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One-way to Mars: Pakistan's ex-military man wants to leave behind legacy



Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

It was both astounding and fascinating to hear about the

Mars One project – 24 people going on a one-way trip to the red planet never to return to Earth.

How does it feel? Is it equivalent to committing suicide? How do family and friends react? We asked these ques-



tions from the only Pakistani candidate to have made it to the shortlisted top 100 candidates for the project.

"My motivation is to do something extraordinary and die with a name and a legacy left
Contd.... Pg.7

Rs359m given to 54,618 TDPs: PDMA



Ujala Nadeem
BS47 5275

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA)

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has distributed Rs359.9 million among 54,618 verified temporarily displaced people (TDP) of North Waziristan



Agency till January 14.

Under the second phase of "Easar-i-KP programme" launched in November, an amount of Rs6,000 is being paid to each verified TDP.

According to the PDMA, Rs197.1m were disbursed among 30,911 TDPs in Bannu, Rs24m among 3,709 TDPs in Dera Ismail Khan, Rs37m among 5,788 TDPs in Peshawar and Rs24m among 3,847 TDPs in Lakki Marwat. Besides, Rs13m were distributed through 2,190 ATM transactions.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan carries out test flight of Raad missile



Laraib Rajput
BS38 3345

Pakistan carried out on Monday a successful test

flight of short-range cruise missile Raad, which is capable of carrying both nuclear and conventional warheads.

"Successful flight test of the indigenously developed Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) 'Raad' was conducted today," a military spokesman said.



The test of the 350-kilometre range missile, which is also known as Hatf VIII, was the sixth since it was first tested in 2007. The missile launched from Mirage Aircraft is believed to have been inducted in Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in 2007.

The missile is approximately five metres long and could weigh up to 1000kg.

Military described it as a state-of-the-art, low altitude, terrain-hugging missile with high maneuverability that could deliver nuclear and conventional warheads with pin-point accuracy.

The missile provides Pakistani armed forces with "Strategic Standoff Capability on land and at sea". The
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Work of 5,000 students from India, Pakistan showcased



Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

The Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP),

in collaboration with Routes2Roots (R2R), has successfully completed the 18-month project 'Exchange for Change: Pakistan India 2013 - 2015'. The largest exchange programme of its kind, the work of 5,000 students from 31 schools from across India and Pakistan was showcased at the National Art Gallery.

The project is based on the idea that students on both sides of the border have similar stories which are worth



sharing with the general public to dispel misconceptions about the other. The CAP and R2R presented 'Exchange for Change: Crossing Borders' as the story of Namrita and Qasim who began their journey 18 months ago with a letter that changed hearts and minds. They challenged perceptions, crossed borders and became friends.

Upon the completion of the Exchange for Change cycle, the CAP is holding exhibitions to showcase

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hardwork is the road to success. Success doesn't come easy, you have to work hard for it. My fellow students often ask me- how can we improve our gpa? I tell them what I'm telling you- hardwork. You need to read, study, learn, revise and repeat. It's a long and tedious process. But it does payoff in the end. This is not just applicable in studies but you can apply it to life in general. You won't just sit on a couch and become a millionaire. Steve Jobs he worked hard to form such a powerful company and so did Bill Gates. It never comes easy. Happy hard work!

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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Pakistan Day parade to be held after a gap of seven years



Adeel Qureshi
BS413635

The government has decided to hold a joint military parade on March 23 to mark 'Pakistan Day' after a break of seven years.

According to ISPR Spokesman Maj Gen Asim Bajwa, the decision shows that "we are moving towards normal".

The parade by all the three services army, navy and air force would be accompanied by a display of military hardware.

The Pakistan Day parade used to be a regular feature till 2008. But subsequent governments cancelled the event because of security fears and troops' engagement with military operations.

In the absence of military parade, the of-



ficial ceremony over the years remained a low-key affair.

The military is still involved in intense counter-terrorism operations — in North Waziristan (Zarb-i-Azb) and Khyber and tensions run high on the Line of Control and Working Boundary, but apparently the decision to resume the parade is motivated by a desire to shed the climate of fear.

The government and the military have been trying to reclaim the narrative and space lost to militants after the adoption

Contd.... Pg.6

First hybrid maize seed launched



Shehroz Sohail
BS41 3610

The Punjab Seed Corporation (PSC) and the Breeders of Maize and Millet Research Institute on Monday jointly launched first hybrid seed of maize, calling it "a big achievement that will not only help multiply yield, but also check monopoly of multinationals".



Addressing the ceremony, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Dr Farrukh Javed said it was a great achievement, as the yield potential claimed by breeders concerned was highly promising and comparable to imported seed.

"Another important factor is price that will at least be three times less than that of the imported seed and substantially reduce the production cost of farmers," he said.

Contd.... Pg.6

Provinces offered generous aid against terrorism



Raafe Hassan
BS41 3607

The government assured provinces in the National Assembly that they would get aid to fight terrorism "beyond their expectations" after both its opponents and some allies accused it of indifference over Friday's suicide attack on an Imambargah in Shikarpur that killed more than 60 people.

The government gave no explanation about complaints from Leader of Opposition Khursheed Ahmed Shah and some other lawmakers from both sides of the aisle wondering why neither Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was in Karachi on the day of the attack, nor any of his ministers had visited Shikarpur so far to show solidarity with the people of the city.

The agenda of the first day of the

Contd.... Pg.6



'Sheen say Shahid Afridi': Digital artist Ramish Safa makes learning Urdu fun

Laraib Rajput
BS38 3345

Ramish Safa, a business-graduate-turned-digital-artist, has recently come up with an interesting way to make learning Urdu fun. Fusing pop and desi culture, Safa explains the Urdu alphabet using characters from HBO's popular series Game of Thrones (GoT).

In an email interview with Dawn, Safa shares how the idea came about:

"I love GoT and I have been doing a lot of fan art since the show aired," he said. "I just figured doing mugs would be an interesting way to put a constant reminder in people's daily lives of how awesome this show is. A mug is something that can stay with you for a while. It can be there on your kitchen counter, or your computer desk or your workstation."

Safa's love for the show be-



comes more evident as he adds: "I even did aGoT inspired invitation card for my wedding! That's how much I love the show."

The idea was well received as the mugs quickly went out of stock.

"I think it's fair to say that people adored the idea. And they want more."

Safa shares that these mug series are in fact a teaser of his upcoming book. Titled UrduAikSoAik, the book is set to launch in 10 days and, as Safa puts it, is a modern day take on the Urdu qayeda.

"The pages of the book have been composed exactly the same way as the illustrations on the mugs. I figured pairing

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Shaukat Khanum hospital to open by year end

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leader Fauzia Kasuri on Wednesday said the second Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital (SKMCH) in Peshawar would begin treating patients from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas at the end of the current year.

The hospital is being built in Hayatabad Township.

Fauzia Kasuri told a news conference here that she had collected Rs120 million for the upcoming hospital during a recent trip to the US.

"The hospital will be a gift from Imran Khan to the people of the region. It will benefit thousands



of people suffering from different types of cancers. The cancer patients from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas now going to SKMCH Lahore will soon get state-of-the-art medical facilities in Peshawar," she said.

"We accept healthcare facilities in the (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) province aren't in good shape and require drastic measures for improvement to the desired level," she said.

The PTI leader said the

Contd.... Pg.6

Water schemes in Fata planned

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

Civil Secretariat Fata would construct 239 kilometres long irrigation channels and water courses in different tribal agencies, said a handout issued here.

Work on these schemes, which will cost \$47.9 million, will be started next month. Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has approved five projects in different agencies last month. These schemes would facilitate 116,751 families.



Under the plan, a total of nine dams, five in Mohmand Agency and four in Khyber Agency, would be constructed. Likewise, 31 irrigation weirs will be constructed in three agencies, including 22 in Bajaur Agency, seven in Mohmand Agency and two in Khyber Agency.

Levelling of 4,615 hectares land for cultivation purpose

Contd.... Pg.7

Seminars mark World Cancer Day

Ujala Nadeem
BS47 5275

Seminars and conferences marked World Cancer Day. The events were aimed at giving awareness to the people about the disease.

But despite all awareness campaigns the disease is on the rise in the country and every year nearly 80,000 Pakistanis die of cancer. After cardiovascular disease, cancer is the second biggest killer in the world and there were an estimated 8.2 million deaths from cancer in 2012. There are more than 1.4 million cancer patients in Pakistan.

A seminar held at Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI) Cancer Hospital.

A large number of medical practitioners, students and people participated in the seminar. Participants were briefed about the precautionary measures to avoid the disease.

Shifa International Hospital organised a cancer screening camp and seminar with a



theme "It's Not Beyond Us". Consultant Medical Oncologist Dr Kamran Rasheed said cancer is 90 per cent curable if it is diagnosed timely.

Although there are many kinds of cancer, they all develop because of uncontrollable growth of abnormal cells, he said.

Around 200,000 people become cancer patient in Pakistan every year, he added.

During a symposium at Quaid-i-Azam University, representative of World Health Organisation Dr Ghulam Nabi Kazi said high proportion of cancer cases and deaths could be prevented through appropriate planning and strengthening of health services for timely response and control of cancer. Dr Kazi recommended that a comprehensive National Cancer Control Plan should be developed.

Courtesy: Dawn

Textile exports rise 10pc

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

Exports of textile and clothing surged to \$1.207 billion in January 2015 compared to \$1.095bn a year ago, an increase of 10.23 per cent, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data showed.

The growth in export proceeds rebounded after wit-



nessing a negative growth of over 6pc in Dec 2014, thanks to improved supply of gas and electricity to the sector.

During July-Jan 2014-15, the exports of textile and clothing witnessed a nominal increase of just 1pc.

Product-wise details show that exports of low value-added products, such as cotton yarn, was up by 24.17pc; yarn other than cotton yarn 89.53pc; tents 51.06pc and made-up textile excluding towels by 17.04pc.

Courtesy: Dawn

Sindh agriculture growth project

Raaf Hassan
BS41 3607

A World Bank mission recently held meetings with agricultural officers and farmers to review the progress on the Sindh agriculture growth project (SGAP), which entered the implementation phase in October last year.

The mission visited different areas where project is to be executed in agriculture and livestock sectors. Tendering process is being undertaken by the provincial government for implements and machinery — for use by the growers. This project is designed to support small and medium size growers in eight selected districts, more districts will be gradually covered by the programme. It will focus on minor crops like onion, chillies, rice and dates and help farmers and agriculture officers become used to better farm practices, minimise crop losses and fetch better price of their produces.

The value addition is the main objective. A funding formula of 70-30pc debt equity ratio has been worked out for purchase of implements and

other farm inputs. The WB mission met onion and chilli growers in Umerkot and Tando Allahyar to see how they are working, shared project's objectives with them and discussed how they have to proceed.



The Sindh government, says Director General Agriculture Extension Sindh Hidayatullah Chhajro, intends to ensure that the gap in per acre yields is minimised and growers derive maximum benefits of increased per acre productivity with improved farm practices. Not only farmers but agriculture officers are to be trained under SGAP over a period of five years. "It will be our effort that value addition is done and farmers come up with quality produce in the market which is at par with other competitors," says the DG.

The project aims to stem 30-40pc losses in rice crop on

Contd.... Pg.7

In Karachi, 'Robin Hood Army' borrows from the rich to feed the poor

Ujala Nadeem
BS47 5275

A group of young people gathered at Karachi's Cantt Station with a purpose - to distribute packets of food from a prominent restaurant chain to people who needed it most.

These young people were 'Robin Hood Army' volunteers. 'Robin Hood Army' is a social initiative that aims to take surplus food items from well-to-do eateries and distribute them amongst the country's more needy folk. Delhi-based Neel Ghose and



Anand Sinha began this novel initiative in June 2014. The idea is modeled after a similar organization called 'Re-food' in Portugal that works towards elimination of both hunger and food waste in the country. Neel Ghose volunteered at this organization and was so inspired by the concept that he decided

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'Jewels of Peshawar' receive awards, but after long wait

Adeel Qureshi
BS413635

The elderly "jewels of Peshawar" in whose honour a programme was held at Sethi House had to wait for more than two hours for receiving achievement awards. The reason was that Advisor to Chief Minister Amjad Afridi, who came quiet late, kept telling the organisers to wait for him.

The adviser claimed he was stuck in traffic.

The provincial tourism, sports, archaeology, museums and youth affairs department organised an award giving ceremony in honour of prominent personalities to acknowledge their outstanding performance in various fields.

The ceremony was held at Sethi House. The Tourism



Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa staffers kept waiting the participants in Mohallah Sethian, Peshawar City for Adviser to Chief Minister on Tourism, Sports, Archaeology, Museums and Youth Affairs Amjad Afridi. A large number of artists, players, educationists and others were invited to attend the ceremony.

Awards were given to the four legends, who were termed 'jewels of Peshawar' including Pride of Performance Award-winning Principal of Pakistan College of Arts Tayyaba Aziz, television artist Salahuddin (late), Hockey Olympian Qazi Salahuddin and photographer Fakhar Zaman Azhar (Uncle Toni).

Uncle Toni is the oldest photographer, working since 1965 in Peshawar. He is 77. He was born in Peshawar and has won 105 awards. "Unity of religion" a photo taken by Uncle Toni showing Derwesh Mosque and Catholic Church Peshawar is what he takes pride in.

Courtesy: Dawn



LIVE: Lahore Literature Festival (LLF) concludes on a high note

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

The Lahore Literary Festival (LLF-2015) that brought a variety of writers, journalists, musicians, analysts and politicians from not just across Pakistan but all over the world to the city, ended on Sunday.

Among the famous national and international figures who attended the event were Lyse Doucet, Akar Patel, Shoba De, Najam Sethi, Naseeruddin Shah, Salil Tripathi, Peter Osborne, Ayesha Jalal and Roger Cohen, who talked about various issues, international politics, books, poetry and the work of some of the legendary artists of the subcontinent like Faiz



Ahmed Faiz and Noor Jehan.

Despite tight security outside the Alhamra Arts Council, the festival venue, featuring armed policemen, security scanners and barricades, inside the festival continued in full swing, celebrating the best of Pakistan. The venue came to life with the colourful décor, book shops, food stalls, live classical music and an art exhibition titled 'The Wall: Fixing Androon Lahore'.

Contd.... Pg.6

Students paint for peace

Laraib Rajput
BS38 3345

A poster competition was organised by the Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) to spread the message of peace and tolerance in society.

Over 100 students from various public colleges in the Potohar region participated in the competition.

The posters made by students carried messages



of peace, tolerance and inter-faith harmony.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Cabinet Division Raja Javed Ikhlas was invited as the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

Addressing guests and participants, Mr Ikhlas said the government had pledged to root out terrorism from the country. He said Islam was a religion of peace and there was no repression in this religion.

He appreciated the work presented by students and said that there is a dire need to create awareness among the people about respecting the

Contd.... Pg.6

'Dukhtar' to screen at American Independents in Berlin on February 10

Raafe Hassan
BS41 3607

After garnering recognition at the Toronto Film Festival as well as the 11th South Asian Film Festival (SAIFF), Afia Nathaniel's road-trip thriller *Dukhtar* is now part of the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) Selects and is set to screen at American Independents in Berlin on Feb 10.

Founded in 1979, IFP is the largest and oldest not-for-profit dedicated to independent film and "fosters a vibrant and sustainable independent storytelling community". IFP programs help filmmakers



navigate the industry, develop new audiences and encourage close interaction between participants.

Presented in partnership with the European Film Market (EFM), American Independents in Berlin showcases over 50 films through IFP Selects and Sundance at EFM Market Screenings, with the objective of highlighting new American work to buyers, distributors, and festival programmers.

In a departure from traditional film fare, *Dukhtar* highlights the issue of child marriage through the setup of a road-trip thriller that explores the intense drama of a mother's frenzied search for a new life for her daughter with the help of ex-Mujahid truck driver

Contd.... Pg.7

Napa celebrates 10th founding anniversary

Ujala Nadeem
BS47 5275

"To be a part of Napa's 10th founding anniversary is a very gratifying experience. I never imagined myself being around long enough to be part of the celebrations, and see the seed that we planted grow into a healthy plant, about to become a tree," said Zia Mo-hyeddin, veteran actor, producer and president of the National Academy of Performing Arts.

The festivities were held on Napa's premises on Thursday and attracted a varied crowd board members, the faculty, students past and present as well as a range of well-wishers.

Napa's journey may seem short, yet it has come a long way in shaping minds, and



performances of the creative minds that form its student body. It has managed to inculcate a sense of tradition as well as pride among all associated with it and the genuine love for it could be felt at the celebration.

It would have greatly added to the authenticity of the gathering had a more documented effort been made towards introducing the history behind Napa's inception, and memories been shared by the founding members.

Arshad Mahmud, director of programmes & administration,

Contd.... Pg.7

Cont.. from Pg 8: Akhtar Rasool praises holding of.....

Akhtar, the captain of the victorious Pakistan team at the 1982 World Hockey Cup, urged other national departments, particularly affiliated

with the PHF, to come forward and support the game by organising national level tournaments in the country. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from Pg 1: Work of 5,000 students from India.....

correspondence by students over the course of the exchange.

'Crossing Borders' is a multimedia exhibition that allows visitors to share the journey of a little boy from Pakistan and a little girl in India who met through Exchange for Change.

The exhibition takes the form of a giant interactive storybook, and features letters, collages, postcards and oral histories that were exchanged as part of the programme. The exhibition invites visitors to explore the friendships made and the adventures embarked upon by participants of the EFC 2013-2015 cycle.

The Exchange for Change is the first of its kind between

Pakistan and India as no sustained cultural exchange programme of this scale and nature has been developed between the two countries, in the past.

The project seeks to help students in the two countries realise that a sustained dialogue is possible. It is now the largest student oral history exchange programme in the world and the largest Track II diplomacy effort between Pakistan and India.

The CAP collaborated with Routes 2 Roots for the project, a registered non-profit charitable organisation, which aims to bring together people, cultures and values across Saarc countries, in particular India and Pakistan. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from pg 2: Pakistan Day parade to be held after a.....

of National Action Plan on counter-terrorism by the political leadership in the aftermath of the December 16 Peshawar school tragedy.

This year's event would take place at the new Parade Ground near scenic

Shakarparian. Earlier the parade was held on the Jinnah Avenue in front of the Parliament House. Race Course in Rawalpindi hosted the parade before the venue was changed to Jinnah Avenue. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from pg 8: Moiz....

The 'recreational' category was also clinched by a youngster, Bisma Fatima, while Nasir Altaf was the runner-up and Haseeb Ahmed came third.

The 'novice' category was claimed by debutant Hasan Ahmed who remained unbeaten throughout the day. Little Zainab Shujaat was the runner-up while her cousin Bisma Inayat finished third. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from pg 5: Students..

views and beliefs of others. He said the younger generation has the capacity to change the society through tolerance.

Former RAC resident director Naheed Manzoor said the root cause of terrorism must be eliminated so that Pakistan could become a peaceful country. She said terrorism and Islam had no relationship. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from pg 5: LIVE: Lahore Literature Festival (LLF)...

Razi Ahmed, the founder and CEO of the LLF, looked extremely pleased with the festival this year. Talking to Dawn he said: "LLF has come a long way this year. We started in 2013 with three parallel sessions, scaling it up to four sessions last year and this year we had five sessions. In fact the visitors had to cope with the difficulty of choices to make." He also felt that this year, there was a "bigger international com-

ponent" to the programme with people like Joe Sacco, a respected figure in comic journalism and many Indians, including Romila Thapar, a distinguished historian, whose participation had given LLF a "comparative advantage" over other literary festivals around the world as she normally did not deliver lectures at such events. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from pg 3: Shaukat Khanum hospital to open by year end

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre was a public welfare organisation and that it was so much apolitical that even its founding chairman, Imran Khan, couldn't influence its affairs. She said the hospital had been certified and acclaimed globally as the world-class institution.

Fauzia Kasuri said the people

responded to federal minister Khwaja Asif's allegations against SKMCH by donating more money to it and that the hospital belonged to the people, who ran it. She said the party had tasked her with helping the provincial government improve healthcare for displaced persons in Bannu in particular and patient care in general. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from pg 2: Provinces offered generous aid

session, which was requisitioned by opposition parties originally to debate causes of last month's petrol shortages in the country, was suspended for a debate on the Shikarpur attack. The house condemned the bombing "vociferously" in a resolution adopted unanimously.

The brief resolution said the house "stands in solidarity with the victims and be-

reaved families" and recommended that "the government intensify its efforts to achieve the goals set in the National Action Plan in order to eliminate the scourge of terrorism from Pakistan".

The debate on petrol shortages will be held on Tuesday, when the house meets at 11am. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from pg 2: First hybrid maize seed launched.....

Agriculture experts, especially breeders, would be encouraged with cash rewards and national awards to increase the yield of major and minor crops to ensure food security and meet requirements of the rapidly increasing population.

He also said implementing Vision 2025 of the chief minister, a large number of projects had been initiated to

increase export of agriculture products by adopting value addition technology to meet the world market's requirements, as per standards of the World Trade Organisation. He said the Punjab government had taken valuable initiatives to introduce various farmer-friendly policies to strengthen the national economy and ensure farmers' prosperity. *Courtesy: Dawn*

Cont... from P.g 5: Napa celebrates 10th founding anniversary

shared vivid experiences of his journey at Napa. He recalled that in 2004, "under the direction of Zia Mohyeddin, a group of talented actors and directors decided to set up Napa. Many creative heads

were attracted to this project, some of whom were celebrities in their own right — Rahat Kazmi, Nafees Ahmad, Talat Hussain."

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont.. from pg 1: Pakistan carries out test flight of Raad missile

capability keeps the aircraft from which the missile is fired well out of danger from hostile air defence systems.

The test closely followed India's testing of its 5000 kilometres nuclear-capable Inter-Continental Ballistic Agni-V missile, which was launched from a canister.

The Pakistani test gave the impression that it was in response to the Indian trial.

Nuclear expert Brig retired Naeem Salik said it was wrong to link the two tests. Pakistan, he said, tested a cruise missile, while the India's was a ballistic missile. Moreover, he said, the planning for tests was done well in advance.

Brig Salik said that the Pakistan government had taken a policy decision in 1999 of not undertaking tit-for-tat tests.

India last year carried out 23 missile tests, while Pakistan tested its missiles on seven occasions.

The Director General of Strategic Plans Division, Lt Gen Zubair Mahmood Hayat, said the test would strengthen "Pakistan's Full Spectrum Credible Minimum Deterrence capability".

Pakistan's strategic pursuits, he said, were aimed at achieving Strategic Stability in the region.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 4: Sindh agriculture growth project

account of processing practices. It would finance threshers for the use of farmers and paddy dryers for the use of small mill operators besides soil and moisture testing kits, conductivity meters, etc on cost sharing basis to modernise Sindh's rice management and increase productivity by an estimated 20pc.

In case of date crop, focus

will be on tissue culture's promotion and on disease-free dates plant. Laboratory working in Khairpur is to be upgraded. An Agriculture Research Development Fund headed by Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam will look into financing research on minor crops and livestock, and come up with workable proposals.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 4: In Karachi, 'Robin Hood Army' borrows from.....

to replicate the model in India.

Neel Ghose and Sarah Afridi, who have been friends since their days at the London School of Economics, decided to bring the cause to Pakistan and chose the day of the India-Pakistan World

Cup match to start the new chapter in Karachi.

The core team in Karachi consists of six people - Sarah Afridi, Sarfaraz Abid, Anaam Afridi, Mahnoor Abid, Anam Rafiq and Summaya Ayaz.

Courtesy Dawn

Cont.. from pg 1: One-way to Mars: Pakistan's ex-military

behind for thousands of years to come," says Pakistani-Canadian Reginald George Foulds who believes that Mars One is a great opportunity for him to fulfill his dreams and to do something "out of this world".

"[I want to leave] a legacy behind like many other great people who took expeditions to the unknown territories. For me, it will be to another galaxy," says Foulds, who has served in the Pakistani military for more than 20

years. "Being a pilot for many years, it was always my desire to be an astronaut."

People may find this hard to believe but Foulds' family has been very supportive of him regarding this project. "Everyone is as excited and thrilled as myself for my being amongst the top 100 candidates from an initial list of more than two hundred thousand," says Foulds, who has two children – a son and a daughter.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont.. from pg 3: 'Sheen say Shahid Afridi': Digital artist....

relatable content with Urdu alphabets would be a cool way for people to come back to the script that seems to have faded away into the back of the shelves with old Urdu books."

He opines: "I feel this is

going to revolutionise, at the very least, the way people think of Urdu."

With pages like "Sheen say Shahid Afridi" and "Jeem say Justin", the book is bound to elicit fits of laughter.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont.. from pg 8: 'Asian event will boost cycling team's.....

perience and technique of the cyclists," he said.

"The team has been made up by the best available cycling talent after monitoring their performance at a training camp."

Moazzam added that the current focus is on building the team for road events and the

Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) was determined to boost the sport in the country. "Despite adverse factors including lack of infrastructure and equipment as well as financial issues, the PCF is committed towards grooming young cyclists by ensuring their participation in top international events," he said.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from P.g 5: 'Dukhtar' to screen at American.....

played by award-winning actor Mohib Mirza. The film is set against the backdrop of the surreal landscapes and roads of Hunza, Skardu, Gilgit and Kallar Kahar all the way to the urban landscape of Lahore.

Dukhtar has already gained significant international acclaim and is the first Pakistani feature film to have won sev-

eral prestigious and highly competitive film production awards, including awards for 'Best Director' and 'Audience Award for Best Feature' at the 11th South Asian Film Festival (SAIFF), the Hubert Bals Fund, SORFUND, National Geographic's All Road Seed grant, Adrienne Shelly and Women in Film-NETFLIX Award.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont.. from pg 3: Water schemes in Fata planned

also forms part of the project and according to details 2,816 hectares land will be levelled for cultivation in Bajaur

Agency, 720 hectares in Mohmand Agency and 1,079 in Khyber Agency.

Courtesy: Dawn



Akhtar Rasool praises holding of coas Hockey Cup

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) president Akhtar Rasool hailed Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif's "timely decision" to patronise the game by organising the inaugural Chief of Army Staff Challenge Hockey Cup in Rawalpindi and awarding lucrative cash prizes to the top teams.

Akhtar is struggling to raise funds for the game as he tries to improve PHF's financial position with the federal government yet to release the annual grant to it and said the players were happy as big cash prizes were at stake in the tournament.



The COAS Challenge Cup concluded on Sunday with winners National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) honoured with a cash prize of Rs1 million and the runners-up Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) receiving Rs700,000 and third-placed Army bagging Rs500,000. The Army chief was also the chief guest on the final day.

"The prize money at the tournament was unprecedented as never has such an amount been given to the winners of a domestic tournament," Akhtar told.

"This generous gesture of the Army chief has encouraged the PHF to redouble its efforts to revive Pakistan's past glory in the game.

"The Pakistan hockey team won silver at the Champions Trophy and the Asian Games despite the odds against them and this performance is an indicator we can achieve more milestones if we receive proper support", the PHF president stressed.

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West Asia Baseball Cup begins from 23rd

Adeel Qureshi
BS413635

The Pakistan Baseball Federation (PBF) is holding the BFA 12th West Asia Baseball Cup here at Pakistan Sports Complex from February 23-28.



According to a PBF official, five international teams including India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq have already confirmed their participation in the event.

"Pakistan players are undergoing a tough training for the last one month at a camp set up at Pakistan Sport Complex, which would continue till the commencement of championship," the official informed.

Courtesy: Dawn

'Asian event will boost cycling team's experience'

Shehroz Sohail
BS41 3610

Pakistan manager Moazzam Ali Khan reckons his team's participation in the Asian Cycling Championship in Thailand will give his riders more confidence while adding to their experience.

The national team comprising four male riders namely Naimat Ali, Zeeshan Ali, Habibullah and Sajid Mohammad along with two female cyclists Rahila Bano and Rajia Shabbir will take part in the continent's premier cycling competition from February 10-14.



And Moazzam, a former cyclist and winner of a number of international medals, was of the view that there is dire need to ensure the participation of national cyclists in high-profile international events on a regular basis.

"We lag far behind at international level compared to other Asian countries but our team's participation is a step forward to enhance the ex

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Moiz clinches premier title at ranking scrabble

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

The Danpak seventh Ranking Scrabble Tournament played at Beach Luxury Hotel here on Sunday turned out to be yet another successful event with 83 players taking part.

Another feature of the event was the performance of the young players. Winners of four out of five categories were teenagers.

The 'premier' category comprising the top 10 players in Pakistan was won by former youth world champion Moiz Baig while Rashid Khan was the runner-up. Pakistan's No. 1

player Waseem Khatri had a rare off day but still managed to finished third.

In the 'master' category, Maria Soares reigned supreme taking the first position while identical twins Hassan Hadi and Hammad Hadi finished second and third, respectively.

The 'advance' category was won by young Hamza Sheikh while Nasir Mahmood and Absar Mustajab finished sec

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