

Positive Post



Greenwich University
Pakistan-Mauritius

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

November in History

November 26, 1964:

President Ayub Khan inaugurates Pakistan Television Lahore Station.

November 13, 1966:

Punjab city of Montgomery renamed Sahiwal.

November 18, 1966:

Pakistan awards Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Egyptian vocalist Umm-i-Kulsoom for singing the poetry of Allama Iqbal.

November 18, 1967:

Pakistan awards Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Egyptian vocalist Umm-i-Kulsoom for singing the poetry of Allama Iqbal.

November 24, 1978:

Pakistan wins Hockey Champion Trophy at Lahore, defeating Australia.

November 30, 1987:

Local bodies election held throughout the country.

November 16, 1988:

General elections held. PPP wins 92, IJI secures 54.

November 13, 1993:

Farooq Laghari elected eighth President of Pakistan.

November 10, 2001:

US President Bush meets President Musharraf in New York and assures additional aid of one billion dollar.

November 23, 2002:

Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali sworn in as Prime Minister.

November 6, 2012:

US polls event organised in US embassy in Pakistan.

President inaugurates Karachi Dhabeji train service

President Dr Arif Alvi will inaugurate a special train service between Karachi and Dhabeji today to ensure comfortable, fast, safe and affordable movement of workers between the metropolis and the border town of Thatta district.

In Dhabeji, a special economic zone was being developed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor by the Sindh government, Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed announced on Tuesday during a press conference.

The nine bogies train would start at 6:15 am from Dhabeji and at 7:00 am from Karachi.

The fare would range between Rs25 and Rs80. However, Pakistan Railways would offer monthly travelling passes to the workers at subsidised rates, which would cost them Rs22 per day. The service would be free on November 1.

The Ministry of Railways would provide full support to Karachi Circular Railways project for its timely execution and successful operation, the minister assured.

He said a fast-track train between Karachi and Hyderabad would also be launched soon, and later expanded to Sukkur.

The government, he said, planned to run the time-efficient Rehman Baba train between Karachi and Peshawar, and the number of freight trains would be increased to 15 as Pakistan Railways could only be made profitable when its freight service was strengthened and



upgraded.

Rasheed also said his ministry planned to run a fast-track train between Quetta and Taftan.

In phases, the entire railways tracks would be replaced with much better tracks of international standards.

"We are asking private parties to come up with freight trains. Pay only rent for tracks and signals to the government," he said.

In last 60 days, the Railways Ministry had come up with seven trains to facilitate the people as up to 70 percent of the population of the country was living at both sides of the railways tracks, he said. A quality railways network was vital for the success of CPEC and the present government was giving due importance to its upgradation and development.

Drawing attention to unmanned railways crossings leading to accidents, he said there were over 1,000 unmanned crossings.

For safety of the people and to save

Pakistan Railways' land from encroachment, fencing would be done on permanent basis across the country, the minister said.

He further shared that he was going to China with Prime Minister Imran Khan on November 1, where a detailed discussion would be made with Chinese authorities on railways matters including procurement of new engines through open bidding.

Courtesy: The Nation

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

High-flying Pakistan eye 11th straight T20 series triumph

Pakistan will look to finish off the series when they face New Zealand in the second Twenty20 International here at the Dubai International Stadium on Friday.

For a team coming out of a seven-month hiatus from international cricket, New Zealand did quite well to brush off the dust and give Pakistan a scare in the first T20 of the three-match series at Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Having been restricted to 148-6 by a varied New Zealand attack, Pakistan were able to escape with a two-run victory. Pakistan will now have their eyes set on closing out the series in the very next game, to build on the 10-series winning streak.

New Zealand will rue the missed opportunity in the first game, but will take heart from what was still quite a decent performance.

The tourists' bowling and top-order batting were particularly good, but they will want to be better prepared to tackle the spinners with the slightly softer ball in the middle overs.



In the first game, they slipped from 79-1 to 89-4, which severely dented their chase. Colin Munro did the heavy scoring at the top of the order with a 42-ball 58, but after his dismissal things went downhill.

The New Zealand batsmen will want to take a leaf out of Ross Taylor's book in their quest to capitalise on the middle-overs. The veteran batsman scored a fantastic 42 not out off just 26 deliveries even as wickets tumbled rapidly at the other end. They know that if just one other batsman had chipped in, the result might have been different.

Pakistan will be pleased that they were able to post a decent total on a tricky pitch even though Babar

Azam finally failed at the top of the order his scores of 68 not out, 45 and 50 were crucial in Pakistan clean-sweeping Australia in the preceding T20 series. He was dismissed for seven by Adam Milne, but Asif Ali, Mohammad Hafeez and Sarfraz Ahmed chipped in with sizeable contributions to steady the side.

For Pakistan to continue winning, it will be crucial for the spinners to continue bowling the way they have, but New Zealand's prospects of milking runs will improve significantly if captain Kane Williamson a naturally sound player of spin finds form in the second game.

Meanwhile, Hafeez acknowledged

New Zealand had sent a strong warning in the first T20. "New Zealand always brings something new in this format and surprises you," Hafeez said. "They were excellent on the field and took some really outstanding catches on the night.

"We have another game coming up on Friday and I believe it's going to be another tough game. We need to really work hard and hit all the areas to win against them."

Hafeez said coming into the contest with momentum behind them helped them get across the line.

"The momentum on our side was an advantage," he said. "We have been successful in the shortest format of the game and that has provided the players the confidence at the moment."

The energy in the young Pakistan squad is tremendous and Hafeez is sure they all are capable of handling their own pressures.

"Each one of us wants to cash these moments. And I believe if we keep winning these tight matches, our confidence will rise."

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan whitewash New Zealand 3-0 in Twenty20 series

Pakistan defeated New Zealand by 47 runs in the third and final Twenty20 international in Dubai on Sunday to claim another clean-sweep in the game's shortest format. Pakistan were lifted to 166-3 by Babar Azam who made a 58-ball 79 with seven boundaries and two sixes while Mohammad Hafeez hit a 34-ball 53 with four boundaries and two sixes.

When on 48, Azam became the quickest to score 1,000 Twenty20 runs in just 26 innings beating India's Virat Kohli's record by an innings.

Leg-spinner Shadab Khan took 3-30 as New Zealand were bundled out for 119 in 16.5 overs. Pakistan won the first match in Abu Dhabi by two runs and the second by six wickets in Dubai.

The men-in-green had rested pacers Shaheen Afridi and Hasan Ali, and



handed a debut to Waqas Maqsood that too on his 31st birthday.

Squad:

Pakistan: Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Asif Ali, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Hafeez, Sarfraz Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Usman Khan, Waqas Maqsood

New Zealand: Colin Munro, Glenn Phillips, Kane Williamson, Colin de Grandhomme, Mark Chapman, Ross Taylor, Tim Seifert, Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson, Ish Sodhi, Seth Rance

Courtesy: Dawn

Pak-China luxury bus service embarks on maiden trip from Lahore to Kashgar



A Pak-China luxury bus service has embarked on its maiden journey from Lahore to the city of Kashgar in China's Xinjiang province.

The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and Shuja Express together launched the bus service between Pakistan and China to facilitate tourists as part of an initiative to connect both countries via road under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The Lahore Kashgar bus will run four days a week, on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, while the Kashgar-Lahore bus will run on Tue,

Wed, Thu and Fri.

The journey will take a total of 36 hours, and the bus will make five stops along the way before it crosses into China at the Khunjerab Pass.

Travellers will require a valid visa and ID card to make the journey. The one-way fare is Rs13,000, while a round trip will cost Rs23,000, according to Radio Pakistan.

PTDC official Mukhtar Ali told APP on Monday that the bus service would allow visitors, especially monks, to visit sacred Buddhist sites dating back to the Gandhara era.

Courtesy: Dawn

PM Khan lays foundation stone of shelter for the homeless in Lahore

Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived in Lahore on Saturday to lay the foundation stone for a shelter project in the city the first of five in Lahore.

These will be followed by shelters in other cities across the country, the premier shared on Twitter.

"We are committed to building a social net for our poor citizens so everyone has a shelter over his/her head and access to health and education."

Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar accompanied the premier at the launching ceremony for the shelter house.

"Today, we are taking the first step for the welfare of the people," said PM Khan while speaking to the guests and media at the event.

The premier added that now that the country has come out of the crisis of repayment of loans, all efforts will be put in for initiating public-welfare projects.

He praised CM Buzdar for his work so far in the province. "I told



him [CM Buzdar] once and he himself went and saw all the sites [for the shelter] and selected them. Work on the building has also started."

"Usman Buzdar was chosen as the Chief Minister of Punjab so that the marginalised areas of southern Punjab could be brought at par with the developed areas."

PM Khan announced that in seven

to ten days, the government would launch its project for the alleviation of poverty, which would be "unlike any other in Pakistan".

He added that the package would be a coordinated effort of all organisations working towards the alleviation of poverty under one umbrella.

According to Radio Pakistan, the shelter building will be based upon

a "state of the art" design with simplicity in order to improve its utility, besides availability of separate facilities to ensure best usage of the place.

It will also include construction of multi-purpose halls for imparting training and holding of public awareness programmes on vital social objectives.

Courtesy: Dawn

Guru Nanak's anniversary celebrations conclude

The closing ceremony of the 549 birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Devji will be held at Gurudwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib (his birthplace) on Friday.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noorul Haq Qadri, along with thousands of Sikhs, who have come from different parts of the world, will attend the event. The three-day celebration began on November 21. Around 3,000 yatrees from India reached Wagah Railway Station by a special train on Wednesday to take part in the



celebrations. Evacuee Property Trust Board Chairman Tahir Ahsan, Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee President Sardar Tara Singh, the committee's former president Sardar Bishan Singh and others welcomed the pilgrims.

Talking to the media, leader of Indian's pilgrims Marjeet Singh

said that Pakistani people believe in love. "We are requesting the Indian government to open the Kartarpur corridor. We don't know about the Indians government's stance on this, but we please they open the corridor like the government of Pakistan did."

Ahsan said that the Pakistani High Commission issued 3,800 visas

to Indian pilgrim this year. The ideology of friendship between Muslim and Sikh become stronger day by day. "We tried to issue more visas to Indian pilgrim so that they visit Pakistan easily to celebrate their religious events."

Singh said that the number of pilgrims has increased compared to the last year. "We are trying to arrange accommodation for pilgrims within the Gurudwara."

The yatrees will leave for Gurdwara Punja Sahib on November 24, where they will stay for two days and perform their rituals. They will visit Gurdwara Dera Sahib Lahore on November 26. The yatrees will visit Gurdwara Rohri Sahib in Em-anabad and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kirtarpur on November 28 and then return to their countries on November 30.

Courtesy: Express Tribune



PM Imran Khan wishes Hindu community on Diwali



Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday extended his wishes to all Hindu citizens on the occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights.

Other prominent members of the government, including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Finance Minister Asad Umar, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry and Sindh Governor Imran Ismail, also wished the Hindu community a happy Diwali.

National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser also greeted Hindu parliamentarians and the Hindu community on the occasion, describing Pakistan as a "pluralistic country and enriched with cultural diver-

sity". Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif also wished the Hindu community on the occasion, asserting that members of the Hindu community are equal citizens of Pakistan.

The PML-N president said that the rights of non-Muslims were enshrined in the Constitution and guaranteed by Islam, and that members of minority communities have played an important role in the formation, defence, construction and development of Pakistan. He added that the PML-N would continue to play its role in protecting the rights of non-Muslims.

Courtesy: Dawn

Kamila Shamsie, Mohsin Hamid shortlisted for DSC Prize for South Asian Literature

The Pakistani authors will be competing to win US \$25,000

Pakistani authors Kamila Shamsie, Mohsin Hamid are contending for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature.

Kamila Shamsie's seventh novel Home Fire and Mohsin Hamid's Exit West, which made it to the Man Booker Prize shortlist, are up against four other authors for the prize.

The annual international literary honour awards a monetary prize to authors writing about South Asia and its people. In its eight year the DSC Prize has shortlisted six books which are in the running to win US \$25,000.

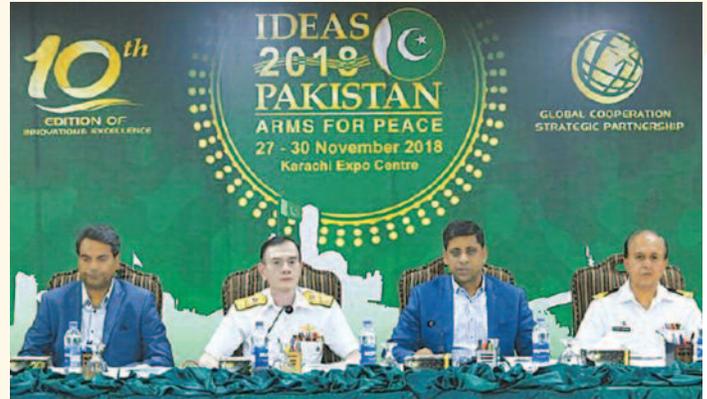


Four of the six titles on the shortlist are by Indian origin authors: Jayant Kaikini's No Presents Please, Manu Joseph's Miss Laila Armed And Dangerous, Neel Mukherjee's A State Of Freedom, and Sujit Saraf's Harilal & Sons

The shortlist was announced at a special event at the London School of Economics & Political

Courtesy: Dawn

IDEAS 2018 to feature culture show, sports festival



With a change in its format, the 10th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2018 will include a Sindh culture show, a sports festival and a golf tournament.

This was disclosed by the media director of Defence Export Promotion Organisation (DEPO), Commodore Tariq Javed, during an informal meeting with reporters at the Karachi Expo Centre.

The biennial event, with 'arms for peace' as its motto, will be held from Nov 27 to Nov 30. The golf tournament, however, will take place on Nov 26 as it would prove helpful in generating interaction and networking among the visiting delegates while also promoting a soft image of Pakistan.

There will also be a seminar with experts along with a services conference that will be divided into three sessions and will commence on the morning of Nov 28.

"The Pakistan Army will be in charge of the morning session, the Navy will cover the afternoon followed by the Pakistan Air Force the next day. It will provide a good chance to listen to and meet policy- and decision-makers. All the three armed forces chiefs will remain available during the conference," said Commodore Javed while sharing a tentative timetable for IDEAS 2018 with the media. He said they would also be organising a counterterrorism demonstration during the event, which is being reviewed after the 2008 edition.

He said that the culture show, named IDEAS Karachi Show, will

take place between 3pm and 5pm on Nov 29. "As IDEAS is not just a business activity but also about promoting Pakistan, the show will be open to the visiting delegates as well as all citizens of the city, but they should have their CNICs on them," he said.

It was also mentioned that the Pakistan Postal Service would bring out a special stamp worth Rs10 in recognition of IDEAS' 10th edition. "The stamp will be launched at the Expo Centre on the morning of Nov 27 and it will be available at the conference as well as at all post offices," said Commodore Javed.

IDEAS 2018 will be witnessing the involvement of some 25,000 people in generating business activity for Karachi and Pakistan. The fourth day of the event (Nov 30) would be open for the public. However, youths under the age of 18 will not be allowed. Traders and business personnel may register through the IDEAS website. They can also download a mobile App from Google Play Store for registration.

Meanwhile, Badar Expo Solution chief operating officer Zohair Naseer said that so far 47- 48 countries had confirmed their participation. "There will also be country pavilions for 14 to 15 countries. All the six Expo Centre halls will be engaged with the addition of five marquees," he said.

The media was also informed that after consulting all the stakeholders the DIG Traffic had also planned out a coordinated traffic plan details of which will be shared at the curtain raiser briefing.

Courtesy: Dawn

Fakhre Alam becomes the first Pakistani to circumnavigate the globe solo

The TV host tweeted that Mission Parwaaz has been accomplished

Fakhre Alam's dream has finally come true.

The TV host had planned to become the first Pakistani to circumnavigate the globe solo and he made it happen. Fakhre Alam took to Twitter to share that Mission Parwaaz has been accomplished.

The star who faced a major setback during the final leg of his journey when he was detained at the Russian airport for traveling with an expired visa, managed to reach out to Pakistani Ambassador to Russia Qazi Khalil Ullah who then provided assistance to the actor in the continuation of his mission.

Also read: Fakhre Alam continues his Mission Parwaaz with renewed Russian visa

"Pleased to confirm that visa [has been] granted to Fakhre Alam by authorities of Russian Federation today in the morning," Dr Faisal said in his tweet and added that



Pakistan's ambassador to Russia had "remained in touch with Fakhre-e-Alam throughout his stay" at Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Airport.

Before leaving for his mission, Fakhre Alam told Images, "I have to do 26000 nautical miles and fly through all the mediums of the planet to achieve circumnavigation. We're aiming for a 28-day schedule. The rules state I have to use the same aircraft and be in control of it at all time. I'll be flying to 30 airports around the world."

As the singer said three years ago, Mission Parwaaz is for the people of Pakistan.

Courtesy: Dawn

Indian visa issued to Pakistan hockey squad for World Cup

The Indian High Commission has issued visas to the members of Pakistan hockey squad, barring its head coach, assistant coach and one player, for participating in the forthcoming World Cup being held in Bhubaneswar.

The game's pinnacle event featuring teams from 16 nations is scheduled to be staged from November 28 to December 16.

The issuance of visa to Pakistan head coach Tauqir Dar, assistant coach Danish Kaleem and Irfan Junior (player) is currently in process and hopefully these will be issued by Tuesday.

In another development, Dawn learnt, Haier, the new sponsor of Pakistan hockey team, has issued a cheque of Rs9 million for purchasing tickets for the World Cup-bound national squad and clearing the players' payments before they leave for India.



Since the appointment of Tauqir as head coach, the national team has been attending receptions being hosted by civil society almost every day. For a similar function, the organisers have given a cheque of Rs2.5 million for the players to boost their morale.

A 27-strong Pakistan contingent including 18 players, six officials, PHF president retired Brig Khalid Sajjad Khokhar, secretary Shahbaz Ahmed Senior and chief selector Ishaquddin Siddiqui is scheduled to travel to India.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pak-Russia joint training exercise will reinforce existing military ties, says army chief

Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday visited National Counter Terrorism Centre in Pabbi,

Federation, while exchanging mutual counter-terrorism experiences."



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on the last day of the ongoing Pak-Russia Joint Training Exercise Druzhba-III, read a statement issued by the military's media wing.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said, "The exercise focused on counter-terrorism training of the special operation forces of Pakistan and ground forces of Russian

The army chief appreciated the participating troops for their dedication, skill and professionalism. He said this "exercise was a great forum to reinforce the existing relationship between the two militaries".

Russia's Deputy Head of Mission in Pakistan Valadamir Betezyuk was also present on the occasion.

Courtesy: Dawn

PIA honours Allama Iqbal, celebrates with his grandson



The national flag carrier held a cake cutting ceremony at Lahore Airport on Iqbal Day

On Iqbal Day, PIA decides to honour the late poet by holding a cake-cutting ceremony.

The event held at Allama Iqbal International airport, Lahore was made memorable by the presence of the late poet's grandson Waleed Iqbal and veteran actor Samina Peerzada.

photos from the event and wrote, "PIA pays homage to the Poet of the Nation - Allama Iqbal. A celebration was held at the Lahore Airport along a cake cutting ceremony by his grandson Waleed Iqbal & famous actress Samina Peerzada. Flowers were presented to the chief guests by Station Manager Lahore - Tariq Majeed."

There was a Pakistani flag cake, plenty of pretty flowers and happy faces. Pass the cake, please?

Courtesy: Dawn

The national flag carrier tweeted

Tehrik-i-Niswan launches tolerance campaign

We want to bring back plurality into our society through our campaign, says Sheema Kermani

“People nowadays have little patience with different viewpoints. Intolerance is spreading everywhere. But everything cannot be uniform. There is beauty in diversity,” said social activist and artist Sheema Kermani during a press conference organised by the Tehrik-i-Niswan at the Karachi Press Club on Wednesday.

Singers and performers of Tehrik-i-Niswan in aqua blue clothes sang a song ‘Rawadari humay hai jaan se pyaari’ on the occasion of the upcoming International Day of Tolerance on November 16 for which the cultural group, together with 10 other civil society organisations, launched their new awareness campaign to promote tolerance, respect, equality and dignity across Sindh, especially Karachi.

“We want to bring back plurality

into our society through our campaign, which we will officially start from Friday. It will be followed by our observing International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Nov 25 and Human Rights Day on Dec 10, too,” said Ms Kermani.

“We will spread the messages of peace and tolerance by going to different areas and meeting with communities as Tehrik-i-Niswan is a cultural group and cultural movements should reach out to all people all over,” she pointed out, adding that they would be organising an event to promote International Day of Tolerance at 4.30pm at Koohi Goth Hospital in Malir on Friday. Nuzhat Shirin, chairperson of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women (SCSW), said that SCSW was also joining the campaign as they had seen women and girls suffering the most due to the intolerance in the country’s culture. “The minority women and Muslim women, be they in the rural or



urban areas, should all have a single voice when it comes to issues related to their health, education, livelihood, etc. They should stand united as there is strength in unity,” she said.

Dr Shershah Syed, founder of Pakistan National Forum on Women’s Health, said that there should be respect for all and their cultures.

Mahnaz Rahman, resident director of the Aurat Foundation, said that she wanted a society that they had all dreamed of, which was open to accept all kinds of differences.

Executive director of Piler Karamat Ali observed that a dialogue on tolerance among the people was badly

needed not just in society, but throughout South Asia. “We are all suffering due to intolerance. Tolerance needs to be given its rightful place in society. And we can do this by condemning intolerance.”

Safina Javed from the Peace and Development Organisation brought up the recent case of Aasia Bibi, which saw so much hate and intolerance for all minorities in Pakistan.

Zeeshan Sarshar of Anchal Social Welfare Organisation, Sindh and Qazi Khizar representing the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Courtesy: Dawn

Thousands of Sikh pilgrims arrive in Pakistan to celebrate Guru Nanak's birth anniversary

The Foreign Office (FO) on Wednesday said that thousands of Sikh pilgrims have arrived in Pakistan for Baba Guru Nanak's 549th birth anniversary celebrations, set to commence in Nankana Sahib.



This year, Guru Nanak's birth anniversary coincides with Eid-i-Miladun Nabi the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) being celebrated throughout the country.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Dr Mohammad Faisal welcomed the Sikh devotees to Pakistan, noting that the influx includes 3,500 pilgrims from India alone.

The FO spokesperson emphasised that Pakistan is a “progressive, moderate Islamic state [where] we proudly follow the Islamic principles, which taught respect for all religions way before

the human rights charter came into existence”.

The celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak's birthday will continue till Nov 30.

Every year, Sikh devotees from all over the world gather at Gurdwara Punja Sahib in Hassanabdal to celebrate Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary.

The celebrations last for more than a week, during which sacred rituals are performed at the Gurdwara and sweets and langar (free meals) are offered, irrespective of religious orientation.

Courtesy: Dawn

PA wants private schools to give free education to disadvantaged students



As the provincial education minister warned the “elite” educational institutions to abide by rules, the Sindh Assembly on Tuesday demanded implementation of a law that bound private schools to provide free and compulsory education to “disadvantaged” children not less than 10 per cent of the total strength of a school.

A resolution to this effect was tabled by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf’s Seema Zia on Tuesday, which is a private members’ day, and the house unanimously adopted it.

The resolution reads: “This house

resolves that the government of Sindh to implement Section 10 of the Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2013, which says private schools to provide at least 10 per cent free education to the disadvantaged children.”

The govt will not render people living in illegally constructed houses homeless .

It demanded that the government take action against those private schools which did not comply with Section 10 of the said law.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistani senator Krishna Kumari named in BBC's 100 Women 2018 list

Human rights activist and senator Krishna Kumari has been named in the annual BBC 100 Women list that honours the achievements of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world every year.

39-year-old Krishna belongs to the Kohli community from the remote village of Dhana Gam in Nagarparkar and was elected as senator in March after spending many years working for the rights of bonded labourers in Pakistan. She is the first Thari Hindu woman to be elected to the Pakistan senate.

Speaking to Images about the honour on Tuesday, Kumari said she didn't have the words to express her happiness. "I belong to the Kohli community, which has been sup-

pressed by landlords and forced to work as slaves since time immemorial. I am very proud to have my efforts honoured by the BBC. I hope it serves as a message to those who believe that minority groups do not need to be given their rights."

She further shared that she's been constantly trying to contact her parents to share the good news but signal issues in their village have prevented her from talking to them. Kumari's endeavours to end bonded labour in Pakistan are fuelled by her own childhood experience of being forced to work with her family by a landlord in Umerkot for three years before being rescued in a police raid.

After they were released from bonded labour, her parents encouraged her to study, supporting her



from primary classes in Umerkot and Mirpurkhas to a postgraduate degree in sociology from the University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

After being trained further in human rights, Krishna worked for the Youth Civil Action Programme to identify cases of bonded labour and conducted case studies focusing women under bondage, organised workshops and seminars

on bonded labour, sexual harassment at workplace and other human and women's rights issues and wrote for various newspapers.

When she was elected to Senate, she vowed to continue working for "the rights of the oppressed people, especially for the empowerment of women, their health and education."

Courtesy: Dawn

PIA to restore flights to Muscat and Sharjah



The national flag carrier on Friday announced that it is restoring flights on Muscat and Sharjah routes from across the country, which remained suspended for more than a year, read a statement issued by the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

"PIA CEO Air Marshal Arshad Malik depicted his keenness to expand the business network and has advised the commercial department for manifesting an aggressive strategy to enhance airline's access in market and revenue," the PIA statement said.

According to the details provided by the PIA, the Lahore-Muscat route will be restored from Saturday, November 17, operated by A320 aircraft. "PIA will operate twice weekly flights on Saturday and Sunday."

With the introduction of these flights, the national flag carrier will

have a total of nine flights to Muscat operating from Peshawar, Turbat and Gwadar besides Lahore, read the statement.

Similarly, PIA has also decided to restore its Sialkot-Sharjah route with twice-weekly flights every Tuesday and Friday. The flights from Sialkot will commence from November 20 after which the airline will have five flights per week including three from Turbat.

The airline's CEO, while sharing his views on the commencement of the flights, has emphasised upon the PIA officials to "put in their best to enhance the service standards which will definitely boost its sales".

"The turnaround and revival of national flag carrier is now unavoidable and the government is extending all-out support in this regard," Air Marshal Malik was quoted as saying.

Courtesy: Dawn

Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis launches online complaint centre, e-governance web portal

The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development on Monday launched online complaint centre Call Sarzameen and an e-governance web portal.

Special Assistant to PM on overseas Pakistanis Zulfi Bukhari, in his speech at the launch ceremony, said: "The ministry of overseas Pakistanis is the first [ministry] that has opted for e-governance."

"I am not convinced with manual files," said Bukhari, whose appointment by the PM is being probed by the Supreme Court. "Thick files waste the entire day and nothing happens. The entire system has now been computerised; a tracking system has been created that shows updates on files."

Read: Overseas Pakistanis to be excluded from second round of by-elections: ECP

The PM's special assistant explained the purpose of Call Sarzameen and E-governance web portals, saying: "The Call Sarzameen centre will work round the clock for overseas Pakistanis across the world. Their complaints will be heard immediately, while mobile



apps of Call Sarzameen will also be developed."

According to the ministry spokesperson, "Call Sarzameen is a complaint centre for Pakistanis living abroad. These complaints reach the minister, who can then take action."

Regarding the e-governance portal, the spokesperson said: "E-governance is a commendable step to digitalise the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

"The paper culture is being abolished and the ministry is going online so that daily task could be processed immediately. From now on the processing of any file will not require more than a day."

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistani porters: The unsung masters of mountains

He is the only man ever to have scaled K2 three times, but Fazal Ali's achievements have gone largely unrecognised, like those of many of his fellow porters who risk life and limb on Pakistan's highest peaks.

As one of the few elite porters in the country specialising in high altitude expeditions, the 40 year old has spent nearly two decades on Pakistan's deadliest slopes plotting routes, lugging kit and cooking for paying clients.

At 8,611 metres, K2 is not quite as high as Mount Everest, which stands at 8,848 metres.

But its technical challenges have earned it the nickname "the Savage Mountain" and dozens have lost their lives on its treacherous, icy flanks.

Valley of mountaineers

Ali, like many Pakistani high-altitude porters, was born in the remote Shimshal Valley in the country's north, near the Chinese border.

Home to just 140 families, Ali's village has produced many of the country's greatest mountaineers,



including Rajab Shah, the first Pakistani to scale all five 8,000-metre peaks in the country.

Rehmatullah Baig, who conquered K2 in 2014 while taking vital geographical measurements and

installing a weather station, also hails from Shimshal and shares Ali's resentment.

Baig's father was the first from Shimshal to pursue the deadly pursuit of mountaineering, but he



now tells his children not to follow in his footsteps.

Investment and training

A major source of resentment among Ali and his colleagues is their belief that they are treated worse than their Nepali counterparts.

In the event of an accident, Pakistani porters are rarely entitled to helicopter rescues by their employers.

In Nepal, local guides are eligible for approximately \$12,700 in life insurance from the government, after mountain workers successfully lobbied for an increase following an avalanche in 2014 that killed 16 sherpas on Mount Everest.

High-altitude porters in Pakistan meanwhile are lucky to get life insurance policies worth \$1,500, according to the Alpine Club of Pakistan.

Mountaineering experts agree there is a disparity and believe the Pakistani workers should be better trained and supported by the government.

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