



# Positive Post

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

## August in History

### August 14, 1947:

The new Dominion of Pakistan became independent and Muhammad Ali Jinnah was sworn in as its first governor general in Karachi.

### August 7, 1954:

Government of Pakistan approves the National Anthem, written by Abul Asar Hafeez Jullundhri and composed by Ahmed G. Chagla.

### August 17, 1954:

Pakistan defeats England by 24 runs at Oval during its maiden tour of England.

### August 1, 1960:

Islamabad is declared the principal seat of the Government of Pakistan.

### August 29, 1971:

Rashid Minhas awarded Nishan-i-Haider, Pakistan's highest gallantry award.

### August 14, 1991:

Nawaz Sharif lays foundation-stone of Bab-i-Pakistan at Walton Lahore.

## What's inside:

- ☛ Pakistan's prosperity is dependent on its youth
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- ☛ More than one million tourists visited northern areas of Pakistan this season
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- ☛ Pakistan forces give Indian troops sweets at Wagah on Independence Day

## Enthusiasm on peak as nation celebrates Independence Day



The nation celebrates Independence Day with a renewed pledge to safeguard the motherland against any threat and make it a true Islamic welfare state as envisioned by its founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The celebrations of Independence Day officially began with fireworks at parade ground Shakarparian in Islamabad at midnight.

The ground and surrounding areas were lit with thousands of colourful fireworks and lights.

Thousands of citizens from Rawalpindi and Islamabad witnessed the great firework.

The day dawned with 31-gun salute in the federal and 21-gun salute in the provincial capitals.

Special prayers were offered for prosperity, integrity and solidarity

of the country, unity of the Muslim Ummah and success of the long drawn struggle of Kashmiris after Fajr prayers.

The main event of the day was a flag hoisting ceremony at Convention Center in Islamabad where President Mamnoon Hussain was the chief guest. He also addressed the nation on the occasion.

Flag hoisting ceremonies would also be held at the provincial capitals and district headquarters besides other important national institutions.

Meanwhile, all major public and private buildings, roads and avenues have been tastefully decorated with illuminations, national flags, portraits of the national leaders, banners and bunting giving a festive look.

A simple but graceful change of

guard ceremony was held at Iqbal mausoleum.

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army took charge as guards of the mausoleum from Punjab Rangers.

Garrison Commander Maj General Tariq Aman was chief guest on the occasion.

Meanwhile in Karachi, a change of guard ceremony was also held in which a contingent of Pakistan Navy took the command of Quaid's mausoleum.

Pakistan Naval Academy commandant Commodore Adnan Ahmad was the chief guest in the ceremony.

Security across the country has been tightened whereas mobile phone services have also been suspended.

*Courtesy: Duniya news*

## Pakistan's prosperity is dependent on its youth

International Youth day with the theme, "The road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Development and Consumption." is going to be observed and celebrated on 12 August 2016. There are around 1.8 billion youngsters all around the world, as UNESCO reports. This youth has to play a vital role in eradicating poverty and leading their countries towards economic and sustainable growth and prosperity.

Pakistan has one of the largest youth forces in the world, says



UNESCO, about 35% to 65% of country's population is of youngster. According to statistics released by Election

Commission of Pakistan (ECP) just days before general election 2013, 47.8% of the 84 million of registered voters are 18 to 35 of

age. 19.77% or 16.88 million registered voters are under the age of 26 years. Perhaps this is the number of youth registered with ECP, many residing in rural or slum areas either have not obtained their CNICs or are not registered voters. It is pertinent to mention here that Government of Pakistan hasn't conducted any census since 1998 so the exact figure of youth living in a country is difficult to ascertain. However every one out of five persons is from youth force according to above mentioned estimation.

*Courtesy Saama*

## China-US alliance will have positive impact on Pak-China relations

China's alliance with the United States and their unanimous position on international and regional issues will have positive impact on Pakistan-China bilateral ties.

This was stated by Yan Xuetong, director of the Institute of International Relations at Tsinghua University while commenting on the new phase of the Sino-US ties in the wake of President Xi Jinping's recent visit to the US.

He said that forming alliances abroad can help China smooth bilateral ties, like in the context of Pakistan, the two countries' growing relation which are cited as exemplary the world over.

The comments are based on Yan's recent lecture "Strategies for China's rise and changing international environment." These appeared in the Global Times, a Chinese tabloid published under the auspices of People's Daily newspaper.

He believes that alignment between two powers is a solution of many conflicts. For instance, Pakistan is in alliance



not only with China, but also with the US. In terms of issues concerning Pakistan, there is no divergence between Beijing and Washington. If China can ally itself with every single ally of the US, there will be far less controversies between the two. But the problem is China is not willing to ally with the US partners.

According to Yan Xuetong, some say that forging an alliance is a Cold War mind-set. On the contrary, he says, it is nonalignment that demonstrates the Cold War mentality. The proposal of nonalignment was raised in 1956 by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Egypt's second president Gamal Abdel Nasser and Yugoslavia's then president Josip Broz Tito.

And the very first conference of non-aligned heads of states or government, at which 25 coun-

tries were represented, was convened in September 1961. The Non-Aligned Movement came into being during the Cold War, and so has a Cold War mentality, while forming alliances is simply human nature since ancient times

The core of nonalignment is not to provide security assurances for other nations. All members from the Non-Aligned Movement are small and medium economies, and super powers have never engaged in such a thing. If China insists in non-alignment, how can they show their good will and justice?

Are we going to tell the world that China is growing increasingly stronger, but China will never protect your safety, he questioned.

"For the moment, we should consider how to face the emerging pressure that comes along with the rise of China. That's correct. Beijing and Washington are now trying to ease tensions with each other by pretending to be friends. But this strategy is obviously not working," Yan said.

"The root cause is the fact that the core of this bilateral relationship is competition, rather than cooperation. Cooperation is only a method to prevent their competition from getting worse. And it is impossible to turn competition entirely into cooperation. Hence, my suggestion is to admit that we are competitors, and guide Sino-US ties toward healthy competition," he added.

"The conflicts of core interests between China and the US are constantly growing. So far, there is no solution to the puzzle. All we can do is to prevent these controversies from escalating into war. But it is impossible to pursue a relationship without conflicts of core interests. It's like you can prevent two students from fighting over scholarship," he said.

"Yet you cannot stop them from competing for it. Instead of ideological conflicts, the major controversy that lies between Beijing and Washington is conflicts of core interests."

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Self-educated AJK girl gets admission in Cambridge



“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest,” said Benjamin Franklin, and this has come true for a Kashmir-based girl who managed to secure highest marks in the A-Levels and O-Levels English examination in Pakistan despite being ‘self-schooled.’

She is now preparing to pursue higher studies at Cambridge University.

“I’ve educated myself since I was a child. Self-schooling is rooted in the concept of freedom and exploration,” Sandya Karamat Barlaas tells.

**Pakistani student tops international LLB exam**  
Hailing from Bagh in Azad

Jammu and Kashmir, Barlaas says she is “self-schooled” and has not engaged services of professional tutors. Despite her lack of formal education, she received the Cambridge University Outstanding Learner Award in English Language for getting the highest marks in Pakistan and secured grades of A\* (distinction) in English language, A\*(distinction) English literature, A in Mathematics, and A\* (distinction) in Chemistry, A\*(distinction) Physics, A\* (distinction) in Mathematics, in her A-Levels and O-Levels exams, respectively.



Sister to three brothers, Barlaas says home-schooling runs in their family with none of her siblings attending formal educational institutions either.

“I have three brothers. All of us are self-schooled,” she says, claiming that one of her brothers is currently studying in Germany

while the other two are also moving abroad for higher studies.

She adds that she is grateful to her parents, her father an executive engineer for the Public Works Department and her mother a homemaker and a sociologist, for believing in them.

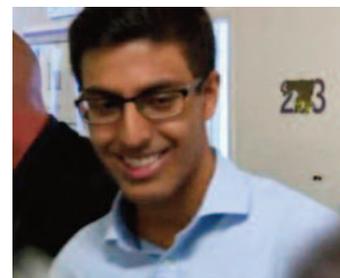
Talking about the process of self-schooling, Barlaas explains that she reads a lot of books and uses the internet to research topics she would come across.

**Pakistani student breaks Denmark’s grading scale record**

“I was fascinated by books and learning, fuelled by the desire to comprehend, the desire to untangle natural phenomena, the world around me, the people around me in a more informed and analytical manner,” she says. “When I wanted to read, I immersed myself in the magical world of books, and when I found myself intrigued by music notes, I turned to the piano,”

She goes on to say that in a way she is the teacher and the student at the same time.

“In order to assess my progress, I would design questions on the subject, write their answers and then score them according to how good they were while



noting areas for improvement,” she said, adding that she designed her own syllabus for her studies.

Asked why she chose self-schooling, Barlaas says it afforded her freedom also that she did not have any external pressure to adhere to traditional schooling. However, it was not without its challenges. Barlaas says she had a lot of trouble procuring the necessary textbooks. “I either had to go to Islamabad for them, or to have someone else buy them for me,” she said.

With no examination centres for Cambridge exams in AJK, Barlaas says she had to frequently travel to Islamabad for her exams or to pick up supplies. At Cambridge University, she plans to study psychological and behavioural sciences. “I’ve always had a deep interest in the human mind and how it works.”

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Sindh becomes the first province to call for legislation against forced conversions of minorities’ girls

Sindh becomes the first province to call for legislation against the forced conversions of minorities’ girls. The proposed legislation prescribes minimum of three years of imprisonment for whoever facilitates, conducts or directs forced conversions of non-Muslim girls.

“Since the start of this year, until now at least 300 minorities’ girls and boys have been abducted and forced to convert to Islam since January 2016,” stated a representative from the

Pakistan Hindu Council, which is non-governmental organization (NGO) advocating for rights of Hindu Pakistanis.

According to this official, there are no credible reports on such incidents from the government however; they are able to compile the data based on incidents reported by the community members. Inasmuch as 99% of the cases involving abduction of Hindu girls, the abductees were forced to convert.



“Authorities do not even register such cases due to the absence of a law condemning forced conversion,” the official said.

In this regard, Sindh has emerged as the first province to call for legislation against forced conversions. Secretary of Sindh

Assembly Ghulam Farooq Buriro, says that a year has been passed since the anti-forced conversions bill was moved in the house. The proposed bill is still under consideration by the standing committees for more than six months, he added.

MPA Nand Kumar Goklani who moved the bill said, “The bill is being considered by standing committees for law and minority affairs. It will be approved soon.”

*Courtesy: christiansinpakistan.com*

## Pakistan Mango Festival held in Morocco

Pakistan (TDAP) jointly organized a Pakistan Mango Festival in Morocco from 7th to 8th August 2016.

According to press release, The festival was held in four cities of Morocco simultaneously including Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakech and Agadir on August 7, 2016, where the public were presented Pakistani mangoes in the form of chunks and juices.

This event was organized in collaboration with Marjane hypermarket which is one of the biggest chain-store in Morocco, while display area of various shopping malls was decorated with publicity and promotion material related with mangoes from Pakistan especially prepared and printed in French language.

These events received a highly



positive and exceptional response from the public. The general public appreciated the delicious taste of Pakistani mango terming as far superior as any other mango they have tasted and they also demanded that this mango should be made available in the Moroccan market.

The main corporate event of the Pakistan Mango Festival was held in a five star local hotel at Casablanca on 8th August 2016 in which the leading business community of Morocco was in-

vited along with the government officials and media personnel. Ministry of Agriculture of Morocco also collaborated with Embassy of Pakistan through participation of representatives of local Agriculture Chambers of Commerce. The Chef of the hotel prepared variety of dishes from Pakistani mango and served with fresh mango fruit, mango juice and mango milk shakes. Video on Vibrant Pakistan and a documentary on Pakistani Mangoes were also played during the

event. Brochures and News Letter printed in French language containing vital information on Pakistani mangoes were also distributed. Each guest was gifted with mangoes and promotional t-shirts & caps.

While speaking at the event, the Ambassador of Pakistan in Morocco encouraged the business community to explore the possibilities of importing Pakistani mangoes.

The business community showed great interest in Pakistani mangoes and enquired about different aspects of mangoes from Pakistan. They were very hopeful that the demand of Pakistani mangoes will be generated in Morocco with events like these and will enable them to import delicious mangoes from Pakistan.

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## 'We are drawn to mountains wherever they take us'

Slovenian climbers Ales Cesen and Luka Lindic climbed Broad Peak, the first mountain they have summited that stands higher than 8,000 metres, this summer.



Mr Cesen, 34, and Mr Lindic, 28, also completed the north summit of Gasherbrum IV, which stands at 7,925 metres – 20 metres shorter than the main summit.

Dawn caught up with both mountaineers, who are some of the finest technical climbers and the winners of the Piolets d'Or 2015 – an event that celebrated the greatest ascents in the world.

**Q: How were you two the only ones to summit Broad Peak when others could not?**

**Cesen:** We were in Pakistan to climb Gasherbrum IV. We chose Broad Peak, which, though difficult is mostly a steep climb, to acclimatize and prepare for a G-IV, a bigger challenge. Our strategy on Broad Peak was simple: no gear and less energy wasted on setting camps and fixing ropes. We were motivated and the climbing conditions were good so we made it to the top in one attempt.

**Q: Why did you choose Gasherbrum IV?**

**Lindic:** G-IV is so appealing and the difficulty of the climb so challenging. Of course K2 is very impressive. A lot of climbers go after the 8,000 metre plus peaks but we prefer peaks that are technically difficult to climb and throw more challenges at us. Knee high snow on G-IV, wind against us, throwing us off balance, and the small avalanches, all made the descent dangerous.

**Q: How can mountaineering be improved in Pakistan?**

**Lindic:** The system needs to be improved to make the service standards of liaison officers and porters better. Although we had the best liaison officer this year, he wasn't fit and slowed us

down. We pay \$3,100 for a liaison officer in charges, we would like the services provided to match the exorbitant prices.

**Q: Does negative news and threats of terror, especially after the incident at the Nanga Parbat base camp three years ago, give you second thoughts about coming to Pakistan?**

**Lindic:** Sure you think about these things, but then there are idiots in every country. We are drawn to mountains wherever they take us.

**Cesen:** People in Pakistan are amazing. Both of us loved the small villages where we felt the safest. The natural environment is amazing. It has been a positive experience every time we visited Pakistan.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pakistani honoured with highest youth award in Australia



In the space of only three years, a 20-year-old Pakistani has managed to impress the Australian state of Victoria with his volunteering work with migrant communities and was duly awarded one of the highest ranking youth awards there.

Khurram Jahangir Khan, a former student of The City School PAF Chapter, was awarded Young Victorian of the Year 2016. The award was presented in Melbourne by the Victoria

Day Council as part of Victoria Day celebrations on July 1.

Two Pakistanis presented Young Leaders Award by Queen Elizabeth

Currently a University of Melbourne Biomedical student, Khan says he loves to volunteer. "I was inspired by our culture of generosity and selfless care. But I must acknowledge, exceptional people including Sir Abdus Sattar Edhi, Dr Adeb

Rizvi and Dame Elizabeth Murdoch who played a huge role in shaping my passions," Khan said.

"Volunteerism is a core element of leadership, as I sometimes say, it teaches the true subjects of life; the chemistry of a community and the physics of a society. Moreover, joining Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program, directly linked me to migrant communities and refugees," he added.

Khan volunteers with several local and international organisations in Victoria, including Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning (SAIL), where he is the coordinator and mentor for migrants with a non-English background.

Pakistani doctor wins prestigious entrepreneurship award in London

No stranger to awards, Khan was earlier named the New

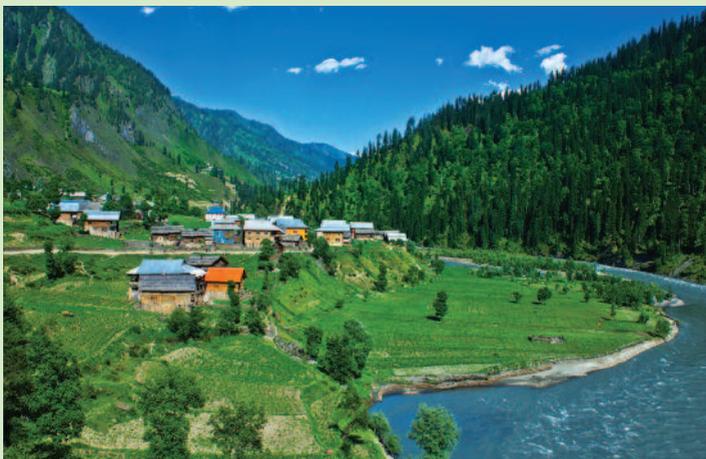
Resident Volunteer of the Year – Victorian Premier's Volunteer Award 2014 for his outstanding contribution to the Australian and international community.

The 20-year-old is also an Alumni Representative for the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Victoria, where his role is to create leadership opportunities for the participants. He has also received the Mayoral Youth Award from Wyndham City Council in May 2014 for the category 'volunteering, community service and leadership'.

While studying in Pakistan, Khurram was 'Student of the Year 2013' at The City School PAF Chapter, A Level Section. During his time at The City School (Melbourne), he actively participated in volunteer and charity work and received a commendation for his work as the President of the Outreach Society (2012-13).

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## More than one million tourists visited northern areas of Pakistan this season



More than one million tourists, locals and foreigners, visited the northern areas during the current season, said Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Policy & Promotion Manager Mukhtar Ali. "The growth in tourists visiting

these areas increased by 25% as compared to last year due to measures taken by the government to improve law and order situation in those areas," he said. Pakistan has great potential for adventure tourism, said Ali, adding that the country has the

world's highest mountains that are a great attraction.

He said that the country has the distinction of having five peaks above 8,000 meters each, including the second loftiest mountain, K-2.

Pakistan also has the largest glaciers on the globe outside the polar region, which offers tremendous attraction for adventurers.



The manager revealed that the PTDC planned to further streamline facilities for tourists in various destinations and was in consultations with provinces to devise a joint strategy to improve the sector.

He said that it was a good sign that the people are visiting tourists' points without security especially Naran, Ayubia, Swat, Gilgit and Skardu. Responding to a question, he said the PTDC has a chain of 39 motels and three restaurants, which are providing the best facilities to tourists. "We are providing international level boarding and lodging facilities," Ali added.

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Pakistan wins top ranking after Windies-India Test draw

Pakistan have gained the number one Test ranking after the fourth and final Test of the series between the West Indies and India was abandoned as a draw because of a waterlogged outfield on the scheduled fifth morning in Trinidad.

The draw meant India surrendered the top spot in the Test rankings to Pakistan after they had gained it due to the



whitewash of Australia in Sri Lanka.

But they needed to defeat the West Indies 3-0 to prevent their arch-rivals from supplanting them at the top, following a 2-2 series draw in England.

However, India still won the series 2-0, the first time they won two Tests in a series in the West Indies.

*Courtesy: The News*

## Samar Khan becomes first woman to cycle atop Biafo Glacier

Pakistani cyclist Samar Khan has become the first woman in the world to ride cycle on 4,500 meter high Biafo Glacier in the Karakoram Mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan.

She had set out on a long excursion from Islamabad to Skardu on July 24 and had covered more than 1,000 kilometer inside 15 days. She then trekked from Shagar region's town called Skooli for three days and came to Biafo Glacier.



Masters in Physics from Federal Urdu University in Islamabad, a trekker, athlete and a certified para-glider, Samar hails from Lower Dir in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

She is also the national record holder of cycling over 4,693 meters by covering 1000km (In tour to Khunjerab) besides

being a trained MMA fighter, member of national youth assembly and a social activist.

Samar is also the brand ambassador of 'Ladies of Pakistan'.

A motivational and Tedx Speaker 2016, a freelancer blogger and an online teacher, she discovered this skill after meeting her adventure buddy, Guliafshan in 'Army School Of Physical Training', Kakul.

This is not the first time Khan

has cycled this long as she has already cycled from the federal capital to Khunjerab.

The athlete has been honoured with a few certificates by Tourism Department of Gilgit-Baltistan and is set to visit the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly as guest today.

*Courtesy: www.brecorder.com*

## Pakistan Army wins international sniping competition in Beijing

Pakistan Army soldiers have won an international sniping and shooting competition in Beijing, said the Inter-Services Public Relations on Thursday.

In July, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) C-130 Hercules transport aircraft won the Concours D'Elegance trophy at the Royal International Air Tattoo



The team representing Pakistan Army secured first position in all individual and team events.

Naik Arshad was declared the best sniper in the competition, which was attended by 21 teams representing 14 countries.

(RIAT) Show 2016 at Royal Air Force Base Fair Ford in the United Kingdom.

More than 200 aircraft from 50 countries participated in the competition, with the Pakistani contingent stealing the show and winning the trophy.



Last year, a team of Pakistan Army won the gold medal in the premier patrolling event of the British Army - Exercise Cambrian Patrol - beating around 140 teams from armies across the globe.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pakistan-origin woman set to make history as first Baloch female Olympian

Madiea bagged a bronze medal in the 2011 European Athletics Junior Championships in Estonia, where she finished third in the women's 400m event.

On Friday, 23-year-old athlete Madiea Ghafoor will create history when she becomes the first Baloch girl to take part at the Olympics.

The youngster, who will be representing the Netherlands in the 4x400m relay along with her team in Rio, was born and raised in Amsterdam. Her parents though belong to Lyari, and she is the granddaughter of the late Lal Baksh Rind, a senior politician whose diverse work included striving for the betterment of the relatively impoverished locality in Karachi.

Talking about her ethnic



uniqueness in the Games, Madiea revealed she was unaware that she was the first female Baloch to feature at the Olympics.

Shaunae Miller dives for gold at Rio Olympics

"I feel honoured to be a part of this huge event and to be an inspiration for the Baloch people, especially the youth," she said. "I had no idea I was the first Baloch girl to participate at the Games until someone informed me about that. This has made

me even more determined to do the best I can."

Madiea said she has been involved in track and field since a young age and was spotted when she was 13.

"We had a sports event at my high school where my coach Sammy Monsels noticed my potential and asked me if I would pursue formal training," she said. "Ten years down the road, I'm training in the Olympic stadium in Amsterdam with the help of my coach Urtha Rozenstruik."

And Madiea has impressed in her career so far. She bagged a bronze medal in the 2011 European Athletics Junior Championships in Estonia, where she finished third in the women's 400m event, and has raced for the Netherlands in

indoor European championships as well, reaching the semi-finals.

Bolt completes 100m hat-trick in 9.81sec

According to Madiea, she was pleasantly surprised to be selected for the current Olympics as she had had a bad year due to injury. "I was stunned when I received the news, but I was grateful as well," she said. "I have prepared myself physically and mentally for the relay the best I could, and hope I can vindicate my selection."

Madiea said she trains eight times a week — six days on the track and at least two sessions dedicated to gym.

Her message for athletes aspiring to enter the realm of Olympics is simple, "Never give up on your dreams."

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

### PIA starting premier service from Lahore, Islamabad for London

Pakistan International Airline (PIA) is starting their premier service from Lahore and Islamabad for London from the 14th of this month.

With new aircraft, more professional crew and improved service standards, the new service aimed at providing an altogether different



In a statement, PIA spokesman said PIA flights operating on Mondays and Wednesdays from London to Islamabad have been replaced by PIA premier flights while PIA flight operating on Tuesdays from London to Lahore has been replaced by PIA premier flight.

experience to passengers, according to an official statement.

This service will go a long way in helping PIA regain its market share both domestically as well as internationally.

*Courtesy: Daily Pakistan*

### Pakistan forces give Indian troops sweets at Wagah on Independence Day



Pakistani troops distributed sweets to Indian troops at the Wagah border to celebrate Independence Day.

August 14 at Wagah. The two men also exchanged a hug and good wishes.

Rangers Sector Commander Shaukat Ali hugs BSF Commandant Sudeep before presenting sweets. ÆAFP

The Pakistani flag was raised high at the ceremony as the air rang out with cries of Pakistan Zindabad on Sunday morning.

Officer Sector Commander Shaukat Ali from the Pakistan Rangers presented sweets to Indian Border Security Forces Commandant Sudeep during a heavily-attended special parade and ceremony commemorating

Called 'mithai diplomacy', giving out sweets on Pakistan and India's respective Independence Days (and other special occasions) is a regular tradition at Wagah, despite tensions between the two countries.

*Courtesy: Dawn.com*

# Foreigners who took a chance on Pakistan

Pakistan may regularly feature in international news for all the wrong reasons, but these five foreign tourists were far from being deterred from visiting the country. Although they were aware of the news about terrorism and bomb blasts coming out of Pakistan, they are glad they took the plunge and had an experience they are unlikely to forget anytime soon.

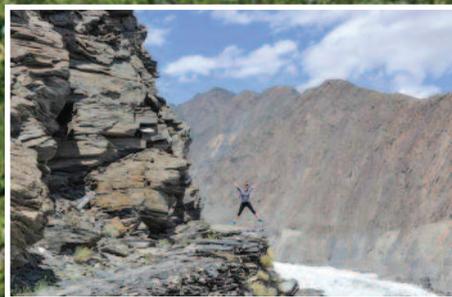
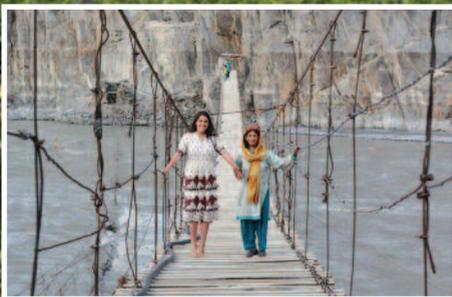
Alex and Sebastiaan quit their jobs, sold off all their belongings and went off on a tour around the roads less traveled of Asia such as Iran, Kazakhstan, and their personal favourite, Pakistan.

Although they admit that before coming to Pakistan, they had only heard bad news about the country, any fears they had flew out the window the moment they arrived. "Even the Levies in Balochistan were smiling and kind. Everyone we met along the way was hospitable beyond words, and we soon learned the views the West holds of Pakistan and Pakistani people are not true at all. A few bad people does not a bad country make."

Sophee Southall, an Australian travel blogger, had intended to stay in Pakistan for two weeks only but floods and the ensuing damage to roads between Sost and the Khunjerab Pass meant her visit was extended to three weeks. For her, it was a blessing in disguise.

"Within minutes of crossing the Wagah border, where I enjoyed a friendly chat and cup of tea with the security staff, my impression of Pakistan started to change. By the end of my trip, it had done a complete 180. The locals treated my travel buddies and me like family; we were granted unconditional hospitality of the highest order. I never felt unsafe and, even as a Western female tourist, I felt valued and respected. It was a heart-warming and enlightening experience."

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*



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