



Greenwich University
Pakistan-Mauritius

Positive Post

A Media Publication by the students of Mass Communication and Media Studies

June in History

June 3, 1947: British Government decides to bifurcate British India, into two sovereign states – India and Pakistan

June 25, 1958: President Rule is proclaimed in East Pakistan.

June 14, 1961: Government takes over news agency, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

June 1, 1962: Soviet Union awards Lenin Prize to Faiz Ahmed Faiz for his literary contribution.

June 7, 1962: SUPARCO launches Pakistan's first weather rocket, Rehbar – I from Sonmiani.

June 8, 1962: National Assembly elected and begins its first session. Ayub Khan takes oath of first President of Pakistan under new constitution.

June 11, 1978: Altaf Hussain forms All Pakistan Mubajir Students Organization (APMSO).

June 21, 1980: Government starts collecting Zakat.

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Samina Baig plans to lead first women's team to scale Everest

GILGIT: Samina Baig, the noted mountaineer, plans to lead a first Pakistani women's expedition team to scale Everest, the world's tallest peak, this season.

Talking to Dawn here, she said Gilgit-Baltistan women had natural talent in mountaineering sport, but they lacked facilities, besides local traditions were a hurdle.

Born in Shamshal valley of upper Hunza, Ms Baig became the first Pakistani woman and third Pakistani mountaineer to climb Everest in July 2013. She is the first Pakistani woman to have climbed all the seven highest peaks in the seven continents.

In July this year, Ms Baig was appointed as thenational goodwill ambassador by the United Nations Development Programme.

She said her main aim in mountaineering field was to empower women to participate in mountaineering and trekking sports. "For this purpose I started training camps in Shimshal in 2014, where girls from all over Pakistan got training in mountaineering," she said, adding events were also organised by Pakistan Youth Outreach, headed by her brother Mirza Ali, who is also a mountaineer.

Ms Baig said the purpose of the event was to promote outdoor sports, encourage women participation in challenging adventure sports and promote tourism, especially winter and adventure tourism in Pakistan.



About 200 girls and boys from Sindh, Punjab, Swat, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan were trained, she added.

Under the programme, she said hiking, trekking and climbing competitions were held. Unfortunately, she said they could not carry on the programme due to financial problems. She said they had established the world's highest sport arena 'Zarthgurben' in Shimshal, Hunza, at an altitude of 4,100m (13,451 ft).

She said basic infrastructure had been constructed by themselves, adding football and cricket competitions were held in summer while rock climbing, skiing, and off-road bike trainings were conducted in summer.

"We started these activities in an attempt to empower women and sustain tourism in GB without government support," she said,

adding naturally GB people had talent in mountaineering as they are born on mountains.

She agreed that GB girls could prove their mettle in mountaineering, but they lacked basic training and guidance, besides social taboos were hurdles to them participating in the sport.

"I also faced these challenges, but my family supported me. My brother Mirza Ali is always with me, he is my mentor and trainer," she said.

In a male-dominated society, she said the outdoor activities were not being encouraged in the region.

Ms Baig said girls should take on these challenges and try to do what they wanted. She vowed to ensure women participation in mountaineering.

Courtesy: Dawn

Positive Post is published to project positivity all around Pakistan amongst our youth and the entire nation. Our efforts are to inculcate patriotism and a sense of ownership in them. It is a compilation of news extracted by the students of Mass Communications and Media Studies of Greenwich University.

Pakistan hockey team leaves for Champions Trophy



Pakistan hockey team is set to fly to Amsterdam from Quaid-i-Azam international airport in the wee hours of Sunday to compete in the 37th Champions Trophy, being held at Breda, the Netherlands from June 23 to July 1.

The team is led by Rizwan Sr while Ammad Shakeel Butt will be his deputy.

The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) is sending the greenshirts three weeks ahead of the competition to help them acclimatise besides playing five practice matches. The PHF has picked 22 players for the trip to enable the team management to raise a winning combination for the upcoming Asian Games.

Pakistan is among six teams who will feature in the Champions Trophy the other five being hosts

Netherlands, Olympic champions Argentina, world champions Australia, Olympic silver medallist Belgium and Asian champions India.

Team:

Imran Butt, Mazhar Abbas, Amjad Ali (goal-keepers), Irfan Sr, Mubbashir Ali, Aleem Bilal, Ammad Shakeel Butt (vice-captain), Touseeq Arshad, Rashid Ali, Tasawwar Abbas, Rizwan Jr, Abu Bakar Mahmood, Irfan Jr, Arsalan Qadir, Umer Bhutta, Rizwan Sr (captain), Shafqat Rasool, Ali Shan, Azfar Yaqoob, Aijaz, Rana Suhail and Dilber.

Officials: Hasan Sardar (manager), Roelant Oltmans (head coach), Rehan Butt, M. Saqlain (coaches), Daniel Berry (physical trainer). Published in Dawn, June 3rd, 2018

Courtesy: Dawn

Shandur polo festival to begin on July 7



After two years, the annual Shandur polo festival will be held on its old schedule from July 7, an official of the Tourism Corporation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa confirmed here on Saturday.

"The festival will be organised from July 7 to 9, as for a couple of years the annual three-day event could not be held from July 7 as due to floods and Ramazan it had been organised from July 29 for two years," said the official.

The TCKP, he said, had started a process to put in place the arrangements and float advertisements to attract tourists from across the world. In that regard, officials from the Gilgit-Baltistan government are likely to be invited to Peshawar to make the arrangements in order to facilitate the spectators.

The poor condition of roads leading to the venue at Shandur located in Chitral is the major obstacle for tourists in reaching the area. Despite repeated announcements and the federal government's decision to include Gilgit-Shandur-Chitral Road in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, work on the road is yet to be started.

Shandur top also acts as a bridge between the two opponent teams of polo Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The Shandur annual festival brings a great sense of contentment among the people of these districts. The festival is often embellished with cultural orientations of both the teams that include their cultural dances, paragliding and folk music.

Courtesy: Dawn

Kamila Shamsie has won the Women's Prize for Fiction 2018 for her seventh novel Home Fire, reports The Guardian.

Home Fire is a contemporary re-imagining of the Greek tragedy Antigone that follows three orphaned siblings, elder sister Isma and twins Aneeka and Parvaiz, as the latter leaves them to work for Isis. When the son of the British-Muslim home secretary enters their lives, Aneeka hopes to use him to save her missing brother.

When announcing Home Fire as winner of the award, chair of judges Sarah Sands said the panel "chose the book which we felt spoke for our times ... Home Fire is about identity, conflicting loyalties, love and politics. And it sustains mastery of its themes and its form. It is a re-



markable book which we passionately recommend."

She added that the novel's selection

as winner over acclaimed titles like Jesmyn Wards National Book Award-winning Sing, Unburied, Sing, was "unanimous".

The Women's Prize for Fiction is awarded annually to what judges consider the best novel of the year written in English by a female author, according to the BBC. Previous winners of the prize include Zadie Smith, Ali Smith and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The winning author receives £30,000 in prize money and a Bessie - a limited edition bronze figurine.

Home Fire was also longlisted for the 2017 Man Booker prize and shortlisted for the Costa novel award.

Courtesy: Dawn

Shangla people praise Malala for building modern college

The residents of Shangla district have appreciated education activist and Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai for constructing an international standard school and college for orphans and poor students of the district.

The school has been built in Barkana area of the district, which has no functional government girls college, to boost girls education in the backward region.

Initially, the school enrolled 190 girls from nursery to class three, and now it has students till class 6th. It was constructed in a span of two years over 20 kanals of land at a cost of Rs60 million financed by the Malala Fund.

The locals said out of 190 students, 90 were orphans, who were getting free education.



Faiz Mohammad, a local activist, said they were thankful to Malala for constructing the college in the backward area to enable the local girls to get quality education at their doorsteps.

Dr Afsarul Mulk, a PPP leader, said Shangla was at the bottom of literacy rate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after Kohistan due to the apathy of

the government towards girls education. "Malala's initiative to build the college deserves praise," he added. He also urged the education department to improve the schooling system in the district.

Sajid Shah, the school principal, said the institute was fully equipped with modern facilities. However, he said the road leading to the area was

in bad condition.

Sidra Bibi, a 6th grader, said she was quite happy getting education in the institute because all the facilities were available there. She thanked Malala Yousafzai and his father for executing the project for the girls of Shangla.

"I will study in the school till graduation because it is near my house," she said.

District education officer, female, Parveen Rehman said the school was equipped with modern facilities. She said there were two girls high schools in Koz Kana and Shahpur and a middle school in Damorai, so it was a good opportunity for the girls to get higher education in the Malala-funded college.

Courtesy: Dawn

National Mango Festival kicks off today in Mirpurkhas

The three-day festival is being held for the 53rd time!

All is set to hold three-day 53rd national mango and summer fruits festival starting today (Friday) at Sindh Horticulture Research Institute. It will continue till June 10.

According to the management committee of the festival, minister for agriculture would inaugurate the festival at 5.00pm after owners of mango orchards would get themselves registered with the committee.

On the second day, judging of mango varieties on the basis of quality would be held at 9.00 am and seminar on mangoes would be organised at 10.00 am at State Life building where experts would read papers on latest developments in techniques for improvement in mango crop. Mirpurkhas Commissioner Shafique Ahmed Mahesar would be chief



guest at the seminar.

On the third day on June 10, interim chief minister would distribute prizes among winners and runners-up at the concluding ceremony at 4.00pm.

The festival will showcase several varieties of the fruit including Sindhri, Dasehri, Chonsa, Langra, Anwer Rattol, Neelum, Tota Pari, Gulab Khasa, Collector, Dilpasand, Began Phali, Desi, etc.

The management committee chairman, Mohammad Umer Bughio, said that acute shortage

of water had seriously affected taste, colour and size of the fruit and drastically cut the production, causing a drop of 30 per cent this year as compared to last year's.

He said the committee had made concerted efforts to make the festival a national level event where agriculturists would judge different varieties of mangoes and winning mango farms would be given cash prizes and shields.

He said that they had tried their best to convince as many growers to display their produce in

the festival as possible and hoped that number of stalls in the festival would further increase. The awards would be given only on the basis of merit, he said.

He said that mango exporters as well as general public had been invited to visit the festival which also featured different sports competitions and Meena bazaar for the recreation of women and children

He said that a souvenir would also be distributed among participants on the concluding day at the prize distribution ceremony.

The objective of the festival was to encourage mango producers and educate them in the use of modern technology for making their crop exportable and maximizing their profits by earning precious foreign exchange for themselves and the country.

Courtesy: Dawn

Emirates to launch Airbus A380 flights in Pakistan

Emirates will be launching scheduled flights of its super jet Airbus A380 in Pakistan with its first landing expected to take place at the new Islamabad International Airport on July 7 this year.

According to official sources, the Emirates airline management had sought permission from the Civil Aviation authority (CAA) for launching scheduled flights of its passenger jet A380 to the new Islamabad airport.

“The new airport has all the facilities for handling the world’s largest passenger airplane. Therefore, they wanted to launch this operation,” a CAA official said.

He added that the application was in process as many other departments are involved in the operation of a flight or the landing of a large plane when it is a double-decked jetliner.

He said a decision will be made in a few days and that the new airport



has a four level passenger terminal building with two runways, taxi way aprons and parking bays for wide-body aircraft. Aircraft such as A380, Boeing 777 and the Airbus A350 can also land at this airport. The double-decked jetliner A380 could not be landed at the Benazir Bhutto International Airport due to its short runway and the low weight bearing capacity of the runway.

A CAA official said the old runway was 11,000 feet while the runway at

the new airport has the required length of 12,000 feet and the capacity to bear the weight of the double-decked jetliner.

There are 15 passenger bridges at the new airport- 10 for international flights and five for domestic passengers.

There are two passenger bridges of category “F” used for the double-decked jetliner Airbus A380 available at the new airport – bridge 6

and bridge 7. Category “E” bridges are used for Boeing 777, Boeing 747 and Airbus A330, while category D bridges are used for 757, 767, A310 and A300 whereas category C bridges are used for A320, 737-700 airplanes.

A spokesperson for Emirates airlines told Dawn that the airline can confirm that it will launch a scheduled A380 service to Pakistan in July, 2018. The airline is currently in the middle of planning the operation and will disclose the inaugural date and flight details in due time.

The A380 is the world’s largest passenger four engine jetliner, having a seating capacity, with various configurations, of between 489 and 615 passengers.

The Emirates airbus A380 will receive a celebratory water cannon salute as it arrives at the new airport. Hundreds of aviation fans are likely to turn up at the airport to watch the landing.

Courtesy: Dawn

Kinno exports hit record volume at 370,000 tonnes

The country exported 370,000 tonnes of kinno in this season fetching \$222 million the highest ever volume during any season.

Kinno exports began from December 2017 and continued till the beginning of May 2018. Last year exports stood at 325,000 tonnes.

Waheed Ahmed, Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (PFVA) said kinno continued to face issues of high valuation from the Russian customs authorities leading to higher cost of the fruit in this important international market.

The actual value of Pakistani kinno is around \$6-7 per 10 kg whereas the Russian authorities assess it at \$9.5 per 10 kg which after February was revised upward to \$10.5 per 10 kg, thus making it even more difficult for local exporters to compete. PFVA has raised the issue

before Pakistani and Russian authorities while Pakistani diplomats posted in Russia as well as Ministry of Commerce also rendered assistance. As a result, the



Russian authorities have shown willingness to reduce the rate. Due to non-affirmation of valuation by the Federal Board of Revenue, the issue still remains unresolved, he said.

Earlier, efforts from PFVA against

quota system by the Indonesian government on import of Pakistani kinno have resulted in its withdrawal.

The association’s demand from government for the drawback of local taxes and levies (DLTL) of \$250 per export container of kinno to Russia enabled local exporters to compete in this international market, leading to enhanced exports, he said.

Excellent local crop this year coupled with low production of the fruit by Morocco a major producer provided yet another opportunity to increase exports to the Russian market, Waheed said.

For the last seven consecutive years, the export of kinno to the Iranian market with volume potential of 60,000-80,000 tonnes remains suspended.

However, import permits were issued by Iran on the eve of “Nauroz” festival, but due to a limited time period, logistical issues as well as difficulties in financial transactions, the temporary opportunity could not be availed by the local exporters, he said.

Pakistan can potentially tap into the vast Chinese market with CPEC providing an easy and accessible road route to the neighbouring country.

Courtesy: Dawn

13 transgender people to contest elections across Pakistan



Thirteen members of the transgender community will be contesting elections on various seats across the country, the All Pakistan Transgender Election Network (Apten) announced at a press conference in Peshawar on Wednesday.

Apten, a rights group focusing on the invisibility of leaders from the transgender community, comprises TransAction KP, the Sindh Transgender Welfare Network, the Balochistan Alliance for Transgender and Intersex Community and the Punjab Transgender Foundation.

The group, led by TransAction KP President Farzana Jan presented a charter of demands calling for the removal of systemic barriers to entry of transgender people into politics, and for political parties to induct more members of the community into their ranks.

Apten urged political parties to look beyond catering to populations on the basis of existing gender binaries and demanded provision of security and an end to stereotyping of the community, among other demands from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), political parties, law enforcement agencies, media and civil society.

Apten said that two transgender leaders Nayab Ali and Lubna Lal will contest from NA-142 Okara and PP-26 Jhelum, respectively, on Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Gulalai (PTI-G) tickets, while the remaining 11 candidates will run as independents.

However, they said, at least two

transgender people one in Peshawar and another in Haripur were unable to submit nomination papers because they were beaten up and harassed after their intentions to contest elections became public knowledge.

Dejected by the failure of mainstream political parties to address the issues of transgenders, the network announced it would form its own political party after the elections. The group said that it was aiming for the party to be registered before local body elections.

"Given the power of presence, and the paucity of role models in all spheres of life, the potential influence of having transgender-identifying representatives who can stand in the public spotlight and demonstrate the legitimacy, value, and dignity of transgender lives and political claims is huge," Jan explained today at the press conference.

In 2009, Pakistan became one of the first countries in the world to legally recognise a third sex, allowing transgenders to obtain identity cards. They number at least half a million people in the country, according to several studies, but their representation in politics and many other spheres of life remains minimal as they are restricted to very few job roles — with many forced to earn their living by begging and dancing.

For more live updates, follow Dawn.com's official news Instagram account @dawn.today

Courtesy: Dawn

5 Pakistani films screen at SCO Film Festival in China

A five-day long Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Film Festival kicked off on Wednesday night with stunning performances in front of a packed audience at a local concert hall in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province.

The festival, co-hosted by the State Film Administration and Shandong provincial government aims to promote cooperation and exchanges between the member states.

The festival, first of its kind, will screen around 55 movies from SCO countries including five Pakistani films, with more than 200 delegates from eight SCO states in attendance.

Pakistan movies to be screened during the film festival include *Jawani Phir Nahi Ani*, *Punjab Nahi Jaungi*, *Parchi*, *Bin Roye* and *Chalay Thay Saath*.

Kung Fu giant Jackie Chan has been named as the festival's promotional ambassador and filmmaker Han Sanping will head the jury panel.

CEO of Hum TV Channel, Ms. Sultana Siddiqui is representing as a jury member, while the Pakistani delegation is led by Director External Publicity Wing, Ms. Ambreen Jan. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid and Vice Secretary General of SCO, Vladimir Potapenko were present



Executive vice Minister Publicity Department of CPC Central Committee and Head of State Film Administration of China welcoming the delegations from members countries and observer states during the opening ceremony and welcoming banquet.

Terming the festival as an important cultural event, he said it would enhance people to people contacts between the SCO member states and help build a community of shared future of mankind. He informed that China, one of the largest film industries with 55,000 cinema screens, is producing more than 700 films annually and said his country is willing to share its expertise with the film industries of SCO countries.

during the opening ceremony.

The movies, all brought by the SCO member states, will allow spectators to feast their eyes and experience different cultures. The festival organizer will play the movies for over 260 times on 23 screens of nine cinemas in Qingdao.

The SCO Film Festival is the first international film event being held in Qingdao after the place was named City of Film by the UNESCO. The festival will present characteristics and charm of the coastal city. The SCO now includes China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan as full members

Courtesy: Dawn

Eid spending crosses the trillion mark

SHRUGGING off all concerns, Pakistanis celebrated Eid 2018 like never before. All across the country, despite successive heat waves, people thronged the market to boost the Eid economy by about 15 per cent; crossing the trillion rupee mark.

The spike in spending is attributed to a combination of economic, social and political factors.

“Even where salaries are static family income has consistently been increasing. One- job, one- earner households are replaced by multiple- jobs, several- earners households. Those better informed (thanks to internet and television) budget more skilfully to create the financial space needed to indulge on special occasions.

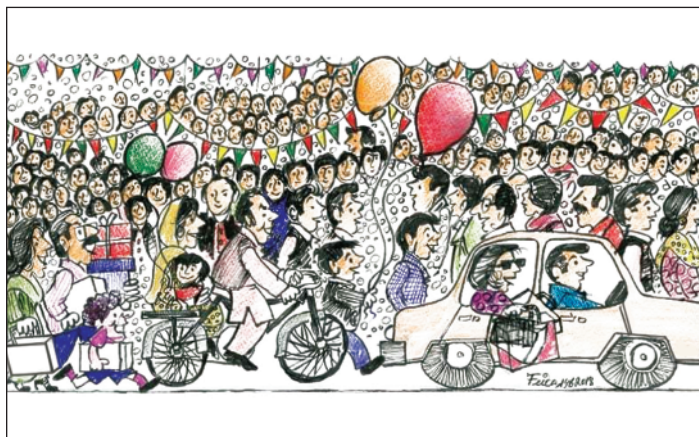
“Expectations of a smooth transition of power and improved security situation has provided comfort, dulled collective anxiety and mobilised Pakistanis to take a calculated risk for pleasure,” an analyst commented.

“The law and order situation has improved significantly. For people starved for outdoor family activity the holy festivals provide an excellent chance that no one wants to miss”, Afnan Shah Khan, Director Operations, Emporium Mall Lahore, told Dawn. He sees a 20pc pickup in the market this year over last year.

He mentioned a record footfall of over a million people in Ramazan 2018 up from 830,000 in his mall in 2017.

“Like despair, the feeling of joy, cuts across all social divides. Groups of people of all ages and classes enjoy a good time in bustling Eid bazaars,” commented a banker

“Pakistan is a big country with deep seated problems. You still hear about disturbing incidents. The scale and frequency of terrorist strikes targeting the public, however, has come down to a level where the public now perceives it as something in the horrific past,” another young expert in the retail



business supported the view.

The second factor is the public's buying power. “People don't head for shopping with empty pockets. They clearly have a budget for Eid irrespective of their social class. It is illogical to compare budgets across the social spectrum as a small accessory for one person may cost more than the entire Eid budget of a low income family,” commented another market watcher.

There is little empirical evidence to suggest a sudden jump in family income over a year. Still leaders of market associations in several cities assert that majority of the people in markets before Eid were out to make purchases, unlike the norm when window shoppers used to outnumber actual buyers in Pakistan.

“People are not just purchasing clothes, accessories and foods and beverages; they are also actively buying cell phones, home appliances, furniture and crockery,” a trader in Saddar, Karachi's biggest shopping area, told Dawn three days before to Eid.

Buyer enthusiasm was not limited to in-shop purchasing. Online shopping also made records, according to bankers and fintech experts.

Not everyone concurred with the perception of an expanding Eid economy. Some people thought that expert opinion was based on simple observations. “People see a rush on the roads and in shopping areas and they assume that Pakistan is prosperous. For every shopper in

the market there are dozens who can barely make ends meet and have no money to indulge,” an artist insisted.

“It is the insufficient physical infrastructure in densely populated Pakistan that chokes roads and causes traffic jams in shopping areas if even a tiny fraction of the population ventures out of its homes at the same time,” he made his point.

“Like despair, the feeling of joy, cuts across all social divides. Groups of people of all ages and classes enjoy a good time in bustling Eid bazaars. It is a pleasure just to watch that,” commented a banker discussing the probable quantum of spending before Eid.

“Many shoppers use plastic cards and the majority of big business houses and brands record all their transactions. It is, therefore, comparably easy to gauge money movement and assess the total quantum of transaction in a specified period today than at any point in the past. An exact projection is not possible owing to the gigantic cash economy,” a mid career banker commented in his office Karachi's city centre.

A freelance economist did not find the Eid economy projections absurd.

“A nation that can afford to spend Rs175 billion in the holy month for philanthropic giving, 2.4 million citizens can approach the central bank to acquire new currency notes — the SBP has confirmed disbursing Rs350bn worth of new notes generally used as a cash gift at the

holy festival — people can get bonuses and advance salaries, can very well spin a trillion rupees collectively for the celebration,” she said.

The projection of Rs1.1tr as a volume of the Eid economy is an intelligent guess based on the data provided by the State Bank of Pakistan and the Federal Bureau of Statistics. These include: cash withdrawals by private account holders from banks, fresh notes issued on peoples' demand, the official and unofficial flow of remittances from overseas Pakistanis and scores on the consumer's confidence index.

Commercial bankers confirmed massive withdrawals by account holders before Eid. “The time lag of withdrawal and deposit of cash is reducing over time as more businesses depend on banking services for liquidity handling”, a senior banker commented, admitting a major haemorrhage from the deposit base in Ramazan for Eid shopping.

Remittances this year are said to be better than last year. The ten month data of Financial Year 2017-18 posted last week by the SBP recorded inflows of \$18.4bn that comes to a monthly average of \$1.8bn. Traditionally during Ramazan inflows almost double the average. If the trend is repeated in 2018 remittance inflows through banking channels will be in the vicinity of \$3.5bn.

Assuming even a third of that amount (\$1.1bn) is spent in rupee terms; total value will come up to Rs134bn at the rate of Rs122 to a dollar. If remittances arriving through informal channels are inserted in the equation a total of Rs250bn may not be too off the mark to project what overseas Pakistanis pitch in into the Eid economy of Pakistan.

“If we assume that remittances are 20pc of the total spending Rs1.1tr is perfectly believable,” a trend gazer commented who finds the estimate actually conservative.

Courtesy: Dawn

Young writer steals literary show Poets gather at an Urdu mushaira in Peshawar

The Peshawar chapter of Halqa-i-Arbab-i-Zauq organised an Eid Melan Urdu poetry recitation session at a local hotel here on Wednesday.

Urdu poets hailing from Peshawar and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended the event and recited their inspiring poetic pieces.

Most bards versified the current political and social issues in their poems while few young poets also turned to romantic expressions, which were appreciated by the audience.

Halqa-i-Arbab-i-Zauq conducts Eid Milan poetry recitation session

Syed Zubair Shah, a young fictionist and poet from Swabi, stole the show by reciting a beautiful romantic poem. In his brief talk, he said that Halqa's literary circles were not confined to Urdu alone but provided a forum to young poets and



writers speaking Pashto, Hindko, Seraiki and Chitrali.

Aziz Ejaz, a senior poet who chaired the event, said that it was encouraging that a good taste was being developed over the years in the region for Urdu literature. He said that since its inception in 1957, Halqa-i-Arab-i-Zauq Peshawar chapter had groomed up many noted poets and writers, whose mother tongue was not Urdu. "I

have been associated with Halqa-i-Arab-i-Zauq for the last over four decades and I have learnt much from this humble gathering of the blessed souls. Such gathering does have a social impact," said Mr Ejaz.

Shakeel Ahmad Nayab, chief of Halqa-i-Arab-i-Zauq Peshawar chapter said that owing to its widespread popularity and impact, his colleagues were compelled to open sub-branches of the literary body in

Swat, Chitral and Dir in the start of the current year.

He said that only 30 to 40 members of Halqa turned up at its weekly literary sessions in Peshawar but its online members had exceeded 40,000.

Nasir Ali Syed said that they had planned to open more sub-branches in other districts of the province. He said that so far requests from Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Kohat and Mardan had been received for opening sub-branches of Halqa. Akbar Marwat, Dr Baharullah Khan, Salim Bangash, Dr Sagheer, Dr Noor Haikm Jilan, Iqbal Sikander, Qari Shahid Azam Alazhari, Akhtar Mohammad Seemab, Sabir Hiran, Mohammad Naeem Yousafzai and Nishat Sarhadi attended the event. Next session of Halqa-i-Arab-i-Zauq would be held on the coming Tuesday at the Urdu Science Board Library Hall at Khyber Bazaar.

Courtesy: Dawn

First visually impaired civil judge takes oath

The country's first visually impaired civil judge, Yousaf Saleem, on Tuesday took oath of his office along with 20 other recently appointed judicial officers in Punjab.

Lahore High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Yawar Ali administered the oath to the civil judges at a ceremony held at the Punjab Judicial Academy.

The other civil judges who took oath included Sardar Umar Hassan Khan, Saba Qamar, Naseem Akhtar Naz, Maira Hassan, Qamar Abbas, Ehsan Nawaz, Muhammad Bilal, Muhammad Amir Sultan Kolachi, Muhammad Abbas, Sumaira Jabbar, Ali Raza, Muhammad Bilal Khan, Muhammad Tariq, Rasheed Khan, Obaid Hassan, Sana Afzal, Mansoor Ahmad, Allah Nawaz, Muhammad Zubair Sabir, Muhammad Javed Iqbal and Shaheen Noor.

The chief justice urged the judges to



deliver justice without fear and favour. He said rendering justice was a sacred profession.

Lahore-based Saleem was initially denied the position of civil judge despite being a topper in the examination.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar had taken notice of the matter and directed the Lahore High Court to review the case observing that a visually impaired person could become a judge provided he met other requirements.

Courtesy: Dawn

Nabila confirmed as official hair and makeup partner for IIFA 2018

Award-winning hair and make-up maestro Nabila Maqsood has confirmed via Instagram that her brands Nabila Salon, N-Gents and ZERO will be the official hair and makeup partners for the upcoming International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) 2018.

The platform celebrities are given should be used sacredly and responsibly: Beautician Nabila Maqsood

The Karachi-based stylist established her first salon in 1986 and over the course of three decades, has managed to redefine fashion, style and imagery in Pakistan. With the ability to turn any newcomer into a fashion force, she has extensively contributed towards reconstructing the image of the local media industry.

Posting a video on her official Instagram handle, she wrote "WE ARE GOING TO IIFA! We are very proud to announce that NABILA, N-Gents and



ZERO are the official hair and makeup partners for this mega event!"

This isn't the first time the beauty guru will be representing Pakistan internationally, she has done so many a times before. This time, she will be replacing MAC Cosmetics at the IIFA Awards.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Meet Hammad Safi, the 11-year-old motivational coach who has Pakistan enchanted

The pint-sized motivational coach is already an online star with his own YouTube channel and 145,000 subscribers.

Several hundred university students sit enraptured as Hammad Safi lectures them on the merits of bettering their diction by watching Barack Obama speeches on YouTube.

The elegantly dressed motivational speaker is something of an internet sensation and regularly draws large crowds. But it's not just because of his infectious enthusiasm and engaging smile.

Safi speaks into his wireless microphone, his hand gestures practised and his confidence unwavering before the attention of his elders at the University of Spoken English (USECS) in Peshawar.



In this picture taken on April 3, 2018, 11-year-old motivational coach Hammad Safi lectures students at a languages academy in Peshawar.

The pint-sized motivational coach is already an online star with his

own YouTube channel and 145,000 subscribers. Some videos have been viewed millions of times.

Some of his advice may sound hackneyed: "Every second is a challenge," he says in one video. "Failure is the basis of success." But his audiences don't seem to mind.

Bilal Khan, a political science student twice Safi's age who came to listen to his speech, said the boy wonder had had a profound effect on him.

"A few months ago I was really disappointed with life... I was (thinking) about suicide, because there are no jobs and no success in life," he told

"Then I saw a movie of Hammad Safi. I thought, if an 11-year-old child can do anything, why can't I?" Hammad Safi (2nd R) attends an English language class at a languages academy in Peshawar.

"People love him because he's just talking, he's a hit every time," says Samiullah Waqil, one of his former English teachers.

Safi's youth and precociousness seem to form part of the enchantment.

But he is also seen as presenting a positive image of Pakistan, one that resonates powerfully with his listeners.

Discussing the distinguished poet Allama Iqbal, Safi says: "If he had not been there, I or anyone else would surely be cleaning the toilet in the house of an Englishman."

Hammad Safi (R) attends an English language class at a languages academy in Peshawar.

Hammad Safi (R) walks with his teacher at a languages academy in Peshawar.

At USECS, the faculty see him as a "nanha professor", or little teacher; a protege who could go on to great things one day though what, exactly, they are looking for from him remains undefined.

Safi was studying at a traditional school but also taking English classes at USECS, where he was quickly noticed for his "phenomenal self-confidence", says director Ammer Sohail.

Shortly afterwards, he left his school to be full-time at USECS, continuing his English studies and embarking on his motivational career.

The university, made up largely of working-class students, now has Safi offer motivational lectures each week, in addition to his growing internet fanbase.

Hammad Safi reads a book at a languages academy in Peshawar.

Courtesy: Darun



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