



November in History

November 26, 1964:
President Ayub Khan inaugurates Pakistan Television Lahore Station.

November 13, 1966:
Punjab city of Montgomery renamed Sahiwal.

November 24, 1978:
Pakistan wins Hockey Champion Trophy at Lahore, defeating Australia.

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Chinese Navy flotilla docks at Karachi for bilateral exercises

Chinese Navy flotilla docked at Karachi port on Wednesday to participate in 4th Pakistan Navy and People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) bilateral exercises encompassing harbour and sea phases.

The Chinese fleet includes ocean salvage and rescue ship Changxingdao and PLA-N ship Handan, which reached Karachi on a goodwill visit to Pakistan. Senior officials of Pakistan Navy and Chinese consulate were also present on the occasion.

A statement issued by navy's media wing said "these exercises are expected to go a long way in promoting maritime security in the backdrop of operationalisation of China Pakistan



Economic Corridor (CPEC) BARRACUDA-VII. and Gwadar port".

Meanwhile, on the direction of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) conducted a marine oil spill exercise

The exercise was aimed at rehearsing the oil spill procedures and contingency mechanism, the navy statement added. The two-day long exercise had commenced on November 14, 2016.

Courtesy: Dawn



‘Motorbike Ambulance Service’ for Major Cities

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif has approved launching of a ‘motorbike ambulance service’ in Lahore and some other major cities of the province.



An official privy to the information told Dawn that the chief minister had approved the launch of around 100 ‘motorbikes’ in the provincial capital while 50 each in Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan and Rawalpindi districts.

According to the initial information, the scheme is supposed to be launched to pick injured persons or to deal such emergencies in congested areas of cities where the access to ambulances remains an issue.

The official said the motorbikes would rush to narrow streets, small roads or poorly accessed localities.

He said the four-wheeler am-

bulances would follow the bikes up to main roads to receive the injured from bikers to shift them to hospitals concerned.

He said two trained rescuers would be dispatched with necessary first-aid equipment or tools to deal with the emergency on motorbike ambulances.

The official said the idea was derived from the UK, Turkey and Japan models.

He said the Rescue 1122 director-general had forwarded the proposal to the CM under the health reforms programme.

Courtesy: Dawn

Energy Management: Pakistani wins Engineer of the Year Award

A Pakistani engineer, Saqib Sajjad, has won the Energy Engineer of the Year Award for the Middle Eastern region given annually by the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE).



The nonprofit professional association of over 18,000 members presented over 70 regional awards around the world with the aim to recognise individuals and organisations for their dedication and performance in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industry.

Saqib was presented the award for playing a key role in the development and implementation of energy management system through his research and contributing to the efficiency of energy improvement in oil and gas industrial units.

He is currently working on energy strategy, performance benchmarking and developing energy competencies in Abu Dhabi Gas Industries Limited, which is part of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Group of Companies.

With a master’s degree in chemical engineering and business administration, Saqib is a chartered engineer from the United Kingdom and qualified in energy management and measurement and verification from the AEE in United States.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

‘Progress in Pakistan at Highest Point’

Pakistan has reached the highest point of its economic progress as the eight-year has broken and the poverty level is coming down while the growth in two years will remain between 4.7 percent and 5.4 percent. Outlining three major risks

not implemented as expected in FY17, this will reduce the growth outlook,” the report warned.

The WB also says that the low and stagnant investment rate, however, continues to pose sig-



hampering the future growth prospects of Pakistan, including delays in CPEC projects, the World Bank (WB) has projected the GDP growth to touch 5 percent during the current financial year against the officially envisaged target of 5.5 percent.

After Pakistan achieved the highest-ever growth rate of 4.7 percent in the last eight years, the WB says that Pakistan’s growth is likely to touch 5 percent in FY17 and 5.5 percent FY18 provided speedy implementation of \$46 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and consistently pursuing structural reforms.

The WB’s latest report titled “Pakistan Development Update” released on Thursday also outlined three major risks for the country’s future growth, including delays in CPEC projects, possibility of increased oil prices in international market and declining exports.

The WB says that CPEC delays and inadequate revenue mobilization are two risks to near-term growth. The gradual growth trend is underpinned by increased public investment through CPEC. “If CPEC is

nificant challenges. After strong growth in FY15 of 13 percent, investment grew by only 5.7 percent in FY16.

The World Bank highlighted Pakistan’s success in reducing poverty over the last decade and a half – but contrasted this with the lack of progress in health, education and nutrition outcomes since 2010.

“Pakistan has made significant progress in reducing poverty over the last decade. Based on the revised poverty line adopted in early 2016, the percentage of people living below the poverty line decreased from 64.3 percent in FY02 to 29.5 percent in FY14. This reduction in poverty is corroborated when analyzing other data, such as asset ownership”, says Muhammad Waheed, Senior Economist and lead author of the report. “But stunting rates have been unchanged for decades and health and education outcomes have shown little improvement since 2010. By reinvesting its economic gains in health and education systems, Pakistan can make growth matter for all its citizens”, the report concluded.

By Saba Habib
Courtesy: The News

Karachi United's Women Football team is Transcending Borders and Kick-Starting a Revolution

"The endgame is to make football into not just what cricket is today but more than that."

With skilled kicks and tackles, a budding crop of women's football teams is breaking new ground in Pakistan. One such team is the Karachi United's Women's Division.

Most recently, the squad finds itself in the limelight because of a video of them taking on the 'mannequin challenge' the latest social media trend where people freeze mid-action while a video is recorded. As the Karachi United team members pause, their posture and control is a testament to their athletic abilities.

This is far from the squad's biggest accomplishment though. In September, members of the team went to Berlin, Germany, to represent Pakistan in the International Women's Football Cultural Festival.

They took part in panel discussions and brainstormed ideas relating to women's football and its challenges.

The girls then participated in a tournament with women from nine other countries. The goal of the tournament was to promote fair play and integrate different communities to encourage collaboration.

If that was not enough, they also got to meet the German chancellor, Angela Merkel and the Pakistani Ambassador to Germany, Jauhar Saleem.

Meet the Karachi United Women's Division team

It is a typically hot Karachi night. The stage is set for one of Karachi's biggest futsal tournaments. An expectedly large crowd has gathered around one of the pitches; but they are not here to see just any another match — these enthused spectators are about witness something groundbreaking. This year Karachi United's futsal tournament is host to 33 men's teams and one women's team.

An intense match is underway between a men's team and the sole women's team.



The passion with which the women's team is holding on to a goal-less draw is a sheer delight to witness. The crowd cheers and chants with each tackle or attempt at goal from the underdogs.

Contrary to their male counterparts insistence, the women's team has chosen to compete in the tournament dominated by men.

They put up a tough competition with precise tackling and tireless work ethic. Even though the final score is not in their favour, by the end of an exciting night, there is a general consensus that these women are a real force to be reckoned with.

The Karachi United women's

team has made a mark in a big way, one that transcends score lines and medals. The team was officially founded in October 2010 under the banner of Karachi United, a football club that has been operating and promoting football as a sport in Pakistan since 1996.

In a country where female participation in sport is not given any serious consideration, the Karachi United Women's Division is looking to set a precedent that would bring women's football to the forefront of the conversation on female empowerment and equal opportunities for both genders in the field of sport.

Courtesy: Dawn

Auction of DTH licences on 23rd

Gross revenue advertisement reduced from 5 to 2pc from Jan 1, 2017

Auction of Direct-To-Home (DTH) licences will be held as per schedule on Nov 23. This decision was made in a meeting which was presided over by Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, and attended by Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) chairman, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) chairman and representatives of cable operators at 90-Shahrah-e-Quaid-i-Azam.

Successful bidder would start its operation from Nov 1, 2017.

Moreover, the five percent of gross revenue advertisement, which the cable operators used to deposit to PEMRA, has been



reduced to two percent from January 1, 2017. It was also decided in the meeting that recommendation would be made to the prime minister that a high-level committee be formed to review the matters of PBA and cable operators. The committee should include PEMRA, PBA, cable operators and other stakeholders. This committee would present its recommendations to the PM

Courtesy: The News International

Ceremony held to Honour Pakistan's Young Entrepreneurs

The British Deputy High Commission hosted a dinner in honour of youngsters having innovative schemes for entrepreneurship. The youngsters who attended the event were winners of the Entrepreneurship Challenge Pakistan.

The young people had come from all the provinces of the country with their clearly defined plans for the uplift of the people and the country. They seemed to have highly ambitious plans for entrepreneurship.

There were delegations from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. It was so encouraging

to see that all these young people spoke impeccable English. The children from Balochistan outlined a plan for women's emancipation and employment.

Those from Gilgit-Baltistan outlined their plans to start off a scheme for popularising tourism in their area and for making Shigar in Baltistan a lucrative tourist attraction and exploiting its tourism potential. They stressed the provision of mountain bikes for tourists and presented very ambitious plans for mustering the finances for their plans.

The delegation from Sindh presented a plan for giving

Contd. on Pg. 5

UK's Royal Air Force aerobatics team makes flying visit to Karachi

The Royal Air Force Aerobatics Team of the United Kingdom arrived in Karachi on Saturday as part of its Asia-Pacific and Middle East Tour 2016.

The Red Arrows team which stopped in Karachi praised Pakistan Air Force for their hospitality. "Have arrived in Karachi, Pakistan. Great hospitality again by Pakistan Air Force," Junior Air Force officer of the Red Arrows tweeted.

Royal Air Force Aerobatics Team performs in Karachi

UK Deputy High Commis-



sioner Karachi, Belinda Lewis, also thanked the Pakistan Air Force for their hospitality.

The Asia-Pacific and Middle East Tour 2016, is the team's biggest overseas tour in a decade. After traveling India, Pakistan and Oman in a day,

Red Arrows are set to display in Muscat today at 15:00 pm.

The Red Arrows took off from Lincolnshire in the UK on September 29 for the two-month long tour that is due to end in December. The Red Arrows was established in 1964. Since then,

It has performed over 4,000 times the world over.

Air chief expresses satisfaction over PAF's operational readiness

In October the team performed aerobatics in Karachi. The team's 12 Hawk aircraft attracted a large number of spectators as they took to the skies in the lead of Squadron Leader David. Wing Commander Martin Higgins, Squadron Commander of Red Arrows also accompanied the team.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune



Lahore's Mughal-era Shahi Hammam wins UNESCO award

The 17th century Mughal-era Shahi Hammam in Lahore received the Award of Merit in this year's UNESCO Asia Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation in Bangkok.

"Undertaken with a high degree of technical proficiency, the restoration of Shahi Hammam has safeguarded a unique example of the monumental 17th century Mughal public bathhouse," a statement on UNESCO's website read.

Pakistan's 6 UNESCO world heritage sites

The conservation project was recognised "for returning the ornate Shahi Hammam to its former prominence within the Walled City of Lahore while giving encouragement to future private conservation initiatives."

The display of excavated under-

ground structures, partial reinstatement of bathhouse features, and an educational exhibition gives visitors a better understanding of the bathhouse's historic function.

A total of 13 winning projects from six countries Australia, China, India, Iran, Japan and Pakistan have been recognized in this year's Heritage Awards. The 2016 Award of Excellence was presented to Sanro-Den Hall, a prayer hall at Suku-nahikona Shrine in Ozu City, Ehime Prefecture. "The project epitomises the efficacy of grassroots advocacy, coupled with traditional building practices, in extending the life of distinctive 20th century Kakezukuri structure, successfully returning it to a central place in the cultural life of the local community."

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Pakistani duo wins International Award for Radio Drama in US

A duo of students associated with Punjab University's Institute of Communication Studies (ICS) has won an international award for a radio drama depicting Pakistan's struggle with terrorism and how the country copes with its related tragedy.

Ali Yaldrum and Masood Mallhi took part in the event held at the University of South Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communications Broadcast Education Association (BEA). The competition was part of the Fall Super-Regional Conference held between October 13 and 15 in Columbia.

The three-day conference featured professional and academic training workshops; topical and timely panel discussions; and competitions for both scholarly research and creative works.

Energy management: Pakistani wins engineer of the year award

Their radio drama titled Mom



Calling received the third prize in the Student Creative Works category. The drama was directed and produced by Mallhi, while Yaldrum played the main character of the drama.

The team won the prize among 180 other entries in the competition. Yaldrum received the award at a ceremony held at the University of South Carolina.

The drama centered around the Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park tragedy in Lahore where as many as 65 people were killed in a suicide attack on March 7, 2016.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Over 400 foreign, local firms to exhibit products at IDEAS

The defence industries of Turkey, China, Russia, North America, South America, Europe and Asia will have a significant presence at the 9th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS), which is to open at the Karachi Expo Centre on Tuesday, November 22, 2016.

According to Commodore Tahir Javed, media director of the Defence Export Promotion Organisation (DEPO), Ministry of Defence Production, they have received an overwhelming response from exhibitors as well as delegations from around the globe for the biennial event.

Briefing media at the curtain-raiser on Sunday, he said the four-day event included the inaugural ceremony, seminar, the governor's reception, sideline conferences where exhibitors would brief the participants on their products and the concluding ceremony.

"The inaugural day of the exhibition will be dedicated to officially invited delegations comprising senior officials of foreign countries, exhibitors and trade visitors from Pakistan and abroad," he added.

About 90 delegations from 43 countries have already arrived to attend the exhibition and seminar, including 30 high-level teams comprising defence ministers, defence secretaries and services chiefs.

About 90 delegations from 43 countries have arrived to attend the four-day event. Accompanied by the director coordination of DEPO Brig Waheed Mumtaz, SSP (traffic) Erum Awan and chief operating officer of Badar Expo Solutions Zohair Naseer, Commodore Javed said that 418 firms 261 from 34 for-



eign countries and 157 from Pakistan would exhibit their products, adding that the DEPOT had also managed to rope in nine new countries Luxembourg, Denmark, Belarus, Poland, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Belgium, Nigeria and Romania.

Although Chinese and Turkish defence industries will have a significant presence, Russia is participating in the event this time in a big way.

"In 2014, only one Russian design and manufacturing company from Moscow, Russian Helicopters, participated for the first time. But this year we have three Russian companies taking part. There is Russian Helicopters again. And we also have Rosoboronexport and GlobalSecurity," Commodore Javed said, adding that the DEPO had also been participating in their defence exhibitions in Russia.

The DEPO has booked a major portion of available space at the Expo Centre for defence companies' stalls, besides adding a hall in the form of a marquee.

Some of the major indigenously developed products to be showcased at the event include battle tank Al-Khalid, JF-17 Thunder, Super Mushshak and K-8 aircraft, Fast Attack Craft Missile boats, UAVs, armoured personnel carriers and premium grade military hardware.

Besides showcasing of products, there will be several high-level meetings among foreign delegates, key government officials and participants on the sidelines of the four-day IDEAS for forging alliances in defence production. An important international defence seminar will be held at a hotel on November 22.

In reply to a question about the number of memorandums of understanding (MoU) signed during the previous IDEAS events and how many expected this time around, Brig Waheed Mumtaz said that MoUs were an ongoing process. "The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Defence Production both sign MoUs all year. The DEPO is only a facilitator, which holds defence exhibitions and seminars to create opportunities. Still the DEPO would like to see as many opportunities for signing such MoUs as possible during IDEAS," he said.

In reply to a question about the current situation along the Line of Control, he said the exhibition carried a message that Pakistan was very advanced in defence capabilities, far ahead of its enemies.

Briefing media on the traffic plan and alternative arrangements during IDEAS in order to facilitate the public during rush hours, SSP Erum Awan said that earlier the administration had proposed a few arrangements for review and after

further planning the office of the deputy inspector general of police (traffic) had decided to keep both tracks of the University Road open to traffic.

"It may be closed for a few minutes during VIP movement, but will be reopened soon after," she said, adding that banners would be put up to guide citizens about the traffic arrangements and re-routing plan a day prior to IDEAS.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont. from pg 3: Ceremony Hold....

impetus to education, especially for the underprivileged and the marginalised.

When one of the judges asked the group that from where they would get the finances for their plans, a female member of the delegation said in her perky innocence: "Obviously, we'll be coming over to you guys". This sent roars of laughter through the guests.

The delegation from Punjab had some very appropriate and timely plans. They said it would be their earnest endeavour to mitigate the electricity dilemma in the country and outlined their plans to set up alternative energy projects.

The judges voted the Balochistan delegation the best and the first prize winners. Belinda Lewis, the UK Deputy High Commissioner, lauded the ingenuity of these youngsters and said that the youth of the country could make a major difference to the plight of the country and lauded their ideas and efforts. Later on, there was a sumptuous dinner.

The function coincided with the visit to Karachi of the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Thomas Drew.

Courtesy: The News International

The First Literature Festival for Healthcare Professionals.

Encouraging literature, culture and educational bustle is the only way out and antidote to the unrelenting terrorism, extremism and intolerance in society, said poet and educationist Dr Pirzada Qasim Raza Siddiqui on Sunday at the concluding day of the first literature festival for healthcare professionals.

“Promotion of Pakistan’s soft image in the world is not possible without promoting literary, cultural and educational activities such as book fairs and festivals,” said Dr Siddiqui at the event organised by the Jahab-i-Maseeha Adabi Forum at the Pavilion End Club in Gulshan-i-Iqbal.

Dr Siddiqui said the festival was such a treat that all those doctors and people who could not attend it would regret not visiting it after learning what it had. He said he was not expecting that doctors and their families in such a large numbers would turn up at the festival.

‘Literature, culture antidote to terrorism, extremism’

Senior physicians and doctors who visited the festival suggested that literature and humanities subjects should be included in the medical curricula in Pakistan, saying literature and non-medical subjects would help doctors and physicians to understand human behaviour and psychology and deal with them compassionately.

“Doctors have effectively turned into machines and are behaving mechanically these days. Reading literature, non-medical books and subjects would improve their relationship with patients and their attendants



and enable them to savour the magical taste of books that no medicine can hold,” Prof Ejaz Vohra said.

Organisers said more than 2,000 physicians and health experts visited the fair with their families and purchased books worth tens of thousands of rupees during the two-day literary activity.

Prof Siddiqui said he had seen senior professors and physicians “enjoying themselves like children” after finding their favourite books under one roof. He asked other organisations and literary forums to follow suit and hold such activities at regular intervals.

Prof Sahar Ansari praised the organisers for such a ‘successful’ literary activity, saying it seemed Karachi was regaining its lost glory because of peace and tranquility.

Felicitating the organizers, he hoped that more such literature festivals would be held for Karachiites in the near future.

Organisers said general physicians, medical consultants, paediatricians, gynaecologists, orthopaedics, pulmonologists and experts from other medical specialties visited the book fair with their children.

Orthopaedic surgeon of the

Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre Dr Anisuddin Bhatti said he was glad to see doctors connecting with literature, selecting and purchasing books, saying it was heartening to see people still showed interest in printed form of knowledge instead of computers and tablets.

“Books give us knowledge that lasts forever, while words and images seen on electronic screens vanish immediately. Books are best friends of human beings and would last long.”

He urged other organisations to revive the diminishing tradition of book fairs for all strata of society that had been a norm in Karachi decades earlier.

Dr Bhatti said instead of gifts and arranging tours for doctors, pharmaceutical companies should “also provide latest books, journals and [resources of] research to doctors” so that they could learn latest techniques in the fields of surgery and medicine.

Organisers said literature festival for doctors and their families was organised because that segment of society hardly found time to visit bookshops, go to libraries and take their children to purchase books.

“It was a successful event that encourages us to hold it again next year,” said an organiser.

Courtesy: Dawn

CPEC termed ‘game changer’ for region

Speakers at a seminar on Thursday termed the China-Pakistan economic Corridor (CPEC) a game changer not only for Pakistan but the entire region and urged all the stakeholders to work towards the prosperity of the country.



The Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Peshawar, had arranged the event to discuss the issues relating to the mega project and importance for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company Chairman Ghulam Dastagir, Syed Muhammad Mohsin, CEO KPEZDMC, Secretary to Government of KP for Industries, Commerce & Technical Education Department Farah Hamid, Project Director, University of Technology, Nowshehra Engineer Imtiaz Hussain Gilani, and Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar Dr. Syed Husain Shaheed Soherwordi and other attended the seminar.

Dr Muhammad Mohsin Khan emphasised that the CPEC was a game changer for the region. He said it was a great opportunity which can contribute not only in the economic development but also peace in the region.

Ghulam Dastagir and Syed Muhammad Mohsin highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the provincial government including establishment of 18 Industrial Zones, potential opportunities for mining industry and to create more than 200,000 jobs by the end of 2017.

*By Saba Habib
Courtesy: The News*

Poverty in Pakistan Declines Significantly: WB Report



Pakistanis saw a substantial increase in their welfare, according to the World Bank publication titled 'Making Growth Matter'. Statistics released by the bank show that the ownership of motorcycles in the bottom quintile has increased from 2 per cent to 18pc, televisions from 20pc to 36pc and refrigerators from 5pc to 14pc.

Housing quality in the bottom quintile also showed an improvement. The number of homes constructed with bricks or blocks increase while mud (katcha) homes decreased. Homes with flushing toilet almost doubled in the bottom quintile, jumping from 24pc in 2002 to 49pc in 2014.

It is well-known that an increase in income results in households spending less of their budget on food, and more on non-food items. In Pakistan, the 25 percentage point decline in poverty between 2002 and 2014 was associated with a 10 percentage point reduction in the share of expenditure devoted to food.

There was also an increase in dietary diversity for all income groups. For the poorest, the share of expenditure devoted to milk and milk products, chicken, eggs and fish rose, as did the share devoted to vegetables and fruits. In contrast, the share of cereals

and pulses, which provide the cheaper calories, declined steadily between 2002 and 2014. This shift in consumption also increased the amount that people spent per calorie over time. For the poorest quintile, expenditure per calorie increased by over 18pc between 2002 and 2014.

Rural households apparently chose to move away from cheap calorie-dense foods towards more nutritious and lower-calorie foods – and their consumption patterns also became more closely aligned to those of urban households.

The government, supported by the World Bank, recently undertook a validation exercise to substantiate the poverty data from the intervening years, identify key shortcomings in the methodology and to lay out the next steps for creating a credible and autonomous system for monitoring poverty and inclusion.

The success, and changing community perceptions of wellbeing, led the government to update its poverty measurement methodology and define a new, more inclusive poverty line.

The new poverty line identifies 29.5pc of the population and 6.8 to 7.6 million households as poor, setting a higher, more inclusive standard for pro-poor policies.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistani Company Produces Country's Second Drone Technology

A private company in Pakistan has created the first ever drone called 'Buraq', with advanced drone aircraft technology and the capability to remain in the air for up to 15 hours. Buraq will also include a feature where it can be utilized to monitor the projects under development.

"The best civilian application of the long range aerial surveillance aircraft {Arrow} is that it is capable of monitoring and making secure trade via the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," said Raja Sabri Khan, Chief Executive at Integrated Dynamics.



The aircraft Buraq, has been made part of the exhibition at the defence weapons exhibition, IDEAS 2016, in Karachi.

Sabri further added that the surveillance system can be operated via remote in the range of 250 kilometers (or 150 miles). "If you operate it on a satellite system then its range becomes unlimited. You can operate it in any part of the world while sitting in Karachi," he said, however, what makes Buraq unique, is its feature of flying for up to 15 hours straight, "The feature is not available in any other such system at this economic cost ... its price is not more than a valued 4X4 jeep," Sabri added.

Buraq can be used to pinpoint leakages of oil and gas from

long-laid pipelines like the ones managed by Pakistan Petroleum Limited, Sui Southern Gas Company and Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited. At the same time, it can be used to monitor and secure sensitive sites, as well.

The best thing about Buraq is that, geologists and agriculturists can also use it for collecting required data on earth or farms, also, the aircraft can also be flown during the nighttime "You just feed the data regarding the route you want the drone to take and sit back," he said.

Buraq is capable of carrying military weapons and equipment. "It can fly with a payload of 100-150 kilogrammes," he said. "Arrow is a revolutionary new concept in aerial surveillance using optionally piloted vehicle converted ultra-light aircraft."

Also, Buraq will have field portability, and a one-hour assembly time on site with the wing-fold system, "it is a great armament, payload delivery, and stands-off surveillance platform," he said. "It can be packed in a standard truck-mounted 20-foot container."

The aircraft would be prepared in Korangi, Karachi. It is the result of 15-20 years research work, added the official.

Courtesy:www.rava.pk



Another dolphin rescued

A five-foot-long dolphin was recently rescued in an operation jointly conducted by the wildlife department and the World Wide Fund for Nature Pakistan (WWF-P).

According to the WWF-P, a male dolphin weighing about 30kg entered Faiz Behar, a tributary of Khairpur Feeder East Canal, about 85km from Sukkur, on November 14, 2016 and was being monitored by the staff since then.

According to Mr Malik, his organisation had initiated a number of programmes to protect dolphin population in collaboration with partners and has so far rescued over

126 mammals since 1992.

Under the Indus River Dolphin Conservation initiative undertaken by the WWF in collaboration with Sona Welfare Foundation, a dolphin monitoring network comprising representatives of relevant departments and local communities to monitor the Indus river and adjacent canals and tributaries has been working since last year.

The Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) is endemic to the Indus river system of Pakistan. The species has been classified as endangered by the IUCN, indicating that it faces a high risk of



extinction in the near future.

Only about 1,100 of this unique species exist today in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan.

Courtesy: Dawn

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