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Gwadar: on the CUSP of greatness...



Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

The Pearl Continental Gwadar, located on the hammerhead that defines this coastal town in southern Balochistan, is deserted on most days. Only a few of the hotel's 114 rooms are being kept operational; instead of central air-conditioning, split ACs are in place; the shrubbery outside needs some attention. Cost-cutting measures are clearly in place.

And yet, the building is well lit and inviting, the smell of freshly polished furniture lingers in the corridors, at least some of the rooms that are still open are luxuri-



ous and well maintained, and the staff is eager to show you around.

After a cycle of boom and bust that has lasted nearly a decade, there's an air of expectation in Gwadar, a feeling that good times are just around the corner, although that depends on whom you speak to.

Contd.... on Pg.7

\$7 million from Malala Fund for education project in remote areas



Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

A number of people in the country may hold an uncharitable opinion about Malala Yousuzai's worldwide efforts to promote girls' education but the government has decided to make use of money from a fund set up by her for an education project.

The sceptics are not only laymen who doubt whether the young education activist was actually shot at by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) but also people holding powerful positions in the government who have downplayed her internationally recognised efforts.

The young Malala — who shot to instant worldwide fame after TTP militants attacked and severely injured her in Swat in October 2012 for promoting the cause of girls' education — has set up the



Malala Fund to "empower girls to raise their voices, unlock their potential and demand change".

In February, the ministry of finance signed an agreement with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation under which \$7 million from the Malala Fund would be spent on an education project which would focus on remote areas of the country.

The 36-month project will be executed in three phases. A blueprint of the project will be prepared in the first phase which would

Contd...on Pg.6

Pakistan joins the 3G club



Shehroze Sohail
BS41 3610

The four cellular service providers bidding on licences for next generation mobile technology emerged the winners of Wednesday's bidding war, with Mobilink, Telenor and Ufone picking up licences for 3G services while Zong being the only bidder to acquire a licence for both 3G and 4G services.



Mobilink and Zong bid for the 'superior' 10MHz band, while Telenor and Ufone preferred to bid on the cheaper 5MHz band. Although Mobilink, having acquired the 10MHz band, qualified for a 4G licence too, they opted not to go all the way.

This means one 4G licence is still up for grabs. Minister of State for Information Technology Anusha Rehman said that the licence would soon go under the hammer again.

Bidding began at 10am and continued until a little after 7pm at the Marriott Hotel. Bidders competed in eight rounds of 45 minutes each. A total of four 3G licences were auctioned and both Telenor and Ufone got the 'shorter end' of the spectrum.

"It was a strategic decision. We want to provide internet services for all our customers but at low costs. The 5MHz

Contd.... on Pg.6

EDITOR'S NOTE

We become what we think about.
—Earl Nightingale

You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it consume any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space. What you do to move on, is have a positive attitude. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst and it sparks extraordinary results.

This month was packed with over whelming surprises—a Pakistani citizen won an oscar, influx of funds for the education system and women have started to play various sports on a national and international level.

A compilation of news made by students of Mass Communication and Media Studies of Greenwich University to highlight the positive aspects of Pakistan

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WEF praises Pakistan's innovation



Adeel Qureshi
BS41 3635

Despite losing six ranks in the 'Network Readiness Index 2014,' The World Economic Forum's 'Global information technology report 2014' notes that Pakistan has ensured technology affordability to businesses and individual consumers.

Pakistan's performance has been relatively stable on the 2014 Index at 111th position among 148 countries. Pakistan lost six ranks as compared to 2013, according to the report published on Wednesday.

It says that Pakistan showed slight improvement on the 'Business and Innovation Environment' pillar by improving by



ranking at 101 as compared to 102 last year. Also on the readiness sub-index, it improved from 21st position in 2013 to 19th this year. The efficiency of legal system in settling disputes rose from 109th ranking last year to 112th position in 2014.

"One of the key findings of the report is that Pakistan cannot only rely on ICT infrastructure development to become competitive.

Courtesy: Dawn

Schools under watch



Raafe Hassan
BS41 3697

The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government has launched an Independent Monitoring

Unit (IMU) to improve attendance and performance of teachers and education administrators in the province.

The IMU has been established under a three-year project funded by the UK's Department for International Development. Rs500 million have been allocated for the initiative this year and more funds will be set aside for it in the next budget(s). The project will be extended if found useful after a third-party verification. Rs100 million have also been earmarked for establishing a third-party monitoring mechanism.

Muhammad Atif Khan, Provincial Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education (E&SE) Department, says 475 IMU monitors — 303 men and 172 women — have been appointed on merit for boys and girls schools respectively. They receive a fixed pay of Rs30,000 a month. Male monitors have been given motorcycles with Rs10,000 fuel allowance.

Each KP district has been divided in groups, each consisting of up to 60 schools and every monitor is responsible for visiting all the schools in his group. He/she has to visit a school at least once a month.



On the terms of references (ToRs) and standard operating procedure (SoP) of monitors, the minister says they are basically real-time data collectors and transmitters. "They have been trained for the purpose. They will collect, physically verify and send immediately data on the attendance of teachers, enrolment/dropout rate of students, needs and deficiencies of teachers and other school paraphernalia etc."

The monitors will also collect data on the inspection of officers to schools, the distribution of free textbooks, stipends to the female students and the parents-teachers' council (PTC) and other school funds. He says monitors have been given smartphones with a proper format for feeding data and a general packet radio system (GPRS) to collect and transmit real-time data of/from the concerned schools to the IMU head office in Peshawar.

Asked what measures have been taken to guard against the misuse of powers by

Contd.... on Pg.7

Sindh Assembly passes bill prohibiting child marriages



Mustafa Irfan
BS40 3539

The Sindh Assembly passed the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2013 prohibiting marriage of children below 18 years.

The assembly is the first provincial legislature in the country to approve a bill to curb child marriages.



Under the bill, the minimum for marriage is 18 years. Those found violating the law would be punished in line with the penalty suggested in the legislation.

According to the law, in cases of underage marriages, those involved can be sentenced to three years in prison and they can also be fined.

The bill was first presented in the assembly in 2013 by Sharmila Farooqi and Rubina Qaimkhani.

The passage of the bill comes on the heel's of controversy that was ignited after the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) had ruled in March that prohibition of under-age marriage was un-Islamic.

The CII had ruled that children of any age could get married if they attain puberty.

Chairman CII Maulana Muham-

mad Khan Sheerani had stated that the laws related to marriage were unfair.

"The laws limiting the age for both the segments of marriage are un-Islamic and needed to be rectified," Sheerani had said.

The Sindh Assembly in response rejected the ruling of the CII and passed a resolution calling for the body to be disbanded.

Courtesy: Dawn

Seminar on Civil-Military relations



Naz Aleem
BS39 3430

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute Pakistan (SDPI) held a seminar titled 'Civil-Military Relations and the Role of Media in Pakistan'. The main speakers of the seminar included National Security Affairs Editor Ejaz Haider, journalist and analyst Syed Talat Hussain, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf MNA Asad Umar, and SDPI Executive Director Abid Q Suleri. The debate on the civil-military relations has been a significant

one in Pakistan. While Pakistan experienced the first ever democratic transition of government during the general elections 2013, the balance between the civil and military power continues to raise important questions. This is particularly important due to Pakistan's sensitive security situation. In this context, the SDPI has organised a seminar on the said subject in order to take a deeper look into the extent of balance between the civil-military relations and the role of the media in shaping public opinion in the country

Courtesy: Daily Times

Standing ovation for Saba



Risha Shahid
BS41 3655

The journey of a young girl from a small village in interior Sindh to making a speech in front of an audience of 400 in New York

"When I ended my speech, everyone clapped." The lovely doe-eyed Saba Mallah said with such beautiful simplicity. "They stood up to clap for me," she added. I asked her if she knew that a standing ovation was better than just an ordinary applause. She hadn't on this past Women's Day but soon after she learned what a standing ovation meant.

I asked her how she felt for the applause and she said looking at those nearly 400 delegates clapping for her she broke into tears. "I was so happy for myself that I wept." They were clapping for her in New York where she had spoken for 10 minutes on the rights of the girl child in her native Sindh, 10,000 km east of the venue. As the hall rose and the applause resounded, Saba thought of the time when she will be grown up and will have done what she wants to do.

"Then the applause for me will be even greater than the one at New York!"

The tiny village of Yusuf Mallah, where Saba was born 16 years ago, is a right picturesque place in Sujawal district of southern Sindh. Sitting by the side of a water channel in flat, forested country studded with lakes spangled with lotus, it is thickly shaded by trees where the koel and papiha sing above the noisy arguments of hordes of starlings. The houses of wattle and mud plaster have pitched roofs with pillared verandas in front and the utter lack of brick and mortar give the whole village the prospect of an 18th century painting. The scene is replete with fields ablaze with sun-

flower blossom surrounding the village.

Amid this beauty lives the ugliness of official neglect: there is no school in village Yusuf Mallah. And that is not all. Though the village is on the electricity grid, it has more hours of the day without power than with. There is no water supply; potable water being obtained by hand pumps, and though there is no sewerage, one cannot help but wonder how they manage to keep the village so clean.



Born to a school teacher father (now retired) and an illiterate mother who worked as farm labourer, Saba, one of eight siblings, had always been fascinated by the written word. For the first five grades, young Saba daily walked a couple of kilometres to a nearby village dreaming great dreams of being an educated working woman one day. But after she took her exam, it seemed her education as well as her dreams were stalled in a cul de sac. Despite all the support of her parents, there was no way she could be sent walking six kilometres to the nearest middle school.

But then somewhere something went right. The NGOs Plan International, part of the United Nations and Sindh Agricultural and Forestry Workers Coordinating Organisation teamed up to take non-formal middle level education to villages where no schools existed. And so in 2012, when she had been out of school for a year, Saba enrolled in the centre operating in one room lent by a family with space to spare. While some of her 43 peers struggled with English,

Contd.... on Pg.6

Pakistan raises \$1.1 billion from first 3G, 4G auction

Shehroze Sohail
BS41 3610

Pakistan raised \$903 million in its first auction for 3G mobile phone networks on Wednesday, as well as \$210 million for the more advanced 4G spectrum, with four foreign-owned companies emerging as winners from the long-anticipated bidding process.



The South Asian country of 180 million people hopes to use the auction as a way to boost the economy and promote advanced telecoms technology among its 132 million mobile phone users.

The four winners of the 3G auction were Russian-owned Mobilink, Chinese-controlled Zong, Norway's Telenor, and Ufone - a company jointly owned by the Pakistan gov-

ernment and the United Arab Emirates' Etisalat.

As for the 4G spectrum, the sole winner was Zong, according to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority

Warid Telecom Pakistan, another company operating in Pakistan, did not make any bids.

Ismail Shah, the PTA head, announced the results to reporters late on Wednesday after the auction, which lasted all day.

Pakistan is the only major country in the region that still does not offer 3G services. Its neighbor, war-ravaged Afghanistan, switched to 3G services in 2012.

The country's telecoms market was deregulated in 2004 and foreign firms such as Etisalat have invested heavily. But services that use 3G and 4G connections have been out of reach of most Pakistani customers.

Courtesy: Dawn

Infrastructure and development

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

CDA will construct two (2) underground parking plazas and (5) five flyovers / underpasses to ease parking and traffic pressure issues in the city. Chairman Capital Development Authority Mr. Maroof Afzal expressed these views in a meeting with the delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Member Administration Mr. Amir Ali Ahmed, Director Municipal Administration Mr. Hamza Shafqat and other senior officials of the Authority were also present on the occasion. The ICCI delegation apprised the chairman of their issues during the meeting.

The Chairman further said that Capital Development Authority has a vision to promote com-

mercial activities in the city. All the issues of the business community therefore will be resolved on priority basis. CDA welcomes proposals and suggestions from the business community for welfare of the city and its residents. All available means and resources will be applied for this purpose.



Parking is a major issue in the city and CDA wants to settle it at the earliest. For this purpose CDA has planned two (2) underground parking plazas and their designs have also been finalized. Planning and designs for flyovers and underpasses have also been finalized and

Contd.... on Pg.7

Six govt hospitals get up-graded in Karachi

Mustafa Irfan
BS40 3539

The Health Department Sindh has officially up-graded six provincial government run hospitals of Karachi by giving them teaching hospitals status and a notification has also been issued in this regard.

The decision was warmly welcomed by the medical fraternity and representatives of doctors organizations for giving teaching hospital status to all district-level healthcare centers in Karachi city, as saying it would largely benefit the patients.

According to the notification issued by Health Department Sindh the six provincial government run hospitals that have been up-graded by health department by giving them teaching hospital status are Sindh Government Saudabad Hospital, Sindh Government Hospital Korangi, Sindh Government Liaquatabad Hospital, Sindh Government New Karachi Hospital, Sindh Government Qatar Hospital Orangi and Sindh Government Ibrahim Haideri Hospital.

It said the three hospitals Government Liaquatabad Hospital, New Karachi Hospital and Qatar Hospital Orangi were affiliated with Dow University of

Health Sciences (DUHS), while three other including Saudabad Hospital, Sindh Government Hospital Korangi and Ibrahim Haideri Hospital was linked with Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) President Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Karachi Dr Adress Adhi said Sindh Government decision was highly appreciable and up-gradation of hospitals would improve the health delivery system in these hospitals.

He said doctors, undergraduate & postgraduate students and patients would largely benefit from this decision and such step should have been taken earlier, but now finally the government has accepted this PMA demand and the step would benefit the patients as well as healthcare practitioners. He said training of doctors in district level hospitals would further improve healthcare quality and patients confidence on government-run healthcares centers. He said these government run hospitals would able carry out operational work round the clock after their up-gradation. The doctor community had been demanding of the government for up-gradation of hospitals and giving them teaching hospitals status since.

Courtesy: The Frontier Post

First Polo Exhibition Match Held in Islamabad

Risha Shahid
BS41 3655

The first polo match of the capital was held at the Serena Hotel. The exhibition match took place at the Islamabad Club polo ground between the Serena Mustangs and Serena Warriors. The evening opened with a showcase match between the young kids of the Polo Academy who rode confidently through the field disputing the ball amicably. The professionals soon followed, clad in orange and black. Serena Hotels CEO Aziz Boolani formally opened the match by



pitching the first ball onto the field. Each chukkar was an enthralling show of equestrian skill as riders darted across from goal to goal. In the end, the Serena Warriors defeated the Serena Mustangs by a score of seven to four. The audience, consisting of esteemed diplomats, government dignitaries, corporate members, and residents

Contd.... on Pg.6



Zamad Baig becomes very first Pakistan Idol

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

Zamad Baig finally emerged as the very first Pakistan Idol after beating the runner up Mohammad Shoaib in the finale of the biggest musical contest of the country on Sunday.

Zamad Baig, the winner of

the most popular musical competition, hails from Mandi Bahauddin.

At the conclusion of the first installment of Pakistan Idol, Geo TV President Imran Aslam conferred upon the winner the trophy as well as the prize money.

Courtesy: Express Tribune



Winners of short film contest 'Heroes of Pakistan' announced

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

The winners of much awaited short film competition "Heroes of Pakistan" were announced in a humble ceremony held at the Karachi Press Club on Monday to acknowledge the youths who have demonstrated their film making potential by contesting in the competition organized by the American companies Green Card Capital and SoundView Broadcasting.

While addressing a press conference, Chief Operating Officer of Green Card Capital Abbas Hashmi said that the project aims to provide the youth a convenient and accessible platform to showcase their creativity and help them discover their own hidden potential. The winning documentary films depicted the unique



heroes from various walks of life including social workers, teachers, and figures who played an extraordinary role in defeating obstacles in life or to preserve Pakistan's culture.

Along with receiving the cash prizes, the winners have also bagged internships in TV production in Pakistan and USA while they will also make television appearances on Pakistani channels in the USA distributed by the SoundView Broadcasting.

The young achievers, beaming on their success, said that it is a gratifying opportunity and now their ambitions have soared even higher after

Contd.... on Pg.7

'Waar' wins big at Pakistani film awards

Adeel Qureshi
BS41 3635

Director Bilal Lashari's action/thriller Waar took home 13 awards at the ARY Film Awards 2014 held in Karachi on a balmy Sunday night.

Celebrities, fans and film crews sweated it out at the 'first ever' Pakistani film awards held out in the open at the DHA Golf Club. The show started an expected two hours late, but sufficiently wowed the audience with what was slated to be the most expensive award show ever held in Pakistan, at a cost of Rs80 million.

With roughly 1,500-2,000 attendees and a 200-foot stage, the awards show celebrated the rebirth of Pakistani cinema

Waar came out on top, bagging multiple awards in the technical category, as well as



jury's choice best director (Bilal Lashari) and viewer's choice best male supporting actor (Hamza Ali Abbasi). It also featured in best female supporting actor (Meesha Shafi), best villain (Shamoon Abbasi) and the all-important best film, among others.

Just behind with seven awards was Pakistan's 'first' sport film, Mein Houn Shahid Afridi, which bagged three technical awards as well as jury's choice best male actor (Humayun Saeed) and viewer's choice best male debut (Hamza Ali Abbasi). The film also managed to bag awards for best music (Shani & Kami) and best male comic role (Ismail Tara)..

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Pakistan National Visual Effects Artist Mir Zafar Ali won Oscar for the 3rd time!!!

Risha Shahid
BS41 3655

Zafar's latest work in Frozen, extremely liked by audience, especially the scenes in which Princes Elsa build her own ice palace. All visual presentations behind these scenes are done by Zafar Ali. The movie Frozen broke all previous records by obtaining optimum business on Box Office.

38 years old Mir Zafar Ali got his first Oscar in 2008 for working in the movie named



as The Golden Compass. Life of pie was the second film which led Zafar wins second Oscar.

Many Americans perhaps have no clue while watching those movies they enjoy

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Cont... from pg 3: Standing ovation for Saba

Seminar on civil-military relations Science, Social Studies, Urdu and Sindhi, our bright spark raced ahead to reach grade eight.

"If there hadn't been this school in our village, my one year break in education would have been the end of it. I would have remained home like the generation before me and would have been making cow dung patties waiting to be wedded at 15." Saba had only some years earlier seen a 12 year-old wedded to a considerably older man and suffer in childbirth. She also knew of that unfortunate young woman's maltreatment at the hands of her husband and in-laws. Her young and active mind wondered if that woman would have been treated any differently had her parents waited for her to reach the right age for matrimony. Or if her tormenting husband had known there was someone to stand for the helpless soul.

That someone who would defend such women in matrimonial misfortune would be she herself as a lawyer, young Saba told herself. Hajiani, whose misfortune Saba knew of first-hand and which was painfully ingrained on her mind, was not a rare case. Child marriage is rampant in Sindh and she knew every village had dozens of cases like Hajiani's. For most parents, the girl child was simply a bur-

den: no good for any investment in and best to be disposed of in marriage as soon as possible. Saba knew the crusade she was going to fight as a lawyer.

Early this year, two dozen girls of rural backgrounds from across Pakistan were interviewed by Plan International to shortlist two to address a forum on International Women's Day at the United Nations head office in New York. Saba was one of the two bright lights; the other being from a village near Chakwal.

The speech was to be in English and understandably, with her rural background and non-formal education, Saba could not write it out herself. But there was no dearth of clarity of thought. She dictated every word to be translated into English; every word of what she was to tell the delegates in New York on the eighth day of March.

Thereafter she had the famous and the powerful lining up to shake her hand. And then there was the flurry of sight-seeing tours of New York which just six weeks later seemed a distant dream to Saba. Her immediate dream, one she dreams with focussed singularity, is to finish high school and get into college so that her law degree comes one step closer.

Courtesy: The News

Cont... from pg 4: First Polo Exhibition Match held in Islamabad

of Islamabad, came out in great numbers to watch the match. The festive ambiance was evident through the cheer and colour. The polo match, held under Serena Hotels' Sports Diplomacy Initiative, is another effort to promote cultural exchange through sports. Boolani announced that after having successfully organised the two annual golf tournaments earlier and the adventure diplomacy, whereby, two

young Pakistani mountaineers are on their way to conquering the seven summits in seven continents expedition, Serena Hotels would now annually host a polo cup as well. Speaking after the prize distribution, the Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry lauded the vital participation of the Serena Hotels for such healthy community development and cultural initiatives.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Cont.. from pg 1: Pakistan join the 3G club

frequency is all that is required at the moment," said Telenor Pakistan Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Muhammad Aslam Hayat.

Ufone had also shown an interest in acquiring both 3G and 4G licences, but on the day, they did not qualify. Under PTA rules, Ufone has to purchase the 10MHz band to be eligible for a 4G licence.

According to a Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) spokesperson, cellular companies with weaker frequencies would have to install more booster towers in their coverage areas, depending on how many cities they wanted to cover.

A taste of things to come Visitors to the auction got a taste of next-generation mobile speeds at the stalls of various cellular vendors. Telecom reps showed off the astonish-

ing speeds boasted by 3G services and demonstrated the power of high speed internet services on compatible mobile handsets.

Cellular companies will have to offer a minimum download speed of 256 kilobytes per second (kbps) under the stipulations of the 3G licence, which is four to eight times faster than current download speeds of 30-100 kbps that are currently on offer.

PTA Chairman Dr Ismail Shah said: "Meeting the budgetary targets is just one small aspect of this sale. We are looking at bigger benefits such as the creation of nearly 900,000 jobs and the development of newer, faster applications that will contribute to the improvement of educational, health and financial standards."

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 1: \$7 million from Malala Fund for....

last six months. Work on it started on March.

The second phase will be of implementation of the project and will spread over two years. Activities will be launched to widen girls' access to education and improve the retention and completion rates of girls through improvement in quality of education.

The third phase will be of documentation. From the day one when Malala was attacked, the TTP apologists came up with a conspiracy theory and said it was a CIA-managed incident to defame the country, although a TTP spokesperson had accepted responsibility for the shooting.

But the world rallied behind the cause of education for girls. Malala was showered with international awards for her courageous act and even nominated for the Noble Peace Prize.

On July 12 last year, she addressed the United Nations

General Assembly and the event was dubbed as "Malala Day".

The response of Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif to her speech surprised many. He was reported to have said in a tweet: "Good speech by Malala, could have been better seemed to be written for global consumption and tried to please everyone at home & abroad."

The comment was criticised and the tweet was immediately removed. In January this year, the PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government barred Peshawar University from hosting a ceremony for launching Malala's biography "I am Malala". This prompted Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chairman Imran Khan to criticise the government of his own party. Later, it came to be known that the government had stopped the university administration from holding the ceremony because of the fear of Taliban reprisal.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 5: Winners of short film contest 'Heroos'

receiving the acknowledgement. Expressing the significance of such projects, they were of the view that it is a crucial platform to showcase youth talent and to experiment with fresh ideas.

The panel of the judges included noted film and TV directors Mehreen Jabbar and Bilal Lashari, producer and advertising maven Shahzad Nawaz, filmmakers Iram Parveen Bilal, Mumtaz Hussain and Mathew Newton, ethnic marketing expert Stephanie Herold, actor-writer Aizzah Fatima and digital media expert Sarah Khan.

Vowing to continue this project in the coming years, CEO Green Card Capital Abbas Hashmi told that the next pro-

gramme will be announced in August due to the encouraging feedback.

"It's our intention to make this a yearly event and to continue to provide a forum for honouring heroic Pakistanis from every strata of society," Hashmi said.

SoundView Broadcasting, the broadcaster and distributor of international TV channels in USA, in collaboration with consulting and investment firm Green Card Capital are determined to improve awareness about the Pakistani cinema and arts among the American audience by offering exposure and opportunities to aspiring filmmakers in Pakistan.

Courtesy: The News

Cont... from pg 3: Schools under watch

monitors, Khan says, "The monitors have been trained to be polite to principals/teachers, not to indulge in reasoning and avoid meddling in the teaching learning process. Their performance will also be monitored and action will be taken if any genuine complaints come to surface against them. The IMU is independent of the department's control. They have to submit data immediately from the school they visit. This has been done to save the system from data/record-tampering."

Lack of basic facilities at schools is a big problem. Over 20 per cent of the functional public schools in KP still have no boundary walls, 30 per cent no water supply, 42 per cent no electricity and 16 per cent no toilets facilities.

The KP Chief Minister, Pervez Khattak, recently issued directives of handing over the monitoring of all hospitals and basic health units to the IMU. But the system has been put in place in the education department only. The IMU has been empowered to monitor only schools in the public sector while education offices and pri-

vate schools are still out of its ambit.

It is hoped the IMU will help pinpoint "ghost schools and proxy teachers" (the IMU, as reported, has detected 12 proxy teachers, four women among them, in government schools in Buner district recently), improve teachers' attendance and make it easy/possible to take action against the corrupt and negligent elements in the department.

Most of the principals and head-masters of the E&SE Department support the initiative. They say teachers' attendance and punctuality have improved significantly ever-since the launch of the IMU.

Besides weak monitoring mechanism, crowded classrooms, indifference of teachers and administrators and political interference, lack of basic facilities at schools is a big problem. Over 20 per cent of the functional public schools in KP still have no boundary walls, 30 per cent no water supply, 42 per cent no electricity and 16 per cent no toilets facilities.

Courtesy: The News

Cont... from pg 1: Gwadar: on the cusp of greatness...

This small town of 85,000 people in Gwadar district was a sleepy little fishing village until not so long ago. Now it finds itself as a launching pad for big regional, if not global, ambitions based on the proposed Pak-China economic corridor, a role reinforced by the prime minister's high-powered visit here on Thursday accompanied by the chief minister and army chief.

The port is the centrepiece of the optimistic narrative. Its logo is a stylistic depiction of a lighthouse and a windsurfer with the words "Symbol of prosperity" underneath. In 2013, China Overseas Port Holding Company took over operations at the facility from the Port of Singapore Authority after the latter quit over a dispute regarding land to develop the port.

"Things are moving very fast," claimed Dostain Khan Jamaldini, chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority. "Unlike Pakistanis, the Chinese spend a lot of time in planning, then they do the execution quickly."

Reinforcing the impression of the feverish pace of activity, Director General Gwadar Development Authority, Dr Sajjad H. Baloch said, "Several delegations of Chinese have visited within the last six months; that last one was here just a few days ago."

Among the projects in the 'Gwadar package' are port expansion, construction of a new airport, an industrial estate, an export processing zone, desalination plant, water and sewage system for the city and transportation infrastructure such as a 19km expressway to link the port with the coastal highway, and other road and rail links connecting Gwadar to upcountry via Ratodero in Sindh.

It was recently announced that China would invest \$1.8 billion in nine projects to develop the port and the city. In a way, China is picking up where it left off, for it had paid 75pc of the \$248 million initial construction cost of the port.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 4: Infrastructure and development

construction work will commence soon.

The construction of parking plazas and flyovers / underpasses will bring substantial comfort for residents of the city. Realizing the need to further streamline sewerage facilities in the city, five (5) mini sewerage treatment plants have also been planned and designed for different areas of the city. The construction work for these mini sewerage treatment plants will also kick off shortly after completion of necessary codal formalities, the chairman further said.

CDA in a short time will start development work for Park Enclave and advertisements in the newspapers in this regard have been published. Speedy construction work on Kashmir Highway is also under way and the same will be completed within given time period. The

completion of construction and expansion work on Kashmir Highway will prove a mile stone for resolution of traffic problems in the city and will also boost business activities. The construction work for Margallah Highway from Constitution Avenue to Murree Road will also commence soon and tenders in this regard have already been floated in the newspapers. The Authority is constructing slip ways at major crossings and squares of the city as well. Construction and development work in markets and marakiz which is already in progress will be further expedited, the Chairman added.

The delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry assured their full support and cooperation to the Chairman for welfare of the city and its residents.

Courtesy: Daily Times



Punjab win National Women Softball Championship

Raafa Hassan
BS41 3697

Punjab girls won the 11th National Women Softball Championship after remaining unbeaten right throughout the event which was played on singles league basis at Pindi Cricket Stadium from April 18 to 20.

Punjab attained top position by grabbing 8 points, after winning all their four matches. Second position was obtained by KPK, who secured 6 points while third position went to minnows Balochistan, who secured 2 points.

Defending champions Sindh could get the 4th position after losing three matches in the event and winning just one while Islamabad remained at 5th and the last place on offer. Police team didn't turn up for the championship.

On the third and last day of the championship, two matches were played.

In the first match, KPK beat



Islamabad by 5 runs. KPK managed to score 11 runs in three innings while Islamabad could only managed to score 6 runs.

In the second and last match of the championship, Punjab narrowly beat Balochistan. Punjab managed to score 6 runs while Balochistan could only score 2 runs. Sabahaat Rasheed of Punjab was declared best batter as she scored 7 runs in the entire event while Saida also from Punjab grabbed best pitcher award.

Member Provincial Assembly, Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal, who is also Parliamentary Secretary Sports, was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony.

Courtesy: The News

Pakistan win third position in Street Child World Cup

Sehar Nadeem
BS411 3607

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil: Pakistan secured third position in the Street Child Football World Cup 2014 here on Sunday.

They defeated the United States of America 3-2 on penalty kicks in a tough and sensational contest.

Pakistan were leading 2-1 at



the end of the first half but the US team leveled the score 2-2 in the second half.

However, none of the two teams could make any goal in the additional time and the match was decided on penalty kicks.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Benazir Bhutto women cricket T20 trophy

Risha Shahid
BS4 13655

The Pakistan Cricket Board is organizing the third edition of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Women Cricket Challenge Trophy T20 from April 30 to May 4 here at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Four departmental teams – ZTBL, Saif Sports Saga, Omar Associates and HEC will play matches on single league basis. Two matches will be played daily.

Top two teams will qualify for the final which will be played on May 4.



Following is the programme of the matches:

April 30: Saif Sports Saga vs Omar Associates, ZTBL vs HEC
May 1: Saif Sports Saga vs HEC, ZTBL vs Omar Associates
May 3: ZTBL vs Saif Sports Saga, Omar Associates vs HEC
May 4: Final .

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan cueists off to Dubai for Asian Snooker

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

A three member Pakistan snooker squad left here on Friday for Al Fujairah en route Dubai to take part in 28th Asian Snooker Championship being played there from April 26 to May 3.

Pakistan trio included National champion Muhammad Asif Toba, Asjad Iqbal and Hamza Akbar.

While Asjad and Hamza had featured in Asian championships Toba will be making his debut in the continental championship.

The winner of the Asian champions should be offered a place on the Pro Tour for the next two seasons,. Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports announced. Former Pakistan cueist Saleh Muhammad who had migrated



to Afghanistan will be defending his crown in the championship which he won in Karachi last year.

Last years runner up Omar Al Kojah of Syria is also taking part in the event.

Also involved will be China's Zho Xintong, runner up at the 2013 IBSF World Championship.

Prior to their departure, Toba said it is a great honor to feature in Asian and he was looking forward to his best. It is a big event for me and I am looking to make my mark there, he told reporters prior to his departure for Dubai.

Courtesy: Dawn