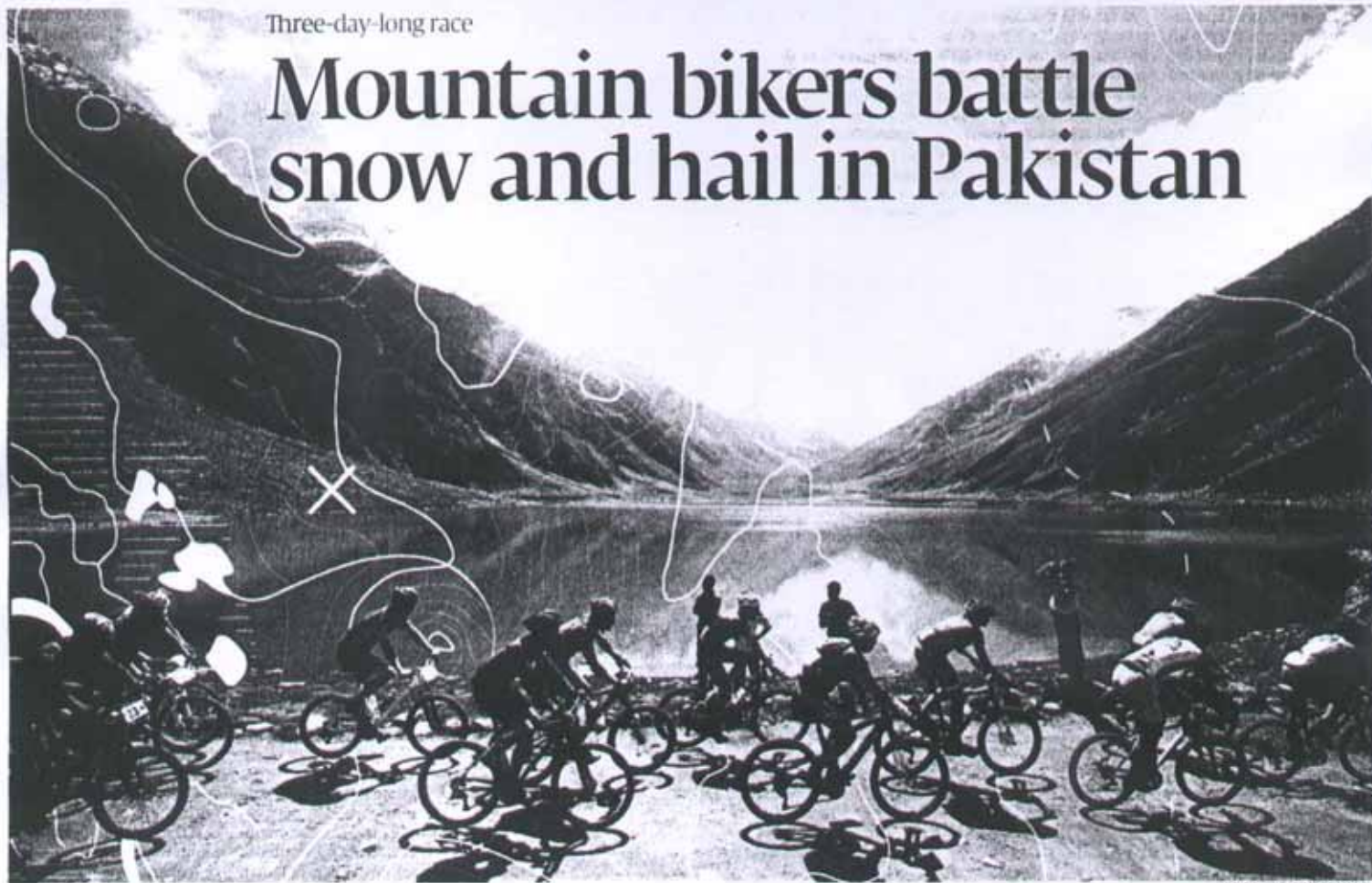


PARTNER OF

International Herald Tribune

Three-day-long race

Mountain bikers battle snow and hail in Pakistan



DESIGN: CREATIVE COMMONS

Drawn by the challenging climbs, 30 bikers travel to Pakistan

KACHHAN VALLEY

Rolling over rock fields and soaring past glaciers, some of the world's top mountain bikers came to Pakistan at the weekend to battle at altitudes of up to 4,200 metres (13,800 feet).

Undeterred by warnings about traveling northwest, national champions from around the world came to test their skills and stamina in the Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race.

Teams from Britain, Holland, Slovakia and beyond bumped along the mud flats

and meadows of the lush Kaghan valley - once a popular draw for tourism.

Though the closest militant activity is 100 kilometres away from the snow-capped peaks of Kaghan, foreign tourists disappeared from the area after 9/11, and all of Pakistan has been a "no-go" zone for foreign sports teams since a militant attack on the Sri Lankan cricket squad in 2009.

But drawn by the challenging climbs and stunning views, 30 Western mountain bikers travelled to race against three Pakistani teams over the three day-long stages of the race - at times battling snow so thick they had to carry their bikes.

Starting at 2,900 metres in the northwest region's Naran

valley, the cyclists pedalled along the lake-dotted Babusar pass, toiling up to 4,200 metres before descending steeply to end the first stage.

"The view is very panoramic. This is perfect place for mountain biking," said Martin Haring, 24, Slovakia's national cross country champion, who said it was the highest altitude he had ever made.

For German Steffi Hadrascsek-Jochem, the height of the Himalayan peaks was also the draw. "I was excited because of the altitude, it is nice to ride in such conditions," she said.

The second stage of the race stretched 53 kilometres around Lake Saiful-maluk, sat above the treeline at 3,200 metres and surrounded by a

"Then colourful costumes have really added to the beauty of these lakes and mountains

Tourist Sajjad Shah

ring of majestic snow-capped mountains.

In the final stage on Sunday the cyclists tackled steep climbs alternating with stunning plateaus dotted with tall pine trees, before a sudden hailstorm bombarded them as they reached the top.

Mel Alexander, the British current European singlespeed champion, emerged as the women's champion of the race. "I have never been on

such difficult tracks on such big mountains," she said on finishing.

Haring was the overall male champion in the race, which was held to raise funds for a school in the area run by the Kaghan Memorial Trust.

Great Britain lifted the team trophy, beating teams from Slovakia, Holland, Denmark, and Pakistan, and other national and international teams.

The sight of 30 male and female bikers from 11 countries clad in bright cycling gear caused a stir among the Kaghan Valley's largely traditional farming population.

"Their colourful costumes have really added to the beauty of these lakes and moun-

tains," said Sajjad Shah, a tourist from Lahore.

"The authorities should do more to bring foreigners over here."

Despite foreign government warnings urging caution in travelling to Pakistan, the intrepid cyclists didn't think twice about competing in the event, but said they had encountered visa trouble.

But the competitors said they hoped travel restrictions would be eased and vowed to return if the event was held next year.

"There is terrorism in Pakistan but it is only in some places and the rest of the country is safe. And security issues are everywhere in the world," said Austrian rider Lisa Pleyer. *AP*

FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

DAWN

<http://DAWN.com> Vol. LXV No. 258 Islamabad, Shawwal 19, 1432 Sunday, September 18, 2011 58 PAGES + BOOKS&AUTHORS Rs 25.00



NARAN: International and Pakistani cyclists pass through Lake Saif-ul-Maluk on Saturday. The Himalayas 2011 International Mountainbike Race, organised by the Kaghan Memorial Trust to raise funds for a charity school set up in the Kaghan valley for children affected in the 2005 earthquake, attracted 30 foreign and 11 Pakistani cyclists.—AFP

SPORTS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS
Saturday
September 17, 2011

HIMALAYAS MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

Over 30 international cyclists in run for top honours

Haring, Pleyer secure yellow jerseys on opening day

Tauseef-ur-Rahman

NARAN, Kaghan Valley: Martin Haring of Slovakia and Lisa Pleyer of Austria Friday secured the yellow jerseys after winning the first stage of the Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race, which got underway here at Naran Friday.

Haring covered the distance of 56km in two hours, 50 minutes and 17secs by crossing a rain and snow-hit muddy and slippery track from Jalkhand to Babusar Pass on the first day of the three-stage championship.

Altansukh Altanzul of Mongolia, representing World United team, finished second with time of two hours, 50 minutes and 29secs while Irjan Luttenberg of Holland (two hours 54 minutes and 43secs) remained third.

Lisa Pleyer of Austria won yellow jersey by clocking three hours, 14 minutes and 13sec, followed by Rickie Cotter of Great Britain clocked 3 hours, 24 minutes and 13secs and Mel Alexander, also from Great Britain, with a clock time three hours, 25 minutes and 17secs.

Talking to 'The News' Friday, Martin said the track was very difficult as all night due to rain and up on the hill snow had made the course slippery. It was very cold and my legs were



NARAN: Cyclists compete during the first stage of the Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race Friday. — AFP

frozen. He said the way up was ok, however, coming down the hill was quite dangerous.

To a question, he said: "This is my third international stage race and was a new experience as mostly I participate in the cross country races. He said he

will make all out efforts to retain his yellow jersey. He said the stage race had different kinds of cycle race, which gave opportunity to players to have flavour of different kinds of race."

Undeterred by security concerns, more than 30 cyclists

from 11 different countries participating in the race, changing the perception that Pakistan is one of the most dangerous places in the world.

Except three, all the cyclists are visiting Pakistan for the first time.

Ranhilde Luttenberg (Holland), the national champion of Holland, while talking to 'The News' said, "The people of Pakistan showed respect, love and affection to us and we are greatly thankful for the hospitality."

Saturday

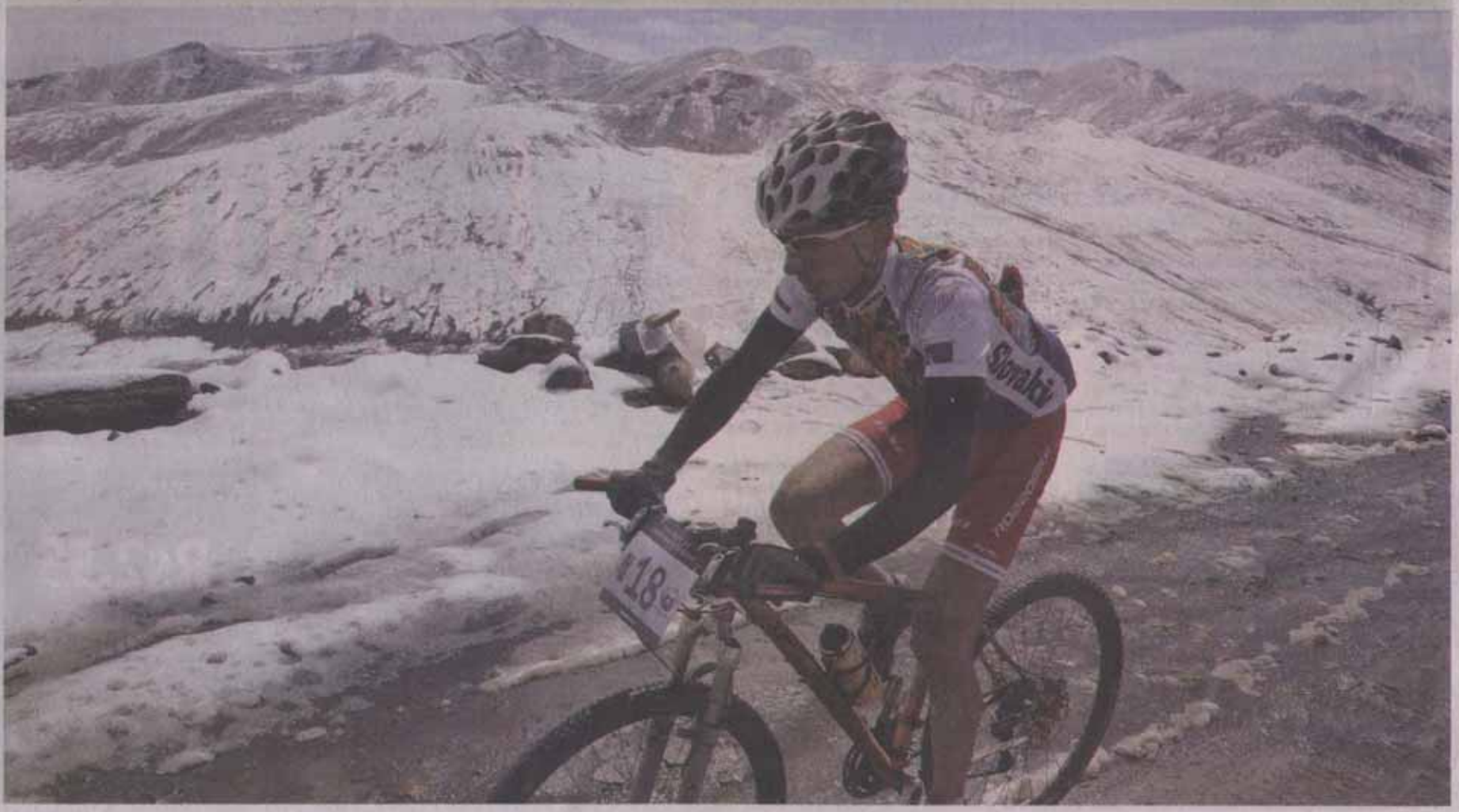
17 September 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

100 words:

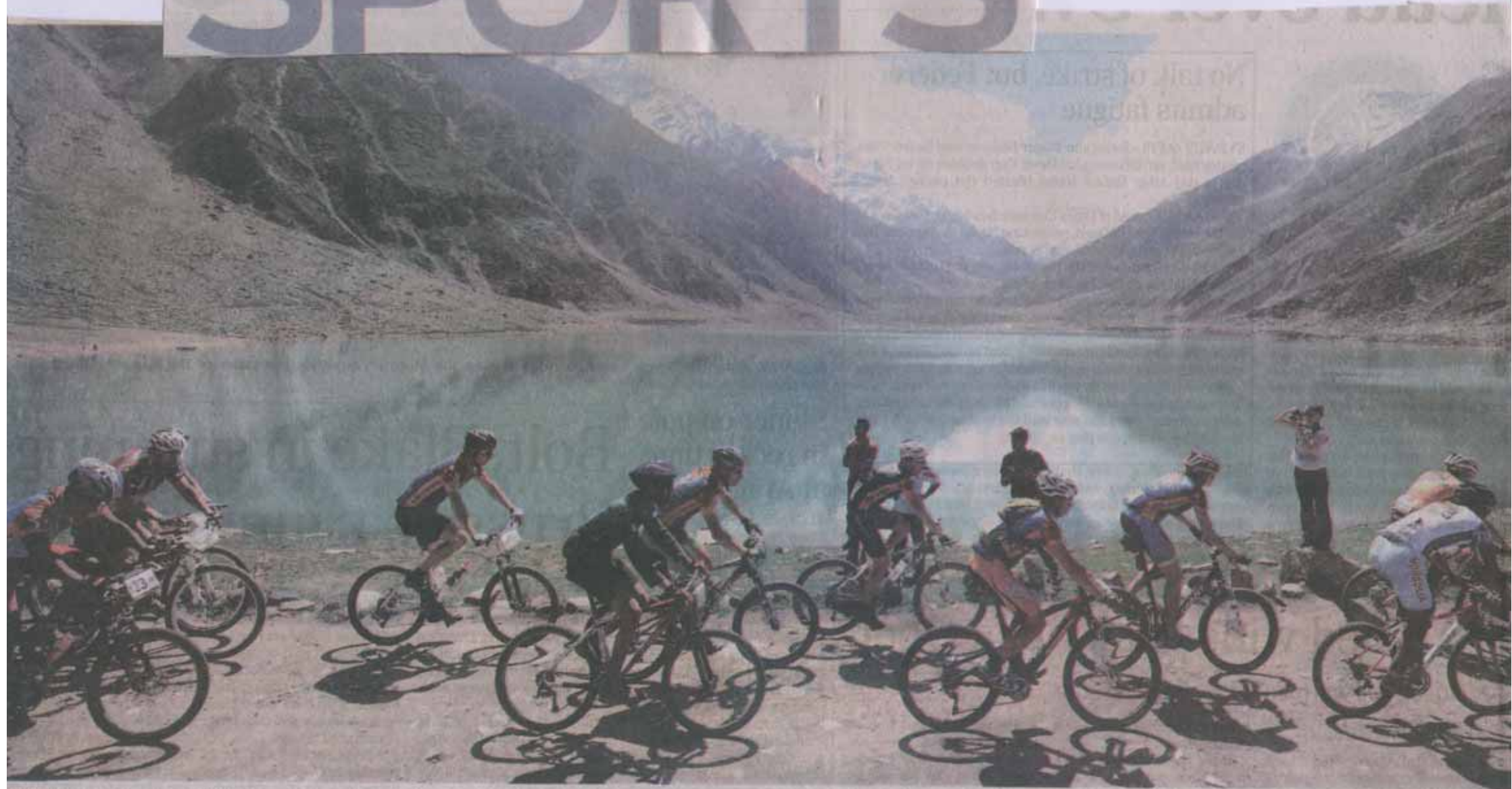
Slovakia's Martin Haring rides during the first stage of the Tour of Himalayas International Mountain Bike race 2011 in the mountainous area of Jalkhand in Naran, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The race comprises three different stages at three prominent sites of the Kaghan valley - the Babusar Challenge to Jalkhad, the Lake Criterium (Saif-ul-Maluk) and Pai Ascent, situated at an altitude of 13,800 feet. The cycling event, organised by the Kaghan Memorial Trust to raise funds for its charity school set up in the Kaghan valley for children affected in the October 2005 earthquake, attracted some 30 international and 11 Pakistani cyclists. PHOTO: AFP



The Express Tribune
 Sept 17, 2011

The Nation, Islamabad | Sunday, September 18, 2011

SPORTS



ARAN: International and Pakistani cyclists compete during the second stage of the Himalayas 2011 International Mountainbike Race in the mountainous area of Lake Saif-ul-Maluk.--AFP

DAWN ISLAMABAD, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Mountain Bike Race

Slovak grabs men's event

By Nisar Ahmad Khan



SLOVAKIAN cyclist Martin Haring celebrates after winning all the three stages of Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race in Shogran, Naran on Sunday. —AFP

MANSEHRA, Sept 18: The UK emerged as the overall winner of the three-day Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race the third and final leg of which was held on Sunday amid minor injuries to several cyclists, as the area received hailstorm and heavy rains during the race from Kawai to Siri Paye in Kaghan Valley.

The cyclists covered 30km distance from Kaghan Memorial Trust, Kawai, to Siri Paye, in the final leg of the

race. In the men's event, Martin Haring of Slovakia continued his supremacy and also won the third leg, covering the 30km distance in one hour, 36 minutes and five seconds.

Mr Haring was declared as the winner of the men's event of the race.

Eight teams took part in the race held from Sept 16 to 18 in Kaghan Valley.

As a whole, the UK cyclists clinched the first spot, Slovakia second, Eurasia

third, World United fourth, Denmark fifth, Holland sixth, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa seventh and Pakistan eighth.

In the third leg of men's event, Nathan Matt Page of UK got second place after covering the 30km distance in one hour, 46 minutes and 15 seconds, and Nathan Dahlberg of New Zealand third spot with his timings of one hour, 48 minutes and 13 seconds.

In the women's event, Mel Alexander of UK landed top honours by clocking eight

hours, 26 minutes and 52 seconds for the entire distance of 136km of the three-day race in the valley.

In the final leg of women's event, Rickie Cotter of UK covered the distance in two hours, two minutes and seven seconds to clinch first spot. Lisa Pleyer of Austria stood second with two hours, 13 minutes and 26 seconds and Stafi of Germany third with two hours, 16 minutes and 28 seconds in the 30km race.

The prize distribution ceremony was planned later in the evening in the Kawai resorts with a dinner for the cyclists and organisers hosted by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Minister Syed Aqil Shah.

Talking to this correspondent, the sports minister said that holding of such international events should serve as clear indication that peace had returned to the province.

He praised the Tourism Corporation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for holding such a big event that also attracted international teams.

"The winner will receive Rs2 million. We are so excited over the success of the race and plan to invite more teams for such events in the years to come," he said.

Mr Shah said that the government was committed to promotion of sports with a view to defeat terrorism. He said that the presence of a large number of spectators from, all over the country showed that people of Pakistan loved to watch sports.

He said that the government had planned a series of sports events to provide entertainment to the people.



WINNER: Slovakia's cyclist Martin Haring celebrates after winning all three stages at the end of the Himalayas 2011 International Mountain Bike Race in the mountainous area Shugran in Naran Sunday. — AFP

Haring becomes Mountain Bike Race champion

Tauseef-ur-Rahman

SHOGRAN, Kaghan valley: Amid hailstorm and heavy shower, Martin Haring of Slovakia became the champion of TCKP Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race after winning all the three stages of men's event here at The Pai Ascent near Shogran, Kaghan valley, Sunday.

The overall clock time of Martin was six hours, 42 minutes and 26 seconds. Mel Alexander of United Kingdom with overall clock time of eight hours, 27 minutes and 21 seconds was declared the champion of women's race.

In the team event, United Kingdom was declared the winner. Slovakia stood second while Eurasia won third place.

Nathan Dahlberg of New Zealand with overall clock time of seven hours, 26 minutes and 17 seconds secured second position while Robert Friel of United Kingdom with overall clock time of 7 hours, 28 minutes and 59 seconds remained third.

Steffi-Hadraschek-Jochem of Germany representing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team was declared second in the overall women's event. Her total time was eight hours, 39 minutes and three seconds. Rickie Cotter of United Kingdom with overall clock time of eight hours, 39 minutes and 29 seconds remained third.

In the last stage of the race, Martin covered the distance of 14km in one hour 36 minutes and five seconds. He was followed by Altansukh Altanzul of Mongolia, who represented World United team, with clock time of one hour 46 minutes and 15 seconds. Nathan Dahlberg

representing the same World united team stood third in the stage with clock time of one hour 52 seconds and six seconds.

In the women's event of the third stage, Rickie Cotter of United Kingdom with clock time of two hours 13 minutes and seven seconds finished first. Lisa Pleyer of Austria with clock time of two hours 13 minutes and 26 seconds remained second while Steffi-Hadraschek-Jochem of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team with clock time of two hours 16 minutes and 28 seconds stood third.

In a bright sunny day, the cyclists started the third and last stage of the race from Kaghan Memorial School in Kawai village. The first part of the stage was a gruelling climb of 8km on metalled road up to the beautiful tourist resort on the plateau of Shogran.

Following Shogran, the cyclists moved further up the hill of 6km up to the rolling meadows of Pai, situated on an altitude of 10,500 feet. In a thick forest of Pine trees, the cyclists faced great challenges as the course had steep accent with patches of mud, which created problems for the riders.

As many as 42 cyclists — 31 from 11 foreign countries including United Kingdom, Slovakia, Holland, Denmark, South Africa, New Zealand, Mongolia, Canada, Austria, Australia, Germany and Pakistan — participated in the event.

The Tour of the Himalayas-2011 is the third edition of this event, which was previously successfully staged in September 2006 and September 2007 in the same area under the aegis of Kaghan Memorial Trust (KMT).

Thursday, 22 September, 2011

PAKISTAN TODAY

SPORTS

Mountain bikers battle snow and hail in Pakistan

KAGHAN VALLEY

AFF

Rolling over rock fields and soaring past glaciers, some of the world's top mountain bikers came to Pakistan at the weekend to do battle at altitudes of up to 4,200 metres (13,800 feet). Undeterred by travel warnings over Taliban-linked violence in the lawless northwest, national champions from around the world came to test their skills and stamina in the Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race.

Teams from Britain, Holland, Slovakia and beyond bumped along the mud flats and meadows of the lush Kaghan valley -- once a popular draw for tourism until the Islamist insurgency rose up on its doorstep 10 years ago. Though the closest militant activity is 100 kilometres (60 miles) away from the snow-capped peaks of Kaghan, foreign tourists disappeared from the area after 9/11, and all of Pakistan has been a "no-go" zone for foreign sports teams since a militant attack on the Sri Lankan cricket squad in Lahore in 2009. But drawn by the challenging climbs and stunning views, 30 Western mountain bikers travelled to race against three Pakistani teams over the three day-long stages of the race -- at times battling snow so thick they had to carry their bikes.

Starting at 2,900 metres in the northwest region's Naran valley, the cyclists pedalled along the lake-dotted Babusar pass, toiling up to 4,200 metres before descending steeply to end the first stage. "The view is very panoramic. This is perfect place for mountain biking," said Martin Haring, 24, Slovakia's

national cross country champion, who said it was the highest altitude he had ever made. For German Stefi-Hadraschek-Jochem, the height of the Himalayan peaks was also the draw. "I was excited because of the altitude, it is nice to ride in such conditions," she said. The second stage of the race stretched 53 kilometres around Lake Saif-ul-maluk, sat above the treeline at 3,200 metres and surrounded by a ring of majestic snow-capped mountains. In the final stage on Sunday the cyclists tackled steep climbs alternating with stunning plateaus dotted with tall pine trees, before a sudden hailstorm bombarded them as they reached the top. Mel Alexander, the British current European singlespeed champion, emerged as the women's champion of the race.

"I have never been on such difficult tracks on such big mountains," she said on finishing. Haring was the overall male champion in the race, which was held to raise funds for a school in the area run by the Kaghan Memorial Trust. Winning each stage and finishing with an overall time of six hours, 42 minutes and 24 seconds across the 130 kilometre race, Haring easily beat the runner up, New Zealander Nathan Dahlberg, who finished in just under seven and a half hours. Great Britain lifted the team trophy, beating teams from Slovakia, Holland, Denmark, and Pakistan, and other national and international teams. The Kaghan valley, still a popular draw for holidaymakers within Pakistan, has seen numbers of foreign visitors dwindle to just 2,000 each year, as fears over terrorism dog the stunning region.



NARAN: International and local Pakistani cyclists compete in the Himalayas International Mountainbike Race. AFP

SPORTS NEWS

Bikers battle snow and hail

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clad in bright cycling gear caused a stir among the valley's largely traditional farming population.

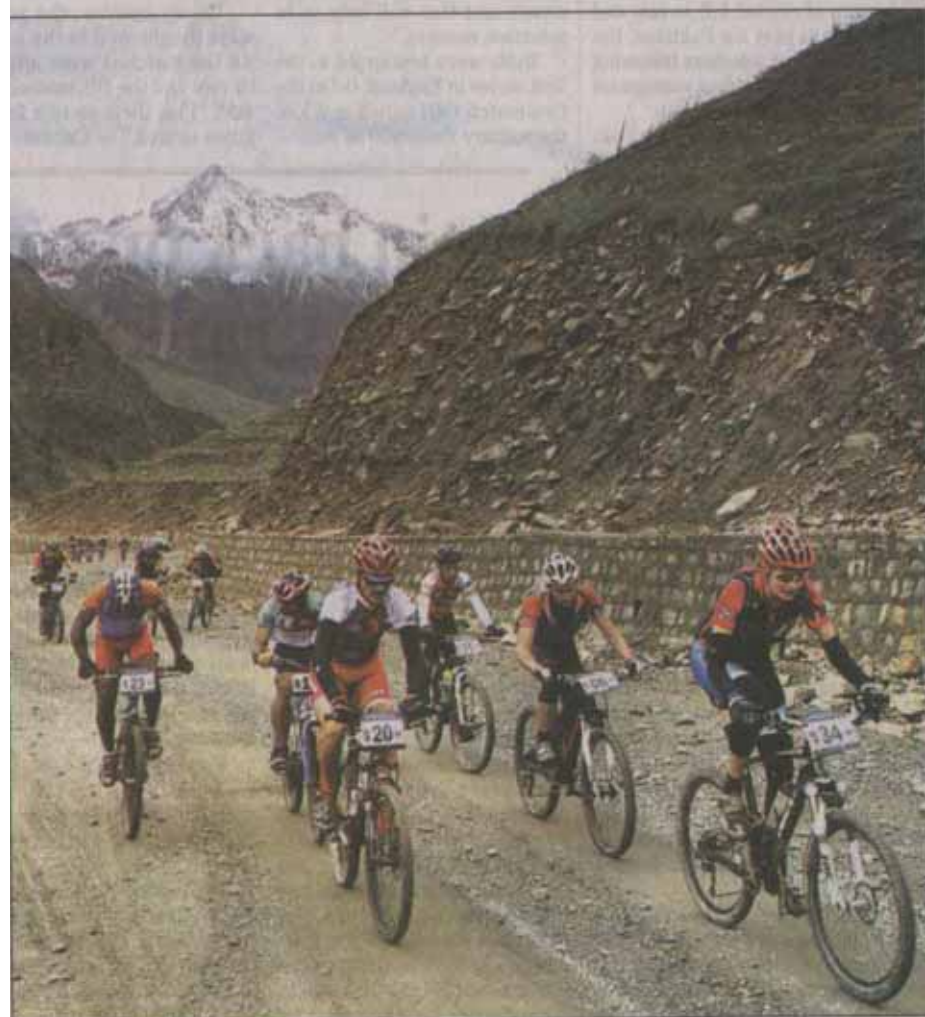
"Their colourful costumes have really added to the beauty of these lakes and mountains," said Sajjad Shah, a tourist from Lahore. "The authorities should do more to bring foreigners over here."

Despite foreign government warnings urging caution in travelling to Pakistan, the intrepid cyclists didn't think twice about competing in the event, but said they had encountered visa trouble.

Britain's 24-hour solo champion Rickie Cotter said she had been forced to obtain an invitation to travel from the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the embassy queried her mountain bike's registration.

But the competitors said they hoped travel restrictions would be eased and vowed to return if the event was held next year.

"There is terrorism in Pakistan but it is only in some places and the rest of the country is safe. And security issues are everywhere in the world," said Austrian rider Lisa Pleyer. — AFP



NARAN: International and Pakistani cyclists compete during the first stage of the Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race on September 16. — AFP

TCKP TOUR OF THE HIMALAYAS 2011

An Event of The Kaghan Memorial Trust



NARAN: Provincial Ministers KP, Syed Ahmed Shah and Syed Aqil Shah hosting flag to start International Hamalia Cycle Race organized by KP Tourism Corporation.

Govt focusing on Kaghan Valley to promote tourism

NARAN—Hailing from the Royal Family of Kaghan Provincial Minister for Industries Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Ahmad Hussain Shah on Saturday said the government is fully focused to explore tourism potential besides attracting foreign tourists to help out country both economically and to present a soft image of it to world community.

Flanked by Provincial Minister for Sports, Tourism and Youth Affairs Syed Aqil Shah, Ahmad Hussain Shah while welcoming the cyclists from around the world and termed the Tour of Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race in Kaghan Valley a source of new life to the people mostly dependent on tourism activities.

He said that the visit of 31 international cyclists of 11 countries would help Pakistan to highlight its soft image in the world community by negating the set perception of being a dangerous country for foreigners.

Kaghan valley to be focused for development, Ahmad Hussain Shah said. He lauded the efforts of the organizers for bringing cyclists from around the world to Kaghan valley which is famous for natural landscapes

Pakistan
OBSERVER

Sunday, September 18, 2011

Sports



Haring retains lead in Himalayas Mountain Bike Race

Tauseef-ur-Rahman

NARAN: Martin Haring of Slovakia retained his top position while Mel Alexander of Great Britain took the yellow jersey from Lisa Pleyer of Austria in the Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race here at Saif-ul-Maluk Lake on Saturday.

Haring covered the distance of 50km in two hours, 16 minutes and two seconds by completing eight laps around the lake. Robert Friel of Great Britain (2hrs, 22mins, 11secs) remained second followed by fellow countryman Matt Page

(2hrs, 28mins, 30secs) in third.

Alexander took the yellow jersey by clocking two hours, 41 minutes and 32 seconds. She was followed by Steffi Hadraschek-Jochem who hails from Germany but represented Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She clocked two hours, 48 minutes and 38 seconds. Lone Sand of Denmark (2hrs, 54mins, 45secs) remained third.

Amid applause and cheer, the eight-lap race around the famous Saif-ul-Maluk Lake was flagged off by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Sports and Tourism Syed Aqil Shah. A large number of

tourists, government officials, sponsors and organisers were present on the occasion.

As many as 42 cyclists — 31 from 11 foreign countries — are participating in the three-stage race that will be conclude today (Sunday).

Seven cyclists dropped out from the second stage with two not evening starting due to illness.

Talking to 'The News', Mel Alexander said: "This track suited me better than yesterday's course which was uphill. I am a cross country cyclist and as the track was flat it helped me. It was absolutely

brilliant. The landscape was great and I really enjoyed it."

To a question, Alexander said she was a bit nervous before coming to Pakistan but the response she received from people in Pakistan was brilliant. "People are friendly and they have looked after us. It's perfectly safe," she said of Pakistan.

Haring said the track was rocky and good skills were needed to perform on such a course. "I am quite confident that I will win the overall race and become the champion as in today's race I got quite good lead."

Tour of Himalayas Bike Race from 16th

PESHAWAR: The Tour of Himalayas (TOH) International Mountain Bike Race in three different stages at three prominent sites of the Kaghan valley — The Babusar Challenge to Jalkhad, The Lake Criterium (Saif-ul-Maluk) and Pai Ascent — situated an altitude 13,800 feet will be commencing from September 16.

The three-day race that also features, as side event, a mountain bike tour for amateurs with eight international teams and two Pakistani teams consisting of 50 professionals and semi-professional riders are taking part.

Covering three spectacular and challenging course on dirt, track and paved roads, rising up to altitude higher than 4,200 meters — that about 13,800 feet. Each competing team will consist of three men and two women.

The event is also open for individual cyclists wishing to participate in the race. The landscape is stunning, the local population hospitable and friendly to the extreme, and the courses amongst the best in the world.

The funds generated from this race will go to Kaghan Memorial Trust's (KMT) charitable Kaghan Memorial School, which provides quality education to the disadvantaged children in the Kaghan Valley.

The Babusar Pass was situated on the old silk, road before construction of the Karakoram Highway in the sixties. The start point of the race at Jalkhad sites at an elevation of approx 9,300 feet (2,900m) at the mouth of the Babusar Pass, about one hour's drive from the popular tourist resort town of Naran.

From Jalkhad, the race will follow a relatively gentle inline

for the first few kilometers, before hitting a hard 4,300 feet (1,300m) ascent to the top of the Babusar Pass over the last 25km.

Riders fit enough to enjoy the scenery will appreciate the stunning views presented by the vast Lulusar Lake reroute to the top. Once the survivors drag themselves over the crest of the pass they will be rewarded with panoramic vista of the might western walls of Nanga Parbat hanging 7,000m above the Gilgit river, the greatest vertical rise of any gorge on planet earth.

Following the punishing ascent, the riders will loop back down towards Jalkhad on a flying descent through miles of lush green meadows and over rough trails tailor-made for a mountain bike race of the highest calibre.

On the second day, The Criterium (Lake Saif-ul-Maluk) —

40km, situated above the tree line at an altitude of 10,500 feet (3,200m), and surrounded by a ring of majestic snow capped mountains. Lake Saif-ul-Maluk is a breathtaking gem of a sight.

Transported up to the lake in jeeps, the riders will do six circuits of roughly 6.5 km each around the lake.

Whereas the course is relatively flat with no steep climbs, the circuits, rolling over rock fields, glaciers, mud flats and stony bridges, have been described by riders from the last race as the ultimate technical challenge for any mountain biker. This will be a test of skills and all but the very best will feel a need to walk certain part of the course that proves too challenging.

On the third day, the Pai Ascent (16km), which would be third and final stage, though the shortest in distance is probably

the most punishing based on the past experience, as race climbs 5000 feet.

In altitude over a distance of only 14 km, starting at the Kaghan Memorial School in Kawai at high altitude 5,500m (1,700m), the first part of the stage comprises of a gruelling climb on metalled road for 8km up to the beautiful tourist resort on the plateau of Shogran.

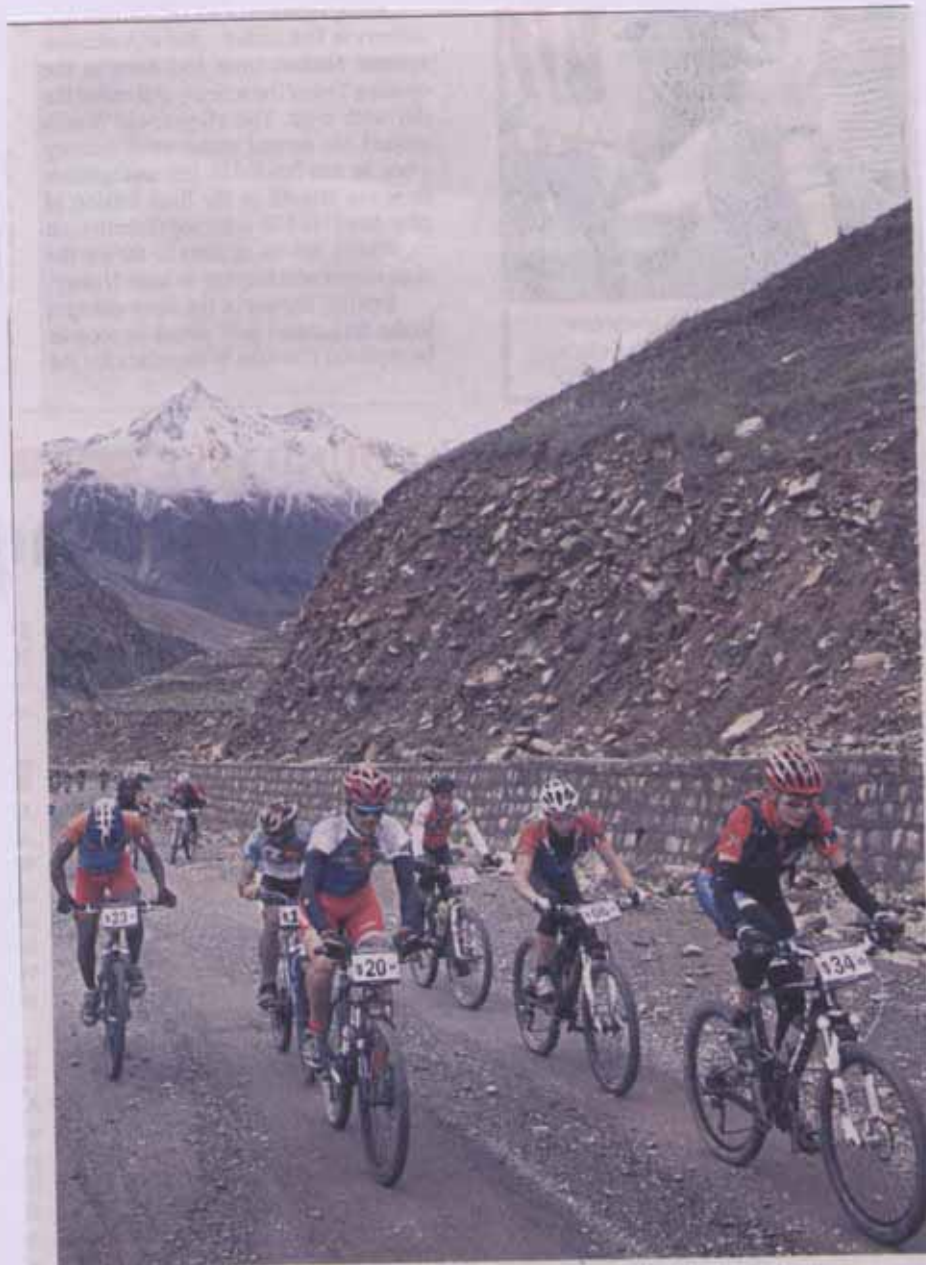
Following Shogran is a further steep ascent of another 6km up to the rolling meadows of Pai, situated an altitude of 10,500 feet (3,200m), but now on an un-metalled jeep track. Follow the punishment, the cyclists will make two relatively easy circuits of around 1km each of the Pai meadows to finish the race. This stage will be a test of endurance and strength. Only the players will be awarded trophies with no cash prizes. — APP



JALKHAND: International and local Pakistani cyclists compete during the first stage of the Himalayas 2011 International Mountainbike Race in the mountainous area tourist region of Naran in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday.—AFP



SHOGRAN: Pakistan's cyclist Asif (L), Irjan Luttenberg of the Netherlands (R) and Ranhilde Luttenberg (C) compete during the third and last stage of the Himalayas 2011 International Mountainbike Race in the mountainous area of Shogran, Pakistan's tourist region of Naran in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday. Slovakia's Martin Haring won the Himalayas 2011 race.—AFP



JALKHAND: International and local Pakistani cyclists compete during the first stage of the Himalayas 2011 International Mountainbike Race in Naran. The cycling event, organised by the Kaghan Memorial Trust to raise funds for its charity school set up in the Kaghan valley for children affected in the October 2005 earthquake, attracted some 30 international and 11 Pakistani cyclists. AFP

Saturday, 17 September, 2011

PAKISTAN TODAY
SPORTS

Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race

Martin in Yellow after 1st round

NARAN (APP) - Martin Haring of Slovakia won the yellow jersey by clocking 2 hour, 50 minutes and 17sec while crossing a rain and icing-hit slippery, bumpy, and hard stony distance of 56km track paddled off from Jalkhad to Babusar Pass on the opening day of TCKP The Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race, which got under way here at Kaghan Valley on Friday.

He was closely followed by Altansukh Altanzul of Mongolia who is trailing Haring by 12 seconds while Irjan Luttenberg of Holland is on third place further adrift by 4 minutes and 43sec.

In the women's event, Lisa Pleyer of Austria won yellow jersey by clocking 3 hours, 14 minutes and 13sec with a 10 minutes lead over second-placed Rickie Cotter of Great Britain. Mel Alexander, also from Great Britain was third with by a margin of 9 minutes and 4 sec from the leader.

Danish rider Line Bruun Stalknecht took fourth position while Steffi-Hardraschek-Jochem, representing Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa team, got 5th position. She is actually belonging from Germany. Remko Kramer of Holland fell badly and was injured with he was coming down from uphill snowing mountain.

A total of 42 international men and women cyclists including 11 top Pakistan cyclists paddled off by testing the high peak of Himalayas in Kaghan Valley and reached to at altitude of 13,800 feet racetrack. Covering three spectacular and challenging course on dirt, track and paved roads, rising up to altitude higher than 4,200 metres each competing team consists of three men and two women.

The Tour of the Himalayas-2011 is the third edition of this

event, which was previously successful stage in September 2006 and September 2007 in the same area under the aegis of Kaghan Memorial Trust (KMT), in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cycling Association and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ministry of Sports and Tourism. The funds generated from this race will go to KMT's charitable Kaghan Memorial School. The cyclists will get to Saif-ul-Maluk by jeeps for the 40km flat race around lake Saif-ul-Maluk.

Teams participating in the event include: Great Britain Rickie Cotter, Mel Alexander, Matt Page, Mark Spratt, Robert Friel Slovakia Martin Haring, Zuzana Vojtasova, Peter Kosut, Martin Frano, Livia Hanesova Holland Irjan Luttenberg, Irjan Luttenberg, Remko Kramer, Kim Van De Belt, Immanuel (Miel) Barkmeijer, Denmark Lone Sand, Tim Lorentzen, Henrik Soeberg, Line Bruun Stalknecht, World United, Taryn Laurie (South Africa), Nathan Dahlberg (New Zealand), Altansukh Altanzul (Mongolia), Adam Glendinning (Canada) Eurasia, Lisa Pleyer (Austria), Utzubaatar Jamsran (Mongolia), Ismail Saeed (Pakistan/Australia), Pierre Bischoff (Germany), Pakistan, Cathy Zegliniski (Canada), Mohammad Sabir, Mohammad Ibrahim, Nisar Ahmed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Steffi-Hardraschek-Jochem, Abdullah Aslam, Sarmad Shabati, Rabnawaz Ali Khan Sul Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) Habbullah, Murad Ali, Asif



SHOGRAN: Slovakia's cyclist Martin Haring celebrates after winning all three stages at the end of the Himalayas International Mountainbike Race in the tourist region of Naran in Khyber PK. AFP

Martin wins Himalayas Int'l Mountain Bike Race

SHOGRAN (APP): Martin Haring of Slovakia became the Champion of the Tour of Himalayas International Mountain Bike Race by securing victory in the 16-km last and final stage started in a sun-light from Kaghan Memorial School in Kawai and culminated at altitude 10,500 Pai Asent under the heavy shower and hailstorm on Sunday.

The third and final day, though the shortest in distance, yet probably the most punishing based on the past experience, as race started from 5,500 feet at Kawai, the first part of the stage comprises of a grueling climb on metalled road for 8-km up to the beautiful tourist resort on the plateau of Shogran. However, the riders faced uphill journey of 8-km after going through thick and high-sky pine-tree forests with heavy felt, mud, pound of waters besides hitting by heavy shower and hailstorm in the middle of the race, reaching at altitude 10,500 feet. Martin Haring of Slovakia clocked 1 hour, 36 minute and 5sec to win the last and final stage, followed by Altansukh Altanzul of Mongolia (World United team member) with a clock-time 1 hour, 46 minutes and 15sec and Nathan Dahlberg of the World United with clock-time 1 hour, 52 minutes got third.

In the final stage Rickie Cutter of Great Britain secured victory by clocking 2 hours, 13 minutes and 7sec, followed by Lisa Pleyer of Austria clocked 2 hours, 13 minutes and 26sec and Stiffi Hardraschek-Jochem of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with clock-time 2 hours, 16 minute and 28sec.

The Nation, Islamabad | Monday, September 19, 2011

SPORTS



SHOGRAN: Pakistan's cyclist Asif, Irjan Luttenberg of the Netherlands and Ranhilde Luttenberg compete during the last stage of the Himalayas 2011 International Mountainbike Race in the mountainous area.—AFP