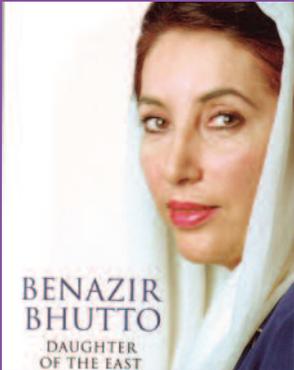


## December in history



**BENAZIR BHUTTO**  
DAUGHTER OF THE EAST  
Benazir Bhutto named 1st female Prime Minister of Pakistan.

1973, December 30: Foundation stone of Pakistan Steel Mills was laid.

1990, December 12: Pakistan becomes 37th country to send expedition to Antarctica.

1994, December 4: Pakistan regains World Hockey Championship title after 12 years, beating Holland 4-3.

1974, December 5: Peshawar Television Station opens.

## What's inside:

- Army chief becomes first Asian to receive Brazil's coveted 'Order of Merit' award.
- Pakistan's first all girl boxing club.
- Hamza Amin becomes first Pakistani to play Australian open Golf Tournament.
- Microsoft Pakistan unveils campaign to empower women.
- 15 feel good moments in 2015 that made us proud Pakistani.
- Children with thalassemia made honorary MNAs.

## Quaid-e-Azam Day

25<sup>th</sup> December 1876

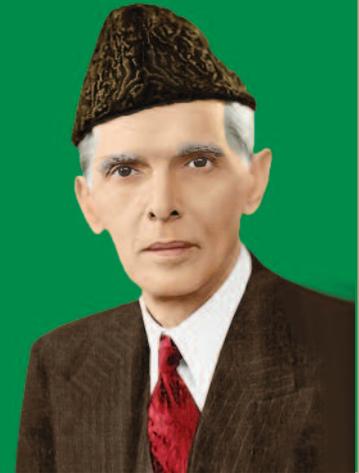
With Faith, Discipline and Selfless

devotion to Duty,

There is nothing worthwhile that

you cannot achieve!

— Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



## Pakistan's Muniba Mazari Named Goodwill Ambassador By UN Women

UN Women, the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women, named Muniba Mazari as Pakistan's first female goodwill ambassador to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

As the goodwill ambassador for UN Women Pakistan, Muniba will dedicate her efforts towards the empowerment of women and girls, and would serve as an advocate for UN Women's "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" and other campaigns.

Muniba Mazari is a writer, artist, singer, activist and



a motivational speaker. She is also a paraplegic, having lost control of both legs in a car accident.

Through her vibrant paintings, she expresses in bold colours the strength of her own personality. Her purpose is to inspire others to live their lives to the fullest.

By Nida Latif BS485390  
Courtesy: Dawn

## Army chief becomes first Asian to receive Brazil's coveted 'Order of Merit' award



Army chief General Raheel Sharif was honoured with Brazil's coveted "Order of Merit" award.

"COAS was awarded Brazil's coveted Award "Order of Merit" in a special ceremony in recognition of his leadership for successful fight against multiple threats," DG ISPR Lt-Gen Asim Bajwa said.

**"Gen Raheel is the first Asian to have been honoured with this coveted award," Bajwa added.**

"Order of merit has been given to General Raheel Sharif for displaying remarkable courage to deal with the menace of terrorism, successfully leading the army in the face of multiple threats, giving hope to his nation against dismay and despondency and above all for his great efforts to promote peace and stability in the region," a statement from the Brazilian government read.

"General Raheel Sharif through his undaunting resolve, unflinching sincerity and impeccable professional commitment has become a leading figure in the world. His contribution to promote exemplary ties between Pakistan and Brazil in general and the two armies in particular are enormous and unprecedented," the statement added.

General Raheel met with Brazil's armed forces Chief of Joint Staff General Jose Carlos De Nardi, who lauded Pakistan Army's professionalism and operational achievements especially in ongoing counter terrorism operations.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with Brazil's defence minister, General Raheel discussed relations between the two countries, and the common security challenges.

According to the ISPR, security assistance for Brazil Olympics 2016 also came under discussion.

*By Abdullah Sheikh BS433808  
Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Pakistan's first all-girl boxing club

They are part of the first-ever official training program in Pakistan to teach women how to box.

**The First Women Boxing Coaching Camp has been organized by the Sindh Boxing Association (SBA) in Lyari, Karachi**



A neighborhood known for sports stars, particularly footballers and boxers, including Olympian Syed Hussain Shah. It all started when a 16-year-old girl, Khadijah, approached the 2013 Sindh boxing champion and resident of Lyari, Nadir Kachi, and asked him to train her. She wanted to learn to box, but couldn't find any club willing to teach her.

Nadir took Khadijah to his coach, Younis Qambrani. "I have been training my daughters to box since they could put on a pair of gloves," explained Qambrani, whose family includes several gold medalists in the sport. Qambrani started including Khadijah in those training sessions. A few days later, another girl showed up asking for training, having heard of Khadijah's sessions. Word spread and before he knew it, Qambrani had 13 girls in his home, all wanting to become boxers. At that point, the coach knew he had to find a space and an official program for them. "Our goal is very simple," Asghar Baloch explained. "Pakistani male athletes have made our country proud on so many platforms, such as the Olympics, the Commonwealth and Asian Games, and we want our girls to be able to fly our nation's flag just as high all over the world."

But what about marriage? I asked the girls as they huddled together after the day's session. What if your husband does not want you to become a boxer? "I just won't get married until I'm competing on an international level," answered Anam. The other 12 girls all nodded, and 16-year-old Azmeena drove the point home, asking: "How can someone have the guts to tell us we cannot do something when our own fathers have given us permission to do so?"

*Courtesy: New York Times*

## From a Kulfi Seller to a University Graduate

"I was selling kulfis when 10 older boys approached me from behind," shares Zulfiqar Ali Chachar, while referring to the 'tragedy' that has scarred him to this day. Zulfiqar didn't want to sell kulfis for a living. Like most children his age, he wanted to go to school with his friends. But his family's finances forced him to work and pay for his own studies.

For admission into the eighth grade, Zulfiqar was asked, "What is a cell?" He had no idea what a cell was. He realised that all he knew, after years of education, was alif, be, pe the Urdu alphabet and how to memorise things. It was then that a friend told him about a talent hunt programme that might enable him to attend University with support from scholarships.

Around eight of his friends started deposit-

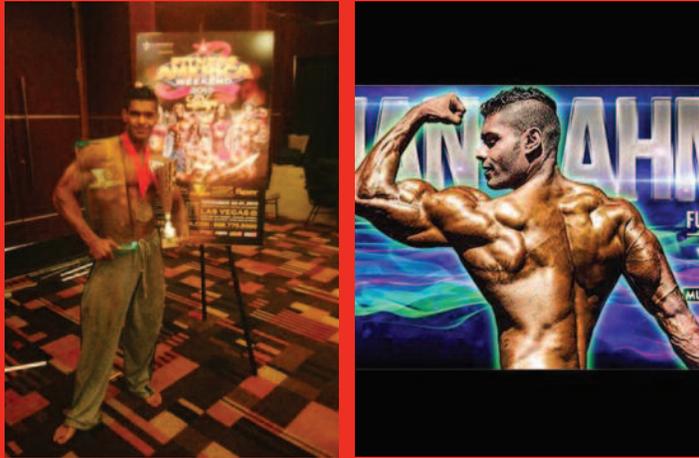


ing money in Zulfiqar's account to support him every month, telling him that they had found an anonymous sponsor for him. Fortunately, Zulfiqar won an actual scholarship at IBA Sukkur soon after, which was able to fully support him.

Zulfiqar went on to become the vice-president of the student body at University and flourished in his academics as well as extra-curricular activities. He even raised money for furniture, stationery and other resources to refurbish a school for street children near the university. After graduating from University he moved to Karachi for an internship and is currently looking for a job. His father recently asked him to approach the village wadera to help him find one but Zulfiqar refused. "I've only asked God for help all my life," says Zulfiqar, his face beaming with confidence which comes from being a self-made man in the making. "I am the most educated man in my village today. Once I have enough resources, I'm going to open a school in my village. Why should I ask my wadera for help? If you believe in yourself and work hard, opportunities will knock on your door."

*By Abdullah Sheikh BS433808  
Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Mr Musclemania World 2015: Pakistani bodybuilder clinches gold



Pakistani bodybuilder Salman Ahmad clinched gold and the Mr Musclemania World title 2015. He thanked his fans and followers for their prayers.

"It is the first time in 25 years that this title is going to Pakistan," he said. He also expressed his gratitude towards his family for their support and motivation. "I don't know how to say thank you for helping me reach this stage," he said,

In the run-up to the competition, Ahmad said: "I have done my best, the competition is really big this time."

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq wished Ahmad success before the competition. "It is a source of pride for us that a youngster from the NA-122 constituency is competing in a weight-lifting and bodybuilding competition."

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Pakistani student wins gold medal in international math competition



An exceptionally bright student of PakTurk International School in Jamshoro has brought home a gold medal after competing in Math Challenge V hosted by the Pan-Asia International School in Bangkok. Making Pakistan proud, Rajinish Aneel Bhatia of grade 7 bagged the gold medal in the international math competition.

Three other students from the same school also secured silver and bronze medals. Harun Yilmaz of grade 8 won a silver medal while Abdul Wasay Kandhir and Abdul Wasay Memon, of grade 7 and 8 respectively, bagged a bronze medal each.

Schools from all over Asia participated in the Math Challenge V held on November 17 and 18. The competition aims to encourage students to study and excel in math and critical thinking. The prizes for gold, silver and bronze medalists are 3,000 THB, 2,100 THB, 1,500 THB respectively.

*By Nida Latif BS485390  
Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Children with thalassemia made honorary MNAs



National Assembly (NA) Speaker Sardar Ayyaz Sadiq appointed children suffering with thalassemia as honorary MNAs for one day.

Children suffering with thalassemia acted as honorary MNAs and held a mock National Assembly session.

He also designated three of them to act as honorary speaker, deputy speaker and panel of chairmen to hold mock proceedings of the National Assembly. The announcements came during a special ceremony for the children suffering with thalassemia being treated at Sundus Foundation held in the Parliament House.

Renowned literary figures, columnist and chaperone of Sundus Foundation, Munno Bhai were also present at the occasion. While addressing the audience at the event, NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq accoladed the children suffering with thalassemia for displaying immense courage and resilience in the face of this disease.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pakistani Female Commando Guarding Indian Sikhs As They Arrive in Pakistan For Religious Tour

A Pakistani female police commando stands guard as Indian Sikh pilgrims arrive at Wagah railway station near Lahore, Pakistan, on Friday. Hundreds of Indian Sikh pilgrims arrived in Pakistan by a special train to participate in the three-day festival to celebrate the 547th birth anniversary of their spiritual leader Baba Guru Nanak,



the founder of Sikh religion, at Nankana Sahib near Lahore.” Smitha Deepak wrote in his FB post

Nankana Sahib was earlier known as ‘Rai-Bhoi-Di-Talwandi’ is named after the first Guru of the Sikhs Guru Nanak Dev. Located about 80 kilometers south-west of Lahore. Because Nankana Sahib is the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev, the central figure in Sikhism, it is a city of high historic and religious value and is a popular pilgrimage site for Sikhs from all over the world.

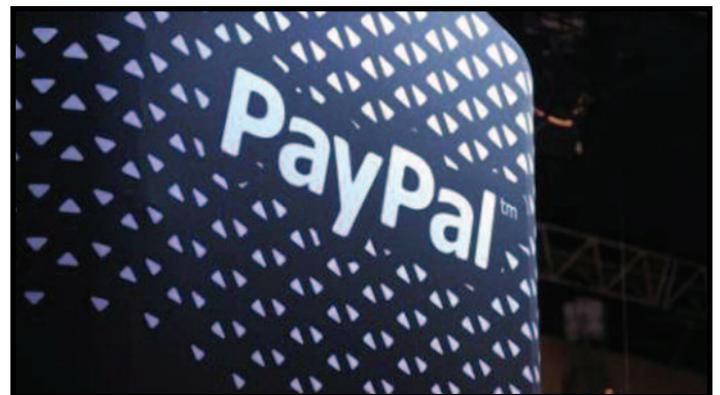
Though there are political differences and religious influences, but for a nation it is always on priority to provide security for anyone visiting it. It is amazing site and much to it is the security provided by a female armed person. This breaks so many stereotypes about Pakistan, religion and women on many levels. You can infer many things from this picture, but respect is the common emotion you feel to see this. If the countries were connected the way people are with each other, there would be much peace in the world. And we pray for that peace.

*Courtesy: The Logical Indian*

## Pakistan to invite PayPal, Alibaba to start e-commerce services

Pakistan has a growing IT industry that mainly provides outsourcing services in the form of coding to major Western clients. IT exports, which account for around 10 percent of total service exports, are currently worth \$2.2 billion annually, with the government aiming to increase the figure to more than \$5 billion by 2017.

The country of about 200 million people launched high-speed mobile internet services last year, with the subscriber base now totalling around 18 million. There are also around 21 million broadband Internet subscribers, according to official figures.



*By Abdullah Sheikh BS433808*

*Courtesy: Phys.org*

## Shelter for abandoned animals opens in Karachi

A three-legged dog greets you at the bright red gate of the newly-opened ACF Animal Shelter in Mujahid Colony, Dalmia, and hops alongside you as if it wants to show you around the facility. There is a donkey inside the fenced lawn, munching away at marigolds. Just like a toddler, a puppy inside his pen drags along a big teddy bear. At the shelter's launch the once abandoned animals are learning to trust humans again as they receive gentle pats and lots of love from the guests.

One of the guests, well-known veterinarian Dr Abrar Pirzada, who appreciated the efforts of the lady behind the good work, Ayesha Chundrigar, and her team of volunteers, also had some suggestions. "You can make some stairs with boxes for the cats to climb up and curl up inside and for the dogs you have to think of creating an environment where they don't get bored. Otherwise, one bored dog will start howling and suddenly you'll have a chorus," he laughed.

Looking around at the cats, dogs, donkeys and horse, he added: "Well, every animal has its own demand." The vet also said that the animals, especially dogs and cats, coming to the shelter should be sprayed and neutered in order to control their population. "Otherwise, how many shelters can you build?" he said thinking aloud.

Meanwhile, Ayesha Chundrigar said that she along with her volunteers was also looking after the management of the Edhi Animal



Shelter near the toll gates on Superhighway. That is a huge four acre facility and this here is 1,450 sq yards of land gifted to me by one of our donors. This is more approachable and thanks to our donors I am trying to create a system that can be better managed here as we are a very few volunteers running the show," she said.

"Because of the distance, people don't go to the big shelter as much as I wish they would. Animals need love. I want people who love animals working with me here. I hope to see more children visiting. Maybe we could have school field trips to this place, too," she added.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Underprivileged to get free treatment at private hospitals as govt launches health insurance



State Minister for Health Saira Afzal Tarar at the launch of the National Health Programme here on Thursday announced the issuance of health cards which will enable the underprivileged to receive treatment at private and public hospitals free of charge.

Tarar said those who earn daily wages of less than Rs200 qualify for the programme, and that treatment would be provided without discrimination "whatever your religion, sect or province".

The health minister said the prime minister's card allows Rs50,000 for the treatment of common illnesses "such as the flu, cough and hepatitis", and sets aside Rs300,000 for more serious conditions like "angioplasty, bypass and dialysis".

*Courtesy: New York Times*

## Pakistan to be among top economies in 2025



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal claims that Pakistan will be among top 25 economies of the world by 2025.

"Pakistan is a successful emerging state which can be developed economically through self-belief and defeating the negativity," he said while addressing an alumni reunion at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET).

*Courtesy: Dawn*

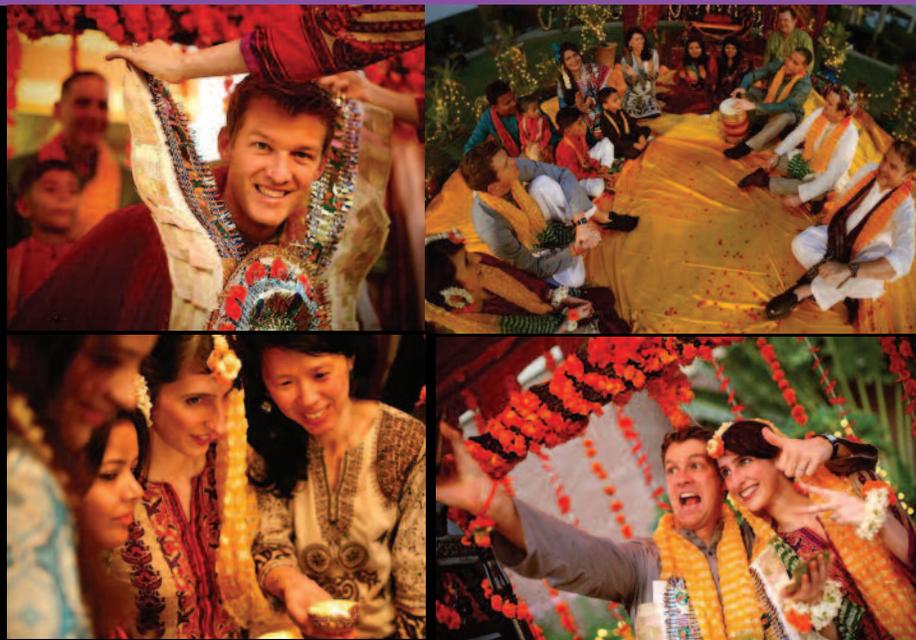
## US Consulate employees wed Pakistani style in fun-filled 'dholki' in Karachi

Traditional, energetic and colourful — who doesn't love a Pakistani wedding? Employees of the US consulate were thrown a 'dholki' by their Pakistani colleagues.

In a colourful post on Facebook, US Consulate Karachi shared fun-filled images of the dholki. The images showed the staff and friends enjoying local traditions of a Pakistani 'mehndi' complete with bangles, singing and dancing at a site decorated in traditional Pakistani style canopies, carpets and flowers specifically marigolds.

*By Nida Latif BS485390*

*Courtesy: Express Tribune*



## Hamza Amin becomes first Pakistani golfer to play Australian



Despite not making it to the leader-board, a significant milestone was achieved by a Pakistani when Hamza Amin became the first from the cricket-mad nation to play in the Australian Open last week. The current 1711-ranked player in the world has been helping drive golf's steadily increasing popularity in Pakistan, The Sydney Morning Herald reported.

He managed to raise a little more than \$1500 with donations besides a lot of thank you notes from a personal email response to digital lessons, guest passes, private rounds and branding on Amin's apparel.

Amin, who was coached by his dad Taimoor until he was a teenager, recovered from a deflating 13-over in treacherous conditions on Thursday to post a very respectable two-over 73 — the same score recorded by Adam Scott, said the report.

"It's the first time I've played in Australia and it was a bit difficult in those winds with an afternoon tee time," Amin said.

*By Nida Latif BS485390*

*Courtesy: The News*

## Fashion Pakistan Week's Winter Festive



Weddings are, after all, the be all and end all of winter festivities in the country. Had FPW taken place earlier, perhaps some of the designers could have taken on orders for formals and cashed in on the current wedding season.

This is a long-hackneyed crib, though the council has its many reasons for showing when it wants to show and really, the delay can be overlooked as long as the catwalk showcases exciting fashion.

Motifs and pearls drooped and dropped onto the runway in a certain showcase; in others, colours clashed and cutwork meshed uncomfortably with texture and every embroidery under the sun was seen as some of fashion's hottest names fumbled and faltered.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Miss Pakistan USA on a mission to change image of Pakistani women



It takes more than just tiaras, gowns and stilettos to win hearts and Sarish Khan tells us exactly how she does it.

The 26-year-old American beauty of Pakistani origin is the current title holder of Miss Pakistan USA. A student at George Mason Law School in DC, she not only represents the refined class of Pakistani beauties, but also their intellect on a global platform.

But it comes as a surprise to know that this mélange of beauty and brains was a complete stranger to the word 'pageant' some time back.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, Sarish revealed what inspired her to compete for the title. "I hadn't watched a pageant in my life until I heard all the chatter about Nina Davuluri, the first Miss America of Indian descent to win the title," she said.

That led her to think, "if a pre-med student can put India on a global platform then what's stopping a Pakistani law student from following suit?"

*By Abdullah Sheikh BS433808  
Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Daraz Black Friday as it unfolded: CEO's first-hand account

In the lead up to November 27, the day Daraz.pk launched the first Black Friday in Pakistan, we knew that weeks of teasing had spread the word enough that friends and acquaintances were prodding us for a sneak preview of the deals on Black Friday.

We had, however, promised our vendors to keep the deals a secret not only to the public but also to most employees. In fact, only a handful of brands had agreed to spill out the exact product deals in the lead up — the deals were genuinely a surprise for the public and many internal employees and our friends and family.

At midnight, as we celebrated leading to the countdown, we knew that this would be the

biggest sale event for Daraz till date. We watched as the number of visitors on Daraz soar. We gasped in awe and our hearts beat faster as we knew this was way too many people, way too many people.

The traffic started to flood our international cloud servers, servers that assumed it was a hacker attack and started to protect the website, shutting off and choking most customers at checkout.

**Within 20 minutes, we had reached our daily sales target. Within two hours, we crossed the most optimistic target we had a contingency plan for.**

On the one hand we had more visitors on our website than ever at a single given time. On the other, we were losing them because our IT was having trouble supporting the massive load, thinking of it as a threat and shutting down impeding access.

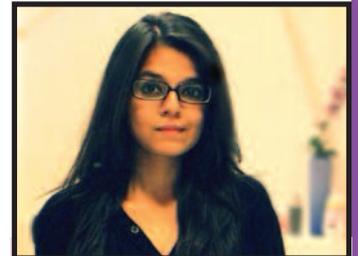
Fire drill calls to the server support and product teams allowed us to kick back into normal mode within a few minutes. The website started to be responsive again, finally, thankfully, and orders started to flood in; even in the wee hours of the morning.

We were awestruck. People were ordering products in categories that historically never sold much. They were buying fridges, washing machines and air conditioners in winter as if they were buying candy.

To top it off, a third of the orders were prepaid, simply unheard of in the e-commerce space in Pakistan where lack of trust forces people to only choose cash on delivery.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## What makes a good girl?



Schoolgirl Ayesha Ishtiaque have been featured on the BBC 100 Women list for 2015.

Ayesha Ishtiaq, 17, is "extremely passionate" about tackling sexism in Pakistani society and studying gender roles.

The Islamabad resident and schoolgirl also conducts talks on feminism and human rights with friends and aspires to study journalism and women's studies in the United States before returning to Pakistan to help others.

She, however, maintains the difference between genders must be preserved and says, "You don't have to fight anyone, you just have to be yourself and you just have to be more confident in who you are and not feel insecure about being a girl... You have to live up to it."

*Courtesy: Dawn*



# 15 feel-good moments in 2015 that made us proud Pakistani



Syed Ghulam Fatima rights activist honoured with Global Citizen award



Fiza Farhan in Forbes list of 30 young social entrepreneurs.



Fawad Khan won Film fare Award for best male debut in Bollywood



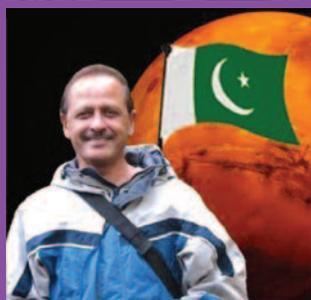
Pakistani Model bags 'Mr. Dubai 2015' title.



Forget fair and lovely, dark is divine: Fatima Lodhi launched Pakistan's first Anti-colorism Campaign



Almira became first Pakistani woman footballer to play in UK



Pakistani ex-military pilot shortlisted for mankind's first one-way trip to Mars.



Karachi artist reclaim city walls from hate graffiti



Pakistani student won third place at Intel science fair



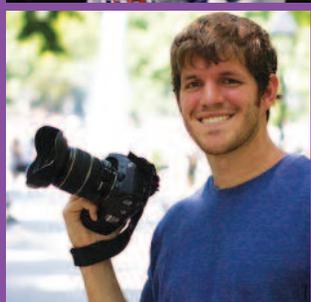
Amir Khan establishes boxing academy in Islamabad



Pakistani truck art used in Dolce and Gabbana's new beauty campaign



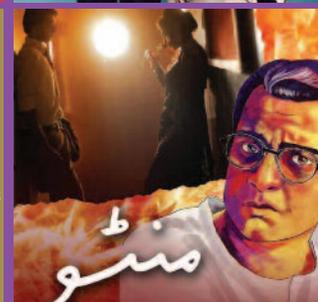
5 year old Laila Naim became first Pakistani to model for Burberry



Humans of New York came to Pakistan



Zenith Irfan first women to ride solo on a motorcycle across northern areas of Pakistan.



Manto set a new benchmark for Pakistani cinema

## Happy New Year 2016

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