

Freelancing - a potent source of earning for Pakistani youth

MULTAN: Pakistani youth is turning smarter with a variety of skills and geared up to pedaling the national economy to new highs and helping themselves in making the mark on the world Gig economy as freelancers.

Thanks to their ongoing romance with the web government job space, they no more resemble the likes of Baboos of yesterday years but more talented and practical with guts and wits to take on the inflation onslaught and joblessness does not worry them.

Baboo had been a popular term over the decades, denoting a character able to be a bread winner for a family through the government job. But it had worn a sarcastic tinge with the passage of time after limited jobs left many educated individuals wandering around in vain with job applications in pocket.

But, time has changed. Now they are no more jobless and turning out to be charismatic individuals on world wide web and information communications technologies gifted by the 21st century. All they need is a computer and a work station to find their way to a successful career path.

"Not long ago, youngsters' dream career idea revolved around a chair, a desk, some documents to sign, some letters to draft and draw salary," said Dr. Irfan Jafar, Dean Computer Science, Superior University Lahore. "However, things have changed for good. Youngsters are now powerful enough to leave that orbit to master their destiny."

Jafar said Pakistan has witnessed an exponential surge in freelancing during last few years, mostly during the COVID-19 epidemic. "Freelancing was making inroads fast among the Pakistani youth."

According to different data sources, freelance earnings in Pakistan had grown substantially during last few years with freelancers earning millions of dollars during Covid-19 wave. And this journey continues with more and more freelancers joining the squad in an effort to earn money for themselves and the country. "The best thing about freelancers was the platforms where their work speaks for themselves and they no more need any reference or backing to become an earning hand," remarked Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig from Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture (MNSUA), Multan.

"Pakistan is among the most popular destination and countries in the world of freelancers and has started earning millions of dollars from freelancing," said Prof. Dr. Baig quoting local and international labor index. "Pakistani youth has fueled the Gig economy and number of freelancers is growing bigger." According to Payoneer global freelancing index, there was 42 per cent increase in Pakistani freelancers since second quarter of 2018, contributed by a very young population, 70 per cent of whom under 30, and most of them having acquired technically-oriented training and education. —APP



LAHORE: Labourers busy in daily work at bricks kiln factory. —Online

IGP orders crackdown against aerial firing, display of weapons, one wheeling

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Inspector General (IGP) of Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan has issued strict crackdown orders to prevent aerial firing, display of weapons and one wheeling. Instructing all RPOs, CPOs and DPOs, the IG Punjab said that action should be taken on a priority basis against aerial firing, display of weapons and one wheeling across the province.

IG Punjab directed that special teams should be formed on Chaand Raat in Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Multan and violators and perpetrators should be brought to justice. Rao Sardar Ali Khan said that those involved in bloody and dangerous sports like aerial

firing, display of weapons and one wheeling do not deserve any leniency, those involved in these dangerous activities endanger the lives of other citizens. Rao Sardar Ali Khan said that citizens should report 15 about incidents of aerial firing, display of weapons and one-wheeling so that there is no gap left in operations against violators. IG Punjab requested parents and civil society to monitor the activities of their children and never allow them to be a part of illegal activities.

Spokesperson Punjab Police said that on the direction of IG Punjab, Punjab Police is taking action against aerial firing, one wheeling and display of weapons across the province. A total of 3055 cases have been registered against accused of

aerial firing, one wheeling and displaying of weapons and 2883 people have been arrested. Spokesperson Punjab Police said that 1420 cases were registered against aerial shooters across the province, 1939 people were arrested and 859 cases were registered against one wheelers while 944 people were arrested. Similarly in action against displaying of weapons, 776 cases were registered and cases have been sent to the concerned agencies for revocation of licenses of 8 weapons for displaying licensed weapons. Spokesperson Punjab Police said that 469 cases were registered against the shooters in the provincial capital Lahore and 522 people were arrested. In Lahore, 654 cases of one wheeling

Officers visit martyrs families; distribute Eid gifts

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad senior police officers had visited houses of martyrs' families and distributed Eid gifts among the families and children of martyred officers, a police spokesman said.

IGP Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younas visited houses of SI Liaquat Ali Shaheed, HC Munawar Shaheed and HC Bashir Shah Shaheed. SSP Operations Muhammad Faisal Kamran visited families of Inspector Safdar Shaheed and HC Ishtiaq Ranjha Shaheed while SSP Investigation Karrar Hussain visited house of Constable Afzal Jinnan Shaheed. Similarly SP Industrial Area Saud Khan also visited SI Shamshad Akbar Sheheed who laid down his life in an encounter with drug peddlers.

Expressing sympathy with the families, he said the martyrs were the pride of the police as they had sacrificed their lives for the nation. "We are standing with the families of martyrs on every occasion of happiness and sorrow," he added.

Islamabad police chief maintained that the brave police officers who sacrificed their lives in line of duty were the real heroes of the department and the department would not leave their families alone at any stage.

Moreover, the senior police officers also visited houses of martyrs and presenting Eid gifts to the families and children.

Elderly woman killed in road accident

SIALKOT: An elderly woman was hit to death by a motorcycle on Daska road near Motra Stop.

Rescue-1122 said on Monday, the woman who has yet to be identified was crossing the road at Motra stop when a motorcycle hit her and she sustained critical injuries.

The victim was shifted to a local hospital where she succumbed to her injuries. —APP

Three killed, 3 injured in Pindi Gheb accident

ATTOCK: Three persons, including two brothers were killed and three others sustained injuries in an accident that occurred near Pindi Gheb area of Attock district. Rescue sources reported on Monday.

According to details, a car was heading towards Islamabad from Bakkar when suddenly it turned turtle near Pindi Gheb. As a result, two brothers died on the spot.

The injured including women were shifted to nearby hospital. Police reached the spot and started investigation.

As per initial reports, the driver of the car could not control over the steering when he tried to save a motorcyclist. —APP



LAHORE: Women get their hands decorated with henna from a beauty parlor during preparation for Eid-ul-Fitr. —Online

Restoration of IMF programme brings hope for ailing economy

ISLAMABAD: The restoration (with extension) of Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which had come to standstill at the tenure-end of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government, has rejuvenated the hope for economic revival of the incumbent government's rigorous efforts.

The revival would have positive impact on economy with enhanced balance of payment position and increasing foreign exchange reserves at a time when the country has been facing big economic challenges including widening of current account deficit, depleting foreign exchange reserves, currency depreciation and upward inflationary trend, which currently stands at double-digit.

Economic experts believe that the EFF program could lead to economic stability provided the structural reforms advised by IMF are fully implemented. "The 7th EFF review is expected to bring about economic stability in the country. However, there had been and is dire need to implement the structural reforms in letter and spirit to stabilize economy and take it forward to growth," Economist and former member Economic Advisory Council (EAC) Sakib Sherani told APP. He also highlighted the importance of devising long-term policies, en-

hancing revenues and promoting exports to help sustainable economic growth. The finance team of Pakistan, led by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail spent busy routine in Washington held several meetings with the IMF officials during the second last week of April 2022 to put the derailed process on track and complete the much-awaited 7th review of EFF, which had detracted due to fund's concerns over some of the previous government decisions.

"Based on the constructive discussions with the authorities in Washington, the IMF expects to field a mission to Pakistan in May to resume discussions over policies for completing the 7th EFF review," said IMF a statement issued at the conclusion of meetings with Pakistan. The fund has also been requested to enhance the funding available to Pakistan from existing \$6 billion and extend the EFF arrangement through June 2023 as a signal of their commitment to address existing challenges and achieve the program objectives.

Miftah told reporters in Washington that the fund was requested, which it agreed, to extend this program for another year. The talks focused on the subsidies that were provided by the previous government and IMF considered these unsustainable. The fund has also been

showing concerns over the widening current account deficit.

Economic experts are of the view that there was need to devise long-term policies to mitigate the dependence of the country on foreign debt, however they consider the current IMF program imperative to bolster the country's economy.

"We can bring economic stability with the help of external debt, however there was a need to devise long-term policies for sustainable economic growth," said former State Minister for Finance, Salman Shah. He however feared that the IMF program would stir inflation and lead to price-hike in petroleum and other products.

It is pertinent to mention that IMF had approved 6th tranche of EFF in first week of February and provided Pakistan SDR 750 million (about US\$1,059 million), bringing the total disbursements under the EFF to about US\$3,027 million. The fund had approved \$6 billion, three-year loan facility for Pakistan back in July 2019 to help resuscitate the country's ailing economy.

The 7th review could not be completed by the previous government due to political issues inside the country and disagreement with the fund on provision of certain subsidies and resultantly had an impact on economy. —APP

How NGOs become influential in society? —II

Faisal Shahzad

is interlinked to other departments and through this he says he knows how donations are being collected and received from donors also including international donors.

Also his work includes how to highlight the projects in community and digital media through which he conveyed the importance of youth, students and adders when they collaborate with them in projects. When he was asked that what are the difficulties which you face when doing these projects or to start up an NGO.

He answered that in Pakistan this building inflation is one of the hindrance in these projects. Also among difficulties encouraging people to place trust upon you is one of the major problems.

You shall have your credibility in market so that people engage with your platform and fund is raised through them.

According to him the NGOs are relying on the fund of people and then invest in community and he adds up that in the NGO where he was working takes fund not only from people also different corporates and even your schools donate in order to make your projects successful. When he was asked that why people place trust on those NGOs as if government bodies are also doing the work so why they shall trust a NGO even if it's not a very well-known organization? He mentions that first of all you have to be clear in your vision and aim

that you have to serve the humanity.

Furthermore, he adds up that people shall place trust on your organization when they look at your work and trust on it.

This can be developed by publicizing your work contents through various social media platforms.

Making your work count is most important and this can be done when people are aware about the lacks in our society and the situation of the underprivileged ones.

Then you present your plans in front of community by using your designated platform that how can you imply the change to such devastated situation and hence people can follow your footsteps this can be considered as emotionally engaging your audience.

Moreover, he mentions about how the NGOs are working differently to that of any government sector, saying that government only look after a particular problem e.g. clean water in an area and start its' project on this cause while they are working on particular areas the other are left neglected.

Whereas, in his point of view in today's world NGOs are much influential and developing large in numbers that they are separately looking to a particular sector such as he mentioned that my NGO particularly take care of nature and environment, likewise there are other NGOs who have a separate motive and work on other such as environmental, social, advocacy and human rights work. Also NGOs working are having a

proper channel and through this mostly their projects are completed well on time without any hindrance while governmental projects are most often delayed or disputed off due to lack of resources, miss management and even changing government policies.

Thus, people are encouraged in this order to place trust on NGO and hence are persuaded to respond in their projects.

However, NGOs also can rely on a large number of small donations rather than a small number of large donations. Despite their independence from government, a number of NGOs rely heavily on government funding to function. Some government NGO funding may be viewed as controversial, because the funding may dampen an NGO's ability to advocate politically or attempt to achieve radical goals. Moreover, one can start an NGO if he has the passion and drive to serve the humanity and he is ready to burn his midnight oil.

It is the drive that carry one forward and he must keep in mind that there will be hindrance in his path because you have to face difficulties in order to reach success. Based on the analysis, the conclusion outlines strategies to support an effective role for NGOs' service delivery experience in development of research agendas.

(Concluded)

The writer is a student of Second Semester BS software engineering

Five criminals held; valuables recovered

ISLAMABAD: Kohsar police station Islamabad has claimed to have apprehended five accused including four snatchers and recovered valuables from their possession, a police spokesman said.

He said that, Islamabad has intensified massive crackdown against the criminal elements especially street criminals and recovered looted valuables.

Following the directions, a Kohsar Police team headed by SHO Kohsar Tipu Sultan with other officials apprehended four snatchers, who were identified as Baqir Ali, Shatif Abdullah, Muhammad Ali and Faraz Masih.

Similarly, police team also held a thief namely Faisal Sadiq. Valuables worth more than five lakh in-

cluding laptops, Tablets, bracelets, cash and weapons also recovered.

The snatchers were used to snatch mobile, cash and other items in markets on gunpoint. While the accused Sadiq Ali used to open the vehicles in parkings with master key and stole the valuables. Cases against the criminals have been registered and further investigation is underway.

IGP Islamabad and SSP Operations have appreciated the police performance.

SSP Operations has directed all zonal officers to take necessary measures in their respective areas to curb the crime. No laxity will be tolerated in safety and security of the citizens, he said. —APP