

Citadel

MAJESTY OF A NATION & ITS PEOPLE



Discovering Pakistan

A TOURIST GUIDE TO INNER BEAUTY OF
PAKISTAN AND THE STORIES IT HOLDS.

“Pakistan not only means freedom and independence but the Muslim Ideology which has to be preserved, which has come to us as a precious gift and treasure and which, we hope other will share with us.”

- Muhammad Ali Jinnah



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A panoramic view of a valley at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon to the left, casting a golden glow over the landscape. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. In the foreground, there are rocky hillsides with sparse vegetation. The middle ground shows a wide valley with a city in the distance. The text "QUETTA" is written in a large, bold, serif font, and "LAND OF MOUNTAINS" is written in a smaller, bold, serif font below it.

QUETTA

LAND OF MOUNTAINS

KNOW ABOUT QUETTA

Balochistan is a historical region located in the west of Pakistan, bordering the Indian Plate and the Arabian Sea coastline. This arid region of desert and mountains is primarily populated by ethnic Baloch people. It borders KPK to the north, Sindh, and Punjab to the east, and Iranian regions to the west.

Balochistan is the largest of the four provinces of Pakistan, spreading over an area of 347,190 sq. kms, forming 43.6 percent of the total area of Pakistan.

Quetta is the tenth most populous state in Pakistan with a population of over 1.1 million people. It is situated in the south-west of the country and is the capital of Balochistan. Quetta is at an average elevation of 1680 metres above sea level, making it Pakistan's only high-altitude major city. The city is known as the "Fruit Garden of Pakistan" due to the numerous fruit orchards in and around it, and the large variety of fruits and dried fruit products produced there.

Located in northern Balochistan, near the Pakistani Afghan border, and the road across to Kandahar, Quetta is a trade and communication centre between the two countries. The city is near the Bolan pass route which was once one of the major gateways from Central Asia to South Asia. Quetta played an important role militarily for the Pakistani Armed Forces in the Intermittent Afghanistan conflict.

KNOW ABOUT QUETTA

From the 11th century, the land of Quetta was owned and ruled by the Kasi Pashtun tribe. It was captured by Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi during his invasion of South Asia. In 1543, Mughal Emperor Humayun came to Quetta en route to Safavid Persia, leaving his son and future Mughal Emperor Akbar there. In 1709, the region was a part of the Afghan Hotak dynasty until Ahmad Shah Durrani came along in 1747 and conquered it, making it a part of the Durrani Empire. The first Europeans visited Quetta in 1828 describing it as a mud-walled fort surrounded by three hundred mud houses.

In 1876, Quetta was occupied by the British and subsequently incorporated into British India. In 1856, British General John Jacob had urged his government to occupy Quetta given its strategic position on the western frontier. As a result, the British constructed the infrastructure for their establishment. By 1935, Quetta had developed into a bustling city with a number of multi-story buildings and so was known as, "Little London."



PEOPLE OF QUETTA

Colonel Abdul Razzaq

(M.B.E)

'The Afghan Boy' Colonel Abdul Razzaq (M.B.E) and the oldest veteran of Pakistan Army Lieutenant Colonel (R) Sultan Muhammad Khan Mengal are 2 gems of Pakistan of whom people are unaware of. Both the excellent officers belonged from Province of Balochistan and served this country and Pakistan Army. Colonel Abdul Razzaq was born in Quetta on 18th February 1916. 'Zagho', what his family used to call him as Zaagh in Persian it means a crow which symbolizes staying away from Omen. He completed his basic education from Islamia College. In 1941 during the World War II, the British army fell short of soldiers and officers in the Burma Campaign. Therefore, they introduced short service courses for officers when in return they promised to pave way for independence of Pakistan and India. Then Abdul Razzaq, joined the Armed Forces Academy, Dehradun (later known as the Indian Military Academy) and passed out as commissioned officer in 1940 in Raj Regiment later on posted to Jat Regiment (which were British Army Units) and in 1948 after independence he joined 5 Frontier Force Regiment. Abdul Razzaq proved to be an excellent officer and graduated from Command and Staff College Quetta. Later in his career he was given prominent roles. When promoted to the rank of Colonel, Abdul Razzaq was posted as Military Attaché to the Pakistan Embassy in Afghanistan. He would represent Pakistan on several occasions as military attaché such as the wedding of then King of Afghanistan Zaher Shah's daughter.



Lt Col Sultan Mengal

Lt Col. (R) Sultan Muhammad Khan Mengal was born in Nushki on 14th November 1918. He also completed his basic education from Islamia College and throughout his student life he was an excellent sportsman. He achieved many titles during his student life and also broke many records across the subcontinent for example the 50 kilometers hitch hiking competition. He was team member of different teams such as rowing, cross country running, hockey, football, swimming etc. making him the perfect candidate for the army. Similar to Col Abdul Razzaq, Sultan Muhammad Khan Mengal joined the Armed Forces Academy in 1941 and passed out as commissioned officer in 1942. Later in 1948 he also joined the 2nd Frontier Force Regiment. He was posted at the Infantry School, Quetta as Chief Instructor in Close Quarter Battle Group and trained non-commissioned officers, junior-commissioned officers, and officers for special operations. As chief instructor, he himself showed great expertise in pistol shooting with great accuracy and lightning speed. He held several commanding positions as he was a born leader throughout his career such as his home unit of 2FF, Khyber Rifles, Northern Scouts Gilgit, and much more. He was also given responsibilities to organize military ceremonies for special state guests such as President of Egypt Nasir, Prime Minister of India Nehru, and Queen of Great 2. Lt Col Sultan Muhammad Khan Mengal Britain Elizabeth II. Lt. Col Sultan Muhammad Khan Mengal lived a long and successful life of 103 years becoming the oldest veteran of Pakistan Army. He passed away on 25th September 2021 and on his death the ISPR said "Col Mengal, a keen soldier and an adventurer, climbed, walked, skied, sailed and rowed through all of Pakistan's natural terrain on many expeditions".

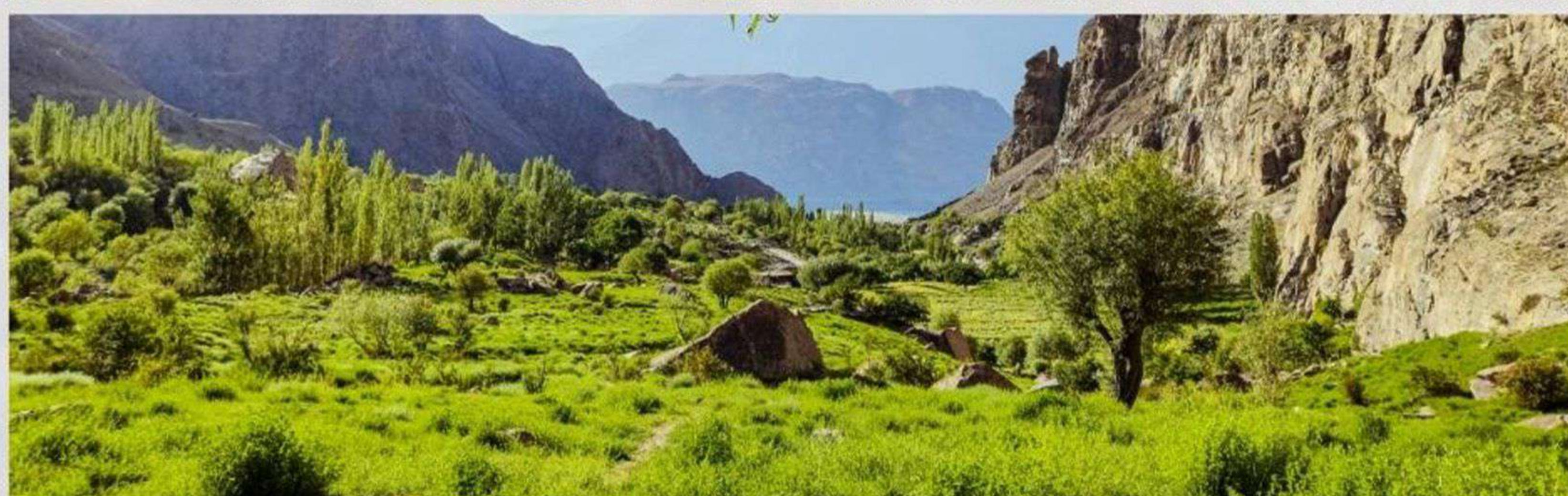




GILGIT - BALTISTAN

LITTLE TIBET

GHANCHE, SKARDU



G

ilgit-Baltistan's Ganche district stands almost aloof with its beautiful valleys and settlements inhabited by the most hospitable locals and river irrigated land.

The central location in the district is Khaplu, which is a beautiful landscape with high summits, flowing blue waters and waterfalls.

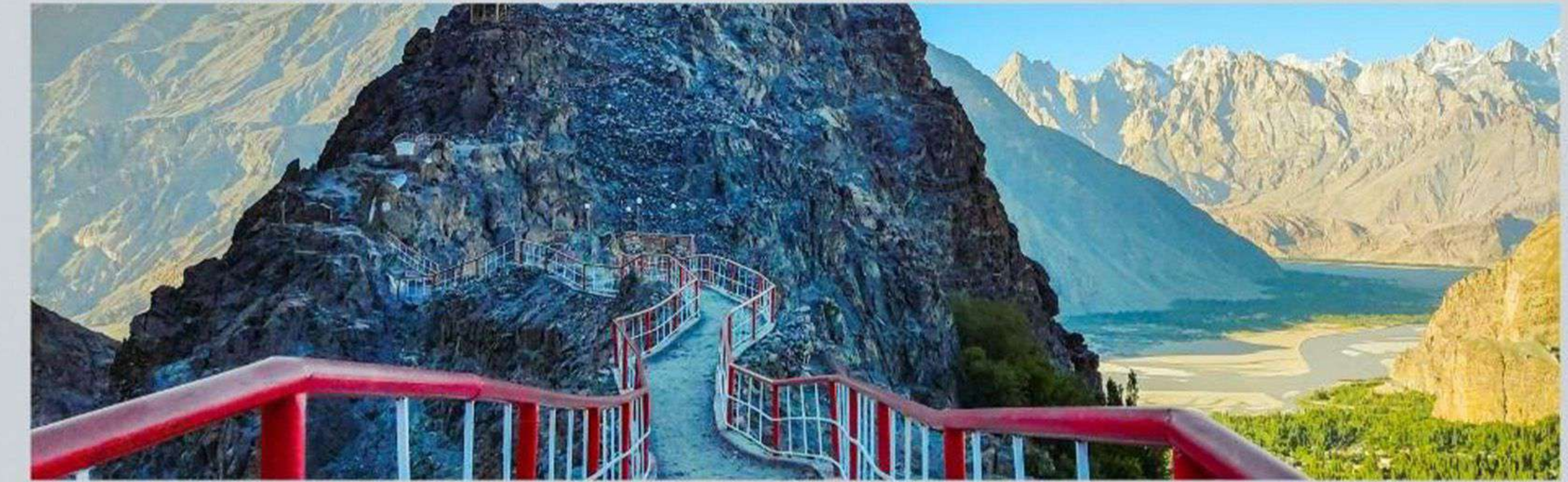
The people of this region are warm and loving, as they were centuries before, when travellers, wandering through Yarkand and Saltoro, first arrived here.

Surrounded by lofty mountains, the valley is home to almost 150,000 people. It borders with the Xinjian province in the North-East, and Ladakh area of Indian Administered Kashmir to the South.

Moving on from Skardu, after crossing the bridge at River Indus, one enters Ganche.

The old wooden bridge on the river is now in shambles. Skardu has been left behind, Ganche is in sight, but the majestic views remain the same. River Shyok flows alongside. In local language, River Shyok translates into, 'River of Death.'

GHANCHE, SKARDU



C

enturies ago, the entire region was under the influence of Buddhism, and its remnants can still be found engraved on old stones.

In 1570, Syed Nasir al-Tusi and Syed Ali-al Tusi arrived in Khaplu from Yarkand through Saltoro and preached Islam in the region. From Khaplu Bazaar, a road goes up to the great Khaplu Fort. This fort was constructed in 1840 by Raja Daulat Ali Khan of Khaplu, and it has stood the test of time.

The second main tourist point of the district Ganche is Chaqchan Masjid. Located in Khaplu, the masjid was built by Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani in 1370 A.D. It is one of the oldest Masjids in all of Asia. The Government of Pakistan has listed the Chaqchan Masjid as a national heritage site. It is said that this masjid was the worship place of Buddhists some 700 years ago. However, it was converted to a masjid when the entire population of the region accepted Islam. The architecture of the Masjid reflects the civilization of Islam. It is made of mud, stones, and wood. Wood carvings adorn the inner and outer surfaces of the Masjid.

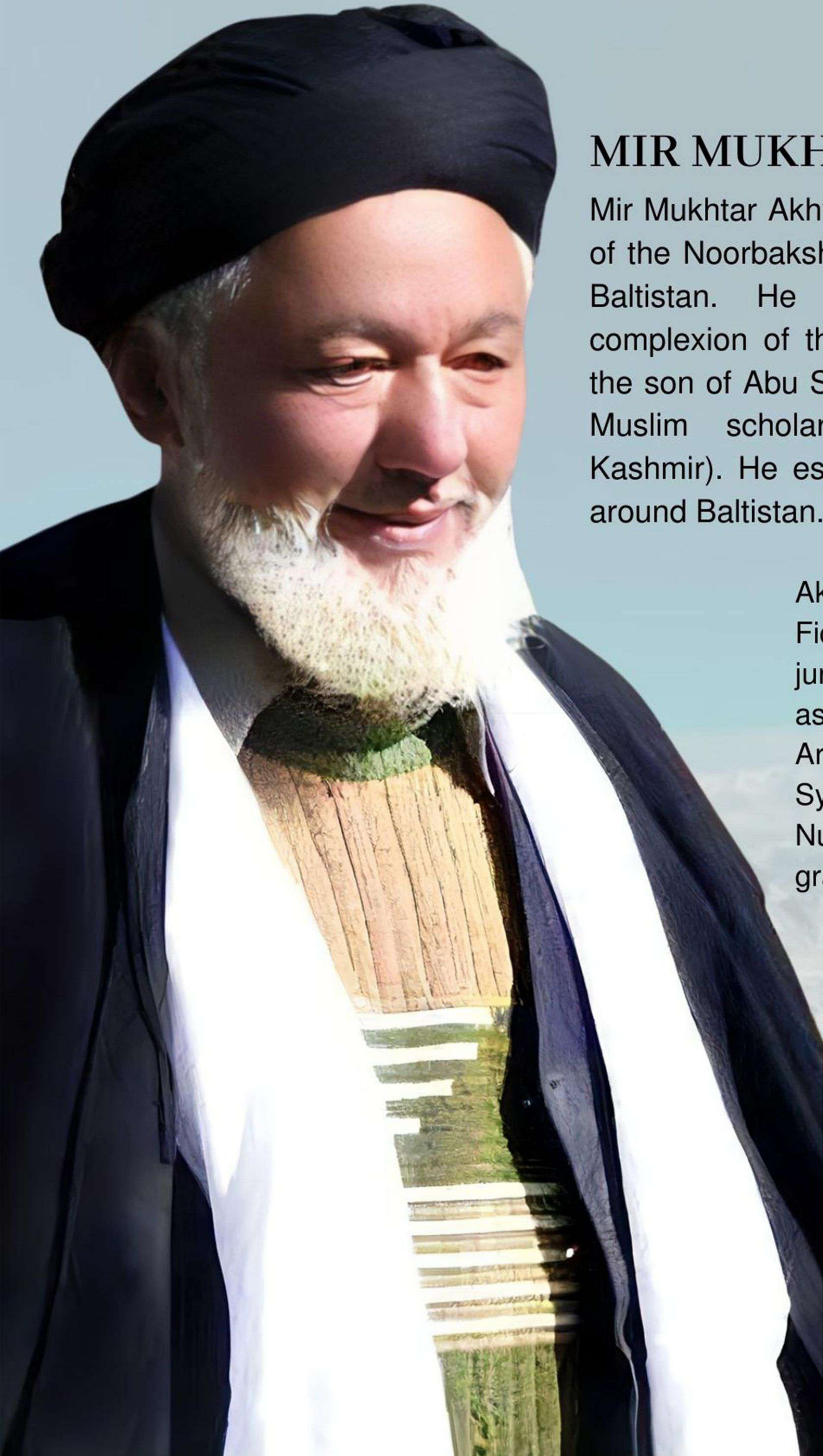
PEOPLE OF GHANCHE

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MIR MUKHTAR AKHYAR

Mir Mukhtar Akhyar was a Sufi scholar of the Noorbakshi orders of the Sufi in Baltistan. He shaped the social complexion of the valley. Akhyar was the son of Abu Saeed Sauda (an early Muslim scholar of Baltistan and Kashmir). He established 12 Khanqah around Baltistan.

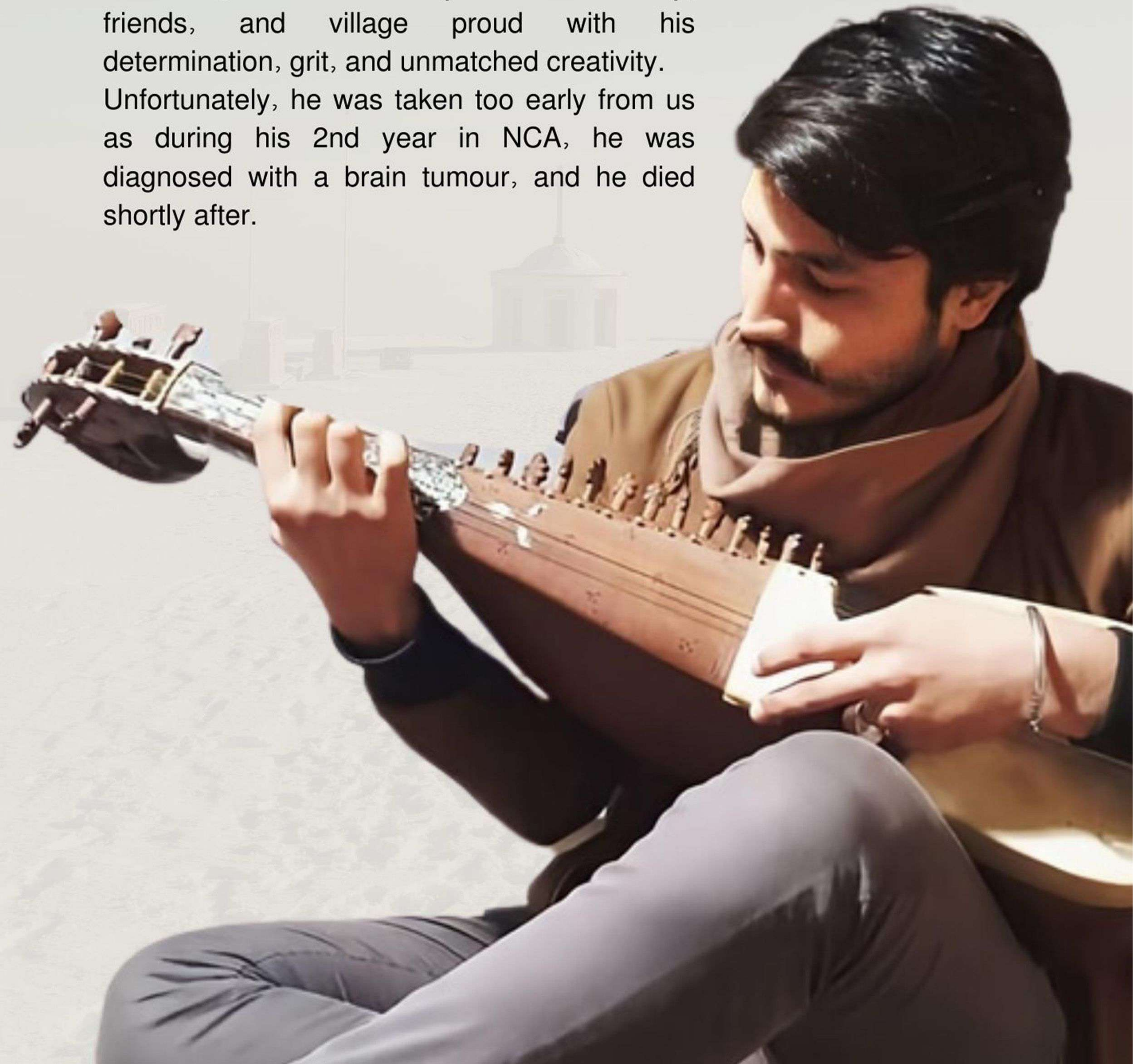
Akhyar translated the book Fiqh-i-Ahwat (the book of jurisprudence) also known as Siraj-ul-Islam written in Arabic by his teacher Shah Syed Muhammad Nurbakhsh Qahistani. His grave is in Keris, Khaplu.



IRTEZA SHIGRI (LATE)

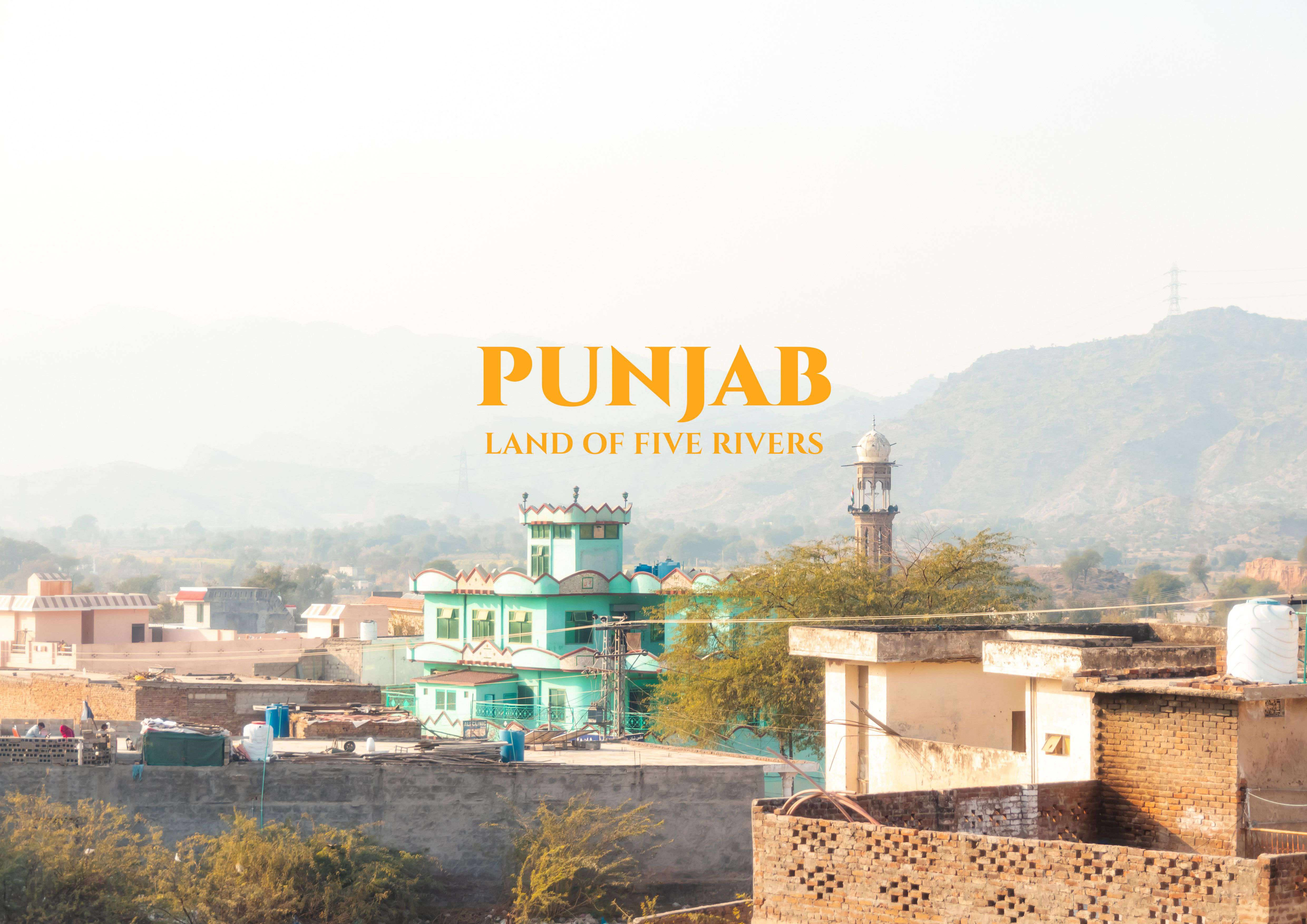
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Irteza Shigri was a 22-year-old student completing a visual communication designing degree from NCA. He was admitted to NCA on Gilgit-Baltistan's quota. Hailing from Shigar, Baltistan, Irteza Shigri wore that as a badge of honour. He was the culmination of all things good about the region and he showed that within his work. A hardworking, talented individual, Irteza constantly made his family, friends, and village proud with his determination, grit, and unmatched creativity. Unfortunately, he was taken too early from us as during his 2nd year in NCA, he was diagnosed with a brain tumour, and he died shortly after.



PUNJAB

LAND OF FIVE RIVERS



DOMELI,

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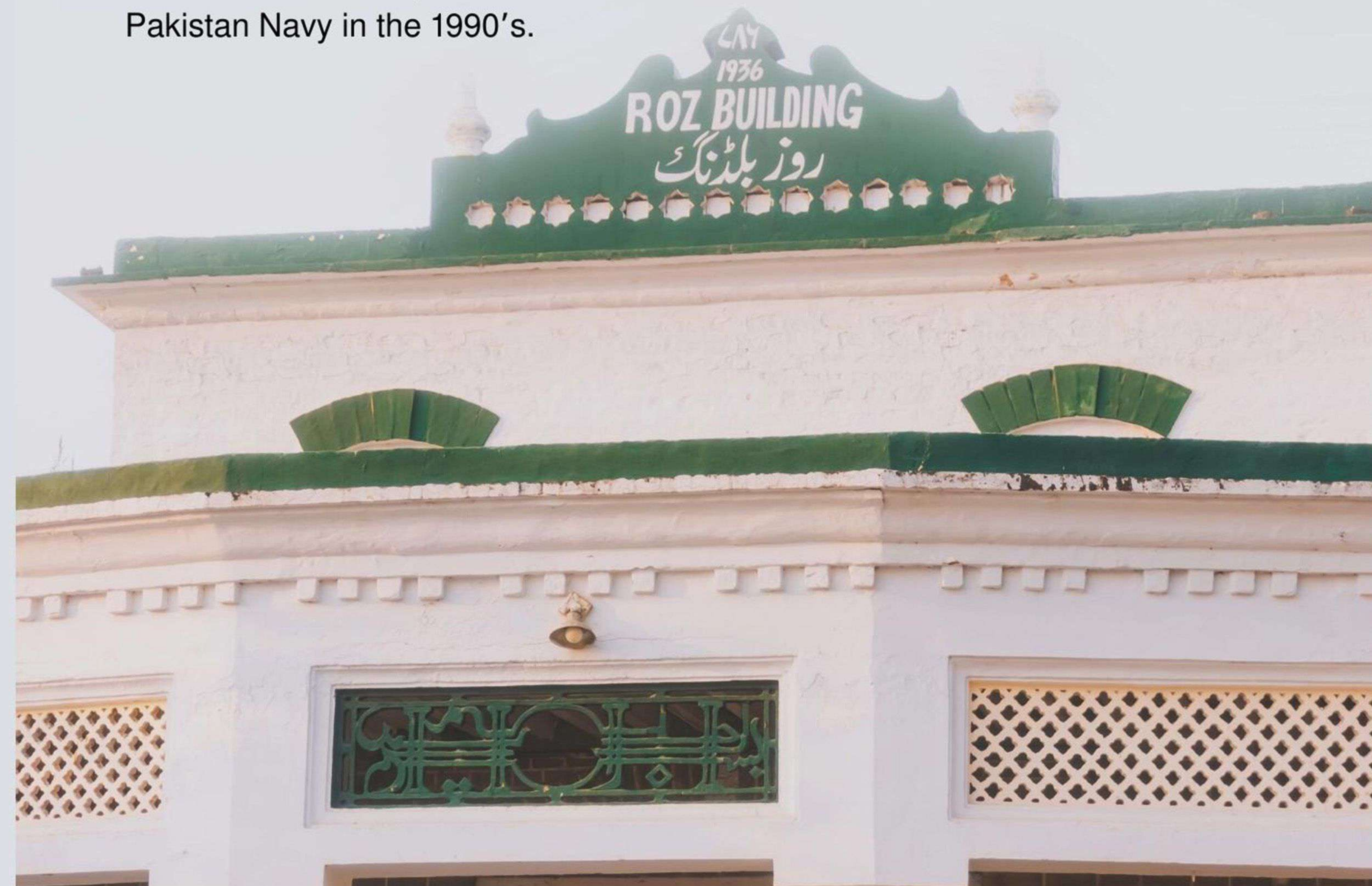
JHELUM

Domeli is a village and union council of tehsil Sohawa, Jhelum district in the Punjab province of Pakistan.

Recently my friend Awais hailing from Domeli phoned me to tell me of the several spreading graveyards around his hometown.

We drove into town and parked in an open space in front of a nice-looking house painted yellow and green, with a pillared veranda. On top, it said 'Roz building, 1936.' This was Kayani country, and the house was built by Colonel Sir Sher Muhammad Kayani whose son, Tariq Kamaal, headed Pakistan Navy in the 1990's.

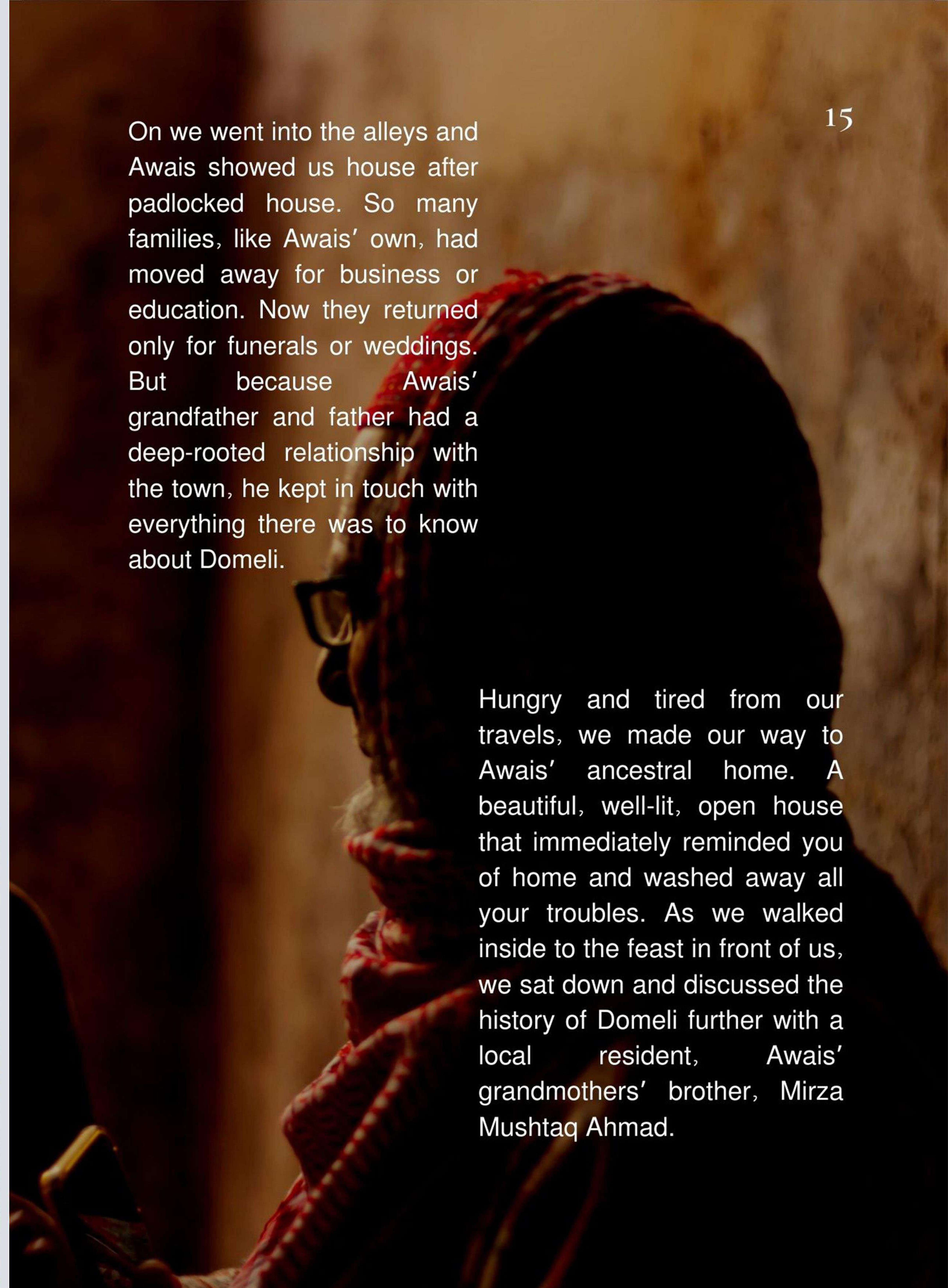
At Roz Building, we turned right into an alley with a massive, vaulted roof above. Beyond was the Domeli main bazaar with all of two stores in business. The rest were shuttered. Many of the businesses, Awais told us, had moved away to the shiny-new shopping centre outside town.



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On we went into the alleys and Awais showed us house after padlocked house. So many families, like Awais' own, had moved away for business or education. Now they returned only for funerals or weddings. But because Awais' grandfather and father had a deep-rooted relationship with the town, he kept in touch with everything there was to know about Domeli.

Hungry and tired from our travels, we made our way to Awais' ancestral home. A beautiful, well-lit, open house that immediately reminded you of home and washed away all your troubles. As we walked inside to the feast in front of us, we sat down and discussed the history of Domeli further with a local resident, Awais' grandmothers' brother, Mirza Mushtaq Ahmad.



DOMELI

MIRZA MUSHTAQ AHMED

Mirza Mushtaq, born October 1st, 1937, is a real local resident of the beautiful Domeli. Having spent his entire life in the village, he sat down with us over dinner to recount the tales of his youth. Captivated with his stories of the past, we huddled around him as he started with his “origin story.”

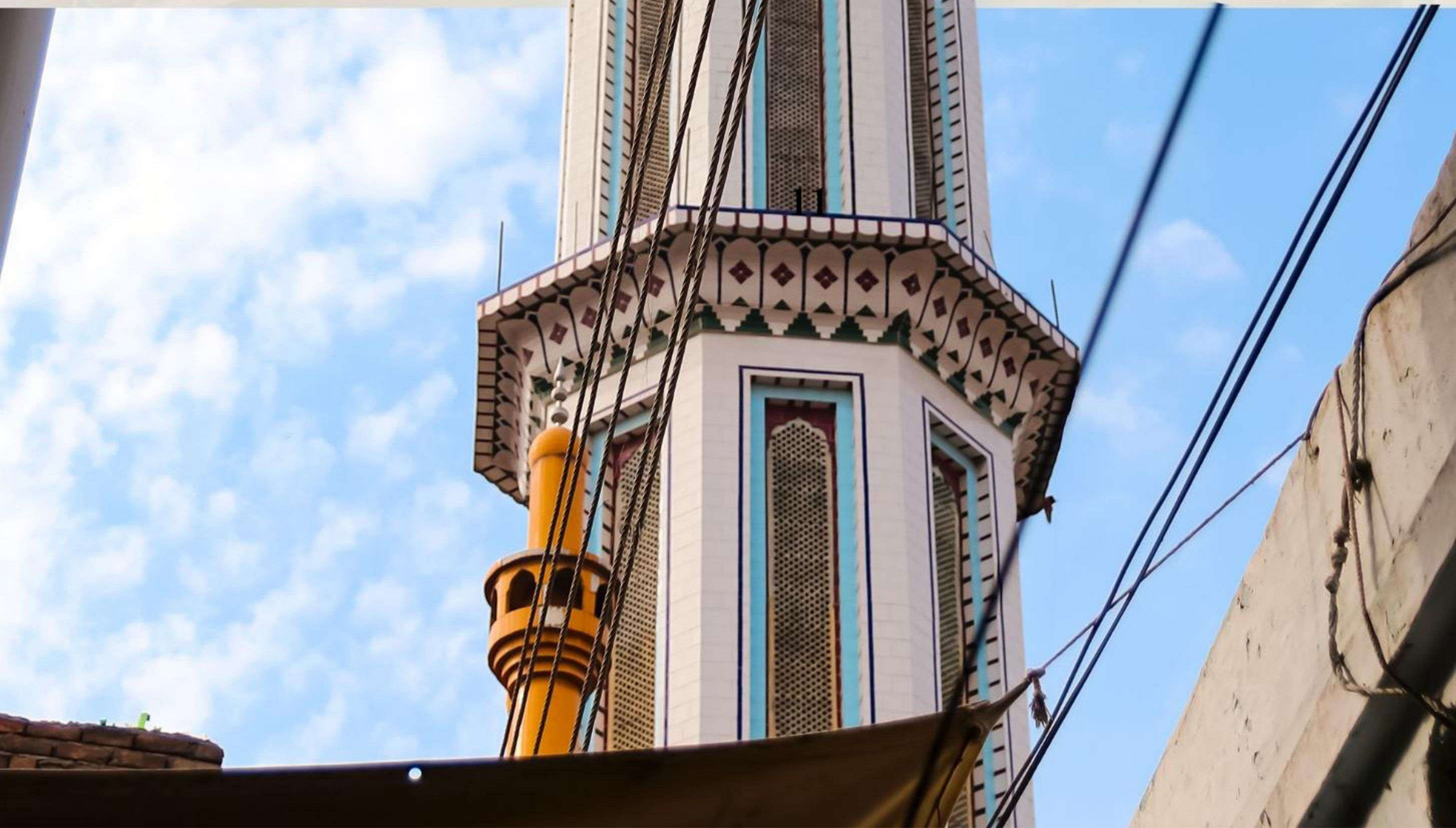
Mirza Mushtaq’s ancestors belonged to the Barlaas kabeela of Afghanistan. Migrating to Pakistan, they initially settled in Abbottabad. Coincidentally one of the brothers in that family became a religious scholar and was eventually appointed as an Imam in one of Domeli’s Masjid’s.

Meanwhile, Mirza Mushtaq’s father was appointed as a risaldar in the British army after becoming the first person in the town to graduate from Islamia college with a science degree, a fact that made Mirza Mushtaq beam with pride and put a warm smile on all our faces.

Mirza Mushtaq himself got a BSC degree and continued to serve as a principal in the Boys High School in the village. After stints in Hazro, Jhelum, and then kalaar sayidaan, he retired from BPS 19th grade and is now living peacefully off his pension in his ancestral home in Domeli.

The people of Domeli have a simple lifestyle. Basic occupation of its inhabitants is cultivation. Many villagers have been recorded as having jobs in Pakistan Army. The village has a railway station but express rail cars do not stop there so the main transport mean for inhabitants of Domeli are buses, while nearest airport, Islamabad International Airport, is located almost 120 km away. Domeli Morr connects the village to different parts of Punjab. The weather around Domeli is usually hot and mild. The village has a Boys high school and Girls high school, no facility of Intermediate education has been given by government/authorities. For further studies pupils usually go to Jhelum or Rawalpindi.

ANDROON PINDI



NURI MANSION

The Kohati bazaar is home to one of Rawalpindi's most beautiful heritage buildings – the Kalyan Das Temple, more commonly known as, Nuri Mansion. The temple was built by the famous Suri family who lived in Rawalpindi before partition.

The family was rechristened Nuri mansion after the partition.

The beautiful structure has been converted into the Govt Qandeel Secondary School for the Blind. Construction began in the 1850 and was completed in 1880. In the 1950's, the Evacuee Trust Board took over the building and in 1973, the school was established.

The entrance to the Suri mansion is located just off the Banni food street in Kartarpura. The inscription on the building's façade was changed to Nuri mansion after partition.

KARTARPURA

Everyone knows when you are craving authentic street style desi food in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, the only place to go is Kartarpura. The area has stood there for many decades serving people with desi foods such as Nihari, Paye, Lassi, Cholay and more.

A large number of people throng Rawalpindi's Kartarpura Food Street, which offer a variety of foods under special Ramzan deals, during Sehri. The rush of customers at eateries in the narrow, old lanes of Kartarpura will have you fooled into thinking that it is eight o'clock on a weekend when it is, in fact, three in the morning in the middle of the week.

The area, which once used to be teeming with the resident Sikh community – who developed much of Rawalpindi and surrounding areas under the reign of Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh. Once a key business district, today the area has become a food street.

Some of the cultural elements of the era gone by can be seen in the traditional way lassi (buttermilk) is prepared here, with some stores preferring the old manual method to mechanized blenders.

Some storekeepers choose to relive old times by trimming their moustache and beard like a Mughal court attendant while donning a tall turban and with strings of bead hanging around their neck.



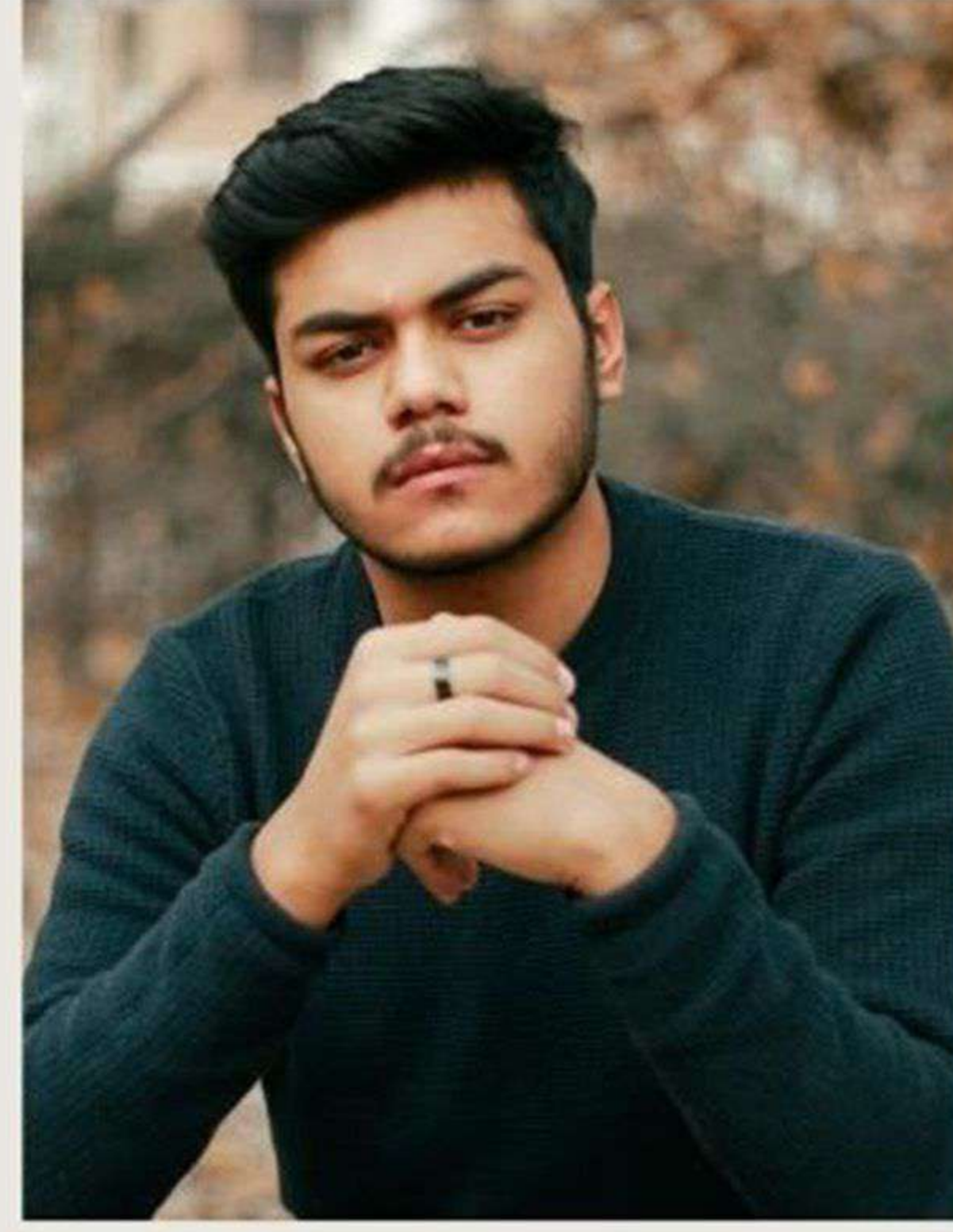
MEET THE TEAM

D e s i g n e r



Ayan Achakzai

P h o t o g r a p h e r



Muhammad Sameer

P r o d u c e r



Awais Ahmed

E d i t o r



Faizan Ayaz



Zainab

S u b - E d i t o r



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