٹالوں کے علاوہ تفریح طبع کے لیے محفل موسیقی کا اہتمام بھی کیا گیا۔ میلے کا افتتاح وزیر مملکت پانی و بجلی عابد شیر علی نے کیا۔ ڈائریکٹر جنرل بی ایچ اے یاور حسین بھی ان کے ہمراہ تھے۔ عابد شیر علی کا کہنا تھا کہ میلے سے لوگ اپنی روزمرہ زندگی کے تناؤ کو کم کر سکیں گے اور ثقافتی ورثے سے لطف اندوز ہوں سکیں گے۔ شہریوں کا کہنا ہے کہ اس طرح کے میلے تفریح کے اچھے مواقع مہیا کرتے ہیں۔ 7 روزہ کینال فیسٹیول نے شہر کی دلکشی میں اضافہ کر دیا ہے۔ میلے میں شہری موجد مستی کر کے خوب انجوائے کر رہے ہیں۔

اسلام آباد: میں وفاقی حکومت کے ادارے نیشنل بک فاؤنڈیشن کی جانب سے پانچ روزہ کتاب میلہ لگایا گیا ہے جس کا مقصد مطالعے کو فروغ دینا ہے۔

کتاب میلے میں ادبی موضوعات پر مذاکروں، مشاعروں اور فنون لطیفہ کے دیگر پروگرام بھی منعقد کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

جمہرات کو میلے میں اردو ادب کی جدید نظم اور عہد حاضر کے تقاضے کے عنوان سے مذاکرہ ہوا۔ اگرچہ اس شاعرانہ محفل کا عنوان تو خشک تھا مگر نوجوان اور سینئر شعراء کی شاعری نے عہد حاضر میں جدید اردو نظم کے عنوان سے ہونے والی اس نشست میں رنگ بھر دیے۔ نوجوان شاعر اور جدید اردو نظم میں پی ایچ ڈی ڈاکٹر سعید احمد نے کہا کہ ”آزاد نظم نے ہمارے افسانے کو متاثر کیا ہے، آزاد نظم ہماری غزل میں تبدیلیاں لانے کا باعث بنی ہے لہذا یہ اس وقت ایک ایسی صنف بن چکی ہے جس میں ہمارے فرد سے لے کر قومی اور بین الاقوامی مسائل تک فنکارانہ طریقے سے بیان ہوئے ہیں۔“

انھوں نے کہا کہ انفرادی، قومی اور بین الاقوامی المیوں کا جتنا وسیع بیان نظم میں ہے یہ کسی اور صنف میں نہیں ملتا کیونکہ نظم بیک وقت طوالت اور اختصار کا مجموعہ ہے۔

ممتاز نظم گو نصیر احمد ناصر نے کہا کہ پاکستانی نصاب میں عصر حاضر کا اردو ادب شامل نہیں جس کی وجہ سے ایک پورے دور پر جو بیٹا اور اس پر جس طرح کا اظہار نظم کے میدان میں ہوا، وہ نئی نسل تک نہیں پہنچ پارہا۔

انھوں نے کہا شاعری کو ہم کہتے ہیں کہ اس میں عصری شعور ہوتا ہے یعنی اس میں روح اثر ہوتی ہے، جو بھی واقعات اس دور کے ہوتے ہیں

رقص کا عالمی دن آج منایا جائیگا، پروگرام 16

مئی تک جاری رہیں گے

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

29 اپریل، 2015

ست رنگ کلچرل ڈیولپمنٹ آرگنائزیشن کے

زیر اہتمام شام قلندر

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

28 اپریل، 2015

فیصل آباد میں 7 روزہ کینال ویو فیسٹیول شروع

روزنامہ جنگ

27 اپریل، 2015

اسلام آباد میں وفاقی حکومت کے ادارے نیشنل

بک فاؤنڈیشن کی جانب سے پانچ روزہ کتاب میلہ

لگایا گیا ہے جس کا مقصد مطالعے کو فروغ دینا ہے

23 اپریل، 2015

تفریحی مقامات پر پہنچی اور قدرت کی خنک اور بھیگی بھیگی عنایت کو دل بھر کر خراج تحسین پیش کیا۔ موسم اچانک اچھا ہو جائے تو جس کو جہاں ہونا چاہئے، وہ وہاں نہیں ہوتا، یہی وجہ ہے کہ درسگاہوں میں پڑھنے والے اور دفاتر میں کام کرنے والے گھر جانے کے بجائے تفریحی مقامات پر نظر آئے۔ اُدھر محکمہ موسمیات کی پیش گوئی ہے کہ آئندہ 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران کراچی میں گرج چمک کے ساتھ مزید بارشوں کا امکان ہے۔

پشاور..... انسانی حقوق کی علمبردار گلالئی اسماعیل کو دولت مشترکہ یو تھ ایوارڈ مل گیا۔ گلالئی اسماعیل کا تعلق خیبر پختونخوا سے ہے۔ انہیں دولت مشترکہ کے مختلف ملکوں کے 16 غیر معمولی افراد میں سے چنا گیا۔ گلالئی اسماعیل کو یہ ایوارڈ خواتین میں حقوق کا شعور پھیلانے پر دیا گیا۔

لاہور..... لاہور میں جاری ہارس اینڈ کیٹل شو کے دوسرے روز کے آخری سیشن میں ثقافتی رنگوں کی بہار کے ساتھ امن گیت گائے گئے اور فنکاروں نے ملکی ثقافت کو اپنے اپنے انداز میں اجاگر کیا۔ شہر یاروٹانچ کی رپورٹ فور ٹریس اسٹیڈیم میں ہارس اینڈ کیٹل شو کے دوسرے سیشن میں صدر آزاد کشمیر محمد یعقوب خان مہمان خصوصی تھے۔ دوسرے روز بھی بچوں نے امن گیت پر خوبصورت پر فارمنس پیش کی۔ ریتجرز کے جوانوں نے مشعل پریڈ کی اور نائٹ ٹینٹ بیکنگ کا مظاہرہ کیا بھی گیا۔ آرمی بینڈ کی شاندار پر فارمنس کو لوگوں نے بے حد پسند کیا۔ فنکاروں کی کیمبل بینڈ پر فارمنس بھی قابل دید تھی۔ ہارس اینڈ کیٹل شو میں چاروں صوبوں کی ثقافت کو دکش انداز میں ڈسپلے کیا گیا۔ گھوڑوں کا دکش رقص دیکھنے والا تھا جبکہ علاقائی رقص کو بھی زبردست پذیرائی ملی۔

کراچی..... آج سندھی کے معروف دانشور اور شاعر شیخ مبارک علی عرف شیخ ایاز کا 92 واں یوم پیدائش ہے۔ 50 سے زائد کتابوں کے مصنف بھی ہیں اور حضرت شاہ عبداللطیف بھٹائی کے کلام شاہ جو رسالو کا اردو میں ترجمہ بھی کیا۔ شیخ ایاز 2 مارچ 1923ء کو شکار پور میں پیدا ہوئے۔ آپ کو شاہ عبداللطیف بھٹائی کے بعد سندھ کا عظیم شاعر مانا جاتا ہے اگر انہیں جدید سندھی ادب کے بانیوں میں شمار کیا جائے تو بے جا نہ ہو گا۔ شیخ ایاز نے سندھی شاعری اور ادب میں جدید رجحانات متعارف کرائے۔ آپ نے سندھی میں متعدد کتابوں، کھیل اور مختصر کہانیوں کے علاوہ اردو زبان میں شاعری کی اور مضمون لکھے۔ 23 مارچ 1994ء کو آپ کو ملک کا سب سے بڑا ادبی ایوارڈ ”ہلال امتیاز“ اور 1994ء میں ہی ”فیض احمد فیض ایوارڈ“ بھی ملا

پشاور..... موسم نے انگڑائی لی اور رم جھم برسنے لگے تو پشاور کی کباب کی مہک دور سے لوگوں کو اپنی طرف کھینچ لاتی ہے۔ دیکھتے انگاروں پر پکتے یہ کباب پشاور میں موسم برسات کی خاص سوغات ہیں۔ جب رم جھم برسنے لگے تو کبابیوں کا کاروبار چمک اٹھتا ہے۔ کباب کی دکانوں پر رش دیکھ کر کسی ویسے کی دعوت کا گمان ہوتا ہے۔ تازہ قیے میں انواع و اقسام کے مصالحے، انڈے، نمائز اور پیاز مکس کر یہ مزے مزے کے کباب تیار کئے جاتے ہیں۔ پشاور میں کباب کی سینکڑوں دکانیں ہیں اور ہر دکان پر خریداروں کا جھوم رہتا ہے۔ کباب کے ساتھ دوستوں کی محفلیں اور اوپر سے قبوے کی چسکیاں اس کا مزہ دو بالا کر دیتی ہے۔ ایسے موسم میں آپ پشاور سے بھی گزر بھی رہے ہو اور آپ کو کباب کی بھینی مہک آئے تو یہ ممکن ہی نہیں کہ آپ کباب کھائے بغیر رہ سکیں۔

کوئٹہ..... بلوچستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں گزشتہ دنوں بارشوں اور برف باری کے بعد صوبے کے بیشتر علاقوں میں پیدا ہونے والی شدید سردی لہر برقرار ہے۔ وادی کوئٹہ میں درجہ حرارت منفی 4 ڈگری سینٹی گریڈ تک پہنچ گیا۔ محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق 2 روز قبل کوئٹہ، قلات، زیارت سمیت صوبے کے بیشتر شہروں میں بارشوں اور چند مقامات پر برف باری کے بعد سے پیدا ہونے والی سری کی نئی لہر برقرار ہے اور آج بھی بیشتر شہروں میں موسم شدید سرد ہے جبکہ بعض شمالی علاقوں میں درجہ حرارت نقطہ انجماد سے بھی نیچے ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے۔ موسمیات رپورٹ کے مطابق آئندہ 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران شمالی بلوچستان میں رات کے درجہ حرارت میں مزید 3 سے 5 ڈگری سینٹی گریڈ تک کمی کا امکان ہے

گلالئی اسماعیل کو دولت مشترکہ یو تھ ایوارڈ مل گیا

روزنامہ جنگ

10 مارچ 2015

لاہور میں ہارس اینڈ کیٹل شو کا دوسرا دن

روزنامہ جنگ

7 مارچ 2015

سندھی کے معروف شاعر شیخ ایاز کا 92 واں یوم

پیدائش

روزنامہ جنگ

2 مارچ 2015

رم جھم برسنے لگے تو پشاور کی کباب کی مہک لوگوں

کو کھینچ لاتی ہے

روزنامہ جنگ

2 مارچ 2015

بلوچستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں بارش و برفاری

روزنامہ جنگ

26 فروری 2015

میں کی

روزنامہ جنگ

19 مارچ 2015

اسلامیہ کالج پشاور کے قیام کے سوسال مکمل، 20

روپے کاسکھ جاری

روزنامہ جنگ

16 مارچ 2015

خوش گوار موسم میں کراچی کے ساحل پر اونٹ کی

سواری

روزنامہ جنگ

15 مارچ 2015

اسلامیہ کالج یونیورسٹی پشاور کا دوسرا کانووکیشن

روزنامہ جنگ

14 مارچ 2015

حیدرآباد کے گیریزن ہیڈ کوارٹر میں پھولوں کی

نمائش

روزنامہ جنگ

14 مارچ 2015

کراچی میں بارش کے بعد موسم خوش گوار

روزنامہ جنگ

13 مارچ 2015

آلود رہنے کی پیش گوئی کی ہے۔ ملک کے بالائی علاقوں میں سردی کی شدت بتدریج کم ہو رہی ہے۔ بالائی علاقوں میں سردی میں کمی کے باعث بر فباری بند ہونے والے تمام راستے کھل گئے ہیں۔ رات کے اوقات میں موسم سرد رہتا ہے۔ سندھ اور پنجاب کے علاقوں میں دن میں موسم گرم اور رات کو ٹھنڈا ہوتا ہے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کے مطابق ملک کے بیشتر علاقوں میں موسم خشک رہے گا۔ کوئٹہ، ٹوبہ، قلات، مکران، ڈیرہ غازی خان، اور سکھر ڈویژن میں موسم جزوی طور پر ابر آلود رہنے کا امکان ہے

پشاور..... اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان نے پشاور میں تاریخی اسلامیہ کالج کے قیام کے سوسال پورے ہونے کی مناسبت سے 20 روپے کاسکھ جاری کیا ہے جو اس تعلیمی ادارے کی اہمیت کا اعتراف ہے۔ اسلامیہ کالج کب قائم ہوا اور اس سے قائد اعظم سمیت کون کون منسوب رہا۔ اسلامیہ کالج پشاور کی بنیاد اس وقت رکھی گئی جب علی گڑھ یونیورسٹی کے قیام کے بعد اس خطے میں اعلیٰ تعلیمی ادارے کی کمی شدت سے محسوس کی گئی اس مقصد کے لئے سابق وزیر اعلیٰ سر صاحبزادہ عبدالقیوم خان نے برٹش آرمی کے کرنل سر جارج روز کیسیل کے ہمراہ علی گڑھ کا دورہ کیا اور پشاور میں اس کے طرز پر اسلامیہ کالج کے قیام کے لئے جدوجہد کا آغاز کیا اور یوں 1912ء میں اس کی تعمیر شروع ہوئی، معروف روحانی شخصیت حاجی صاحب ترنگزئی نے اس کاسکھ بنیاد رکھا اور یکم اکتوبر 1913ء کو اسلامیہ کالج میں تدریس کا آغاز ہو گیا۔ قائد اعظم نے اپنی جائیداد کا تیسرا حصہ اس کالج کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کے لئے وقف کیا۔

کراچی..... موسم بدلا تو لطف اندوز ہونے کا انداز بھی بدل گیا، لوگ ٹھنڈی ریت اور تیز ہوائوں کو بھرپور انجوائے کرنے کے لیے اونٹ کی سواری کرنے سی پو پہنچ گئے۔ خوبصورتی سے سجے اونٹ روزی سمندر پر آئے لوگوں کی توجہ کامرکز بن جاتے ہیں، کوئی ساحل پر ٹہل کر خوش ہو جاتا ہے تو کسی کے لیے اس قد آور جانور کی سواری کرنا ضروری ہوتا ہے۔ تیز ہوائیں، سمندر کا کنارہ اور ڈوبتا سورج، مناظر حسین ہوں تو رویہ بھی بدل ہی جاتا ہے، بچوں کی ضد پوری کرنا بھی پھر والدین کے لیے کوئی مسئلہ نہیں رہتا۔ دور دور سے آئے لوگوں کے چہروں پر سمندر کی شور کرتی لہریں خوشیوں کے رنگ بکھیر دیتی ہیں تو وہیں ننھے منے بچوں کے اونٹ پر بیٹھنے کے بعد ہونے والے دلچسپ تبصرے بڑوں کو بھی صحرائے انمول جانور کی سواری کرنے پر مجبور کر دیتے ہیں۔ اپنوں کے ساتھ گزرنے والے یادگار لمحات کو مغر دہانے کے لیے لوگ ساحل پر آنے کو ترجیح دیتے ہیں۔ شہری کہتے ہیں کہ ساحل پر آکر اگر اونٹ پر نہ بیٹھا جائے تو سی ویو آنے کا مزہ ادا ہوا رہ جاتا ہے۔

پشاور..... اسلامیہ کالج یونیورسٹی پشاور کے دوسرے کانووکیشن میں سو سے زیادہ طلبہ و طالبات کو ڈگریاں دی گئیں۔ گورنر پنجتو خواسر دار مہتاب کا کہنا تھا کہ ترقی کرنی ہے تو بین الاقوامی معیار کے تعلیمی ادارے قائم کرنا ہوں گے۔ اسلامیہ کالج یونیورسٹی پشاور کا دوسرا کانووکیشن روز کیپٹل ہال میں منعقد ہوا۔ آنکھوں میں روشن مستقبل کے خواب سجائے طلباء و طالبات کو ڈگریاں اور بہترین کارکردگی کے حامل طلبہ کو گولڈ میڈلز دیئے گئے۔ مہمان خصوصی گورنر خیبر پنجتون خواسر دار مہتاب احمد خان کا کہنا تھا کہ ترقی کے میدان میں دوسری قوموں کے مساوی مقام حاصل کرنا ہو گا جس کے لئے تعلیمی معیار کو مزید بہتر بنانا اور اپنے تعلیمی اداروں کو بین الاقوامی معیار سے ہم آہنگ کرنا ناگزیر ہے۔ تقریب میں سو سے زیادہ طلباء و طالبات کو ڈگریاں دی گئیں۔ طلباء اپنے دوستوں کے ساتھ کامیابی کی خوشیاں منا رہے تھے تو دوسری جانب والدین اپنے بچوں کے چہرے پر خوشی دیکھ کر مسرور ہو رہے تھے۔

حیدرآباد..... حیدرآباد گیریزن ہیڈ کوارٹر میں پھولوں کی نمائش ہوئی جس میں شہریوں کی بڑی تعداد نے شرکت کی۔ کٹنومنٹ بورڈ کے تحت ہونے والی نمائش میں گاؤں کی ثقافت کی عکاسی کرنے والی اشیاء اور تھر کے گھروں کے ماڈل بھی رکھے گئے تھے۔ پھولوں کی اس نمائش کے مہمان خصوصی میجر جنرل عبدالعزیز تھے جنہیں منتظمین کی اس کوشش کو سراہا اور نمائش میں حصہ لینے والوں کو مبارکباد پیش کی۔

کراچی..... رات گئے بارش کے بعد کراچی کا موسم خوشگوار ہو گیا، شہری دن بھر موسم کا لطف اٹھانے کیلئے پارکوں اور دیگر تفریحی مقامات کا رخ کرتے رہے۔ آتی گرمی اور بڑھتی لوڈ شیڈنگ کے غم میں ڈبلا ہونے والو، ہیکے ہوئے موسم کا مزہ کیوں نہیں لیتے، یہ پیغام تھا گہرے سیاہ بادلوں کا، جو کراچی میں وقفے وقفے سے یوں برسے کہ شہریوں کے دل کا موسم بدل گیا، بچوں اور جوانوں کا خوش ہونا تو بنتا ہے، مگر بھیگی ہوئی رُت نے بوڑھوں پر بھی اچھے اثرات مرتب کئے۔ ساحل پر موجود بڑے میاں نے انتہائی دلچسپ انداز میں گانا گایا کہ ”زندگی میں تو سبھی پیار کیا کرتے ہیں، میں تو مر کے بھی مری جان تجھے چاہوں گا“ تاہم یہ کسی اکیلے کی موج مستی نہیں، کراچی کے مختلف علاقوں میں آج صبح سے بارش کا سلسلہ جاری ہے، اس خوشگوار تبدیلی کا اثر پورے شہر میں دیکھا گیا، موسم کا لطف اٹھانے کیلئے عوام کی بڑی تعداد ساحل اور دیگر

جاسکتا ہے

اسلام آباد..... یوم پاکستان پر وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں چھ سال کے وقفے کے بعد تینوں مسلح افواج کے چاق و چوبند دستوں کی شاندار مشترکہ پریڈ کا اہتمام کیا گیا اور شاندار فلاحی پاست کا مظاہرہ بھی کیا گیا۔ یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر تینوں مسلح افواج کے چاق و چوبند دستوں کی جانب سے دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں شاندار پریڈ کا اہتمام کیا گیا۔ تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی صدر مملکت ممنون حسین تھے جبکہ تقریب میں وزیراعظم نواز شریف، آرمی چیف جنرل راجیل شریف، چیرمین جوائنٹ چیفس آف اسٹاف کمیٹی جنرل راشد محمود، پاک بحریہ کے سربراہ ایڈمرل ذکاء اللہ خان سمیت اعلیٰ سول و فوجی حکام بھی شریک ہوئے۔ تقریب کا آغاز مہمان خصوصی صدر مملکت ممنون حسین کو پاک فضائیہ کی جانب سے سلامی سے ہوا۔ پاک فضائیہ کے سربراہ انر چیف مارشل سہیل امان نے ایف سولہ طیاروں کی قیادت کرتے ہوئے صدر کو سلامی پیش کی جس کے بعد میراج، اواکس اور ساب طیاروں کی فاریڈین نے بھی شاندار فلاحی پاست پیش کیا جبکہ پہلی بار فلاحی پاست میں نیول ایوی ایشن کے پی تھری سی اور این طیاروں نے بھی شرکت کی۔ شاندار فلاحی پاست کے بعد مارچ پاست کا آغاز ہوا تو پورا پریڈ گرانڈ ٹرے نکلیں اور پاکستان زندہ باد کے نعروں سے گونج اٹھا۔ فرنٹیئر کور، پنجاب رینجز، پاکستان پولیس، پاکستان آرمی کی خواتین کے دستے نے پروکار انداز میں سلامی پیش کی، بعد میں الخالد ٹینک اور الزرار ٹینک نے بھی خصوصی سلامی پیش کی، آخر میں آرٹڈ فورسز کے ایس ایس جیز نے فری فال کا مظاہرہ بھی کیا۔

لاہور..... لاہور میں یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر دن کا آغاز 21 توپوں کی سلامی سے کیا گیا۔ پاک فوج کی جانب سے بیدیاں روڈ برکی میں دن کا آغاز 21 توپوں کی سلامی سے کیا گیا۔ پاک فوج کے جوانوں نے صبح 6 بجے اپنے رواجی انداز میں توپوں کی سلامی دی۔ اس موقع پر مقامی دیہات کے رہائشی موجود تھے۔ جبکہ سیوریج کے سخت اختلالات کئے گئے تھے۔ جبکہ مساجد میں ملکی سلامتی اور اور ترقی کے لئے خصوصی دعائیں کی گئیں۔

لاہور..... پوری قوم آج یوم پاکستان منانہی ہے۔ لاہور میں رات کے 12 بجتے ہی آسمان رنگ برنگی روشنیوں سے بھر گیا۔ کونہ کے ایوب اسٹیڈیم میں بھی آتش بازی کا شاندار مظاہرہ کیا گیا۔ یوم پاکستان کی مناسبت سے مینار پاکستان کے تاریخی گرانڈ آتش بازی کا شاندار مظاہرہ کیا گیا۔ بارہ بجتے ہی آسمان رنگوں سے جگمگا اٹھا۔ آتش بازی کے شاندار مظاہرہ کو دیکھنے کے لیے آنے والوں میں خواتین اور بچوں کی بھی بڑی تعداد موجود تھی۔ ادھر یوم پاکستان کے سلسلے میں بلوچستان اسپورٹس فیسٹیول کے دوران ایوب اسٹیڈیم کونہ میں آتش بازی کا شاندار مظاہرہ کیا گیا، آتش بازی سے شہر کا آسمان جگمگا اٹھا، یوم پاکستان کے اس شاندار استقبال کے لئے گورنر بلوچستان محمد خان اچکزئی، کمانڈر سدرن کمانڈ لیفٹیننٹ ناصر خان جنجوعہ، صوبائی وزیر اور شہریوں کی بڑی تعداد موجود تھی۔

اسلام آباد..... ملک بھر میں آج 75 واں یوم پاکستان قومی جوش اور جذبے سے منایا جا رہا ہے۔ یوم پاکستان کی صبح کا آغاز دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں 31 اور چاروں صوبائی دارالحکومتوں میں 21، 21 توپوں کی سلامی سے ہوا۔ اس موقع پر ملکی سلامتی اور ترقی کے لیے خصوصی دعائیں کی گئیں۔ یوم پاکستان کی مرکزی تقریب اسلام آباد میں ہوگی۔ جہاں چھ سال کے قتل کے بعد مسلح افواج کی پریڈ ہوگی۔ لاہور میں مفکر پاکستان علامہ محمد اقبال کے مزار پر گارڈز کی تبدیلی کی تقریب بھی منعقد کی جائے گی۔ سرکاری اور نجی عمارتوں پر سبز ہلالی پرچم لہرائے جائیں گے۔

لاہور..... معاشرے میں ایک دوسرے سے منسلک رہنے کے لئے زبان سب سے اہم ذریعہ سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ بچہ جو زبان سب سے پہلے بولتا ہے اسے مادری زبان، یا ماں بولی کہا جاتا ہے، مادری زبان کی اہمیت اجاگر کرنے کیلئے لاہور میں قومی پنجابی کانفرنس منعقد کی گئی۔ ایک روزہ عالمی پنجابی کانفرنس لاہور کے پنجابی کمپلیکس میں منعقد ہوئی جس کا عنوان تھا ”ماں بولی“ کانفرنس کے شرکاء کا ماننا تھا کہ پنجابی مکتبی اور میٹھی زبان ہے، تاہم تعلیم کے بدلنے رجحانات اس زبان کو نظر انداز کر رہے ہیں۔ مقررین کا کہنا تھا کہ کسی بھی معاشرے اور ملک کی ترقی اس کی مادری زبان میں چھپی ہے، جن معاشروں نے مادری زبان کو اپنائے رکھا انہوں نے ترقی کی منزلیں طے کیں۔ کانفرنس میں مطالبہ کیا گیا کہ پنجابی زبان کو باقاعدہ نصاب کا حصہ بنایا جائے، تاکہ آنے والی نسلوں میں بھی پنجاب کی ”مادری زبان“ زندہ رہے۔

کوئٹہ..... ملک بھر میں موسم خشک ہے، بالائی علاقوں میں سردی کم ہو رہی ہے۔ محکمہ موسمیات نے بلوچستان کے کچھ علاقوں میں موسم ابر

یوم پاکستان پر اسلام آباد میں مسلح افواج کی شاندار

مشترکہ پریڈ

روزنامہ جنگ

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یوم پاکستان کا آغاز 21 توپوں کی سلامی سے کیا گیا

روزنامہ جنگ

23 مارچ 2015

لاہور، کونہ میں یوم پاکستان کے آغاز پر آتش بازی

کا شاندار مظاہرہ

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یوم پاکستان آج قومی جوش اور جذبے سے منایا جا رہا

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لاہور: مادری زبان کی اہمیت اجاگر کرنے کیلئے قومی

پنجابی کانفرنس

روزنامہ جنگ

20 مارچ 2015

ملک بھر میں موسم خشک، بالائی علاقوں میں سردی

تقسیم اعزازات

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23 مارچ 2015

نے مختلف شعبوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے 156 افراد کو اعزازات دیے۔ ڈی جی آئی ایس پی آر میجر جنرل عاصم باجوہ، ایئر مارشل سہیل احمد ملک، میجر جنرل شاہد بیگ مرزا، میجر جنرل ارشد محمود، میجر جنرل خالد محمود، میجر جنرل سید نجم الحسن شاہ، میجر جنرل فرحان اختر، میجر جنرل عمر محمود حیات، میجر جنرل سجاد رسول، ریزائیڈمرل وسیم اکرم، میجر جنرل عرفار قو درانی، میجر جنرل عامر ریاض، میجر جنرل محمد ایوب، ریزائیڈمرل شاہ سہیل مقصود، میجر جنرل بادشاہ حسین زیدی، ریزائیڈمرل فرخ احمد، ریزائیڈمرل جمیل اختر، میجر جنرل غلام قمر، ڈی جی ریجنل ریجنل میجر جنرل خان طاہر جاوید خان کو بلال امتیاز ملٹری سے نوازا گیا جبکہ لیفٹیننٹ کرنل ساجد مشتاق کو بعد از شہادت، کیپٹن یحییٰ عبدالصمد، شہید کیپٹن نوید خان، میجر جہانزیب عدنان شہید، ونگ کمانڈر جمال اکبر آفریدی، ونگ کمانڈر عمر احمد نجی اور ونگ کمانڈر سید عمر شاہ کو اعلیٰ خدمات کے اعتراف میں، لیفٹیننٹ کرنل صوفی اختر کو بعد از شہادت، میجر جنرل شہداء اللہ خان کو بعد از شہادت، شہید لانس نائیک محمد ارشد خان، لانس نائیک محمد عرفان ستار شہید، شہید نایب صوبیدار صفدر علی کو جوہر آت اور بہادر ی کے اعتراف میں ستارہ بسالت سے نوازا گیا۔

نی دہلی..... بھارت میں یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر پاکستانی ہائی کمیشن میں تقریب کا اہتمام کیا جا رہا ہے۔ تقریب میں کشمیری حریت رہنماؤں سمیت بھارت کے سابق آرمی چیف جنرل وی کے سنگھ بھی شریک ہیں۔ یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر نی دہلی میں پاکستانی ہائی کمیشن میں عشاء کی تقریب منعقد کی جا رہی ہے۔ اس موقع پر پاکستانی ہائی کمیشنر عبدالواسط کی دعوت پر حریت کانفرنس کے سربراہ میر واعظ عمر فاروق، حریت رہنما سید علی گیلانی، جموں کشمیر لبریشن فرنٹ کے سربراہ یاسین ملک اور سابق بھارتی آرمی چیف جنرل وی کے سنگھ سمیت متعدد بھارتی حکام نے شرکت کی۔ ہائی کمیشن آمد پر بزرگ حریت رہنما سید علی گیلانی کا کہنا تھا کہ بھارت سب سے پہلے کشمیر کی متنازع حیثیت کو تسلیم کرے، کشمیر سے قابض فوج واپس بلائے اور کالے قوانین منسوخ کرے۔

کراچی..... یوم پاکستان کے سلسلے میں ملک بھر کی طرح کراچی میں بھی قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشی بھرپور انداز میں منائی جا رہی ہے۔ گورنر سندھ ڈاکٹر عشرت العباد خان اور وزیر اعلیٰ سید قائم علی شاہ نے قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح کے مزار پر حاضری دی، پھول چڑھائے اور فاتحہ خوانی کی۔ اس موقع پر سندھ کابینہ کے ارکان بھی موجود تھے۔ تینوں مسلح افواج کے نمائندوں نے بھی مزار قائد پر پھول چڑھائے۔ ڈپٹی ڈی جی رجنل زبر یگیدتیر عمران اور ایڈمنسٹریٹر کراچی ثاقب سومر و بھی مزار قائد پہنچے اور برصغیر کے عظیم قائد کو خراج عقیدت پیش کیا۔ قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح کے نواسے اور ان کے خاندان کے دیگر افراد سمیت کراچی بار کے وفد نے بھی بابائے قوم کے مزار پر حاضری دی۔ اسکولوں کے بچے اور اسکاؤٹس بھی قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح کی آخری آرام گاہ پہنچے اور محب وطن پاکستانی ہونے کا ثبوت دیا۔ نوجوانوں نے بھی سائیکل چلا کر منفر د انداز میں مزار قائد کے اطراف چکر لگایا اور پاکستان کو ترقی یافتہ ممالک کی صف میں شامل کرنے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔

دہلی میں یوم پاکستان کی تقریب، سابق آرمی چیف جنرل وی کے سنگھ کی شرکت

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کراچی میں بھی یوم قرارداد پاکستان منایا گیا

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یوم پاکستان: زندہ دلان لاہور کا جوش و جذبہ عروج

پر

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23 مارچ 2015

لاہور..... زندہ دلان لاہور یوم پاکستان بھرپور قومی جذبے اور جوش و خروش سے منارہے ہیں۔ دن کا آغاز مساجد میں ملکی سلامتی کی دعاؤں، توپوں کی سلامی سے ہوا۔ لاہور میں یوم پاکستان کا آغاز پاک فوج کی جانب سے سرحدی قصبے برکی کے قریب 21 توپوں کی سلامی سے کیا گیا، توپوں کی گھن گرج سے فضا گونج اٹھی۔ فوجی افسروں کی کچھ فیملیز بھی یہ نظارہ کرنے کیلئے موجود تھیں۔ ملکی سرحدوں کی حفاظت کے عزم کیلئے توپوں کے دہانے کھلے تو قوم کے بہادر محافظوں کا جوش و جذبہ بھی نعرے بن کر زبان پر آگیا۔ مزار اقبال پر صبح سویرے گارڈز کی تبدیلی کی تقریب ہوئی۔ مہمان خصوصی میں کمانڈر انچیف کموڈور حامد فراز تھے۔ پاک فضائیہ کے چاک و چوبند دستے نے اپنے فرائض سنبھالے، نئے گارڈز نے مزار پر حاضری دی، پھول چڑھائے، فاتحہ خوانی کی۔ یوم پاکستان پر تقریبات، سیمینارز اور ریلیوں کا سلسلہ پورا دن جاری رہے گا۔ 23 مارچ کی مناسبت سے لاہور کے لبرٹی چوک میں ضلعی انتظامیہ کے زیر اہتمام عزم پاکستان ریلی نکالی گئی۔

لاہور..... وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ 23 مارچ کا دن پاکستان کی آزادی کی جدوجہد کا اہم سنگ میل ہے۔ قیام پاکستان کے مقاصد کی تکمیل کیلئے دن رات ایک کر دیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف نے یوم پاکستان پر جاری پیغام میں کہا ہے کہ ملک کو مسائل سے نکالنے کیلئے تحریک پاکستان والے جذبے کی ضرورت ہے۔ خوشحال اور ترقی یافتہ پاکستان کی منزل کے حصول کیلئے بھرپور کوششیں کرنا ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ خوشحال پاکستان کی منزل کے حصول کیلئے ہمیں من حیث القوم اپنی تمام تر توانائیاں بروئے کار لانا ہوں گی۔ اتحاد، تنظیم، نظم و ضبط، محنت، دیانت اور امانت جیسے سنہری اصولوں کو اپنا کر پاکستان کو ترقی اور خوشحالی کی منزل سے ہمکنار کیا

اب تحریک پاکستان والے جذبے کی ضرورت ہے، شہباز شریف

روزنامہ جنگ

23 مارچ 2015

لندن..... لندن میں یوم پاکستان کی تقریب قومی جوش و جذبے کے ساتھ منائی گئی، جس میں ملالہ یوسف زئی کو ستارہ جرأت سے نوازا گیا۔ برطانیہ میں پاکستانی ہائی کمشنر سید ابن عباس نے ملالہ یوسف زئی کو ایوارڈ دیا۔ تقریب سے خطاب میں ملالہ نے اپنا ایوارڈ اعتراف حسن شہید سمیت تمام پاکستانی بچوں کے نام کیا۔ ملالہ نے انسانی حقوق کی رہنما عاصمہ جہانگیر کو جرأت مند خاتون قرار دیا۔

روزنامہ جنگ

25 مارچ 2015

لاہور..... پنجاب کے وزیر اعلیٰ محمد شہباز شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستانی عوام چین کے صدر کے دورے کا بے تابی سے انتظار کر رہے ہیں، چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ٹی کہتے ہیں کہ ان کا ملک پاکستان کے ہر مسئلے کو اپنا مسئلہ سمجھتا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف نے بیجنگ میں چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ٹی سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں باہمی دلچسپی کے امور، پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ اور مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ ترقی کے سفر میں پاکستانی عوام چین کو اپنا ہم قدم پائیگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دہشتگردی کیخلاف پاکستان کی سمت درست ہے، انسداد دہشتگردی کے حوالے سے پاکستانی اقدامات قابل تعریف ہیں۔ شہباز شریف نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ چین میں ہر بار پہلے سے زیادہ محبت ملی، شاہراہ معیشت نے پاک چین تعلقات کو نئی جہت عطا کی ہے۔

لندن..... لندن میں یوم پاکستان کی تقریب قومی جوش و جذبے کے ساتھ منائی گئی، جس میں ملالہ یوسف زئی کو ستارہ جرأت سے نوازا گیا۔ برطانیہ میں پاکستانی ہائی کمشنر سید ابن عباس نے ملالہ یوسف زئی کو ایوارڈ دیا۔ تقریب سے خطاب میں ملالہ نے اپنا ایوارڈ اعتراف حسن شہید سمیت تمام پاکستانی بچوں کے نام کیا۔ ملالہ نے انسانی حقوق کی رہنما عاصمہ جہانگیر کو جرأت مند خاتون قرار دیا۔

روزنامہ جنگ

25 مارچ 2015

نئی دہلی..... بھارت میں یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر پاکستانی ہائی کمیشن میں تقریب کا اہتمام کیا گیا، تقریب میں کشمیری رہنماؤں سمیت بھارتی وزیر مملکت برائے امور خارجہ اور سابق آرمی چیف جنرل وی کے سنگھ بھی شریک ہوئے۔ بعد میں وی کے سنگھ نے تقریب میں شرکت کو ڈسگسٹ اینڈ یوٹی قرار دیا۔ نئی دہلی میں پاکستانی ہائی کمیشن میں یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر عشائیے کی تقریب منعقد کی گئی، پاکستانی ہائی کمشنر عبدالباسط کی دعوت پر حریت کانفرنس کے سربراہ میر واعظ عمر فاروق، حریت رہنما سید علی گیلانی، جموں کشمیر لبریشن فرنٹ کے سربراہ یاسین ملک اور بھارت کے وزیر مملکت برائے امور خارجہ سابق بھارتی آرمی چیف جنرل وی کے سنگھ سمیت متعدد بھارتی حکام نے تقریب میں شرکت کی، مہانوں کا استقبال ہائی کمشنر عبدالباسط اور ان کی اہلیہ نے کیا، تقریب کے آغاز پر عبدالباسط کا کہنا تھا کہ دونوں پڑوسی ممالک کو اپنی نئی نسل کو امن و تعاون کا پیغام دینا چاہیے، ہائی کمیشن آمد پر بزرگ حریت رہنما سید علی گیلانی کا کہنا تھا کہ بھارت حریت رہنماؤں کی جانب سے پیش کئے گئے 5 نکات پر عمل کرے اور سہ فریقی مذاکرات پر آمادگی ظاہر کرے، تقریب میں شرکت کے بعد وی کے سنگھ نے ٹویٹر پر تقریب میں شرکت کو ”ڈسگسٹ اینڈ یوٹی“ قرار دیا، میڈیا سے بات کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ بھارتی حکومت نے وزیر مملکت کو بھیجا تھا میں گیا اور آگیا۔

اسلام آباد..... 23 مارچ کا دن یوں تو پوری قوم کے لیے خاص دن ہے لیکن وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد کے شہریوں کے لیے اس کی خاص اہمیت ہے کیونکہ اسلام آباد میں 7 سال کے بعد مسلح افواج کی پریڈ ہوئی ہے۔ 23 مارچ کے دن کا آغاز اسلام آباد میں 31 توپوں کی سلامی سے ہوا۔ پریڈ گراؤنڈ میں داخلے کے لیے اسلام آباد میں سیکورٹی اور ٹریفک کے خاص انتظامات کیے گئے تھے۔ پریڈ گراؤنڈ کے اطراف میں فینس آباد سے زیر و پوائنٹ اور راول ڈیم چوک تک سڑکیں بند تھیں۔ کھنڈل سے ترامی چوک اور پھر راول ڈیم چوک متبادل راستہ بنایا گیا۔ راول پنڈی سے اسلام آباد داخلے کے لیے نار تھ ایونیو کو متبادل راستہ بنایا گیا۔ شہر میں سیکورٹی سخت اور جگہ جگہ پولیس، رینجرز اور پاک فوج کے جوان تعینات تھے۔ لوگوں میں آج کے دن کے سلسلے میں خاص جوش و خروش پایا جاتا ہے۔ 7 سال کے بعد یہ پریڈ ہوئی اور بڑی خوشی ہوئی کہ ہمیں بڑے عرصے کے بعد یہ آرمی کے یونٹ دیکھنے کو ملے۔ اسلام آباد شہر میں تعطیل کی وجہ سے کاروبار مراکز بند رہے تاہم شہر میں چھوٹی مارکیٹیں کھلی رہیں۔ لوگ پریڈ دیکھنے کے لیے پر جوش تھے، اس دن کے بارے میں بڑوں کے ساتھ بچوں کا جذبہ بھی دیدنی تھا۔ جڑواں شہروں اسلام آباد اور راول پنڈی میں بعض علاقوں میں موبائل فون سروس مکمل طور پر بند رہی تاہم بعض مقام پر اس سروس کو جزوی طور پر معطل کیا گیا۔ 7 سال کے بعد ہونے والی پریڈ پر اسلام آباد اور راول پنڈی کے شہری بڑے خوش نظر آئے۔

اسلام آباد..... یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر ایوان صدر اسلام آباد میں تقریب تقسیم اعزازات ہوئی۔ تقریب میں صدر مملکت ممنون حسین

لندن میں یوم پاکستان کی تقریب، ملالہ کو ستارہ جرأت سے نوازا گیا

پاکستانی چینی صدر کے دورے کے منتظر ہیں، شہباز شریف

لندن میں یوم پاکستان کی تقریب، ملالہ کو ستارہ جرأت سے نوازا گیا

بھارت میں یوم پاکستان پر پاکستانی ہائی کمیشن میں تقریب کا اہتمام

23 مارچ کا دن اسلام آباد کے شہریوں کیلئے اہمیت اختیار کر گیا

یوم پاکستان: ایوان صدر اسلام آباد میں تقریب

سرخیاں

خیبر ایجنسی: وادی تیراہ میں فورسز کی کارروائی، 15 دہشتگرد ہلاک

روزنامہ جنگ

28 مارچ 2015

سمندر پار بسنے والے پاکستانی اپنی قوم کے سفیر ہیں،

شہباز شریف

28 مارچ 2015

بہار آتے ہی وادی سوات کے حسن کو چار چاند لگ گئے

روزنامہ جنگ

27 مارچ 2015

راولپنڈی اور اسلام آباد میں بارش، ہر طرف

نکھار آگیا

روزنامہ جنگ

27 مارچ 2015

لاہور میں دلچسپ فن فیئر نے بچوں کو خوش کر دیا

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تفصیلات

خیبر ایجنسی..... خیبر ایجنسی کی وادی تیراہ میں سیکورٹی فورسز کی کارروائی میں 15 دہشتگرد مارے گئے۔ دہشتگردوں کے قبضے سے بھاری اسلحہ بھی قبضے میں لے لیا گیا۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق خیبر ایجنسی کی وادی تیراہ میں مستحکم کے مقام پر 30 سے 35 دہشتگرد ڈھکنا بنا رہے تھے۔ سیکورٹی فورسز کی کامیاب زمینی کارروائی میں 15 دہشتگرد ہلاک ہو گئے۔ دہشتگرد اپنے دس ساتھیوں کی لاشیں اور اسلحہ چھوڑ کر فرار ہو گئے۔ دہشتگردوں کے خلاف اس اہم کارروائی میں تین سیکورٹی اہلکار بھی زخمی ہوئے۔

لاہور..... وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ سمندر پار بسنے والے پاکستانی اپنی قوم کے سفیر ہیں، کا قومی معیشت کی مضبوطی میں ان کا کلیدی کردار ہے۔ لاہور میں وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب شہباز شریف سے مسلم لیگ ن مشرق وسطیٰ کے صدر چودھری نور الحسن تویر کی قیادت میں وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ کا کہنا تھا کہ اور سیز پاکستانیوں کے مسائل کے حل کے لیے آزاد، خود مختار کمیشن قائم کر دیا ہے۔ کمیشن کے ساتھ ہر ضلع میں کمیٹیاں بھی قائم کر دی گئی ہیں۔ اور سیز پاکستانیوں کے وفد نے وزیر اعلیٰ شہباز شریف کی قیادت میں حکومتی اقدامات کی تعریف کی۔

سوات..... بہار آتے ہی خوبصورت وادیوں کی سرزمین وادی سوات کے حسن کو چار چاند لگ جاتے ہیں۔ دلکش وادیاں جنت نظیر بن جاتی ہیں۔ فلک بوس پہاڑوں اور برف پوش چوٹیوں میں گھری ہوئی وادی سوات کا موسم سال کے بیشتر مہینوں میں نہایت معتدل اور خوشگوار رہتا ہے۔ موسم بہار میں پورے سوات میں سبزہ ہی سبزہ نظر آتا ہے۔ درختوں کو نئی زندگی ملتی ہے اور پھولوں کی رنگینی اور خوشبو ہر طرف پھیل جاتی ہے۔ یہاں آنے والے سیاح کہتے ہیں کہ وادی سوات کے مسور حسن اور یہاں پھیلی بہار کی مثال نہیں ملتی۔ بچے خود بھی پھولوں کی مانند خوبصورت ہوتے ہیں۔ اُن کا کہنا ہے کہ سوات میں جہاں سیر و سیاحت کا مزہ آیا وہاں رنگ برنگے پھول دیکھ کر اُن کے چہرے بھی خوشی سے کھل اٹھے۔ وادی سوات میں موسم بہار کے دوران مختلف علاقوں میں پودوں کی زریوں میں پھولوں کی فروخت میں بھی اضافہ ہو جاتا ہے جس سے اس کاروبار سے منسلک لوگوں کے روزگار میں بھی اضافہ ہو جاتا ہے۔ موسم بہار کی آمد کے ساتھ ہی وادی سوات میں ہر جانب پھیلی ہریالی اور پھولوں کی خوشبوؤں نے پوری فضا کو معطر کر دیا ہے۔

اسلام آباد..... وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد اور راولپنڈی میں بادلوں کے جم کر برسنے کا سلسلہ وقفے وقفے سے جاری ہے۔ جڑواں شہروں اسلام آباد اور راولپنڈی میں گزشتہ شام بارش کا نیا سلسلہ جو شروع ہوا تو گویا رات ہی بدل گئی، سہانے موسم کی کروٹ سے گزشتہ چند روز کی گرمی کا زور ٹوٹ گیا، موسم کی انگڑائی نے قدرت کی مصوری کو ایسا نکھار بخشا کہ ماحول مزید سحر انگیز ہو گیا، ہر شے دھل کر کھڑ گئی، سرمئی بادلوں سے گرتی بوندوں نے چار سو ایسے رنگ بھرے گویا پورا ماحول ہی دھنک رنگ ہو گیا ہو، ہوا کے سنگ اڑتے بادلوں اور لہلہاتے درختوں نے خوشی کے گیت گائے۔ پھولوں سے لدی شاخوں اور جابجا پانی کے ننھے قطرے بھی خوشی سے جھومتے دکھائی دیئے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کہتا ہے کہ بارش کا یہ سلسلہ اسلام آباد سمیت بالائی اور وسطیٰ پنجاب میں چوبیس گھنٹے تک جاری رہ سکتا ہے۔ گلگت بلتستان، کشمیر اور گلیات کے پہاڑوں پر برف باری کا بھی امکان ہے۔

لاہور..... موج مستی کا کوئی بھی موقع ہو، بچے ہاتھ سے جانے نہیں دیتے اور اگر کوئی دن اس کے لیے مقرر کر دیا جائے، تو پھر بچوں کی خوشی اور مستی کی انتہا نہیں رہتی۔ ریپ پر اسٹائل سے ماڈلنگ کرتے کبھی سپائیڈر مین اور ہیٹ مین کے انداز میں تو کبھی وردیاں پہنیں، فوجی ہیرو کو خراج عقیدت پیش کرتے، یہ ننھے پھول شریک ہیں، اپنے سکول کے فن فیئر پر۔ پیارے ملبوسات زیب تن کئے یہ بچے پچاس خوش ہیں کیونکہ انہیں پورے سال میں پڑھائی کے بوجھ سے آزادی کا ایک ہی دن ملا ہے۔ ایک طرف بچے موج مستی کے موڈ میں اپنی پسند کے کام میں مگن رہے، تو دوسری طرف انکے والدین بھی فن فیئر کے انعقاد سے خوش دکھائی دیئے۔ ماحولیات سے متعلق آگاہی کا ٹیبلو ہو، یا مہندی کی رنگارنگ تقریب کا نظارہ، بات ہو فینسی ڈریس شو کی یا سماں پیدا کرنا ہوتا تاریخ کے کسی دور کا، فن فیئر میں ان سب کا مزہ بچوں نے بھی اٹھایا اور دیکھنے والے بڑوں نے بھی۔

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مئی 2015، شماره 3، نمبر 5

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ای میل: bulletins@alhasan.com، ویب سائٹ: www.alhasan.com

ISSN: 2312-1335

www.alhasan.com

الحسن سسٹمز پرائیویٹ لمیٹڈ



Solutions in Time ایک باہمی فیک علم کے انتظام، کاروباری نفسیات کی ماڈلنگ، اور اشاعت کا ادارہ