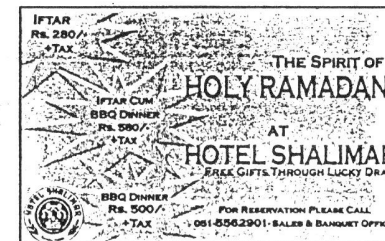




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Monitoring roof of the world

A joint activity of earth science researchers from Italy and Pakistan is focusing on monitoring of the rapidly rising Nanga Parbat and Haramosh Massif within Pakistani part of the Himalayan mountain chain. The research is supplemented by installation of several permanent GPS stations across the Indus River in the Chilas area to also monitor the rise of the mountains adjoining the Basha-Diamer Dam site.

This research project is sponsored by the Italian Government in cooperation with the Bahria University,

Islamabad under the banner of the Ev-K2-CNR Committee and is led by Professor Giorgio Poretti of the University of Trieste, Italy and Dr. Shahina Tariq of Bahria University. Other cooperating partners in this programme include Pakistan Academy of Geological Sciences, Karakoram International University Gilgit, Azad Jammu and Kashmir University Muzaffarabad and WAPDA. The Nanga Parbat range of Pakistani Himalayas is reputed for one of the

highest rates of mountain rising which has been analyzed by several scientists, among them also the renowned Professor Ardito Desio. The mountain rise has resulted in human sufferings in the area due to this programme include numerous earthquakes and countless landslides. South of Nanga Parbat - Haramosh Massif, the Basha-Diamer concrete dam is being built with an upstream lake of large dimensions. It is necessary, therefore, to monitor the whole area. The Pak-Italian research programme proposes to determine the movements

of the plates of the Nanga the proposed research project Parbat - Haramosh Massif has several applied elements.

South of Nanga Parbat - Haramosh Massif, the Basha-Diamer concrete dam is being built with an upstream lake of large dimensions. It is necessary, therefore, to monitor the whole area

with a highly accurate GPS network combined with necessary topographic measurements.

Besides its scientific value, on the basis of its results, it will be possible to propose a monitoring system for the Dam itself when it will be built. The project will help in developing

strategies for stabilization of the slopes through determination of the relative vertical and horizontal movements of sliding planes of geologic layers facing the Indus on its two banks. It will also assist in consequent computation of the hydro-geologic risk along the course of the River Indus and at the site of the proposed Dam. The acquisition and collection of information concerning the hydro-geologic and seismic risk will be incorporated in a database so as to provide a reference point for regional planning and engineering works.

Haseeb Abbasi