

Positive Post



Greenwich University
Pakistan-Mauritius

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

February in History

Feb 2, 1948: Urdu is declared the national language of Pakistan.

Feb 8, 1949: Azad Kashmir Government shifts its capital

Feb 9, 1951: First census begins in Pakistan.

Feb 21, 1956: Constituent Assembly decides the country shall be a Federal Republic known as Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Feb 2, 1957: President Iskandar Mirza laid down the foundation-stone of Guddu Barrage.

Feb 24, 1960: Presidential Cabinet decides to name the new Capital as Islamabad.

Feb 3, 1960: Prominent poet and Pakistan's Guinness world record holder Dr. Muhammad Saeed Fazal Karim Be-bani born in Rawalpindi.

Feb 16, 1971: Korakaram Highway, linking China and Pakistan, opened.

Feb 13, 1973: Begum Rana Liaquat Ali becomes first woman to assume office of Sindh Governor.

Feb 21, 1974: Pakistan recognizes Bangladesh.

Feb 22, 1974: Islamic Summit Conference starts in Lahore; 22 heads of state participated.

Feb 1, 1978: Allama Iqbal's Lahore house is declared national monument.

Feb 5, 1990: Kashmir Solidarity Day observed for the first time

Feb 22, 1992: Nawaz Sharif introduces yellow-cab taxi scheme.

Feb 11, 1996: Cricket World Cup jointly hosted by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

Feb 23, 1997: Nawaz Sharif launches "Qarz utaro Mulk sanwaro" scheme. Declares Sunday, instead of Friday as weekly holiday.

Feb 20, 1999: Pakistan Crushed India by 46 runs in inaugural Asian test championship

Feb 21, 1999: Lahore Declaration is signed by Nawaz Sharif & A. B. Vajpayee.

Feb 16, 2009: Pakistan government announces a truce with Taliban, accepting a system of Islamic law in the Swat valley.

7,500 students from across Pakistan to participate in Math Challenge 2018



On February 1, 2018, DAWN and EDeQUAL hosted a launch session for the Math Challenge 2018 at Karachi School of Business and Leadership (KSBL).

Math Challenge 2018 is a team-based, inter-school, national competition for students studying in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10. The competition will be based on a live game show format using the latest quiz technology systems, and will have students use tablets and computers to solve math problems and work around analytical challenges.

Each round of the challenge will hold a mix of questions, covering a wide range of topics. As many as 7,500 participants from schools all over Pakistan have registered for the competition.

Thursday's session included practice questions, round structures, a general Q&A session, sample

quizzes and announcements of important event dates for all participants, from both public and private sector schools.

Math Challenge 2018 intends to test the students' analytical and problem solving skills in three rounds: preliminary, regional and national.

For the preliminary round, there will be pools of eight to nine teams with each team comprising four students. A team will have two students from junior classes and two from senior classes.

For the regional and national rounds, there will be 12 teams of participants that will compete.

Towards the end, Math Challenge 2018 will announce two champions and two runners up in a closing event which will be held at the same venue in Karachi.

Courtesy: Dawn

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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.

World's first novel translated to Urdu in Pakistan

The translation for Japanese novel 'Tale of Genji' will be coming this year

The Tale of Genji, the world's first novel penned in the 11th century, is now being translated from its original Japanese form into Urdu in Pakistan and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

This was disclosed at the Pakistan Japan Literature Forum at the Japan Information and Culture Centre in the Japanese Consulate here on Wednesday, although they thought it rather premature to share the name of the translator for now.

There are several translations of this classic work of Japanese literature written by a noblewoman, Murasaki Shikibu, in the early years of the 11th century including many in English. "The Pakistani writer working on his translation has been at it for a while now and is currently working six hours a day as he gets

closer to the conclusion," it was disclosed by journalist Khurram Sohail at the Japanese Consulate, who added that the Urdu translation would be a big achievement once completed as it was not an easy book to translate.

"Many have attempted and failed on getting lost in the story that moves in several directions simultaneously," he explained.

"Even the well-known Urdu writer in India Syed Ehtesham Hussain tried it, but was only able to write an abridged version, giving just the gist of the actual story," he said.

Later, a few pages from the abridged Urdu translation were read out to the audience giving a glimpse of the story.

Genji is a son of a Japanese emperor who falls madly in love with a beautiful young concubine Kirit-subo, whom every other woman in



the kingdom becomes extremely jealous of and starts plotting against. When she bears a son as beautiful as she is, the baby becomes the emperor's favourite prince giving way to more envy especially from the mother of the emperor's other son, the crown prince. "The novel which talks of emperors, concubines, samurai, aristocratic society in ancient Japan, etc, even had to be translated into easy Japanese during the 1800s so that the Japanese people could read and understand it. And it was another 50 years before its English translation could come out for the rest of the world to be introduced to it," said Mr Sohail. "You also get guides

to help you follow The Tale of Genji," he added.

Journalist and guest speaker Rafaqat Hayat also commented about how wonderful it was that the novel even though written so long ago on a scroll, managed to survive through the years. He said that some people, particularly those in the West, believed Miguel de Cervantes' Don Quixote to be the first novel of the world. "But we now know that it is The Tale of Genji," he said. "It would be great to be able to read the classic work of literature in our own Urdu," he said.

Courtesy: Dawn

Punjab govt prepares booklet to create awareness among children about sexual abuse

Punjab government has decided to impart sex education among children studying in schools and seminaries following a recent upsurge in the reporting of sexual abuse cases across Pakistan.

Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah, while announcing this decision during a press conference on Friday, said the provincial government has prepared a booklet, in consultation with religious clerics, to educate children .

"Initially, the booklet has been compiled for young children, however, another booklet has also been compiled which would be introduced for students in grade 8 and above," the minister said.

Sanaullah further said that Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif approved the draft of the booklet after a committee, constituted for prevention of child abuse, had recommended it.

The brochure, containing Quranic verses among other references, also



provides guidance to parents, he said, adding that the booklet would be provided to all students and teachers in each and every school and seminary.

It was compiled with the help and consultation of the Muttahida Ulema Board, the law minister said. The booklet is aimed at providing guidance to children of age 10 and above. It teaches children to avoid interaction with suspicious or unknown people, he said.

"Providing awareness to children on

sexual abuse is not a ridiculous idea and religious clerics were also in favour of creating awareness among children on this subject," Sanaullah maintained.

"Teach your children not to let anyone touch their private parts," he urged the parents and asked them to play their due role in curbing sexual abuse in the society. "Children should be able to share their feelings when they feel fear or panic."

The minister said it was obligatory for parents to provide separate beds to their children when they turn 10.

The brochure would be revised after every six to 12 months, the minister said, adding that the government would launch an alert system for missing children.

Punjab Auqaf and Religious Affairs Minister Zaeem Qadri also addressed the press briefing. He said that so far the issue has been addressed in 53,000 mosques.

Courtesy: Dawn

Bill suggests increasing punishment for animal cruelty

The Senate Standing Committee on Interior passed a bill titled "The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2018", which was moved by Senator Karim Ahmed Khawaja.

Members of the committee commended Senator Khawaja for bringing forward a bill for animal rights as the last law regarding animal rights was made in 1890 and no amendments to the law have been made since.

"It was quite embarrassing that we were using the animal rights [laws] that the British had introduced in 1890 despite the fact that Islam stresses on animal rights. Moreover, I have suggested increasing fines because the current fines were so insignificant that no one cares about them," Senator Khawaja said while talking to .

The fine for killing an animal with unnecessary cruelty was just Rs200. The current bill suggests this be increased to Rs300,000 along with imprisonment, he said.

Courtesy: Dawn

This dancer defies social taboos to promote Pakhtun culture

Asfandyar Khan Khattak believes performing arts is a way to combat extremism and violence

Hailing from the aristocratic family of Gumbat town in Kohat district, the soft-spoken Asfandyar Khan Khattak recently displayed his maiden live performance while defying social taboos and mesmerised audiences at Nishtar Hall with his trio-fusion of dance.

This scribe caught up with him and asked why he thought he should whirl around to which he replied: "In my own capacity, I am trying to reclaim my culture; a culture full of music and dance. Dance, in my opinion is the only solution to the terrorism, extremism and violence. I am on the mission of revival of softer and true image of Pakhtun culture. Through my dance, I want to give the message of tolerance and acceptance characteristics of Pakhtun culture lost in the history."

As a professional folk and fusion dancer he has performed at different platforms, including Lok Virsa, Pakistan National Council of the Arts and several USAID-funded programmes in Islamabad.

Having Khattak genes and being a lover of Pashto music, he performs fusion of Pashto, Khattak, Afghan-Logari and Qataghani, Persian-Afshari with Kathak and Bharatnatyam. He also performed in the recent Swat Youth Festival in Mingora. Currently he is working with a foreign organisation in Peshawar.

Before his Bachelor's studies in Business Administration from COMASTS, Islamabad, Asfandyar learnt some basic steps of Indian classical dance 'Kathak' from a Lahore-based Kathak Ustad. After earning Master's in Business Administration in 2008, he properly started learning Indian classical dance.

In initial years of his career, he explored his skills of acting on private Pashto TV channel in plays and Pashto's first telefilm and anchoring but all this time he was feeling the urge to present his dance skills.

"I can't quit performing dance. I



have a genuine cause to promote this wonderful art," he said.

It was during a Parent's Day function at Beaconhouse School, Islamabad that a female Pashtun teacher recognised the artist in the 8th grader - Asfandyar Khattak - and asked him to present Khattak dance. His performance proved a launching pad.

"That performance gave me a lot of encouragement. I took more interest in Khattak dance from then onward. I consider myself very fortunate that I started learning dance from the octogenarian Mrs Indu Mitha at Mazmoon-i-Shauq, Islamabad. She is a living legend who has been teaching Indian classical dance - Bharatnatyam - since five decades. My mentor, Indu Mitha, has trained me in Kathak and Bharatnatyam with her great devotion," he said with pride.

Mr Asfandyar said: "Ever since I remember, I have been dancing! Right from my early childhood, I was fond of dancing all the time - at parties, engagements, weddings and otherwise too. I believe dance is self-revelation. Unfortunately, in our society dance is often associated with women, being a feminine activity and had almost no social acceptance and space."

About the history of Khattak dance, he said that his ancestors, the Nawabs of Teri (a princely State comprising of present day Karak district) used to patronize folk dance, music and art in their darbar (court). He said that Khattak Atan had 12 different steps; it used to be of great significance in the time of tribal war. He said dance with swords was different from that with handkerchiefs. "We should own and try to preserve and promote it. It is our identity. No one else will come to do this job for us."

Courtesy: Dawn

FIFA World Cup trophy unveiled in Lahore

The iconic FIFA World Cup trophy on Saturday went on display in Lahore after arriving in Pakistan for the first time in a chartered plane from Bangkok, Thailand.

France's World Cup-winning former footballer Christian Karembeu accompanied the trophy on the Pakistan leg of its World Tour.

"Assalam-o-Alaikum!" Karembeu, who played for France and Real Madrid in a glittering playing career greeted the gathered audience with. "I am extremely happy to be here in Lahore. Pakistan also has football-loving folks.

"It is a great honour for Pakistan that the FIFA trophy is here for the first time.

"We can make our future better through football."

Cricket legend Younis Khan, national men's football team captain Kaleemullah Khan and women's



football team skipper Hajra and several showbiz personalities were also present at the trophy's unveiling ceremony in Lahore.

"For me, football is one of the most popular sports in the world," said Younis. "It is a really big deal that the FIFA trophy is here."

An ecstatic Kaleemullah said: "I had never even imagined that the FIFA trophy would come to Pakistan. It is encouraging for footballers to have the FIFA trophy come to Pakistan. I feel that one day Pakistan would also do well in football."

The trophy will be returned back to Bangkok.

Courtesy: Dawn

Sixth edition of LLF begins today

The sixth edition of Lahore Literary Festival (LLF) is all set to take place back at its original venue of Alhamra.

Aslan will be part of two sessions over the two days 'Light at the End of Trumpian Disruption' along with Booker Prize-winning author Ben Okri and British political scientist and author Mark Leonard as well as a one-on-one session 'Beyond Extremism' with Khaled Ahmed.

Riz Ahmed will be sharing the stage with LLF favourite Mohsin Hamid where they will be talking to Shahid Zahid about activism.

As expected, the festival will hold memorial sessions for the late Asma Jahangir and Munoo Bhai, both of whom we lost this year. The talk on Asma, titled 'Warrior Icon', will feature her children Munizae and Jilani along with her longtime friends I.A. Rehman, Ahmed Rashid and Salima Hashmi, while the discussion on Munoo Bhai will have I.A. Rehman, Kishwer Naheed, Wajahat Masood and Hussain Naqi.

Book launches, talks on various books, musical performance by Laal the band and Zia Mohyeddin's presentation on 'Why is Shakespeare, Shakespeare' are also part of

the festival.

British novelist Esther Freud is also participating in the festival and will be part of a discussion titled 'The Mundane as Incubator' along with Osama Siddique, Irvine Welsh with Hugh Thompson. She is visiting Pakistan for the first time and says she's looking forward to seeing the other panellists, listening to the discussions, and being stimulated and inspired. "Apart from appearing at the festival, I'm looking forward to seeing as much of the city as possible,".

Audrey Truschke, another LLF participant, has visited the city earlier in 2007 for two weeks and she feels it has developed immensely over the last 11 years. "The development is great. There's Metro bus running. I went to see the Mughal monuments that have been restored wonderfully." She says what brought her to Pakistan again was a chance to gauge audience perception of her book, Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth, that she will be talking about here. "I've had great reception to my book in India, so I wanted to see how Pakistan receives it. And I'm most excited about the questions from the audience during my session."

Courtesy: Dawn

Quaid-i-Azam University breaks into top 100 of Asia University Rankings 2018

Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) has been ranked among the top 100 varsities of Asia by the Times Higher Education (THE).

QAU broke into the top 100 of the Asia University Rankings 2018 after improving on its previously held ranking in the 121-130 band.

The next Pakistani varsity on the list is the Comsats Institute of Information Technology, which jumped up to 125th place from the 141-150 band it was in in the last ranking.

In all, THE's latest rankings features 10 Pakistani universities, up from seven in 2017, much of which was due to the expansion of the list, which now facilitates 350 plus universities.

The list, however, is dominated by Chinese varsities, who make up for at least 20 per cent of the listing. Tsinghua University is China's highest-ranked institution.

The National University of Singapore, however, held on to the overall number one spot on the

index after improving its scores in almost all areas.

Other Pakistani universities grabbing a place on the list are: National University of Sciences and Technology (162), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (251-300), Bahauddin Zakariya University (301-350), University of Lahore (301-350), University of Peshawar (301-350), PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (301-350), University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore (301-350) and Government College University Lahore (351+).

Phil Baty, the editorial director of global rankings at Times Higher Education, congratulated Pakistan for having 10 universities on their list but also highlighted a 'lack of research environment' in Pakistan's educational system.

"It is a fantastic achievement that Pakistan now has 10 universities in the Asia rankings and that its two leading universities have risen up the table. But the country's poor research environment, not helped by a lack of funding, is preventing the



nation from fulfilling its higher education potential.

"Research must be made a priority if a country wants to stand out from its competition on the world's largest continent."

In South Asia, India led the rest with 42 representatives up from 33 last year.

The ranking's top 100 universities have 21 entrants from Muslim countries, including the 10 from Pakistan.

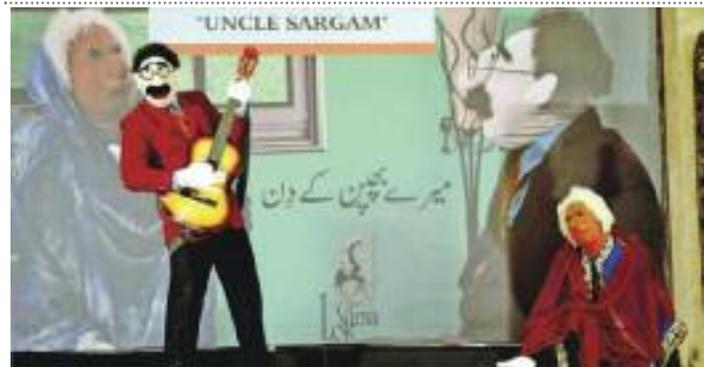
Baty also explained why some of Pakistan's finest institutions such as the Lahore University of Management and Sciences (Lums), the Aga Khan University, the National University of Modern

Languages (NUML) and the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI) miss out from their list despite doing a stellar job in Pakistan.

"Lums and GIKI both participated in the THE rankings' data collection process but are not ranked as they do not yet meet the publication threshold," he said. "Neither Aga Khan University nor NUML participated in the process.

"We require that universities who wish to participate in the THE World University Rankings teach undergraduates and publish sufficient research — at least 1,000 papers in the preceding five years and no fewer than 150 per year."

Courtesy: Dawn



A diorama of the famous puppet was unveiled at Lok Virsa's Museum Hall

Lok Virsa on Thursday unveiled a diorama of Uncle Sargam, the famous puppet character, to pay tribute to the character and its creator Farooq Qaiser.

Uncle Sargam first appeared in the children's show Kaliyan on Pakistan Television in 1976, and was created and voiced by award winning puppeteer, artist and columnist Farooq Qaiser.

The diorama's inauguration was held at Lok Virsa's Museum Hall, where Mr Qaiser presented his team from Kaliyan who performed some of their famous songs and qawwalis. A number of students from federal colleges attended the event and enjoyed the live show.

Among the songs performed were 'Totay Ko Chori Dalo', 'Kamzor Hai Tarazo', 'Yeh Zindagi Haseen Hai', which highlighted social issues such as corruption, health, the justice system, education and the environment with humour and a tinge of sarcasm.

Lok Virsa pays tribute to Uncle Sargam creator Farooq Qaiser

Speaking at the event, Mr Qaiser said that the songs were written and performed four decades ago, but unfortunately were still relevant today. "We did this program on our own without any support by any government institute but were glad to have people's support for it. The government should support such programs, which educate the children about serious social issues in a lighter tone." Masi Museebtay and Rolla, two other famous characters from Kaliyan, were also present and are also represented in the diorama, along with Uncle Sargam, Shatir Dehlvi, Mian Connections, Bonga, Santri Badshah and Main Muqem. A team member and singer from Kaliyan, Babar Niazi, told Dawn he was proud to be a part of the show but said such programmes were now in decline.

"The government and other art insti-

tutions should pay attention to this medium, which through puppetry tells folklore to our young generation," he added.

Lok Virsa Executive Director Dr Fouzia Saeed said the diorama is a tribute to both Uncle Sargam and Mr Qaiser, who in addition to creating the character also trained many new artists during his career and has become an institution himself.

She said Mr Qaiser was doing a great job by using puppetry to entertain people and raise awareness about social issues.

Asma Gull, a student in the audience, said she enjoyed the live performance. "I heard a lot about this show but couldn't get a chance to watch it. I loved the messages conveyed by upbeat songs and qawwalis in a lighter way.

Courtesy: Dawn

Public private partnerships take root in Sindh, Punjab

The success of initial public-private partnership (PPP) projects in Sindh and Punjab served to remove apprehensions regarding the concept in Pakistan. They paved way for expanding the scope and the coverage of such collaborations in the country to deliver sustainable development efficiently.

The benefits of projects (such as Thar coal mining and power project, Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas dual carriageway, and the southern loop of Ring Road and a railway crossing flyover in Lahore, etc) demonstratively accrued beyond the direct users of these facilities.

They helped sideline the venom-spitting elements on both sides of the public-private divide and strengthened the futuristic current. The clarity on striking the right balance between risk and reward sharing, it appeared, was yet to be achieved in the relevant circles.

“PPPs are all about striking equilib-



rium between public and private, risk and reward, cost and benefit, particularly in resource-scarce countries with big chunks of population excluded from the economic mainstream,” commented an expert.

A PPP is an arrangement between the government and a private business for the provision of public assets or services through investment and/or management by the private sector for a specified period of time. It entails clearly defined allocation of risk between partners and payments to the private sector linked to pre-determined benchmarked measurable performance standards.

Provincial governments are looking forward to working with private

companies under the PPP mode to effectively respond to development needs

Background research found all provincial governments in Pakistan were looking forward to partnering with the private sector under the PPP mode to effectively respond to development needs.

“The red tape has not morphed into red carpet for the private sector, but the bureaucratic mindset to monopolise public service delivery is changing. On the other side, the reluctant private sector has also been discovering the value of government collaboration in megaprojects for both profit and prestige,” commented a senior team member of the public-private partnership cell in Sindh.

The well-equipped cell has been functional in the finance department for a decade now, though the Sindh PPP Act was enacted in 2010.

Punjab created its PPP unit in the planning and development department, which supervises the policy and the projects with PPP modes in 18 line ministries, under the Punjab PPP Act of 2014. Following the lead, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa PPP Act was enacted in 2014 and the unit was established, but it was facing capacity challenges.

In Balochistan, work in this regard was still in progress. Essa Tahir, an official involved in the exercise in the province, told Dawn from Quetta that the planning department would table the proposed PPP bill in the next provincial cabinet meeting.

Attempts to contact Pakistan Business Council CEO Ehsan Malik were unsuccessful. Razzak Dawood, the first chairman of the council, promised to comment but he could not respond until this report was filed.

Courtesy: Dawn

The 9th Karachi Literature Festival kicks off today

Here are some highlights you shouldn't miss out on Book enthusiasts, get ready: the 9th annual Karachi Literature Festival kicks off today at the Beach Luxury Hotel. KLF's inauguration will start at 5.30pm today, and though a few talks are scheduled for this evening, the festivities will really get going on Saturday, when talks will begin at 11am and continue late into the evening.

The full schedule for KLF can be found here.

If your schedule doesn't allow you to spend the whole day at KLF, what are some highlights you shouldn't miss out on? Read below:

1) Kamila Shamsie's conversation about her latest novel Home Fire

Kamila Shamsie is scheduled to speak about her latest novel Home Fire at 11am on Saturday morning. Home Fire was longlisted for the prestigious Man Booker Prize and has garnered international acclaim. Centered around a British-Pakistani

family torn apart by a conflicted past, this novel features themes that are very relevant today.

We expect to hear commentary about Pakistani writing in English, the Pakistani diaspora in Britain and much more.

2) A panel discussion on the #MeToo movement

A timely conversation if there ever was one, this panel features prominent personalities like transgender activist Kami Choudhry and journalist/politician/academic Nafisa Shah. We're looking forward to insights about how the #MeToo movement is or isn't relevant to Pakistan, how we can better understand the movements aims and limitation, and much more.

3) Sunil Shankar's short play 'Chup' will be featured too

Directed by Sunil Shankar and co-written by him and Fawad Khan, this short play deals with issues that can't openly be discussed like missing persons, enforced disappearances



and more.

4) A session on the relationship between fiction and politics

On Sunday morning Kishwar Naheed, Arfa Syeda Zehra, Qaisra Shahraz and more will gather to discuss the impact of fiction on politics and vice versa. We're looking forward to a conversation that'll hopefully address the depoliticization of literature in Pakistan, the divide between English and Urdu reading audiences, and more.

5) A welcome focus on Sindhi literature

Friday will feature a Sindhi Mushairi with Imdad Hussaini, Aasi Zamini, Ayaz Gul, Haleem

Baghi, Sahar Imdad and more.

This will be followed on Sunday by a talk titled 'The literary traditions of Sindh, featuring Jami Chandio ad Syed Sardar Shah.

6) A focus on poetry spanning the new and the old

From a session that features Zia Mohyeddin reading Shakespeare to a session that investigates slam poetry, KLF attempts to cover vast ground in the world of verse.

Another session titled 'The other muse: poetry in English' will grapple with the state of English poetry in Pakistan.

Courtesy: Dawn

Karachi: The city of decay

Karachi is a familiar place, more so to those who have lived here for several years. It is not difficult for them to detect that the city's many layers and façades reflect the histories of its buildings, the mysteries of its alleys and the depths of its sea. Seasoned artist Naiza Khan's recent solo exhibition hints at all these aspects. She also finds novelty in the city's various stages of ruin.

Naiza has had a strong grounding in drawing, printmaking and painting, having learnt these skills at the Oxford University's Ruskin School of Art in England. When she returned to Karachi after graduation, she began exploring unconventional mediums to exercise these skills. This led to the representation in her work of the human body in more ways than one. In one of her early artworks, for instance, she used henna pigment on wall as a medium to create a discourse around the female body in a public setting.

As her work became known, she developed several ideas of engagement with architecture and spaces within and around Karachi that subsequently became an integral part of her art practice. Consequently, one of her main art projects has been about Manora a small island just off the coast. She has

spent a lot of time and energy in investigating and probing the mysteries of Manora from its deteriorating temple to its seashell houses, from its abandoned living quarters to its nautical maps. Her work has unearthed a part of Karachi that always beckoned rediscovery.

Even though her new work is linked to her earlier oeuvre, the focus here is on looking at Karachi as a port and probing its association with the sea. This shift has helped her explore even newer mediums such as texts, maps and photographs. By using masking fluid to block out areas, as strips of paint move across the surface of her work, she has constructed images almost in an architectural fashion. The shapes and patterns she has created look similar to aerial views of the city, dissected almost like a body.

Over the years, Karachi has spread itself thin. As new settlements and neighbourhoods emerge at the periphery of the city, its older parts appear to have been left to rot. The decay prevalent in the downtown and southern neighbourhoods of Karachi suggests that the administrative machinery has been lethargic, if not entirely unable, to put in place additional infrastructure needed to cope with population increase. Naiza extensively explores



these themes in artworks such as *Cast of a City I & II* and *Breakage*. Her other artworks such as *Dwelling I & II* and *Land Hunger* appear to be looking at the notions of displacement and resettlement, as well as those of ownership and occupation of land. These are all important subjects, given the city's fragile sociopolitical environment.

Naiza also conveys urban decay by showing biological rot as reflected in artworks titled *Whale under Construction* and *The Streets are Rising*. These large-scale paintings are heavily layered and soiled with painted images of buildings, machines and oil spills seeping into texts and receding into the skyline. They depict the ruin and destruction that are an inevitable part of any urban sprawl in a developing country. By showing the body of a dead whale amid other scattered objects, the artist, however, has

made her work specific to Karachi where dead whales often wash up on shore. Through the images of polluted beaches, she also highlights the environmental degradation the city's coastline is suffering from. Other works on display manifest Naiza's larger concerns about identity and nationalism that have specially come to the fore in the wake of Britain's exit from the European Union. Given that she now lives in London makes these issues even more relevant to her work.

Some of the artefacts at the exhibition portray a disturbingly familiar gloom yet, paradoxically, they also evoke a sense of hope that the erosion and erasure they showcase will one day generate debates about Karachi's past, present and future. These debates are crucial for the sustainable expansion of a city that seems to be perpetually under construction.

Courtesy: Dawn

Iranian film festival kicks off in Karachi

The week-long festival featured different Internationally acclaimed Iranian productions.

A week-long Iranian film festival kicked off on Wednesday at the Iranian Cultural Centre, opening up to Pakistani audiences an unfamiliar world.

Different Iranian productions, internationally acclaimed, are set to be screened at the cultural centre to allow a more meaningful exchange between the two countries. All the movies instead of having subtitles were dubbed into Urdu.

The chief guest at the festival was actor Javed Sheikh who expressed his desire to see cultural exchanges between Iran and Pakistan, espe-

cially in the film world, which is a sure-shot way to improve bilateral ties between the two countries.

The language barrier can be a deterrent for people to watch such movies, and the decision to dub the movies rather than include subtitles was a good idea, the senior actor observed. In this way, just like audiences were drawn to Turkish dramas dubbed in Urdu, they would also enjoy watching Iranian films. Mr Sheikh even hoped he could at some point in his career work in an Iranian film.

"Iran is an example where the government did not shut down the film industry but instead encouraged it to pick up meaningful themes and still keep Islam in view when mak-

ing films," he said.

The director general of the Iranian Cultural Centre, Dr Raza Baqri, spoke about how social causes and the battles of real life are usually the premise of most Iranian films, which is a clear departure from most film industries around the world. Not only are the stories of a superior quality, but so is the execution which is why the Iranian film industry in being recognised the world over and winning accolades. He explained the evolution of Iranian cinema before and after the Islamic Revolution.

"Before the revolution most of the movies featured a lot of violence, misbehaviour against and misuse of women, and other immoralities.



However, after the revolution the government encouraged and guided the film industry to honour human society by making films about morality, cultural commitments, and the human community. This was the new Iranian cinema."

The first film shown was *The Willow Tree* which is about Youssef, a man blinded in a fireworks accident as a young child.

The film festival will continue till February 18.

Courtesy: Dawn

16th Mystic Music Sufi Festival kicks off in Lahore

The 16th Mystic Music Sufi Festival got under way on Friday with music, colours, dance and, last but not the least, a finale performance by Rahat Fateh Ali Khan.

The Alhambra Cultural Complex was packed with youths who seemed particularly excited and also danced along with the performances. The festival has been organised by Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop.

The red, blue, yellow and shimmering gold lights added a surreal effect to the event. The line-up of performances included Muhammad Khan, Sheema Kermani, Arif Lohar, vocalists from Gilgit-Baltistan, Pappu Saen, Tehseen Sakina and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan. The evening kicked off with a performance from Balochistan. Clad in their traditional attire, the performers presented Sufi poetry. Though the performance was in Balochi, it was well received by the audience owing to its melodious music.

Next was Sheema Kermani who



had the audience swaying along with her during her performance to Sufi numbers such as 'Aaj rang hai' and 'Dama dam mast qalandar'. She performed with a group of girls who all concluded the dance with a dhamaal.

Folk sensation Arif Lohar stole the show with his superb rendition of 'Jugni' and a few other Sufi songs. Clad in a black kurta shalwar with golden embroidery along with a group of four drummers, they created magic.

Then came renowned drummer, Pappu Saen, whose charismatic performance had the audience dancing to the beat of his drum. Till the filing of this report, Tehseen Sakina and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan had yet to perform.

Courtesy: Dawn

First ever Thar science festival begins in Mithi

The two-day first ever 'Thar Science Festival' opened in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Cultural Complex in which students of 73 schools displayed 120 models exhibiting their passion for science and technology.

The event was being held by the Thar Education Alliance (TEA) in collaboration with Alif Ailaan and other organisations working in Thar and other parts of the country with a view to encouraging talented Thari students to focus on science and mathematics.

Students from 73 government and private schools participated in the event in thousands.

The first day attracted the attendance of 6,000 students from more than 100 schools of Thar. Teachers, entrepreneurs, science specialists, government officials and local political leaders attended the festival where students exhibited their scientific skills and introduced innovative concepts to the visitors.

Talking to reporters, the organisers maintained that the latest Stan-



dardised Achievement Test conducted in Sindh reflected a poor understanding of maths and science in Tharparkar and it called for focused intervention by the government.

They claimed that the festival would help create curiosity among students and teachers for maths and science.

Courtesy: Dawn

Jordan's King Abdullah II arrives in Islamabad on two-day visit

Jordan's King Abdullah II arrived in Islamabad on Thursday on a two-day visit on the invitation of President Mammoon Hussain, Radio Pakistan reported.



The purpose of the king's visit is to provide the two countries an opportunity to explore ways and means to further strengthen cooperation in diverse areas, particularly in expansion of bilateral trade and enhancement of investments in Pakistan, the state-run news service reported.

King Abdullah received a guard of honour upon arrival and was presented a salute by a formation of three JF-17 Thunder fighter jets.

He was greeted by Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at PM House, where a formal reception was held in his honour.

Courtesy: Dawn

First-ever transgender scout batch takes oath in Karachi

In a first, as many as 40 transgenders took an oath to become members of the scouting community at a ceremony held in Karachi.

It was the first instance in the country when transgender youth were welcomed into the Pakistan Boy Scouts Association (PBSA), a national scouting organisation and one of the largest volunteer forces in the country.

The young transgenders, wearing scout scarfs, took the oath at the ceremony and were educated about scouting rules.

TransAction Alliance president Farzana Jan while addressing the ceremony said the transgender community in Pakistan is extremely happy to be welcomed into the scouting community.

"We feel that we are recognised as equal citizens of Pakistan and we are glad to see that the level of our acceptance is increasing," said Jan,



who is the only transgender from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to be admitted to PBSA so far.

PBSA, which has nearly 700,000 members, aims to train young boys in first aid, civil defence, camping and hiking, community development projects and emergency response and holds regular camps, hikes, speech contests and other activities such as tree planting camps and peace camps.

Atif Amin Hussain, Commissioner

IPC Sindh Boys Scouts, while addressing the ceremony said PBSA "is open to all, without distinction of origin, race or creed".

Scouting was founded in Pakistan as part of the British-Indian branch of The Scout Association. The PBSA was officially founded in 1947, immediately after independence and became a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement in April 1948.

Courtesy: Dawn

98pc foreign cricketers ready to visit Pakistan for PSL



PSL Schedule 2018

have had similar success in convincing their international talent to play in Pakistan, saying: "Overall, 98pc of the players have agreed to come to Lahore and Karachi. Some are left and hopefully they will also agree soon."

Captaincy role for Imad Wasim explained



Karachi Kings owner Salman Iqbal on Wednesday claimed that upto 98 per cent of foreign cricketers are ready to come to Pakistan for the playoffs and finals of the 2018 Pakistan Super League (PSL).

significantly in 2017 when a bunch of international players visited Pakistan, first for the PSL final and then for the World XI vs Pakistan series.

The country's flagship T20 league, which kicks off on Feb 22, will see its playoffs and the final played in Lahore and Karachi respectively.

Later in the year, Sri Lanka also visited Pakistan, reiterating the Pakistan Cricket Board's stance that the situation in Pakistan is now under control and conducive for cricket.

Foreign players, in the past, have shown great reluctance in visiting Pakistan owing to the country's volatile security conditions.

Kings owner Iqbal, during the launching ceremony of the team's official kit, delivered more good news to Pakistani cricket fans, saying that all the foreigners on his

However, that reluctance waned



team's roster have agreed to travel to Pakistan if their team qualifies

Iqbal also commented on the selection of the franchise's captain, Imad Wasim, explaining why the team chose a newcomer such as him to lead the side when far more experienced players options were available.

"Six of our seven players are ready to come and play in Pakistan [from the beginning]. Eoin Morgan, who has commitments to other leagues, [is the sole exception]. He will be coming late and will be leaving early."

"In the last two seasons, we changed captains several times so now the management has decided that there should be a young captain who can stay with us for a long and can prove to be helpful, not only for us but for the national team too," he said.

"This is good news for all of us that players have agreed to come here and we hope everything stays well," he added.

Iqbal claimed that other franchises

Courtesy: Dawn



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