



Positive Post

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

May in History

May 18, 1950:

The Peshawar University comes into being.

May 11, 1951:

University of Karachi is established.

May 14, 1956:

PM Abiha Abdul Majeed presents the first five-year plan.

May 1, 1972:

Labour Day is celebrated for the first time in Pakistan.

May 26, 1980:

Establishment of Federal Shariat Court is announced.

May 16, 1991:

National Assembly adopts Shariat Bill.

May 21, 1997:

Saeed Anwar slams world record score of 194 runs against India.

May 12, 2000:

Supreme Court validated the October 1999 coup and granted General Pervez Musharraf executive and legislative authority for three years.

May 22, 2004:

Pakistan readmitted to Commonwealth.

May 14, 2006:

Charter of democracy (CoD) is signed by two former prime ministers of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto in London.

23 May-15 July 2009:

Pakistan Army launched Operation Rah-e-Rast and cleared Swat Valley of all Taliban elements. It is regarded as one of the most successful counter-insurgency operation in modern age

Younis returns home to Karachi to a hero's welcome

A large crowd gathered at the Jinnah International Airport on Monday to welcome recently-retired Younis Khan as he touched down in Karachi after his final Test against the West Indies.

Younis Khan cemented his place in Pakistan's cricket history as an iconic batsman with unparalleled success. He returns to Pakistan on the back of a historic win against the West Indies, as the jinx of Pakistan never winning a Test series in the Caribbean was lifted.

Over the 17-year span of his career, Khan has been a hugely successful batsman. With a Test average of over 50, a triple-hundred, a double-hundred against India in India and a memorable partnership to clinch Pakistan's 3-0 Test whitewash over England: Khan's career speaks for itself. Khan also became the only batsman to have scored a century in 11 different countries when he smashed the 34th ton of his career at the Sydney Cricket Ground against Australia in 2016.

He is the only Pakistani to have reached the 10,000-runs mark in Test cricket.

He was a busy batsman at the



crease. His batting style, in all its uniqueness, drew a fair amount of scepticism, but his ownership of his style remained unapologetic and firm.

Khan first's major break in international cricket came with his debut Test hundred against Sri Lanka in February 2000 at the Karachi National Stadium. In the second innings of the match, he scored a 107, cementing his place in the team as a strong lower middle-order batsman.

One of his major achievements was leading the Pakistani team to win the 2009 T20 World Cup.

While the cricket board would have to work hard to replace Khan, his retirement will bring him closer to pursuing his lifelong passion of sport fishing

and spending more time with his family.

Courtesy: Dawn

What's inside:

- Atiya Zaidi to attend the 'See It Be It' programme
- This new competition will give women focused startups
- Inspired by tradition: Nazia Ejaz's mirror acrylic work
- After 17 years, Lahore gets a female SHO
- KLF holds events in UK to mark independence anniversary
- From Imran-Miandad to Misbah-Younis: Pakistan's best...
- Dil Say Pakistan: a brand new platform for budding film.....
- Tweaking the path to growth
- Art gallery opens in Muzaffarabad
- he secret of Sindh's memorial stones is out

Atiya Zaidi to attend the 'See It Be It' programme at Cannes Lions

The ECD of Synergy Dentsu is among the 15 women selected from all over the world to attend the event.

Atiya Zaidi, Executive Creative Director, Synergy Dentsu was recently selected to participate in the 'See It Be It' programme at Cannes Lions (to be held from June 17 to June 24) this year. The programme was launched in 2014 with the purpose to identify



promising mid- to senior-level women in the advertising world and help them accelerate their careers – currently only 11% of women reach leadership positions in the creative industry (source: Grant Thornton).

Zaidi, who is the first Pakistani to be selected, was also chosen last year, but couldn't attend the event because her visa was declined by the French Embassy. She is currently waiting for her visa to be issued, and hopes to fly off as soon as she gets it.

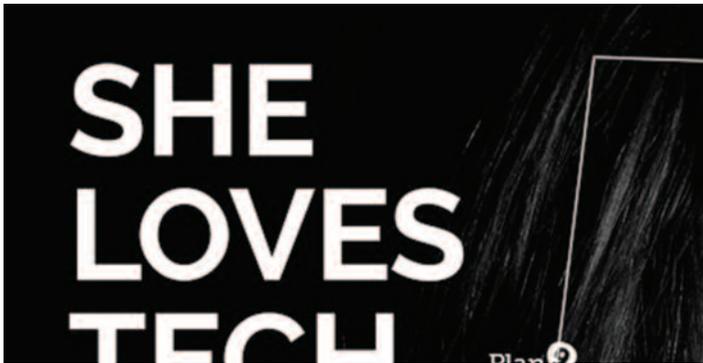
"I hope and pray I live to breathe the seaside air of Cannes."

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

This new competition will give women focused startups an opportunity to shine

She Loves Tech Pakistan 2017 will send its winner to a week-long tech bootcamp in China! Calling all women-focused start-ups!

Interested participants can register themselves here before June 23. The top finalist of the Pakistani round will get to participate with finalists from Canada,



A competition titled She Loves Tech Pakistan 2017 is set to take place in July and the winner gets to go to China for a week-long bootcamp!

The competition is open to all female-founded start-ups seeking angel, seed or A round funding or startups that impact women positively using technology. In the competition, entrepreneurs will present their businesses to investors and other tech influencers. The exact date and location of the competition is yet to be announced, but in-

China, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Singapore in the global competition in China in September this year.

The competition is not only an opportunity to receive constructive feedback, but also gain lots of international exposure.

The Pakistan round has been organised by Circle, a social enterprise focused on women's economic inclusion and leadership development.

Courtesy: Dawn

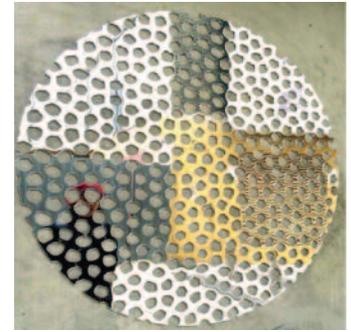
Inspired by tradition: Nazia Ejaz's mirror acrylic work lights up Canvas Gallery

These three interlinked concepts were used by and served as sources of inspiration for artist Nazia Ejaz in her exhibit, 'The Green Room', which opened at the Canvas Gallery on Tuesday.

Most notable in display were the images done up in laser cut mirror acrylics and other works in oil and gold leaf on linen.

From the use of grill patterns to several screens to missing pieces of glass, my paintings are also a reference to traditions, she said.

Her work is a part of the work she did in Adelaide, Australia in Nexus Residency for about three months, last year. Meanwhile, she is currently in the process of moving back to Pakistan from Australia where she was living with her family since the past 12 years.



The daughter of melody queen Noor Jehan, Ejaz commented that to a great extent, her mother's creativity was reflected in her too as an artist. "You'll find her presence everywhere here today," she said.

Ejaz has toyed with the concepts of identity and migration, focusing on her own roots.

her end about her identity and roots.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Hidden gems: Unver Shafi Khan exhibits his work after 13 years

Works by reclusive artist Unver Shafi Khan were exhibited at Koel Art Gallery on Thursday evening. The artist said he primarily spends his time focused on his work as he gets to narrate his tale.

These artwork pieces on display are acrylics on canvas done up in a Fabulist style. They were all painted between June 2015 and December 2016.

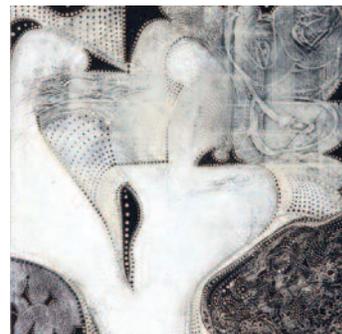
Karachi-based artist Khan said his last exhibition was at Canvas Gallery in 2004. Where has he been for the past 13 years? "I was



doing group shows after the Canvas event but I really wanted everything to calm down and be quieter," he explained.

In this series of paintings, which are more tilted towards abstracts, one finds a collection unlike any other collection in town. The work is hard to define and yet a pure joy for the eyes to view. Noticeably, there are varied colours in the works and viewers get to enjoy the vibrancy of the work as well as the symbolism.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune



After 17 years, Lahore gets a female SHO

A female sub-inspector was appointed the station house officer (SHO) of a regular police station in Lahore on Friday.

DIG Operations Dr Haider Ashraf promoted Ghazala Sharif to the post of the Rang Mahal Police Station SHO – making her the first woman to have been appointed to this position in the city after 17 years.

Besides, sub-inspector Nabila Kausar has been appointed the SHO of the women's Race Course Police Station (RCPS). The Punjab CM's Strategic Reforms Unit (Law & Order) tweeted:



Lahore, the provincial capital of Punjab, a city of approximately 15 million people, has 84 police stations. However, there is only one women's police station in the city. The RCPS is used to keep female suspects behind bars. Cases whereby both the suspect and the person who has filed a complaint are female are registered at the RCPS.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

This young musician from KP has mastered over six instruments

Shaukat Paniyal, a young artist from Dera Ismail Khan, enjoys a unique art of playing six musical instruments with great skill.

He can play six wind instruments including flute, saxophone, clarinet, Naulophone, Soprano and Surna. He launched his music career 16 years ago.

Born to a pipe player family, he grew up with a natural filial for playing pipe instruments. When still a teenager, he used to play with his father's flute and occasionally tried to play it but one day his father decided to remove his son's curiosity and began transferring his art to him.

He is not only a skilled instrumentalist but also keeps on ex-

perimenting with new musical tools. Two years ago, he invented a new Pashto wind musical instrument which he called 'Naulophone'. It is made of cane having finger-holes.

He said that in early 60s, Zarnosh Ustad invented a wind musical instrument from wheat staff or straws named 'Druza'. He said that Naulophone had different sound features as Druza had five tunes while Naulophone had seven tunes.

Master Ali Haider, a senior music composer, told this scribe that Pashto folk music had a bright future and change in any field was inevitable but not at the cost of losing a culture.

Shaukat Paniyal has performed in Dubai, Qatar and Kabul. "If we want to save our indigenous culture, we must safeguard our musical instruments because music is closely linked to folk poetry and both music and poetry are reflective of the past of a nation," he said.

Courtesy: Dawn



KLF holds events in UK to mark independence anniversary



Marking the 70th anniversary of Pakistan's foundation, the Karachi Literature Festival (KLF) held a series of events in London's Southbank Centre on Saturday. Tickets had sold out as soon as they became available and the 20 events at the festival attracted capacity audiences.

Sessions ranged from talks by authors, discussions and poetry readings to musical performances.

The keynote address was given by leading Pakistani writer Mohammed Hanif whose rapid tour of Pakistani history highlighted the difficulties faced by the country's authors. He recounted how in recent times one had been shot after organising a discussion; another, a journalist, faced a high-level inquiry because he reported that, sometimes, the army and politicians don't agree, and a third was lynched because of a Facebook post.

Highlighting cases of the disappeared in Pakistan and quoting Human Rights Commission data, Mr Hanif said that 728 people had been disappeared in 2016 — the highest number in the past six years. But writing about the disappeared was so dangerous,

he pointed out, that one risked becoming disappeared himself.

In her speech, the organiser and managing director of Oxford University Press in Pakistan, Aameenah Saiyid, said that "despite its image most Pakistanis are moderate because of our Sufi tradition".

Talking to Dawn after the event, Ms Saiyid said she had chosen to have KLF in the British capital because "London is the ideal place because of its diaspora of over a million people of Pakistan origin who want to be reconnected with their roots".

High-profile speakers included the former co-chair of the British Conservative Party, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, who spoke about her new book *The Enemy Within: A Tale of Muslim Britain*.

Speaking about the purpose of the KLF in London, Ms Saiyid said that she was hoping to move beyond the images of Pakistan that are dominant in the media. "The purpose is to raise the profile of Pakistani authors and project a more accurate and holistic image of Pakistan," she said.

Courtesy: Dawn

From Imran-Miandad to Misbah-Younis: Pakistan's best cricketing duo

2010 brought 35 year old Misbah-ul-Haq, the most un-Pakistani cricketer and an even more unlikely national captain, a complete antithesis of Imran Khan and his prodigies.

His first assignment as captain was a series against South Africa. Dubai International Cricket stadium was hosting its first Test match as team Misbah laid foundations to their fortress.

South Africa set a 451 run fourth inning target for Pakistan, who were bundled for 248 in the first innings. With four sessions to go, a Pakistan loss seemed inevitable.

Then, Mis|You (Misbah-ul-Haq and Younis Khan) came together and provided what would be a template for Pakistan cricket for the next seven years. They refused to lose. Misbah batted 225 minutes and Younis Khan for 344 minutes. Both remained not out.

Younis, the man of the match,



was making a come back after a one and a half year altercation (ban, retirement, fine, no one was quite sure, including Younis himself) with the administration and teammates.

Finally, Younis had a captain who gave him the liberty and respect he demanded, and a man Younis could respect and admire in return.

Mis|You went onto score 3,213 runs in partnership at an average of 68.36 - the highest by any Pakistani pair in Test history. They got a century stand 15

times, that puts them sixth in the all time list and makes them the only Pakistanis in the top 20.

Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar lead with twenty 100+ partnerships. But Mis|You were more than twice as likely to get a century partnership than the Indian legends.

In total, Mis|You have 50 Test wins, 26 of them in away tests and 15 of them outside Asia.

And if anyone doubts the power behind these engines, Misbah holds the record of the maximum number of sixes hit by any Pak-

istani batsman ever, 81. And Younis is number two with 70 sixes. No one else even touches 60.

But how do you weigh the respect that Mis|You earned back for Pakistan on English soil?

How do you measure the worth of dignity and honour they brought for Pakistan cricket?

They showed that a bunch of corrupt and divided match winners can win the odd game or two on their own, but it takes a well-knit team to become the world's number one. When unity, faith and discipline meets hard work, it can create its own magic.

How can you quantify integrity? Especially in a place where it has been so scarce!

How can Mis|You ever be replaced? I have the answer to that. They cannot!

Courtesy: Dawn

More students in Pakistan learning Mandarin today than ever before

A WHITE statue of Chinese philosopher Confucius stands tall and behind it is the impressive building of the Confucius Institute — the rebranded Chinese language department at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML).

This institute, like several others around the globe, was set up to promote Chinese language and culture. It was founded with support from the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), and the Beijing Language and Culture University in April 2005.

The NUML's Chinese language department, however, has been around for nearly half a century. When it was set up in Septem-

ber 1970, it had only 13 students. Over the years, however, the interest in the department has increased exponentially.

Job market
Learning Chinese has certainly helped alumni acquire jobs in the past. Zeeshan Mehmood, a former student of the NUML, says that after finishing his Chinese language course in 2014, he got a job as a translator in a Chinese construction company working with Pakistan.

The institute clearly recognises this. A few years ago, it started offering a short-term course focused on 'Business Chinese' language.

The curriculum focuses not only on the language, but also basic



etiquettes that students may need while doing business in China. The course has books like one titled "ABC Business Negotiation".

But not all students have aspirations of doing business in China. Ms Mustafa says that students are also showing more interest in Chinese because after learning the language, they go to pursue Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in China. The increased interest in learn-

ing Chinese not only means that more students from across Pakistan are enlisting in the NUML, it has also resulted in Confucius institutes opening in different parts of the country. Right now there are four institutes; one each in Islamabad, Faisalabad (Agriculture University), Lahore (Punjab University) and Karachi (University of Karachi). The building of another institute is under construction in Gilgit.

Courtesy: Dawn

FryPan's fusion qatlamas are a must-have for the Lahori foodie

Does FryPan's unique fusions mean it's here to stay?

The last time I went to a restaurant, I had objections to their approach: elaborate menu, trying to please everyone with various cuisines and no signature dishes. So, coincidentally, the restaurant that I ended up at recently addressed all these concerns.

FryPan had been on my mind since it opened up back in March. It's a predominantly desi place, and there's not much you can do with local food, but the reason I wanted to try it out was that they were serving 'fusion qatlama'. And the pictures piqued my interest further.

Located in the back lanes of DD block in DHA facing a residential area, FryPan is a small eatery, with a congested ground floor that leads to the dining area upstairs. Upon entering, you encounter the live kitchen and on your way upstairs notice three frying pans hanging on the wall. Along with a friend, I went at lunch time and found the small dining area brightened up with sunlight flowing in through the glass window at the front. The chili cheese bites were a pleasant start to the meal

Settling down, I knew I wanted the 'qatlama', at least. But we started off with the Chilli Cheese Bites that sounded tempting. These cubes of cottage cheese, crispy on the outside, soft inside and glazed with an in-house hot, spicy sauce mixed with slices of capsicum, onion and tomatoes were, obviously hot, but a delectable, light appetiser. A pleasant start to a meal.

The qatlamas are their specialty

Next, we ordered their specialty: the Mexican and Moroccan qatlamas. These eight-inch 'pies' are served in a frying pan and each is meant for two people. FryPan's own take on the desi delicacy, these are nothing like the large, thin, pancake-like, oil-laden qatlamas you may have had outside shrines or at melas. This is an inspired dish, one that's fresh, filling and delicious; two crispy layers, stuffed, and topped with traditional herbs and spices.

Look at the cheese in that Mexican qatlama. The Mexican qatlama is generously filled



with grilled chicken, red sauce, capsicum, onion, tomatoes and olives. And if you have cheese added to it, it oozes out as you bite into it. The Moroccan qatlama is also filled with grilled chicken but mixed with a mildly spicy sauce and herbs. Both were served with tamarind sauce.

You may order the qatlamas expecting something on the lines of the traditional treat, and these may not be close to them, but what you get does tick all the right boxes: the filling is cooked well with the right amount of spice and sauce where needed, they're fresh, crispy outside and appetising. And not a bad deal for Rs500. Full points to FryPan for introducing something unique.

Creamy chicken curry

We also tried two of their gravies: Butter Chicken comprised tender, boneless chunks of chicken cooked in smooth creamy, buttery gravy served with soft, fresh naan. The sweet and sour tinge from butter and cream made this one a mouth-watering treat.

Their handi is another popular dish like the hari mirch

The other gravy we ordered was Chicken Hari Mirch. This thick green curry with boneless chicken pieces cooked in green chillies and herbs had a distinct chilli taste, yet the amount of spice was appropriate and not overpowering. Something worth spending on, and not bad for Rs700 and Rs650 for both the gravies, respectively.

Light and crispy coconut naan

To cap the meal, we had their coconut and gurr (jaggery) naans, and I have to say they were scrumptious. The Coconut Naan was super light, thin, soft, filled with the right

amount of grated coconut and thankfully not an overdose of sugar. Similarly, the Gurr Wala Naan was soft, thin and topped with a layer of light jaggery syrup. I expected it to be uncomfortably sweet, but, fortunately, this too was appropriately sweet and not overwhelming. Quite satisfactory desserts for someone with a massive sweet tooth as me.

Some other items on the menu included burgers, which frankly I wasn't drawn towards sitting in a local restaurant, as well as biryani, papri chaat, kulfi and a wide range of drinks – mocktails, shakes, smoothies. If they manage to maintain quality and consistency, they have some delicious food to offer.

Courtesy: Dawn

Dil Say Pakistan: a brand new platform for budding film-makers

The fifth round of the 60-second international film festival (60SIFF), Dil say Pakistan, was held at the Punjab University, Lahore and Alhamrah Hall on two separate days to celebrate the endeavours of aspiring film-makers from across the globe. The event – organised by the Express Media Group, 60SIFF and Dil say Pakistan, witnessed a colossal crowd including students from different universities of the metropolis.



Renowned drama writer Asghar Nadeem Sayed was the chief guest on the occasion while other entertainment personalities were also in attendance. The affair was part of a nationwide celebration on this year's theme of Colours of your Country that started off from Islamabad and is now taking place in different cities of Pakistan.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Twinking the path to growth

Breaking low-growth shackles, the economy moved past the 5pc (in 2007-08) economic growth rate to an estimated 5.28pc — highest in around nine years.

The government is expected to spend more than Rs800 billion allocated for the public sector development programme by year end owing to higher than targeted foreign aid flows.

While there may be those pointing out that the GDP growth target of 5.7pc was missed except for some slippages on the manufacturing side, all other sectors particularly agriculture and services, either achieved or surpassed targets after a gap of many years. This calls for more effort than complacency.

With more than Rs2.1 trillion public sector investments next year, the coming year's economic growth target has been set at 6pc.



In a major policy shift, devolved programmes like health and education would no more be part of federal PSDP 'in accordance with the division of subjects between provincial and federal governments in the post 18th amendment scenario'.

A major focus of the upcoming development plan appeared to be allocations for non-core PSDP that included Rs45bn for the PM's Global Sustainable Development Goals, Rs20bn for the PM's Initiative, Rs25bn for gas development schemes, Rs45bn each for security enhancement and

relief and rehabilitation of internally displaced persons.

As such, the core PSDP would be put at Rs866bn against Rs655bn of the current year while non-core development spending would amount to Rs135bn. A special allocation of Rs27bn has been made for completion of CPEC projects.

Completion of CPEC would continue to be the top objective of the next budget with Rs324bn allocation for National Highway Authority instead of Rs190bn of this year.

Another Rs61bn would go to power sector instead of Rs130bn this year, perhaps due to nearing completion of major generation projects. The total Rs385bn allocation for CPEC would also include foreign funding of Rs145bn.

Courtesy: Dawn

Two-day Express Career and Education Expo 2017 concludes in Karachi

A huge turnout of students and the general public was witnessed on the second and last day of Express Career and Education Expo 2017 held on Sunday at the Expo Centre.

The education expo, organised by the Express Media Group, was held with the aim to provide career counseling opportunities and ideas for young students under one roof. Over 58 stalls were set up by 15 universities from across the country. Scientist Dr Attaur Rahman inaugurated the education expo on Saturday. He visited various stalls and met students who were attending the expo.

Different activities were organised for participants in Expo Centre's Hall III. Various competitions were held among different universities. Tabani School of Accountancy secured first position in the advertising campaign competition, while Iqra University and PAF-KIET were the runners-up. Iqra University bagged first position in singing competition, while the runners-up were PAF-KIET and Sir Syed University of Engineering Technology.

Iqra University also managed to secure first position in photography competition while NED and Preston universities were the runners-up. Shields were distributed among participants by Nadeem Murad and Mehboob



Elahi, senior marketing executives of the Express Media Group.

The dance competition was won by Greenwich University, while Iqra University and Arena Multimedia were the runners-up. Aleena Ahmed, a participant of the dance competition, said the event provided them with not just entertainment but with opportunities to get information about universities.

Participating universities were divided into two categories of platinum and gold partners of the expo. The platinum partners included Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology, DHA Suffa University, PAF-KIET, Iqra University and Oxford University Press. The gold partners included Sindh Madrassatul Islam University, Fatima Jinnah Dental College, Habib University, Usman Institute of Technology, Maritime Training Institute, United Medical and Dental College, Barrett Hodgson University and Superior College.

Courtesy: Dawn

Art gallery opens in Muzaffarabad

An art gallery dedicated to the Pakistan Movement and the Kashmir cause opened its doors to the visitors on Sunday.



AJK premier Farooq Haider inaugurated the Sailani Art Gallery in the state capital Muzaffarabad.

This is the first ever art gallery in the AJK capital showcasing pictures and portraits of social, political, religious, literary figures of heroes of Kashmir freedom struggle and Pakistan Movement.

The gallery has been established by the famous artist of AJK Syed Qasim Sailani. PM Haider appreciated his effort for promoting the message of Kashmir through art.

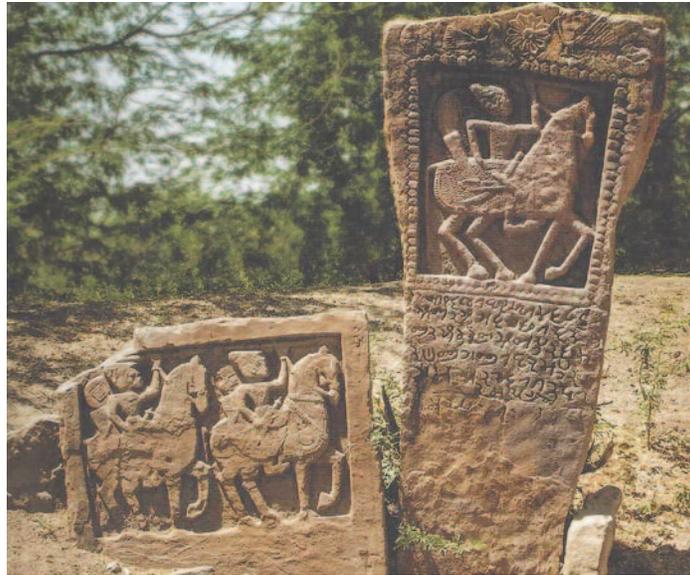
Courtesy: The Express Tribune

The secret of Sindh's memorial stones is out

Over three decades ago, I saw for the first time a stele on the bank of Bhodesar pond outside Nagarparkar town in Sindh's Thar region. It was a time of drought. The pond was dry and an upright sandstone slab was standing there.

The slab carried a beautiful carving of a horse rider, his raised left hand holding what appeared to be a staff. At his waist was a quiver bristling with arrows. In a panel immediately below the artistic rendering were a few lines of writing that I thought was in Hindi. Nearby was another slab bearing what was clearly the depiction of a woman. Her dress was notable for being quite similar to the ghagra still worn in Thar.

The loose ends of her ornate cummerbund came down to her knees. To the right of the woman's figure was an arm raised upward as if in salutation. This disembodied arm was covered with bangles above the elbow — just as Hindu and Jain Thari women adorn their arms to this day. The writing on the second slab was much longer



than that on the slab with the male figure.

Back then it was difficult to find an expert to divulge the secrets of the story and symbolism preserved in those stones. All I learned was that these were memorials to famous personages buried beneath them.

About that time I became acquainted with German scholar Dr Salome Zajadacz-Hastenrath's seminal work on the funerary art of Sindh's Chaukhandi tombs. I saw a vague similarity between the elaborate Chaukhandi carvings and the stele of Bhodesar. But nothing more.

It is only now, with the recent publication of *Memorial Stones Tharparkar* by Dr Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro, that the secret of Bhodesar is fully out: the stelae by the pond are not the only ones present in Sindh. Memorial stones harking back to historical persons and events are liberally strewn throughout the desert of Thar. We also now know that the Bhodesar stones celebrate Naraji, a prince who was sacrificed by his father Bhodo Thakur so that the pond was never empty of water.

Such memorials to local heroes are unknown in Punjab and other parts of northern Pakistan — as well as in northern parts of India. Unsurprisingly, however, we find the same art forms widespread in India's Kutch region which is adjacent to Thar.

Kalhoro tells us the carved stones preserve tales of heroism of old. The hero — vir, surmo, jhujhar, surayah or sarfarosh in local languages — is celebrated for bravely resisting enemies and losing his life in combat. Intriguingly, many of the heroes lost their lives when one wedding procession crossed another or refused to give way in the crossing. In such cases, the grooms faced off in one-on-one combats — a rather meaningless Rajput silliness to engage in, one would say.

In some other events, the heroes lost their lives attempting to retrieve cattle from rustlers. We know that cattle-rustling was prevalent across the Subcontinent and we also know that successful rustlers were celebrated in their communities as superior combatants. Consequently, the one to retrieve his cattle from a famous villainous rustler was deemed a hero of great stature. And if he lost his life in the bar-

gain, he was duly commemorated through depiction in stone.

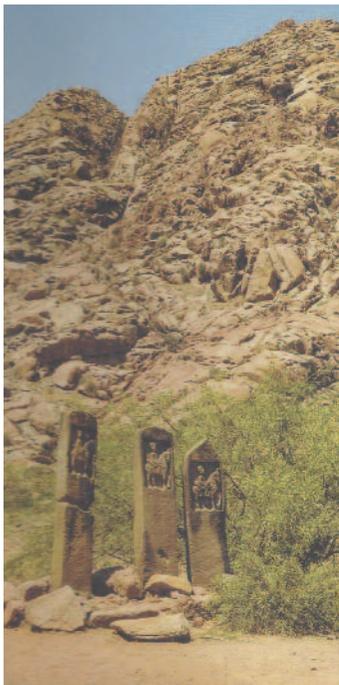
Among all those heroes, jhujhar was the most venerated, notes Kalhoro. He embodied sat — goodness, truth and character. In order to avenge the ultimate disgrace of decapitation by his enemy, he continued to fight headless. He only collapsed after having killed a number of his enemies.

Memorial stones were introduced to Thar sometime in the 10th and 11th century, according to Kalhoro. He lists 11 different kinds of memorials carved either from sandstone and granite or coarse calciferous rocks. Many of these monuments celebrate heroes and their exploits through elaborate carvings; others are unadorned upright slabs and even cairns. Still others depict sati, a woman cremating herself on the pyre of her spouse or son.

The iconography on the stones documented in the book is handsome. One sees turbaned men in elaborate Rajput battle dresses, shod with fancy footwear and sitting astride gaily caparisoned horses. The riders bear swords in their right hands and spears in triumphantly raised left hands. Shields can be seen on their backs.

Sati stones show equally gaily dressed women holding dead heroes in their laps. They can either be standing upright or sitting cross-legged, apparently awaiting along with a rider-less camel in front of him is celebration of a hero who successfully retrieved his stolen animals — the same event that is celebrated on many memorial stones from Thar.

www.herald.dawn.com



Breaking barriers: The girl who rode a motorbike through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Gulafshan Tariq travelled through KP and GB on a motorbike to secure herself a mention in the National Book of Records.

At 24 years of age, Gulafshan Tariq has ridden right through patriarchal barriers of 'social acceptability' on her motorbike tour of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan from May 6 to May 23.

The software engineer from Sargodha managed the feat alone, visiting Shangla, Swat, Mansehra, Gilgit Baltistan, Chitral, Malakand and Upper and Lower Dir on her trusty motorbike.

"I travelled 3,000 kilometres on the rugged roads of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, mostly through tourist hot spots," Tariq told Dawn. "My travels have taught me much about the rich Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region," she added, beaming at her achievement.

"It was a dream to travel through

Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan alone and show the world how peaceful these areas actually are," Tariq said.

"It was difficult, I met a number of minor accidents because of the state of roads in the region, but I'm grateful to God that there was no lasting harm."

Praising KP's tribes' hospitality and "warm hearts", she said the locals were always forthcoming and appreciated her efforts.

"I have travelled nearly 4,000 kilometres up till now: my next destination is Kohat, after



which I will travel to Islamabad to conclude my journey."

Talking about her inspiration for the tour, Tariq said it was her father's travels over the world that got her interested in the idea of taking a bike tour on the less-travelled roads of KP.

Tariq is happy to have managed to secure herself a mention in the National Book of Records by becoming the only woman to have travelled to every district of Phakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan alone on a motorbike.

Courtesy: Dawn

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