

## Islamabad

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The talk 'Pakistan on the Brink' by Ahmed Rashid became all the more interesting when questioned by the moderator, Rashed Rahman, Ahmed Rashid conceded to the reality that 'all things are salvageable, if we move towards right direction'.

Based on his concept of peace with Afghanistan and India, Ahmed Rashid went on to elaborate on the need to formulate a 'fresh modern and human foreign policy' that may help us build a new Pakistan and criticised the absence of a new foreign minister in the interim set-up. The talk by Ahmed Rashid was part of a session in the Islamabad Literature Festival on Tuesday. The talk was based on his book with the same title. The book is taken by most readers as a serious-minded book, not as fatalistic as its title, but just as much about Afghanistan as it is about Pakistan.

The moderator kept Ahmed Rashid rolling around his question regarding the argument that revolves around the belief that while this beleaguered nation is teetering on the edge of a precipice, the situation is salvageable. For Rashid, this is also the case for Afghanistan. Ahmed Rashid questioned that 'How can we forge on our identity when we are constantly ripping ourselves apart'? From economic plans to security issues, Ahmed Rashid seemed to have answers to all crises facing this nation. He also said that living in the heart of Asia, Pakistan should benefit from this great geo-political position and removing the victimisation mentality, should move forward and find 'alternative solutions for peace'.