

Positive Post



Greenwich University
Pakistan-Mauritius

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

September in History

September 30, 1947:

Pakistan becomes member of United Nations (UN) by a unanimous vote of the Security Council.

September 11, 1948:

Founding father of nation Quaid-e-Azam dies in Karachi due to stroke.

September 14, 1948:

Khwaja Nazimuddin becomes Governor General of Pakistan.

September 6, 1950:

General Mohammad Ayub Khan, the first Pakistani, is appointed C-in-C of Pakistan Army.

September 12, 1956:

Huseyn Shaheed Suharwardy assumes office of appointed Prime Minister.

September 16 1959:

Government establishes Islamic Research Institute.

September 9, 1960:

Pakistan achieved its first Gold Medal in Olympics, defeating India in hockey by 1-0 at Rome.

September 17, 1964:

Fatima Jinnah filed her paper as candidate for the Presidential election.

September 23, 1990:

Sandak project signed between Pakistan and China at Beijing.

A day to remember the sacrifices of Pakistan's martyrs



Top leadership sends out messages of unity; armed forces commemorate the day with a show of power.

Pakistan, on September 6, commemorated the sacrifices made by its armed forces during the 1965 war. Various events were held all over the country to mark the occasion. Personnel from all military and paramilitary forces took part in these events.

Prime Minister Imran Khan in his message said Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence and wants to promote mutual cooperation with other countries, including its neighbours, on the basis of equality.

He said the people of Pakistan have the ability to brave all challenges while following Quaid-i-Azam's principles of Unity, Faith, and Discipline.

President Mamnoon Hussain and Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa also sent out messages of unity on the occasion. Mobile app, website to promote tourism in KP

On the directives of Senior Minister Muhammad Atif Khan, the sports, tourism, archaeology, culture, museums and youth affairs department is launching a new mobile App and website to introduce Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a tourism brand to the world to attract more tourists and visitors to the province.

This was told at a meeting held with department's secretary Shahid Zaman in the chair on Wednesday. Additional secretary Babar Khan, officials of Management Information System and others attended the meeting, according to a press release. The MIS team briefed the participants on the launch of mobile App and new website.

The meeting was told that all data of tour operators, hotels, restaurants booking, tracking, tourist resorts, lakes, weather in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be uploaded on the website and mobile App to help tourists get information about these facilities at home before leaving for a particular destination.

The officials said the department had taken tangible steps to boost

archaeological, adventure, religious and cultural tourism and attract more foreign and domestic tourists to the province. The participants were informed that 75 per cent of tourist destinations, archaeological and heritage sites and Buddhism ruins of the country existed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The followers of Buddhism and enthusiasts of adventure tourism could be attracted to the province with the new app and website. The capacity of registered tour operators had been built through workshops and trainings to help them better facilitate the visiting tourists in the province, the meeting was told.

During his maiden visit to the department recently, the senior minister had vowed to arrange activities at international level to apprise foreigners of the tourism potential and beautiful places in the province.

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.

Students prove classical music has a bright future in Pakistan

At the APMC's Nautarang event, it was evident that young people are also keen about classical music. It fills practitioners and lovers of music with great hope to know that the younger generation, some of them cusp millennials, are taking a keen interest in classical and semi-classical music.

This was evident, one more time, on Saturday evening at an event titled 'Nautarang' organised by the All Pakistan Music Conference (APMC) at the Alliance de France, Karachi.

The concert went off to a delightful start when Tanveer Zaheer, student of Ustad Bashir Khan, presented two very popular compositions made famous by artists such as Shafqat Amanat Ali and Sajjad Ali. The first song that Tanveer sang was 'Khamaj' whose video, shot by Saqib Malik, complemented the lyrics beautifully. It was so nice to notice that the



young man did not over-exert his vocal ability. Although he could have gone for the harkatein that he seems to be capable of, he chose to keep things uncomplicated. As a result, his pitching did not falter and the audience was treated to a fresh, simpler version of the song. His second offering was the Aftab Muztar ghazal Her zulm tera yaad hai that Sajjad Ali has done complete justice to. Tanveer sang only a couple of verses, perhaps rightly so. Again, it was a nice performance.

Another vocalist, Mustafa Dilpazir, followed Tanveer. He is the shaagird of Ustad Ghulam Shabbir. His first act was Taras khao ay morey prabhu in a raga that he claimed was seldom performed. It was evident that the young man is an avid student of music. Still, Mustafa needs to understand that he should not be too conscious of his stage presence. After all, singing, like all arts, requires an utter and complete submission to the art form. By being too aware of his self he tends to lose focus, which affects his ren-

dition of straighter lines in particular.

That being said, the audience liked his performance as well as his thumri in raga champakali a lot, which was why he was requested to stay on stage for one more item. He obliged and sang a ghazal by Nasir Kazmi, Kya lagey aankh ke phir dil mein samaya koi.

The last artist of the evening was the young tabla player Waqas Gulab, another student of Ustad Bashir Khan. His performance in 'teentaal' (16-beat cycle) was quite impressive.

I feel compelled here to mention the name of sarangi player Gul. He accompanied the vocalists and the percussionist on stage and sounded so mellifluous that occasionally overshadowed those who were supposed to be in the limelight.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan qualify for SAFF Cup semi-finals after 13 years, beat Bhutan 3-0

Pakistan made it to the SAFF Cup semi-finals for the first time since 2005 after they beat a struggling Bhutan side 3-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on Saturday.

The Green Shirts' status in the last-four was confirmed later when hosts Bangladesh were knocked out on goal difference after Nepal beat them 2-0 and went through to the semis courtesy goals by Bimal Gharti Magar and Nawayug Shrestha.

Jose Antonio Nogueira's men fared way better than their opponents in their third and last Group 'A' match after poor performances with the ball in their first two outings in the tournament against Nepal and Bangladesh.

Riaz got Pakistan off the mark in the 20th minute, drilling the ball past Bhutan goalkeeper Jamphel at the near post after a header by skipper Saddam Hussain on a long ball set the K-Electric midfielder up.

Hosts Bangladesh crash out on goal difference

Riaz rounded off defender Richen Dorji at the edge of box to open his way on goal.

Bashir doubled the lead nine minutes later with a sliding finish from almost outside the box after a precise pass from Mohammad Ali on the right-flank found him running between Bhutan's centre-back pairing.

Ali was in the midst of the Pakistan attack once again in the first minute of injury time teeing up substitute Ahmed Faheem who calmly placed it past the near post to seal victory.

"We lost the chance of scoring more goals but three goals was very good for us," Pakistan head coach Nogueira said.

"This victory is for all the people in the PFF and in Pakistan," added the Brazilian.

Pakistan could have scored two



more goals had Bashir's header in the 10th and Riaz's volley in the 41st minute not hit the crossbar. In contrast to their game-play against Nepal and Bangladesh in their previous two fixtures, Pakistan dominated possession and created more chances than their struggling opponents.

"It was very tough for us to score three goals and qualify and with God's grace we will try to win the semi-final and qualify for the final as well," said Riaz.

Bhutan couldn't create clear-cut chances but they had a couple of chances in the last 10 minutes.

In the 82nd minute, Kabi Raj Rai headed inches over the bar following a cross from substitute forward Kingay Rabgay before Chencho Gyeltshen's shot at the near post was saved five minutes later.

"The two guys upfront caused us a lot of problems getting the ball in earlier," said Nepal coach Trevor Morgan of the Pakistan strikers. "The second half was one of the best 45 minutes we've had."

India play Maldives in the last Group 'B' match on Sunday to finalise the semi-final line-up.

Courtesy: Dawn

Google pays homage to Fatima Surayya Bajia on 88th birthday with doodle

Google is paying tribute to Pakistan's legendary playwright Fatima Surayya Bajia with its doodle feature on her 88th birthday (September 1). Google honours prominent personalities and occasions with special logos that it calls 'doodles'.

In the past, Google also paid tribute to Pakistan's prominent personalities, Mehdi Hassan, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Abdul Sattar Edhi, Noor Jehan, Nazia Hassan and many others.

Surayya Bajia was born in Indian city of Hyderabad on September 1, 1930. She, along with her family, migrated to Pakistan after the par-



tion of the sub-continent.

Bajia had acquired extensive knowledge of Arabic, Persian, English and Urdu literature and history at home through without having any formal degree. When her grandfather and father died in Karachi, she took up the responsibility of look-

ing after her younger siblings.

She brought all her siblings up with care and made them all receive a good education almost all of them successfully carved out their own identity in separate fields of art and culture.

Her brother Anwar Maqsood became a satirist and playwright, her sister Zehra Nigah became a renowned poetess while Zubaida Tariq turned into a cooking expert.

She received numerous awards, including the Pride of Performance Award for her services to the performing arts in Pakistan. In 2012, she was awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz by President of Pakistan. Besides the local awards, she was given the highest civil award of Japan.

She breathed her last on February 10, 2016 at the age of 85.

Courtesy: The News

Online voting service for overseas Pakistanis introduced



Overseas Pakistanis will be able to vote in the October 14 by-polls using any internet-connected device courtesy iVoting, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said on Tuesday.

"Voters need to register themselves on the ECP's overseas voting website" on this account, ECP Spokesperson Nadeem Qasim said. The registration deadline expires on September 15, he said.

ECP completes initial probe in RTS fiasco

Qasim said the ECP had collaborated with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) over the initiative. "Overseas voters can check their eligibility and also cast their vote by visiting the website."

To cast their votes online, overseas

Pakistanis should possess a National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistani (NICOP), Machine Readable Passport (MRP) and must be registered voters in constituencies where by-elections are set to take place. The ECP spokesperson said a video had been prepared to aid voters in casting votes too.

Over two dozen independents notify ECP on joining PTI

"The video is widely being circulated widely on the social media. It will also be aired on PTV during prime time," Qasim said.

A programme had also been launched to raise awareness among overseas Pakistanis on i-Voting, Qasim said. A report on the results of the pilot project will be presented before the Parliament, he said.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

PM's House to be converted into postgraduate institute: minister



Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood said on Thursday that the Prime Minister's House would be converted into a high-quality postgraduate institute.

Addressing a press conference regarding the new government's plans for state-owned properties, the minister announced that additional construction would also be carried out on the land behind the residence meant for the premier.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan has decided that he will not stay in the PM's House and governors will not stay in the official residences meant for them to cut down costs," he added.

According to the education minister, the annual expenditure of PM's House was Rs 470 million.

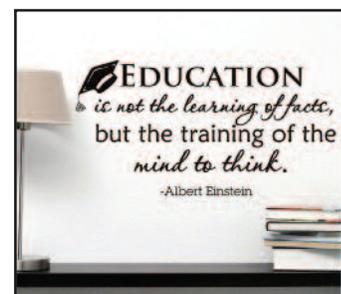
Therefore, it has been decided that the PM's House will be turned into

a top-level educational institute, Mehmood said.

Speaking about reconstruction of other official buildings, Mehmood said Governor House in Lahore would be used as a museum and art gallery, while park on the premises would be opened for public.

The Punjab House in Murree will be turned into a tourist complex, while the Governor House in Karachi and the one in Balochistan would be used as museums, he concluded.

Courtesy: Daily Times



Saudi Arabia, Pakistan agree to boost trade ties

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to work out proposals for enhancing bilateral economic co-operation through identifying specific areas in trade and investment. An understanding to this effect was reached at the second meeting of Pak-Saudi Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment. The JWG was constituted in the 11th session of Pak-Saudi Joint Ministerial Commission held at Islamabad in January 2018.

Secretary Commerce Younus Dagha and Saudi Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Abdulrahman Alharbi co-chaired the session. The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al-Maliki as well as other officials from various ministries participated in the meeting.

Dagha invited Saudi government and private sector to invest in oil refining, petrochemicals and food processing industry in Pakistan.

After official discussions, the Petroleum Division and leading private sector companies presented their project proposals. The follow up of first JWG meeting was also discussed to resolve non-tariff barriers, facilitating business visas, and logistic arrangements for the Pakistan Single Country Exhibition in Jeddah as well as activating the Joint Business Council.



Alharbi elaborated that the kingdom desires to have close economic partnership with Pakistan and the two countries could cooperate and have joint ventures in petro chemicals, food processing and other sectors.

The Saudi delegation also comprised of six businessmen from petrochemical and food sectors and their meetings were arranged with Pakistani counterparts from meat, poultry, fruits and vegetables, rice and petrochemical.

The local companies presented details of their meat and food processing plants which meet Saudi standards and have been registered by the Food and Drug Agency there. The touring delegation expressed keen interest in the investment projects and trade proposals and the two agreed to take further steps expeditiously to materialise these proposals, added the announcement.

Courtesy: Dawn

1.5m trees will be planted today as part of 'Plant for Pakistan' campaign

A one-day tree plantation campaign titled 'Plant for Pakistan' will be carried out across the country today. Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to inaugurate the campaign by planting a sapling in the federal capital.



Under the campaign, some 1.5 million trees will be planted as part of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government's 10 billion tree tsunami 2018 drive.

During the campaign, people will be given free of cost saplings at 190 distribution points across the country.

According to a statement issued

by the government, the purpose of the campaign is to encourage people, communities, organisations, business and industry, civil society and government to collectively plant trees.

The day will also create awareness about benefits of forests and increasing forest cover in big cities of the country.

Courtesy: Dawn

Sindh Governor House's daily visiting hours announced



The historical building of the Sindh Governor House, which is being opened for families on Friday (today) as per order of Prime Minister Imran Khan, will be open daily from 6am to 10am on working days while on Sunday it will be opened in the evening only from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

According to official spokesman Saleem Khan, in the first phase, only families will be allowed to visit specific parts of Governor House.

According to an official communication, for visiting Governor House in form of a group, permission has to be taken in writing in advance.

The people are reminded that being a national asset it is the responsibility of all to look after Governor House.

For safety purpose closed-circuit television cameras are already operating and as such damaging any

part of Governor House will be taken as a criminal act. In case of any emergency Governor House could be vacated.

Similarly any person who is called for identification has to identify himself/herself. Governor House is located on the original site of the now-demolished Government House, which was built in 1843 by Sir Charles Napier while Sindh was part of the British Raj.

The construction of the present Governor House started in 1936 by architect R.T. Russel. It was completed in 1939 at a cost of Rs700,000.

Following independence, the building became the residence of Governor General Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The Quaid-i-Azam resided in the house until his death in September 1948.

Courtesy: Dawn

'Idea Cronon Ka' - a reality show

For Kanwal Ahmed, Soul Sisters Pakistan (SSP) a Facebook group she started five years ago was just an idea she developed for herself and the women around her.

However, around two months ago, things changed when Facebook got in touch with her with two opportunities the first, a fellowship in the first global Facebook community leadership programme; and second, the social media giant's initiative for entrepreneurs in collaboration with 'Idea Cronon Ka' which is a reality show on Neo TV that gives entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their ideas

to potential investors.

Joining Ms Ahmed on the reality show segment are five other women from Pakistan Binish Umair and Ishroon Nazish who run the Karachi Schools Guide group on Facebook, Saba Mohsin Shaikh of Karachi Chefs at Home, Marham's Asma Omer, Rabia Aziz-Rizvi of Special Needs Pakistan and Nadia Patel Gangjee of Sheeps.

Ms Gangjee will also be participating with the SSP's founder in the Facebook leadership programme.

Fifth patrol vessel inducted into maritime agency's fleet

The PMSS Kashmir, the fifth maritime patrol vessel built in China for the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, was inducted into the PMSA's fleet at a ceremony.

During his welcome address, Director General of PMSA Rear Admiral Zaka-ur-Rehman said that it was in response to evolving maritime challenges, law enforcement imperatives and national obligations that a capacity enhancement plan was proposed by the PMSA and subsequently approved by the federal government.

He said the induction of another state-of-the-art vessel into the PMSA fleet was of unique significance as it showed the agency's commitment and resolve towards safeguarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and ensuring maritime security.

He said the PMSA was committed not only to enforcing national jurisdiction and sovereignty in the maritime zones but also protecting



Pakistan's economic interests in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

The PMSA DG said the PMSS Kashmir was a symbol of Pakistan's solidarity with the people of Kashmir. "It is a recognition of efforts of the people of Kashmir who are engaged in a heroic struggle and continue to offer supreme sacrifices for their right to self-determination in line with the UN resolution," he added.

PMSA chief says evolving maritime challenges, law-enforcement imperatives and national obligations necessitated acquisition of PMSS Kashmir

Sardar Masood Khan, the president

of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, who was the chief guest on the occasion, congratulated PMSA on the induction of the ship and appreciated the enthusiasm and commitment of PMSA as well as the Chinese Shipyard, which resulted in the construction and induction of the ships.

He also praised the PMSA's role not only in law-enforcement but also in safeguarding the maritime economic interests of Pakistan.

The chief guest also visited various sections of the ship where he was briefed by the commanding officer of the PMSS Kashmir about its capabilities.

Courtesy: Dawn

Punjab Governor House to be open for public on Sundays

The Punjab Governor, Chaudhry Sarwar, has announced opening of the Governor House for the public on Sundays, saying that all national assets belong to the people of Pakistan.



At a news conference, the governor said the historic building would initially be opened for families on Sundays between 10am and 6pm. It would also be opened for the schoolchildren on a formal request to the administration, he added. He said the Governor House in Murree had already been made accessible to the public.

In the first phase, Mr Sarwar said the Governor House parks, lake, zoo and swimming pool were being opened so that people could see the historic building.

He said the decision had been taken on the instructions of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Mr Sarwar said the PTI wanted to dispel the impression that Pakistan was created for the elite.

He said the days had gone when the accountability used to start from officials in lower ranks.

The PTI government would start the accountability from the prime minister, chief ministers and governors, he added.

Courtesy: Dawn



KDA unveils plan to form women's hockey team soon

The Karachi Development Authority (KDA) will form a women's hockey team alongside its men's team in a move aimed at providing equal opportunities to womenfolk of the metropolis.

This was announced by the director general of KDA Samiuddin Siddiqui while speaking as the chief guest at the Defence Day of Pakistan exhibition hockey matches for men's and women's at the Karachi Hockey Association (KHA) Complex in Gulshan Iqbal on Thursday.

Acceding to the KHA secretary Syed Haider Hussain's request, the DG KDA responded positively to set a precedent by offering contract to 16 women players soon amidst applause.

It is pertinent to mention that the KDA had re-launched its men's hockey team about a year back. He had also raised players monthly emoluments from Rs 12,000 to Rs 20,000 recently.

Samiullah XI, Shehla Raza XI win



Defence Day ties

The DG KDA also paid glowing tributes to the personnel of armed forces who had sacrificed their lives for the beloved motherland.

Meanwhile, inside right Shahzaib Khan's hat-trick guided Samiullah XI to a fine win over Hanif Khan XI by 3-1 and win the men's exhibition match.

Hunain Khalid slammed the consolation goal for the losers.

Asma Shah XI held Shehla Raza XI to a one-all draw in the women's exhibition match.

Iqra Javed put Shehla Raza XI in front in the 17th minute while

Ayesha Ali drew level for Asma Shah XI in the 17th minute.

The ceremony was attended among others by former Olympian Jahangir Butt, ex-international Jamil Ahmed Khan, KHA officials Gulfranz Khan, Dr S. A. Majid, Haider Hussain and Ehtisham Warsi.

The KHA has also named a selection committee to pick a women's team for appointment in the KDA. To be headed by former noted Olympian Samiullah, the committee includes Hanif Khan, Haider Hussain and former Pakistan goalkeeper Beenish Mohammad Ali. The date of the trials will be announced soon.

Courtesy: Dawn

Making a strong debut for Pakistan, Sania Maskatiya shows at New York Fashion Week



One of the most respected and acclaimed names in Pakistan's fashion industry, Sania Maskatiya this season elevated her brand value by being the first designer from Pakistan to show at the coveted New York Fashion Week. Participating as part of the Council of Aspiring American Fashion Designers (CAAFD), Sania showcased a Spring/Summer 2019 collection for Sania Studio (her line of western wear), which retained the cultural ethos of the brand in print and pattern. While Sania's collection looked every bit apt for the international runway, it was just as adaptable to fashion back home in Pakistan. That is actually a very tricky balance, which not many designers have been able to strike.

Speaking to Arab News from the show, Sania said that Sania Studio was "reflective of the brand's vanguard fondness for combining modern reduction and antique

fantasy. She said she had tried to play with rhythmic patterns, borrowed from ancient cultures, to "create a playfully pulsating effect, draped with futuristic playfulness and poise, as its signature element". The collection displayed all of Sania's strengths as a designer; she had designed a range of Egyptian inspired prints on a palette of pink, cream and gold. The silhouettes were crisp and clean and unfussy and had great impact.

The CAAFD is a non profit organization that helps young designers from all over the world break through to the American market. If anyone, Sania Maskatiya has the skill and business potential to do so. We'd love to see her spread her wings and scale the world because we know she'll be creating very strong brand value for Pakistan while at it.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Pakistan is outrageously fascinating, say Austrian artists exhibiting in the country

"I am impressed by their excitement and enthusiasm to learn more about Pakistan," said the Ambassador of Austria.

Ambassador of Austria Dr Brigitta Blaha inaugurated an exhibition of contemporary art by two Austrian artists, Anna Stangl and Linda Waber, at the Comsats Art Gallery. Dr Blaha said it is the artists' first trip to Pakistan.

"I am impressed by their excitement and enthusiasm to learn more about Pakistan. Linde keeps saying everything is outrageously fascinating,

and I am sure we will see some of Pakistan in their future work," the ambassador said.

Linde is a renowned artist and writer who visited the studios of Pakistani artists.

"It was a wonderful experience to meet the Pakistani artists, especially the famous poet Kishwar Naheed as well as the painters Farrah Mahmood, Zaira Zaka, Sana Arjumand and Raja Changez Sultan," the artist said.

Anna, who conducted a two-day

Mobile app, website to promote tourism in KP



On the directives of Senior Minister Muhammad Atif Khan, the sports, tourism, archaeology, culture, museums and youth affairs department is launching a new mobile App and website to introduce Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a tourism brand to the world to attract more tourists and visitors to the province.

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During his maiden visit to the department recently, the senior minister had vowed to arrange activities at international level to apprise foreigners of the tourism potential and beautiful places in the province.

Courtesy: Dawn



workshop at the National College of Arts (NCA), Rawalpindi and a one-day workshop on Mixed Media at Comsats, said: "I enjoyed working with the students, both at

NCA and Comsats. I found some of them very talented and seriously working towards becoming good artists."

Courtesy: Dawn

Cake will be submitted for Oscar consideration



The movie could be in the running for 'Foreign Language Film Award' category at the 91st Academy Awards

Arguably one of the best Pakistani movies of recent times, it's no surprise that *Cake* may find itself in the running for an Oscar.

The Pakistani Academy Selection Committee, chaired by two-time Academy Award and Emmy winning documentary filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, has selected *Cake* to be submitted for Oscar consideration in the 'Foreign Language Film Award' category at the 91st Academy Awards.

The committee is chaired by two-time Academy Award and Emmy winning documentary filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and includes Kamila Shamshi [Novelist], Saira Kazmi [Actress and Director], HM Naqvi [Novelist], Hadiqa Kiani [singer, song writer, and philanthropist], Ali Sethi [Singer and writer], Zoe Viccaji [Singer, Song-writer, and musical actress], Nadeem Farooq Paracha [Journalist, author, and cultural critic], Nabila Maqsood [Hairstylist and entrepreneur], Khalid Malik [Actor and Radio Jockey] and Faisal Qureishi [Actor].

Set in Karachi, *Cake* follows the lives of two sisters, one of whom lives abroad and the other is 'left' behind. Burdened with guilt and resentments, the sisters confront old secrets and realize that sometimes the only way for a family

to move on, is by finding a way back. The film stars leading Pakistani actors, Sanam Saeed, Aamina Sheikh and Adnan Malik in pivotal roles and is the debut feature for writer/director Asim Abbasi. It has been produced by Sayed Zulfikar Bukhari.

Talking about the nod, Abbasi



shares, "I am extremely honoured to have *Cake* representing Pakistan this year, and grateful to the selection committee for considering it worthy. My deepest gratitude for my *Cake* family, who worked so hard and with so much belief to bring this film to the audiences. 2018 is proving to be a great year for Pakistani cinema. May it continue to grow and may we always find the courage and the vision to tell our stories our own way."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will choose the final nominees for all award categories including Best Foreign Language Film in January 2019. The complete and final list of Oscar nominees will be announced on January 22, 2019 with the presentation show for the 91st Academy Awards scheduled to take place on February 24, 2019.

Courtesy: Dawn

Lok Virsa theatre hosts festival to promote culture of Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan



The two-day Festival for Peace and Regional Convergence featured folk music from all three countries

Participants of the two-day Festival for Peace and Regional Convergence attended a colourful cultural evening on Wednesday featuring folk music from Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan.

The event was hosted by the training and research centre Media House at the Lok Virsa rooftop theatre, for guests attending a festival to promote the culture, art and customs of Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan.

The evening began with performances by folk musicians from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who performed famous Pashto songs such as Larsha Pekhwar Ta. Folk singers from Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan also performed and the Sindhi musician Waheed Alan Faqeer received great applause for his famous song Huma Huma Kar Bhaya.

Three Tajik musicians also performed, and one of the singers wowed the audience with her rendition of Punjabi and Indian songs.

Mohammad Khalil Goodar Zazai and Tajjudin Chah Abi, two Afghan singers, were accompanied by three other musicians with whom they performed both Pashto and Persian songs.

Waheeda Shah, an audience member, said such events were very useful for the promotion of regional connectivity.

"I am enjoying this colourful musical night and happy to see people from various neighbouring countries and cities are sitting together and enjoying their art and culture," she told Dawn.

Such events are a good source of connectivity and a way to promote a

softer image of Pakistan and this region, she added.

Earlier, youth and peace ambassadors from all three countries held various sessions aimed at building strong youth networks and connectivity in cultural exchange, art and tourism to promote regional harmony.

This was part of Mediothek Afghanistan's Youth Ambassadors in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan initiative, which aims to provide a platform to promote the art and culture of all three countries.

Tajik, Afghan and Pakistani artists performed and young people who had travelled between all three countries spoke about their experiences.

At various sessions, youth ambassadors spoke about organising such a cultural festival to bring peace to the region and the role of the youth in such activities. They believed that given the large youth population of the region, they had the potential to play a constructive role in paving the way for a lasting peace.

Media House Director Dr Shahjahan Sayed said: "Let the youth decide the future of this region, as we have given this region a gift of war and terrorism. They are the hope for a bright and peaceful future."

The festival brought together more than 150 participants, including local government officials, diplomats, academics, civil society activists, journalists, youth group representatives, artists and students.

Dr Sayed said the initiative aims to encourage the youth of Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan to exploit the cultural commonalities of their countries to restore a lasting peace and enduring stability across the region.

Courtesy: Dawn

Archaeologists start research on culture of ancient Swat

To understand the lifestyle, fashion and technological use in vitreous materials, ornamental culture and ceramics used in the ancient Swat, international archaeologists launched different research studies in Swat.

The international archaeologists from the universities of Italy and United Kingdom have launched three different researches with the scientific agreement between the Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan (ISMEO) and the KP Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, with the aim to understand the use of technology, material, types and techniques in ceramics, ornamental stone beads, glass beads, bangles and other material used by the ancient people from Achaemenids to Kushanas in Swat.

Professor Ivana Angelini from the Department of Cultural Heritage in the University of Padova, Italy, along with another scholar Cinzia Bettineschi said that they undertook the vitreous materials from Barikot in the framework of the Indo-Pakistani and Mediterranean glass technology and trade routes. "The aim is to understand the evo-



lution of this high-status craft, in terms of typology of the materials, compositional recipes and working/production techniques," they told this correspondent.

They said that the ornamental objects from Swat showed a wide variability of colours, shapes and technological solutions which tes-

tified early contacts with the Mediterranean basin, but also a noticeable local taste in the choice of the most widespread typologies of bangles, beads and pendants.

Another researcher Mubariz Ahmad Rabbani, who has undertaken his PhD research on the stone beads of Barikot from the University of Reading, UK, said that he was investigating, for example, how the beads were manufactured and how they developed across at that periods.

"I am also trying to find out how the inhabitants of Barikot used the beads to adorn themselves and how they used them to express their identity. Gandharan beads especially from Swat have never been scientifically and comprehensively studied before. Thus this study will shed light on a presently unexplored chapter of Gandharan archaeology," he said.

He added that the study would eventually highlight that Gandhara was indeed an important centre of international connections, diversity, openness and learning.

At the same time two young researchers, Emanuele Lant and Irene Caldana of the Padova University under the supervision of Prof Massimo Vidale have undertaken a research study on the ceramics of Aligrama Swat.

They said that their research was focused on typological study of the ceramics from Aligrama site which was excavated from 1966 to 1983. The researchers thanked KP Archaeology and Museum Department director Abdul Samad and curator of Swat Museum Faizur Rahman for assisting them in their researches.

Courtesy: Dawn



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