

OURLife

2nd Quarter Issue

Traveler's TROVE
TOURIST HOTSPOTS

MOVIE
REVIEW

YOUR
WELL-BEING
Our Priority

Hiking
The
MOUNTAIN
Within

HOW TREKKING THE 'KILLER MOUNTAIN'
DRAWS PARALLELS TO LEADERSHIP LESSONS

Gallery of Events

AI – All will go well

Social Club Activity

Movie Review

Kamaal Ke Achievers

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I am pleased to address you all again through another edition of “Our Life”. This time as the Vice Chairman of Board for EFU Life. My journey in EFU Life has been full of immense learning and challenges during the past thirty years.

Through this quarter’s newsletter, I would like to take this moment and reflect on something that sets us apart as an organization i.e., our culture. We have worked hard to create a culture deeply rooted with values, ethics, equality, and respect for each other. Throughout the years, it has only been possible due to our team’s diligent efforts towards maintaining this culture. As our new journey begins, I want to reaffirm that our commitment to preserve our cultural legacy remains intact.

As we move ahead, let us not forget that it is the collective mindset that helps us approach challenges, collaborate and contribute towards our shared goals. I encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on what our cultural legacy means to you personally as well as professionally.

Nevertheless, I would emphasize that our success is the sole result of the collective efforts of every individual working with us. Every effort by them has made an impact whether big or small. Let us continue to collaborate, innovate, and inspire one another as we walk towards the next chapter of EFU Life.

**Message by our Vice Chairman
Mr. Tahir G. Sachak**

CEO Mohammed Ali's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health. It is my pleasure and honour to address you in this 2nd issue of "Our Life" for 2023, as your new MD & CEO.

In my letter of 11 July 2023 to you, I emphasized the value I place on our diverse and talented team and recognize that it is the critical asset that fuels our growth and innovation. I would like to thank every one of you for your contribution and dedication to our progress! I am committed to placing merit before anything else and nurture our workforce, fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment that encourages personal and professional development for every team member. In addition, accountability is another key factor that all of us need to be conscious of, with an understanding of the value we are adding by our efforts to the organization.

We have a great institution built with the collective efforts of the entire team, and it is the people who will continue to take it forward. In my 21 years with EFU Life I have witnessed time and again that decisions revolving around people are the most important ones and determine the future course of an institution. All other aspects of the organization like processes, products, technology, usually fall in place if the right people are at the helm of affairs.

I urge you to review my letter occasionally as it sets forth my vision for the Company, how I would like us as a team to move forward, and expectations from all of you. Our future must be better than our past, and this is what progress is all about! I have identified a few areas in my letter that have helped me progress forward, and I am confident that some of them can benefit you too.

2023 has been a challenging year in many aspects, however I am confident that with the resilience and determination of our teams, we will successfully navigate through these times. The key is for everyone to give their personal best, and the collective impact of this contribution will support and elevate the entire organization.

Lastly, going forward, as the new Editor-in-Chief of "Our Life", going forward I will work with the respective teams to enhance the content of this newsletter, and as a first step, it will be great to see more volunteers come forward with ideas and suggestions.



welcome TO OUR family



Ameer Hammad
(Accounts)



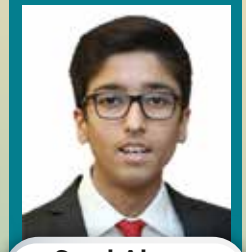
Lizna Pervez
(ASP)



Ali Abbas Jafri
(ASP)



Adil Mustafa Mangi
(BM)



Saad Ahsun
(ASP)



Arabina Shahzad
(Marketing)



Arsalan Memon
(Claims)



Anas Saeed
(CSE)



Ali Raza
(NS)



Ayesha Kabeer
(TAD)



Muhammad Aqib
(BM)



Aimen Bashir
(Claims)



Ramsha Tariq
(HR)



Danish Rehman
(BA)



Erum Siddiqui
(Claims)



Faima Liaqat
(BA)



Hassan Salim



Fizzah Abbas
(GBO)



Farzana
(NS)



Hanzala Ahmed
(GA)



Marium Musharraf
(CS)



M. Yasir iqbal
(BM)



Maryam Zaheer
(NSI)



Jazib Khan
(CS)



Khalid Ahmed
(GA)



**Tariq Mehmood
(BA)**



**Muhammad Amir
(BA)**



**Mohsin Ahmed Khan
(ADM)**



**M. Bilal Aitmad
(ASP)**



**M. Yousuf
(ADM)**



**M. Haseeb Ali
(CS)**



**Wasim Hanif
(NS)**



**Rabia Ashfaq
(BA)**



**Rahil Hanif
(Accounts)**



**Pir M. Talha
(Investment)**



**Rukhsana Sharif
(BA)**



**Nimra Khan
(HR)**



**Soman
(Accounts)**



**Salman Mubin
(CS)**



**Sajid Abbas
(BA)**



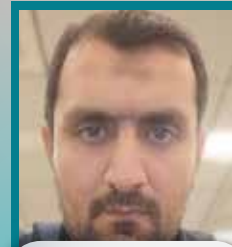
**Seejal Khan
(CSE)**



**Samreen Mustafa
(HR)**



**Sania zulfiqar
(NS)**



**Syed Mehmood Ali
(NSI)**



**M. Shehroz
(SA)**



**Shizza Sohail
(ADM)**



**Sohaib Inam
(ASP)**



**Shahroz Sohail
(CSE)**



**Shafique Alam Naich
(NSI)**



**Zohaib
(CS)**



**Sanjina Rani
(SA)**



**Syed Armaghan Rehman
(ADM)**



**Syed M. Widdan Haider
(CS)**



**Amna Izhar
(HR)**

YOUR WELL-BEING

Our Priority

MindfulMe Initiative:

By Samreen Mustafa

Earlier this year, we announced a significant addition to our benefits package that reflects our commitment to creating a nurturing and supportive workplace – our mental wellbeing platform MindfulMe.

In today's crazy and restless life of everyone, we recognize the importance of taking care of not just our physical health but also our mental well-being. We believe in the wellness of our EFU Life family, and this wellness initiative is intended for the benefit of all of us.

When we decided to launch MindfulMe, our objective was to maintain complete confidentiality of the employees using MindfulMe. In the past 4 months, a major chunk of employees has reached out to professionals through MindfulMe. We are happy to see so many of you have used MindfulMe for your mental and emotional wellbeing secure in the complete confidentiality provided.

We urge everyone to be aware that all of us in way or another are taking care of our emotional wellbeing. We should all strive to be more empathic and understanding with our colleagues. And be that should you require assistance, MindfulMe will always be available to you.



AI – ALL WILL GO WELL

Maybe!

Impact AI can have in the life of an average Pakistani in the next two to three decades if all goes well!

by Mr. Sohaib Shams

In the next two to three decades, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is expected to make a huge impact on the lifestyle of an average Pakistani. The advancements in AI can introduce relatively drastic changes to existing infrastructure and will be applied across all walks of life.

From the economic perspective, AI can have a transformative effect. Automation is set to upend existing industries and create new opportunities. This could result in improved employment opportunities by allowing firms to expand their production capabilities and generate new wealth. Moreover, by making day-to-day activities easier, AI is expected to help in increasing the efficiency of businesses, leading to an increase in profits.

In terms of healthcare, AI can have an unprecedented level of success and can be used to revolutionize existing diagnoses and treatments. AI-driven medical systems could be used to make more accurate diagnoses and develop customized treatments for a range of illnesses and conditions. In addition, AI-driven medical robots could be used to do mundane tasks such as taking blood tests, removing stitches, and monitoring patients' vital signs.

From the educational perspective, AI's interactive nature can provide students with a new platform of learning and self-discovery. AI technologies such as virtual reality and augmented reality can give rise to interactive and experiential learning experiences. This means that classrooms of the future may become entirely virtual, allowing Pakistani students to access quality education from anywhere in the world. We did see a glimpse of it during covid-era.

In everyday life, AI technology can help people in making decisions, planning, and managing tasks. For instance, AI will be used to optimize urban planning, energy consumption, and transportation systems, leading to efficient cities and less inequality. AI's predictive capabilities will also allow users to keep track of their finances and make informed spending decisions. Additionally, AI-driven robots could become powerful household assistants, helping with cleaning and cooking.

Artificial Intelligence is the dawn of a new era for Pakistan, steering it towards enhanced learning, healing, farming, combatting, entertainment, and voting experiences for the average Pakistani. Adopting AI-based solutions stands to improve the quality of life, and ultimately bring forth positive and improved outcomes for the benefit of the people and the country overall.

Who knows, maybe someday we will even be able to see an AI based Prime Minister!



Must Have's

For Your

BOOKSHELF

by Samreen Mustafa



Title: To Kill a Mockingbird
Author: Harper Lee

A splendid read for anyone who loves reading American Gothic. All characters have their own story to display, especially Atticus. The book emphasizes on how people of every era can look down upon people of color, and the fact that this still applies to the age we are in today. The book did an amazing job in putting the point across. It will help readers understand how African Americans are looked down upon and for such trivial reasons in American Society.

The book gives everyone a straight up lesson that although not everybody can be a good person., we must still try to be kind, and try to look at things through everyone's point of view. Even if we don't believe it.

Title: The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
Author: John Boyne

Writing a review for this book is way harder than you would expect. This book looks very childlike at first glance. It is the story of a nine-year-old named Bruno and one would at first think that it is very light and an easy read. In reality it is anything but. And honestly, telling you a single detail of this book would it away, and spoil the thing for you. Even the synopsis wouldn't say much about the book, but I believe that is why it is so intriguing. It is way darker than you think it is.

A beautifully well written book which sheds light on a lot of important aspects of life, few of them being family relationships, grief, death, friendship, guilt and one of the most important ones but I shall let you read and find out,

An unexpectedly tragic book that will keep you hooked till the end. For all bookworms, give it a read and thank me later.



MOVIE REVIEW

THE PLATFORM (EL HOYO)

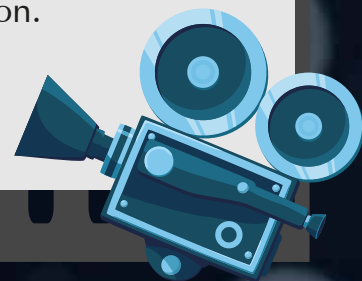
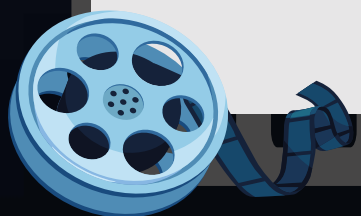


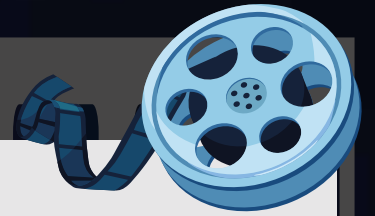
By: Shanza Ali

"The Platform" (El Hoyo) is a Spanish science fiction horror film directed by Galder Gaztelu-Urrutia. Released in 2019, the movie presents a gripping and thought-provoking narrative set in a dystopian future. Known for its intense atmosphere and social commentary, "The Platform" offers a unique and disturbing cinematic experience.

The story takes place in a vertical prison called "The Pit," consisting of numerous levels with two prisoners per level. Each day, a platform loaded with food descends from the top to the bottom, allowing prisoners to eat. However, the platform only stays for a limited amount of time on each level before moving to the next. This creates a stark contrast between the prisoners on the upper levels, who enjoy a plentiful feast, and those on the lower levels, who receive the remnants and scraps—if anything is left at all.

The film's central protagonist is Goreng (Iván Massagué), a new prisoner who struggles to understand and survive the brutal hierarchy within The Pit. As the platform descends, he witnesses the selfishness, violence, and desperation of those around him. Through his journey, Goreng forms unexpected alliances and encounters various characters, each representing a different perspective on the complex dynamics of the prison.





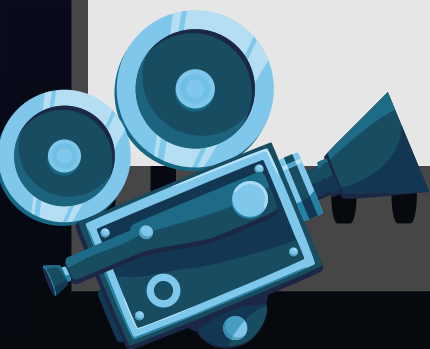
One of the standout aspects of "The Platform" is its allegorical nature. The film acts as a social commentary on the wealth gap and the unequal distribution of resources in society. The vertical prison serves as a metaphor for the class system, with the platform representing the limited resources available to people. The film raises questions about greed, privilege, and the moral obligations of individuals to their fellow human beings.

The performances in the movie are commendable, particularly Iván Massagué as Goreng, who portrays the character's transformation and growth with depth and authenticity. The supporting cast also delivers strong performances, enhancing the overall impact of the narrative. The film's pacing is well-handled, maintaining tension throughout as it explores the themes of survival, morality, and the consequences of one's actions.

Visually, "The Platform" is striking and effective in its portrayal of the prison environment. The claustrophobic setting and the stark contrasts between the pristine upper levels and the grim lower levels contribute to the film's unsettling atmosphere. The cinematography and production design work together to create a sense of unease, amplifying the tension and suspense in every scene.

While "The Platform" is a powerful and gripping film, it may not be suitable for everyone due to its graphic violence and disturbing imagery. The movie delves into dark and unsettling themes, leaving viewers with an uncomfortable and thought-provoking experience. However, for those willing to explore challenging and profound narratives, the film offers a rewarding and intellectually stimulating journey.

In conclusion, "The Platform" is a captivating Spanish film that combines elements of science fiction, horror, and social commentary. Its thought-provoking narrative, strong performances, and striking visuals make it a standout piece of cinema. While its disturbing content may not be for everyone, those who appreciate challenging and provocative storytelling will find "The Platform" to be a haunting and unforgettable experience.



HIDDEN GEMS

Unmissable RECOMMENDATIONS

TICKLE YOUR TASTEBUDS

Whimsical
Recommendations
for

Foodies



Popcorn Worthy MOVIES



Oppenheimer



Pathan



The Trench: Meg 2

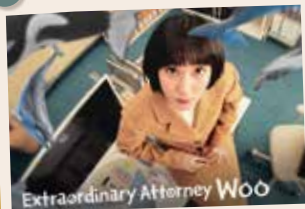


Barbie



Evil Dead Rise

BINGEWORTHY Bazaaza



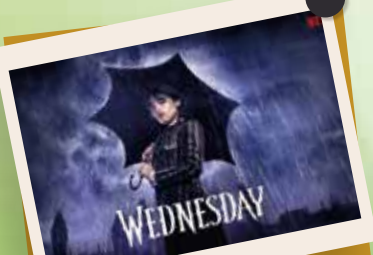
Extraordinary Attorney Woo



Queen Charlotte - A Bridgerton Story



Queens Gambit

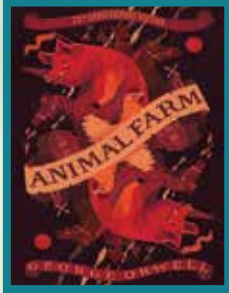


Wednesday



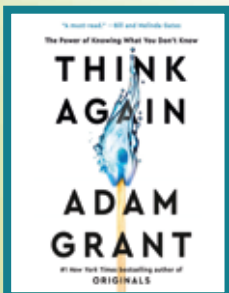
My Name

Book NERDS HAVEN PAGE-TURNER EXTRAVAGANZA



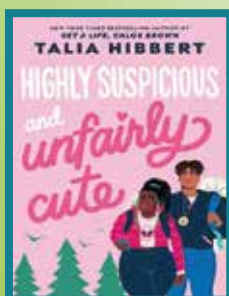
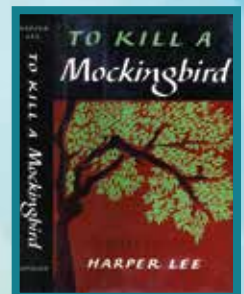
Animal Farm by
George Orwell

What Women Want by
Maxine Mei-Fung Chung



Think Again by
Adam Grant

To Kill a Mockingbird by
Harper Lee



**Highly Suspicious and
Unfairly Cute by**
Talia Hibbert

Traveler's TROVE TOURIST HOTSPOTS



Minapin Village

picturesque village in Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. It is situated 3,000 meters above sea level at the northern side of Rakaposhi mountain



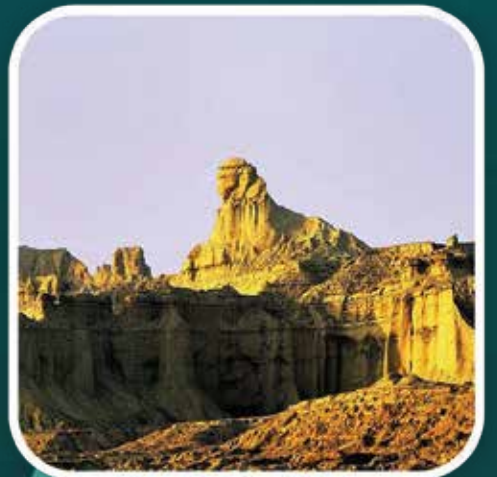
Arang Kel

a village and tourist spot in the Neelam valley of Azad Kashmir located on the hilltop above Kel at an altitude of 8,379 feet



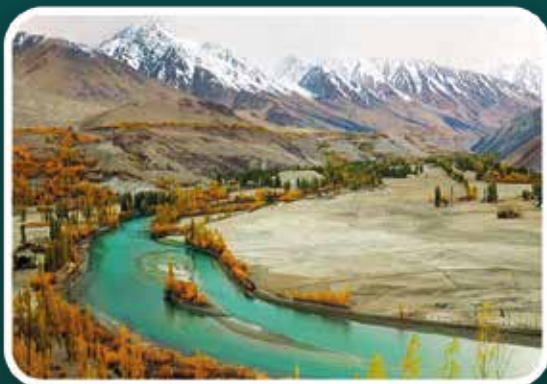
Passu Cones

located in Gojal valley upper Hunza of the Gilgit Baltistan



Phander Valley

Phander Valley is located in District Ghizer of Gilgit-Baltistan



Hingol National Park

located in the Makran coastal region and 190 km from Karachi.



POUR HOMME

Colognes for Men



Jean Paul Ultramale



Club Di Nuit



Versace Eros



Blue De Chanel



Aqua Di Gio

PARFUME FOR *Women*



Lanome Idole Parfum



Charisma Bonanza



Enchante Bonanza



Si Georgia Armani



Sapphire Laurissa

PODCAST PALOOZA

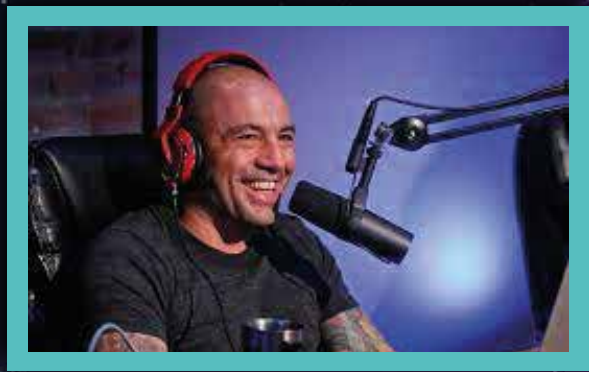
Ear Candy for your Mind




How I Built This



Freakonomics Radio



The Joe Rogan Experience, by Joe Rogan, available on



The Pakistan Experience



Pakistonomy

Memefusion

EXPLORING THE WIDE FUN OF INTERNET HUMOUR

1. WE HAVE ALL BEEN THERE DONE THAT.

When the boss is coming and you need to pretend you're doing something



2. LIFE OF AN EMPLOYEE WORKING IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

When you send out 15 emails, 10 slack messages, hang posters, announce at all hands and have a plane sky write the announcement and an employee says they didn't know about it.



3. DIVERSITY?

Every workplace has this crew.



4. LIFE DURING LUNCH HOURS

When my coworker and i are having a conversation and a customer interrupts us



5. WHERE'S THE LIE?

When you work from Home



and somebody wants to make a video call

SOCIAL CLUB

Activity

BAHRIA TOWN ADVENTURE LAND

The annual trip to Bahria Town Adventure Land provided an excellent opportunity for EFU Life to promote employee engagement and a healthy work-life balance.

This trip provided an opportunity for employees and their families to bond, relax, and have fun together.

This trip demonstrated our commitment to the well-being and satisfaction of our employees. It gave you the opportunity to connect with other colleagues and families outside of the work environment, fostering team building and collaboration.



KAMAAL^{Ke} Achievers

Cricket Champions

The 5th edition of the Insurance Premier League hardball cricket tournament ended earlier in July with a strong showing by the EFU Life cricket team. Our boys made it to the semi finals before eventually bowing out to the tournament winners Adamjee General Insurance. But along the way to the semis, our team racked up a long list of awards and personal bests and Insurance Premier League records! Let's have a round of applause for our boys in EFU Life green and here's to a stronger showing next time.

If you are interested in playing for EFU Life, please do reach out to...

Did you know – EFU Life also has a football team. Fancy messing with Messi, reach out to...



Zohaib Ali Khan
Takaful Karachi Grace

Zohaib scored 275 runs and took 20 wickets [joint highest wicket takers of the tournament] and won Three man of the match awards. Zohaib was not only the star performer for the team but one of the most valuable players of the tournament.



Imran Ahmed
General Admin

Imran scored sole century for the team EFU Life in the tournament and won a man of the match award and help the team to make the highest score in one inning of all 5 additions of IPL i.e. 283 in 20 overs.



Zain Hussain
Takaful Karachi Grace

Zain had very good time behind the wickets and produced some very good performances 3 stamping and scored 73 runs in one match only. He hunted 11 players behind the wicket with 5 stamps and 6 catches in only 10 matches.



Asif Abdul All
Group Benefit Departments

Asif remained the most consistent wicket taker with good economy rate in the middle overs and had some very good performances in bowling by getting 10 wickets. He produced man of the match performance against a very good side and the eventual winners of the tournament.



Salman Saleem
Takaful Karachi Johar

Salman also had some good performances with bat and ball scoring 174 runs with one fifty and taking 4 wickets and got one man of the match award. Salman remained one of the most consistent players of the team in all departments of the game, who played crucial roles in tough situations.



Umer Hussain
Legal Department

Captain, Umer Hussain who not only kept the team jelled during the tournament but produced great performances and was the second highest wicket taker 12 wickets and produced a couple of good cameo performance with bat scoring 101 runs alongwith excellent fielding stats with 5 catches in the field. Umer has been excellent during the entire tournament in and off the field and made a team, which is now a team to beat.



Mr. Asif Akhter

(CHIEF ENGINEER - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

Heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Asif Akhter who has recently achieved the remarkable feat of being added as a member of the IAC (Industrial Advisory Committee) of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Hamdard University. This is a significant achievement as it demonstrates Asif's dedication, hard work, and expertise in his field.

He has worked on many projects in our company that consistently deliver high quality results and exceed expectations. His acceptance as an IAC fellow at such a renowned university is a testament to his abilities and knowledge. We are honored to have such a talented and dedicated individual on our team and proud of their success.

This achievement is not only a personal triumph for Mr. Asif but also reflects positively on EFU Life. It demonstrates our commitment to supporting and developing our employees. It also demonstrates the high level of talent and expertise within our organization.

We congratulate Mr. Asif on this outstanding achievement and look forward to his continued success in the future. His hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration to us all!

KAMAAL ^{Ke}
Achievers



TALENT OF THE *Quarter* BRUSHING *Excellence*



REMARKABLE ARTISTRY AND CREATIVITY BY

Fatima Zehra



Earlier this year, in a thrilling showdown of intellect and innovation, our team grabbed the Runner-up position at the globally renowned 2023 SummerHack – Global Financial Services Ideathon, brilliantly orchestrated by Cookhouse Labs. The battlefield was fierce, as seven titan-like Financial Institutions clashed minds from all corners of the world. Undaunted by the ticking clock, we harnessed the power of a mere two days to brainstorm, strategize, and dazzle with our presentation, emerging triumphant with our shining beacon of 'Sustainability Leadership'.

This remarkable achievement is a testament to our unwavering dedication, exceptional teamwork, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Our tireless efforts, combined with our innovative strategies and exceptional skills, propelled us to this outstanding recognition. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every team member whose unwavering commitment and passion made this achievement possible.

This remarkable feat not only showcases our company's capabilities but also solidifies our position as a leading force within the insurance industry. We are immensely proud of our team's accomplishments and look forward to even greater successes in the future.

"Words are in your control until you have not uttered them; but when you have spoken to them out you are under their control. Therefore, guard your tongue as you guard your gold and silver, for often one expression snatches away a blessing and invites punishment."

Imam Ali

EMPLOYEE ENCOUNTERS WITH AI

In almost every sector, artificial intelligence is influencing how people will live in the future. With tools like ChatGPT and AI art generators gaining widespread attention, it is already the primary force behind developing technologies like big data, robots, and IoT. It will continue to be a technical innovator for the near future. AI may additionally digitize the underwriting procedure, which now requires a lot of manual labor and time. AI-powered underwriting systems can evaluate applicant data, including medical history and lifestyle details, and help underwriters' in-the-moment decision-making.

By: Anooshia Awan (New Business)

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been a game-changer in cybersecurity. It has revolutionized the approach to cybersecurity by providing advanced techniques to detect and mitigate cyber threats.

By: Maryam Zaheer (NSID)

AI capabilities in data analysis, automation and decision-making makes it a valuable tool for enhancing underwriting efficiency and accuracy, AI can assess various risk factors, leading to better risk management strategies for insurers and their clients, AI-driven chatbots can handle customer inquiries, providing support 24/7 and streamline the overall customer experience in the insurance industry.

By: Arij Iqbal (New Business)

Human-AI collaboration is likely to become the norm, with AI systems assisting professionals in complex decision-making, analyzing vast datasets for insights, and even contributing creatively to fields like art and literature. The workforce will evolve, requiring reskilling and upskilling to complement AI capabilities, fostering a symbiotic relationship between humans and machines.

*By: Moiz Ahmed Khan
(Bancassurance Operations)*

RIDDLES TO TICKLE YOUR BRAIN CELLS

“

2. The man who makes it, sells it. The man who buys it never uses it. The man who uses it never knows he's using it. What is it?

”

“

3. I have cities but no houses, forests but no trees, and rivers but no water. What am I?

”

“

5. What is there, one in every corner and two in every room?

”

“

6. What word has kst in the middle, in the beginning, and at the end?

”

“

7. I have keys but open no locks. I have space but no room. You can enter but not go outside. What am I?

”

“

8. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

”

“

9. I am taken from a mine, and shut up in a wooden case, from which I am never released, and yet I am used by almost every person. What am I?

”

“

Answer

: A coffin : A map : Inkstand : A keyboard.

: Pencil lead : The letter "M."

: The letter "O".

”

Artificial Intelligence

Would You Rather Questions

From Mr. Zain Ibrahim



1. Would you rather have a personal AI assistant with unlimited knowledge, but it always speaks in rhymes, or a super-intelligent AI with limited knowledge, but it communicates in flawless Shakespearean language?

An intriguing choice between rhyming wisdom and Shakespearean eloquence?

I would lean towards the super-intelligent AI with limited knowledge that communicates in flawless Shakespearean language. While the allure of unlimited knowledge is undeniable, a certain charm and depth in the eloquence of Shakespearean language offer a blend of intellectual engagement and artistic beauty, which will enrich my daily interactions.

2. Would you rather ride in a self-driving car through a challenging and scenic route or fly in an AI-powered drone with an incredible view?

An exciting choice between terra firma and the open skies!

I would prefer riding in a self-driving car on a scenic route as the adventure of the journey and the ability to interact with the environment along the way will create a holistic, immersive experience and lead to unexpected discoveries and engaging connections with the environment.

3. Would you rather have an AI system that can perfectly predict your future, but you can't change it, or an AI system that can modify your past mistakes, but it's unpredictable?

Ah, the thought-provoking crossroads of fate and redemption!

Predicting the future might hold a certain allure, but it's in the hands of the past that we often find the roots of our regrets and missed opportunities. The chance to modify past mistakes means confronting those very issues, tackling them head-on, and forging a brighter future out of the ashes of our missteps. Hence, my choice.

4. Would you rather have an AI chef who can cook any dish you desire to perfection, or an AI fitness trainer that customizes the ideal workout routine for you?

Interesting; both options offer a path to pleasure through culinary indulgence or physical transformation. So, should I lean toward the symphony of flavours or the dance of endorphins?

Opting for the AI fitness trainer who crafts the ideal workout routine personalized for me can offer a transformative journey towards health and well-being beyond gastronomy pleasures. While a perfectly cooked dish can delight my taste buds momentarily, the benefits of a tailored fitness regimen can bring lasting physical and mental rewards that can reshape my life holistically.

5. Would you rather explore a virtual reality world created by AI with limitless possibilities, or experience a dream crafted by AI that lets you conquer your fears?

Hmm, choosing between digital dilemmas and dreamy decisions? On one side, we have the captivating allure of a virtual reality world born from AI's boundless creativity. On the other hand, there's the tantalizing prospect of an AI-forged dream engineered to help me face and conquer my deepest fears.

While a virtual reality world created by AI is undoubtedly enticing, the potential for transformative change that conquering fears can bring is unparalleled. So, stepping into an AI-guided dream to triumph over my fears might be my most empowering choice.

6. Would you rather have an AI companion that makes all your decisions for a day, or an AI pet with human-like emotions and intelligence?

Ah, the tech-infused conundrum of decision-making or companionship! Decisions, decisions!

I would prefer an AI companion for a day of decision-making as it presents a unique opportunity to explore life from a fresh perspective and temporarily relinquish the burden of choices. For me, it wouldn't be about giving up control; it's about temporarily embracing the unknown. So, I would take a leap of faith and let the AI companion be my whimsical guide through a day of surprises and self-discovery.

7. Would you rather have an AI tutor that helps you ace any subject but insists on wearing a funny hat while teaching, or an AI tutor that is serious and strict but may not be as effective?

Ace tutor in a hilarious hat or stern scholar sans success? Education's wild ride!

Choosing between an AI tutor in a funny hat or a serious and strict one might seem trivial. Still, when it comes to learning and academic success, the hat-wearing AI tutor's quirky approach can be quite advantageous, as it offers the best of both worlds: effective education and an enjoyable learning experience. So, I would gladly embrace the funny hat and embark on a learning journey full of laughter, knowledge, and academic success.

8. Would you rather have an AI device that translates every spoken language in real-time, or an AI device that can understand and communicate with animals?

Hmm, the ultimate choice between breaking down human barriers or delving into the minds of our animal companions.

I would rather choose to bridge the linguistic gaps between humans as it has a practical impact on relationships, diplomacy, personal growth, and the potential to foster a more connected and harmonious world where our differences become a source of strength rather than division.

9. Would you rather have an AI device which can be your personal fashion stylist or an AI device that gives you medical advices.

Interesting question: a digital fashion guru vs. a cybernetic medical sage?

While having an AI device as a personal fashion stylist might make one look stylish, an AI device offering medical advice can significantly impact health and well-being.

So, I would lean toward an AI device that offers medical advice as it can guide one through first aid steps or even connect to emergency services, potentially saving lives in critical moments. It can also bridge the gap between routine check-ups, giving constant health insights without requiring continuous doctor visits.

Artificial Intelligence: Never Have I Ever Statements:

1. Never have I ever used a virtual assistant (e.g., Siri, Alexa) to get information or perform tasks.

I have! Siri, Alexa and the gang have remained my friends, and I frequently summon them to be my trusty guides through the maze of information and tasks.

2. Never have I ever binge-watched AI-related documentaries or movies (e.g., "The Imitation Game," "Ex Machina").

I have yet to embark on cinematic AI escapades. They remain untouched territories in my movie marathon adventures.

3. Never have I ever tried AI-generated content.

Well, I have yet to venture into the AI-generated wonderland of creativity - the digital algorithmic-led content remains unexplored.

4. Never have I ever used AI-powered language translation tools for communication.

I must admit that I have taken the linguistic joyride onto the AI highway. In particular, some translation tools have been my navigational stars in the communication cosmos.

5. Never have I ever used AI filters or effects on social media to alter my photos or videos. I have not donned the digital disguises for a photo carnival: I never intend to swap a digital me with an altered version of a digital me.

6. Never have I ever taken an online course or tutorial on AI or machine learning.

Well, my virtual curiosity has yet to lead me to delve into the world of algorithmic learning adventure.

7. Never have I ever interacted with a chatbot for customer support or assistance.

I must confess that I have journeyed into the realm of chatbot conversations. Those digital pals have been quite the companion in resolving my existential banter.

8. Never have I ever used a smart home device controlled by AI (e.g. smart speaker).

I have embraced the futuristic symphony of AI-powered abodes. My bedroom, now equipped with Alexa, has been transformed into a hub for orchestrating music and indulging in philosophical contemplations.

9. Never have I ever been amazed by an AI-generated artwork or music.

Yes, I must say I have been dazzled by AI's creative flair at times, some paintings making me pixel-gasped!

10. Never have I ever asked AI for fashion advice.

I have never let AI sprinkle digital stardust on my fashion fiascos!

11. Never have I ever asked AI for investment advice.

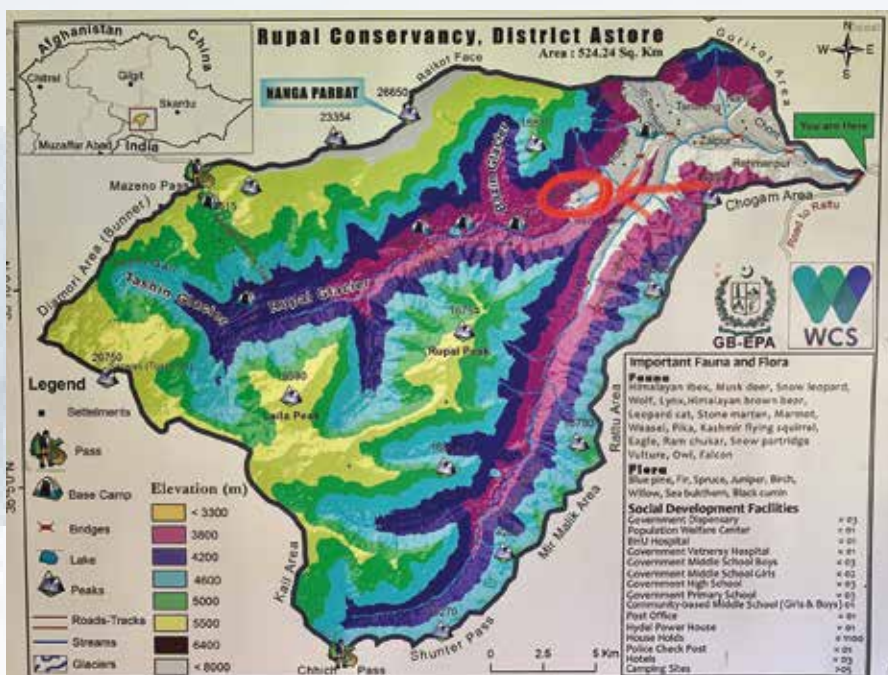
Well, I have dipped my digital toes into the sea of AI wisdom for investment insights but considered them as just that: insights! Never took or will ever make a decision solely on AI advice.

Hiking

The
MOUNTAIN
Within

HOW TREKKING THE 'KILLER MOUNTAIN'
DRAWS PARALLELS TO LEADERSHIP LESSONS

ZAIN IBRAHIM



Recently, I jeeped and trekked just behind the basecamp (Bazhin Glacier), overlooking the Rupal Face of the mighty Nanga Parbat! Nanga Parbat lies in the western bastion of the Himalayas, the 9th highest mountain in the world at 8,126 meters (26,660 ft) above sea level.

It is one of the 14 eight-thousanders of the world, nicknamed Killer Mountain because of its high number of

A mesmerizing sight, an indescribable experience!

But the journey was hours-long, scary, and treacherous.

And the effort to reach as close as any non-mountaineer can go reminded me of three important leadership lessons:

1. Passion: “One person with passion is better than forty people merely interested. - E.M. Forster”

The more I covered the journey, the more I asked myself: why am I doing this? Why am I taking such a risk?

I could have stayed at Rattu and enjoyed the view from there.

And could have avoided the toil of traveling for hours over the Rupal valley.

The weather and the terrain were harsh, and we were the only ones taking that route.

So, why was I doing it?

The answer was simple: Passion.

As leaders, we sometimes encounter projects and tasks that drag and fall behind schedule. Looking for reasons, we seldom focus on the passion-meter!

Passion is the real driver of performance. Passion is about energy, excitement, and enthusiasm.

Passion elevates productivity and ensures all members of the team remain committed to the vision of the project.

Lack of passion makes team members feel trapped, bored of their jobs – thus driving the performance down and dealing a blow to the objective.

It is thus imperative for leaders to check the level of passion in the team before embarking on a project trek, as this critical ingredient is needed more than any other skill or parameter.



2. Patience – “With patience, no time is too long...no distance is too far... no mountain is too high. And anything realized after the journey is usually precious – Terry Mark.”

We kept on treading for hours, and the peak was just not arriving!

The terrain around the mountain was unwelcoming and difficult. One can move for days and yet will still be miles away from the first basecamp.

Add to that the almost non-existent track to drive or walk over the streams, rocks, and even glaciers.

The toil tests level of patience in a big way!

And that is what is needed to lead and implement long-term strategic objectives in business.

We all know the cliché – patience is a virtue. However, the advent of digital media and other instant gratification channels in society demands leaders to take action, often in haste.

And then there are some millennials and Gen-Zs who do not seem to appreciate the virtue of patience in the success journey.

They want success; yesterday!

True leaders still recognize that success takes patience, and patience requires composure and character.

When leaders lack patience, they cannot delay gratification and get frustrated, seriously affecting their ability to lead.

Delayed gratification always rewards, and the final destination is always worth the patience.



3. Trust – “Faith moves mountains”

When we started our journey near Rupal, it was clear that we were taking the leap of faith.

There were no tracks; the peak was not visible; we were miles away, and the jeep was old and wobbly.

I looked at the driver and somehow felt that he knew his way around and meant business.

I trusted my instinct and judgment of him. But more so, I trusted him with his experience, foresight, and skills.

It is an understatement to say that the journey tested his skills.

Each time I had doubts, I had to remind myself that he was the leader in our journey and

must be trusted.

That is what happens in business situations too.

Sometimes, when we cannot see or appreciate the vision of the leader we are following, we start questioning their leadership.

Questioning is a great idea but must occur with trust.

So if you trust your leader, do not worry about the journey. You will get there in good shape.

Remember, following a leader who is taking you upwards may sometimes feel wrong, but trust them - it will eventually turn out right.

And the journey might be scary, but the view from the top is always worth it.



People who are humble don't talk too much. They listen. Without humility there can be no humanity. As Lao Tzu said: "To lead the people, walk behind them." Never believe you are above or below anyone. Keep a humble spirit. We cannot achieve greatness unless we lose all interest in being great. A mistake that makes you humble is better than an achievement that makes you arrogant. Humility is the essence of love and intelligence. It is not an achievement. There's a thin line between confidence and arrogance. It's called humility. Confidence smiles. Arrogance smirks.



Gallery OF EVENTS

