

IBEX

Your Business Mate

Innovative Business & Economic Xpress

Discovering Valuables

The gemstone industry is an untapped business opportunity in Pakistan to earn foreign exchange

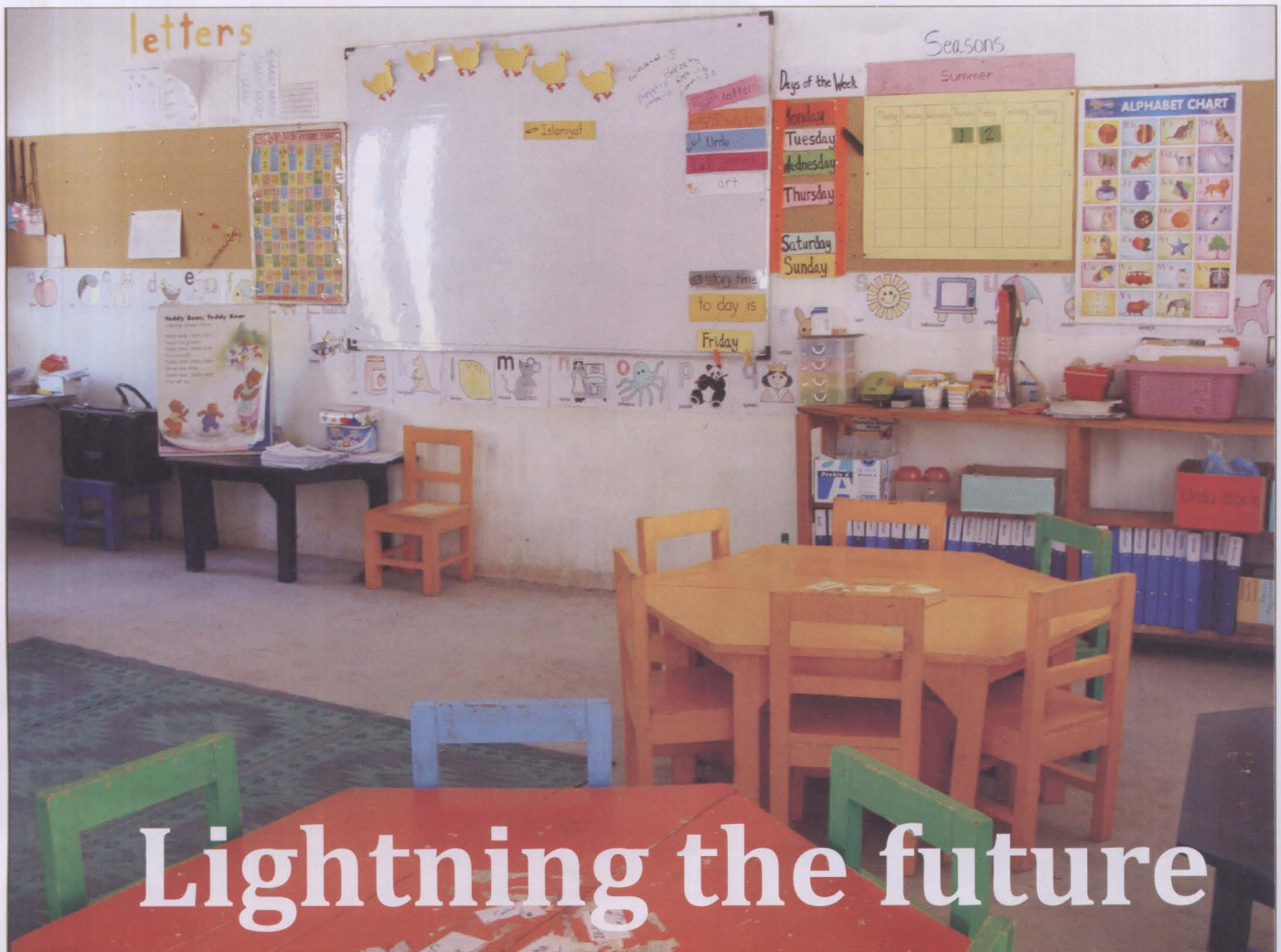
**Not a child's
business**

16

**Preserving the
liquids**

28





Lightning the future

By Bisma Khalid

There are a number of NGOs and Trusts working in Pakistan on various sectors. But very few are doing a quality work; the rest has just made this work a means of earning money. NGOs just want to do more and more projects to improve their portfolio

and profile without focusing on the quality of the projects. Kaghan Memorial Trust is one of the quality projects by Kaghan Memorial Trust which is providing quality education to the children of northern areas.

About the Kaghan Memorial Trust

The Kaghan Memorial Trust (KMT) is a non-profit charitable trust registered in Islamabad in January 2006. The sole objective of the trust was to establish a school in the Kaghan Valley of Northern Pakistan that offered a first-class education to the children of this

region. Kaghan Memorial School is dedicated to the memory of the thousands of children who lost their lives to the earthquake.

KMT was initially established by three friends, all members of civil society, who wanted to play their part in helping with the long term rehabilitation of the Kaghan Valley. Since its inception, other

concerned members of society wanting to support the cause of the trust have been co-opted as trustees. Trustees are selected based on their commitment and on their capacity to help strengthen the trust. The KMT board can have a maximum of nine trustees at any point in time.

The Target Region

The Kaghan Valley is roughly 160 km long with a population of approximately 300,000 prior to the earthquake of October 8. Administratively, the valley is part of the Balakot sub-district (Tehsil) of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan with its headquarters in the town of Balakot. Balakot, had a pre-quake population of roughly 30,000.

Before October 8, 2005, Kaghan was already one of the most underdeveloped regions of Pakistan with a majority of its population barely living at subsistence levels. The earthquake made things exponentially worse for these people. Balakot was rendered into a heap of debris with virtually no building left standing in the entire town. Estimates of losses in Balakot and the valley stood at more than 14,000 dead, 582 schools destroyed, 18 hospitals and Basic Health Units leveled, 30,000 houses collapsed or rendered uninhabitable and more than 200,000 people left homeless.

Curriculum

The Kaghan Memorial School provides education based on the British model to its senior students, leading to A-levels certification from a recognized educational testing authority in the United Kingdom. Special curriculum was selected for the Junior School keeping in mind the social realities of the targeted region and its children. While deliberating on the syllabus, the curriculum development task team kept in mind the extremely impoverished socio-economic background of the school's children and their consequent lack of exposure to even the most basic concepts and prepared a specially customized teaching model. After the initial couple of years, Kaghan Memorial School gradually, gently and effectively orients these children with modern education.



This model transits into a more conventional teaching program in the higher classes.

The first version of such a tailor-made curriculum and teaching

Estimates of losses in Balakot after earth quake were 14,000 dead, 582 schools destroyed, 18 hospitals and Basic Health Units leveled, 30,000 houses collapsed or rendered uninhabitable and more than 200,000 people left homeless

framework is already being practiced. The teaching team has been evolving and improving this model through practical classroom experiences over the past couple of years till a truly pragmatic and efficient system is finally developed for the children of Kaghan.

Looking to the Future

The Kaghan Memorial Trust is dedicated to develop the Kaghan Memorial School into an institution of excellence where underprivileged children are able to receive world class schooling free of cost. The Trustees of KMT have plans for establishing a scholarship fund which will sponsor the university expenses of Kaghan Memorial School graduates who manage to get admission in universities in Pakistan and abroad. The ultimate objective of the Trust is to take responsibility for the complete education of the children enrolled in its school, right up to university level. This is important in order to ensure that the children who are in the school are able to complete their education and to have a real chance at achieving their individual potentials.