

Positive Post

A Publication by Department of Mass Communication & Media Studies and the Diplomatic Academy



July in History

July 8, 1947: *Constituent Assembly of Pakistan approves the design of Pakistan.*

July 9, 1948: *Pakistan's first postage stamp is issued.*

July 11, 1950: *Pakistan joins the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.*

July 14, 1953: *Wazir Mansion Karachi, the birthplace of Quaid-e-Azam, is declared protected national monument.*

July 17, 1958: *First Nigar Film Awards held.*

July 12, 1959: *Shukriya Niaz Ali becomes first woman pilot of Pakistan.*

July 31, 1690: *Foundation stone of Mazar-i-Quaid (Mausoleum of M.A. Jinnah) is laid.*

July 15, 1961: *Jasmine is chosen as the national flower of Pakistan.*

July 31, 1964: *Pakistan, Iran and Turkey agree to establish RCD*

July 2, 1972: *Simla Agreement is signed between President Bhutto and Prime Minister Indra Gandhi.*

July 24, 1976: *Lahore-Amritsar train service, Samjhota Express starts.*

July 31, 1976: *A.Q. Khan research laboratories established.*

July 8, 1986: *Peshawar Dry Port is inaugurated.*

July 17, 1991: *Pakistan unveils first battle tank Al-Khalid manufactured jointly by Pakistan and China.*

July 15, 2001: *Agra Summit starts. President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee holds talks over long-standing issues.*

July 11, 2003: *Lahore-Delhi bus service resumed after suspension of 18 months.*

July 14, 2005: *NWFP Assembly passes the Hasba bill with a majority vote.*

Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2018 covering socio-economic and political outcomes of the country. Several elements complemented the prospects including successful democratic transition, efficient counter-terrorism measures leading to enhanced peace and security, and foreign direct investment inflows under CPEC, among others. Albeit, decoupling economic growth from human development suggests that the country needs to enhance its scores in health, education and standard of living by ensuring political will, equitable financing and efficient governance to ensure parallel growth for marginalized segments as well. Civil and political liberties must grow hand in hand to ensure a conducive environment for democratic dialogue and accountability which ultimately supports its nation building process.

DEMOCRACY INDEX

Pakistan ranked 112th out of 167 countries in the Democracy Index scoring 4.17 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 4.26 in 2017.

Index from 0 (authoritarian regime) to 10 (full democracy)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Electoral process and pluralism, Civil liberties, Functioning of government, Political participation, and Political culture.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Pakistan ranked 150th out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 0.562 out of 1.000 in 2018 compared to 0.560 out of 1.000 in 2017.

Index from 0 (low development) to 1 (very high development)

Compiled based on indicators covering: life expectancy, education, and per capita income

PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Pakistan ranked 139th out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index scoring 43.24 out of 100 in 2018 compared to 43.55 in 2017.

Index from 0 (most press freedom) to 100 (least press freedom)

Compiled based on indicators covering: pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and infrastructure.

TERRORISM INDEX

Pakistan ranked 5th out of 163 countries in the Terrorism Index scoring 8.18 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 8.40 in 2017.

Index from 0 (lowest impact) to 10 (highest impact)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Total number of terrorist incidents in a given year, total number of fatalities caused by terrorism in a given year, total number of injuries caused by terrorism in a given year and the approximate level of total property damage from terrorist incidents in a given year.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

Pakistan ranked 131st out of 180 countries in the Economic Freedom Index scoring 54.4 out of 100 in 2018 compared to 52.8 out of 100 in 2017.

Index from 0 (repressed) to 100 (free)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Market openness, Regulatory efficiency, Government size and the rule of law.

Positive Post is a strategic effort to project achievement and contributions of Pakistan. While showcasing Greenwich University's cultural diplomacy initiatives, it also encapsulates a compilation of different developments complementing Pakistan's socio-cultural, economic and Political outcomes.

The Federal Republic of Germany is located in Central and Western Europe borders with Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Netherlands. With 83 million population, it is the most populated country in Europe. Germany became a nation state when most of the German states unified into the Prussian-dominated German Empire in 1871. Parliamentary Weimar Republic replaced the Empire, after World War I and the revolution of 1918–19. After the end of World War II in Europe and a period of Allied occupation, two new German states were founded: West Germany, formed from the American, British, and French occupation zones, and East Germany, formed from the Soviet occupation zone. Following the Revolutions of 1989 that ended communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe, the country was reunified on 3 October 1990.

The country is a universal leader in numerous industrial and technological fields, making it the third largest exporter and importer of goods. It is one of the developed nations which have a very high standard of living, universal healthcare system, social security, environmental protection and tuition free higher education system.



Government

Germany is a Federal Parliamentary Republic where legislative power vested in the parliament and regional states of the country. The president is voted for maximum five years. The voters of the President are called Federal Convention which are the members of the parliament. The head of the government is the Chancellor which is elected by the general public. The current Chancellor is Angela Merkel which has been elected four times consecutively. The notable factor is that within six decades, there have been only eight chancellors – an amazing element of stability.



Friedrich and Carl Spitzweg of Romanticism, Max Liebermann of Impressionism and Max Ernst of Surrealism have influenced on Western Art.

Sports

Popular sports of the state are winter sports, boxing, basketball, handball, volleyball, ice hockey, tennis, horse riding and golf and water sports like sailing, rowing, and swimming. 27 million Germans are the members of sports clubs and an added twelve million pursue sports individually. The German men's national football team won the FIFA World Cup in 1954, 1974, 1990, and 2014, the

Culture

Culture of Germany is derived and shaped by the European intellectuals. Historically, the country was called the “Land of Poets and Thinkers” because of the contributions of its writers and philosophers. It is famous for such folk festival traditions as Oktoberfest and Christmas customs, which contain Advent wreaths, Christmas pageants, Christmas trees, Stollen cakes, and other practices.

German painters like, Albrecht Dürer, Hans Holbein the Younger, Matthias Grünewald, Lucas Cranach the Elder, Peter Paul Rubens and Johann Baptist Zimmermann of the Baroque, Caspar David



UEFA European Championship in 1972, 1980 and 1996, and the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2017. Germany hosted the FIFA World Cup 1974 and 2006.

Germany is known for its athletes. Franz Beckenbauer (Footballer), Oliver Kahn (Goal keeper) Wolfgang Behrendt (Boxer), Max Baer (Boxer) and Katarina Witt (Skater) are some of the world's top German athletes.

Religion

Christianity is the largest religion in Germany, according to German Census in 2011. 66.8% of the population is Christians which includes 31.7% are Protestants and 31.2% are called themselves as Roman Catholics. However, Islam is the second largest religion with 1.52 million Muslims, mostly due to immigration. Other minority religions are Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism.



Food

German food varies from region to region. International food such as pizza, sushi, Chinese food, Greek food, Indian cuisine and doner kebab are popular throughout the state. Germans like hearty meals including meat, such as pork, beef and poultry, in that order of popularity. The average person in Germany consumes up to 72 pounds of meat a year. Meat is usually pot-roasted and consumed as sausages. There are more than 1500 different types of sausage in Germany.



Bread is an important part of German cuisine and German bakeries produce about 600 main types of bread and 1,200 different types of pastries and rolls. Also, the country is the third largest cheese producer of Europe.

Pakistan-Germany Relations

Germany and Pakistan enjoy and maintain bilateral and diplomatic relations. German embassy is located in Islamabad and consulate

generals in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta. The current German ambassador in Pakistan is Martin Kobler.

Pak-German relations were begun in 1950s mainly based on mutual friendship, cultural and mutual cooperation in social, education and economic developments. In 1951, President Ayub Khan paid its first state visit to West Germany and partnered with the state to industrial development programs. At that time Pakistan became the first economic partner with Germany. Before the reunification of Germany, Pakistan maintained a cordial relation with both West and East Germany. Around 1200 Germans lives in Pakistan and 35,081 Pakistani immigrants are residing in Germany.



Germany also is one of the countries playing a vibrant and influential role in Pakistan's current political events, others being Saudi Arabia, China, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

Pakistan was the first countries which Germany began its development cooperation. The Pakistan-Germany partnership began in 1961. Former President Ayub Khan gave \$25 million loan to West Germany for twenty years. Pakistan is the fourth largest trading partner of Germany with investment increase up to € 2.3 billion. Germany is the sixth largest importer of Pakistan goods. Pakistan's chief exports to Germany are textiles and leather goods, while Germany's chief exports to Pakistan are machinery and chemical products. Additionally, around 30 German companies are operating in Pakistan – not only large firms but also small and medium-sized enterprises.

In January 2011, Germany and Pakistan agreed on commencing Pak-Germany Strategic Dialogue on annual basis to improve defense, economy, education, energy, investment and infrastructure. Four rounds of Strategic Dialogue have taken place with last one in November 2018, at Islamabad.

Ambassador Profile



His Excellency Martin Kobler (born 1953 in Stuttgart) is a German career diplomat who is the present German Ambassador to Pakistan; he is serving as an ambassador in Pakistan since 2017. Kobler has an advanced law degree and is fluent in English, French, German, Indonesian and Arabic. He also served as a Special Representative and head of the United Nation Organization Stabilization Mission in the Congo and Special Representative, Head of United Nations Support Mission in Libya from November 4th 2015 to June 22nd of 2017.

As an expert in the German Foreign Service, Kobler had held

several high-ranking positions, comprising as Director-General for Culture and Communication in Germany's Foreign Office, and as Ambassador of Germany to Iraq and Egypt. His other posts are Chief of Cabinet to former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer from 2000 to 2003, Deputy Chief of Cabinet from 1998 to 2000, and Deputy Head of the Foreign Ministry's Balkan Task Force from 1997 to 1998. He was also instrumental in implementing the German representation with the Palestinian Authority in Jericho. Additionally, he has acted as an Electoral Observer with the United Nations missions in Haiti, Nicaragua and Cambodia.

Pakistani filmmaker's Darling makes it to Venice Film Festival



Darling is set in a dance theater in Lahore and unravels the story of a young boy and a trans girl.

Pakistani filmmaker Saim Sadiq's masterpiece Darling has made it to the esteemed Venice Film Festival, the world's oldest film festival.

With the City of Gardens as its backdrop, Darling is set in a dance theater in Lahore and unravels the story of a young boy and a trans girl. Breaking conventional heteronormative narratives, Darling highlights experiences that often go unheard.

Sadiq's film is the first ever Pakistani film to make the cut for one of the Big Three film festivals: Cannes, Berlin and Venice. Darling's cast includes upcoming actress Mehar Bano and Nadia Afgan of Suno Chanda.

The main leads are Shani, played by Abdullah Malik, and Alina, played by Alina, a trans girl from Lahore who makes her acting debut with this film.

The director, Saim Sadiq, is a 28 year-old filmmaker from Lahore and a graduate student enrolled at

Columbia University in New York. Mahak Jiwani and Nadia Afgan are the film's producers, with Fahad Nabi and Jasmin Tennuci co-producing. Producer of Cake and Laal Kabootar, Mo Azmi, is the director of photography.

What is particularly commendable about Sadiq's project is that it is truly representational.

The director, Saim Sadiq. In the past, we have seen projects where individuals belonging to privileged groups have played and represented experiences of disenfranchised groups, hoping to give them a voice.

But if anything, this overshadows the narrative of the marginalised and muffles their voices which are rarely being heard.

With Shani being played by Abdullah Malik, and Alina being played by Alina, a trans girl from Lahore, the mic is ACTUALLY being passed to those at the margins and we could not be happier.

Darling will premiere in Venice on September 2019.

Courtesy: Dawn

Shaukat Ali's exhibition Labyrinth will make you lose yourself in the visuals



An exhibition of artworks made by Shaukat Ali titled Labyrinth is currently under way at the Koel Art Gallery. Before one makes an effort to analyse the artist's drift in the 19 paintings that he has put up, it would be apt to narrate a story from a Hollywood film.

The reference is to the 1986 Jim Henson-directed movie having the same title, Labyrinth, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie. Its story pivots around the character of the 15-year-old Sarah's (Connelly) attempt to get to the middle of a maze in order to save her younger brother from the Goblin King (Bowie). Another interesting aspect of this little nugget of information is that Henson was a famous puppeteer.

Shaukat Ali's artworks have at least one thing in common with that film: journey to move out from a complex physical space to a state of (relative) uncomplicatedness. This sounds complicated in itself. It's not. One only has to look at the larger elements in his exhibits. First of all, there's the dominating colour

black which, with lighter or darker shades, forms the base of each piece. This denotes the search for light, almost an act of seeking enlightenment.

But then there are the various formations of lines, ranging from zigzag to circuitous and from knotty to indiscriminate. The patterns can become a lot more comprehensible when the viewer reads the artist's statement in which he refers to the images that he creates as monologues woven through his feelings and emotions, formed with a number of dots that invite the viewers to "lose themselves in the visuals, travel their own way".

Now the link, again, here is that of the journey that Ali has embarked upon, trying to decipher certain aspects of existence. What happens during this quest is that the viewers get to see some striking untitled acrylic-on-canvas works, which make the whole scenario brim with aesthetic grace and artistic finesse.

The exhibition concludes on July 5.

Courtesy: Dawn

Alhamra Theatre Festival kicks off with a play about Partition

Permasher Singh is one of the six plays that will be performed in the festival.

The week-long Alhamra Theater Festival kicked off at the Alhamra Art Center, The Mall on Tuesday with the inaugural play Permasher Singh by Maas Foundation.

Despite heavy rain a good number of theater fanciers came to attend the 21st festival organised by the Lahore Arts Council. The festival will feature six plays by different theater groups.

Maas Foundation presented its evergreen production Permasher Singh, a play adapted from short story of legendary Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi, and got a good response from the audience.

The play is about a young Muslim boy, Akhtar, who gets separated from his mother during the partition. The boy is soon found by the story's other central character, a Sikh man called Permasher Singh. Permasher proceeds to save the boy



from an unruly mob, eventually adopting him against the initial reluctance of his wife.

Forced to make the boy adopt the ways of the Sikh community to survive, Permashar's character is in contrast to the people around him. He encourages Akhtar to recite his lines from the Quran, fights to protect Akhtar's identity as a Muslim and goes all lengths to take the boy back to his mother, regardless of how close he is to the boy. The story ends on a sad note, with Permashar's efforts going waste, and

the innocent cries of a young boy ringing out loud in the face of unsympathetic coldness.

The music is composed by Harinder Sohal, a prominent music composer, while poetry of Amrita Pritam was also used.

Maas Foundation president Aamir Nawaz, the director of the play, told Dawn that the group had performed this play 15 times from 2008 till 2013. This included five performances in Amritsar, Jalandhar, Preet Nagar, Rohtak and Kurukshetra.

"It's a great experience to reproduce it after six years. At one stage we produced it so many times that it became the identity of Maas Foundation. Its music is composed by Harinder Sohal," said Nawaz.

He said performing a dramatic piece of literature by a literary giant like Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi was not an easy task. "Although we had produced this play several times but owing to its rich scenes and visual effects, we have to put in extra effort each time to perform it."

Maas Foundation has produced more than 21 theatre plays since 2003. These include Kafan, Book of Love, Teen Taray, Guddo and Mera ki Qasoor. The group has also performed in India, China, South Korea, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Maas Foundation is also going to perform at the 8th Colombo International Theater Festival 2019 on Aug 4.

Courtesy: Dawn,

Shangla's 'white mountain' valley offers a lot to nature lovers

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has a number of unexplored tourist resorts having huge potential to attract nature-lovers from across the country and abroad if the government does the proper projection and provides the required facilities.

Speen Ghar (white mountain) valley in Shangla district is one such attraction. Lying afoot the mountain covered with snow throughout the year, the valley's name seems to be derived from it.

Nevertheless, it is heartening that some tourists still visit it. A group of trekkers, including three youth and as many children, recently visited this tourist destination to explore the hidden beauty of this valley, on the one hand, and to have the taste of traditional food served by locals, on the other.

Hailing from Lilownai, also a scenic place in Shangla, the group



started their journey towards their destination in a jeep, which took three hours to take them to Kandaw area. From this point, they started hiking and after passing through Changa Baba, Kaar Banda, Natkai Banda, Gat Sar and Charai Banda, they reached Speen Ghar, surrounded by waterfalls, vast meadows, thick forests and attractive lakes. The cold weather was adding to the beauty of the valley.

Mohammad Shahid, a member of the group, said the three-day trip was exciting and informative. "Cooking food, enjoying bonfire and telling stories were the main features of the trip."

For Mohammad Adnan, another trekker, it was the best experience of his life, enabling him to see glaciers, lakes and enjoy cold weather in the month of July which is too hot to bear in plain areas of the

country.

Shangla, he observed, is rich in natural beauty, natural resources and the government must take necessary steps to build link roads and establish guest houses which would go a long way in generating handsome revenue for the government. In addition, he added, it would also contribute to the local economy.

It was the second visit of the eight-year-old Sameer Ali to Speen Ghar during the last couple of months. For him, the visit was unforgettable as, according to him, it provided him with an opportunity to see the area himself about which he used to hear from his elders.

"I would recommend youth to visit these historical places as very few people are aware of these beautiful spots," he said.

Courtesy: Dawn,

Pilot phase of 'Road to Makkah' project to kick off this week in Islamabad



A team from Saudi Arabia arrived in Islamabad on Monday to begin the process for the provision of immigration facilities to Pakistani pilgrims under the Road to Makkah project, Radio Pakistan reported.

Under the Road to Makkah project initiated by Saudi Arabia, all immigration requirements are fulfilled at the airport of origin. The project also includes other Muslim countries, such as Indonesia and Malaysia.

According to an earlier statement from a spokesperson of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, 90 per cent of Pakistani pilgrims will go through customs and immigration processes at the airports in Pakistan before leaving for Haj, instead of having to wait for 10-12 hours after arriving in Saudi Arabia.

The equipment required for immigration clearance has been installed

in the Islamabad Airport's departure lounge and 10 special counters have been set up where the Saudi team, along with Pakistani authorities, will carry out the immigration process. The Saudi team will start operations within two to three days.

The authorities will complete the immigration process and screen the travel documents and luggage of pilgrims at the Islamabad airport. The pilgrims will not have to wait at airports in Saudi Arabia for immigration or their luggage, which will be transported to their place of stay.

This is the initial stage of the project and about 20,000 people will benefit under the pilot phase. The service will be provided to pilgrims travelling from Karachi and Lahore airports as well from next year if the project succeeds.

Courtesy: Dawn

Akif Rashid's book Encounters launched at Alhamra



The launch was held by the English Literature society

The English Literary Society, in association with the Progressive Writers Association, held the launch of a fiction book, Encounters, by Akif Rashid at Alhamra Adbi Baithak on Saturday.

The event was presided over by Dr Amra Raza.

The chief guests were Amjad Tufail, Asim Butt, Syed Noor and Shahzad Rafique. The writers who spoke on the occasion included Prof Anwarul Haq, Rubia Jilani, Raza Naeem, Atoofa Najeeb, Javaid Aftab and Tahir Bin Shahzad.

The speakers lauded the presentation of self-expression in the book written in narrative style, terming it adventurous and experimental. Commending the book, they said, very few stories revealed internal conflicts, extraordinary complicated sentences and writer's unfulfilled desires and aspirations.

They said the writer overthrew long standing traditions of expression and brought about a change in presenting life-like situations, keeping pace with modern literary trends. They said the stories exposed tender emotions, making the people realise to put their life to good purpose for benefit of the humanity.

Courtesy: Dawn

France returns looted relics to Pakistan

France handed over to Pakistan nearly 450 ancient relics, some dating as far back as 4,000 BC, seized by French customs agents over a decade ago.

Customs agents at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport in 2006 intercepted a parcel from Pakistan containing 17 terracotta pots addressed to a museum in the city, claiming they were more than 100 years old.

But an expert who examined them concluded they were artefacts dating back to the second or third millennium BC which had likely been stolen from burial sites in Balochistan.

Following an extensive investigation which lasted almost a year and involved a raid on the Paris gallery, investigators found a total of 445 items,



some dating as far back as 4,000 BC, with an estimated value of 139,000 euros.

Among the items on display at the embassy to mark the handover were a series of beautifully-decorated pots, vases and jars, all painstakingly adorned with small, stylised motifs of animals, plants and trees.

There were also about 100 tiny ceramic figurines, as well as plates, bowls and goblets, all of which had

been illegally shipped out of Pakistan for sale to dealers abroad.

"This is very, very important for us," said Abbas Sarwar Qureshi, head of the chancery at the Pakistani embassy where France's top customs official attended a formal handover ceremony.

"Some of the items are 6,000 years old from the Mehrgarh civilisation," he told AFP, referring to an era that predates the Indus Valley civilisation which flourished around 3,000 BC before mysteriously disappearing. Aurore Didier, head of France's archaeological mission in the Indus basin, said the ceramics came from illegally-excavated graveyards and were examples of two different cultures: the Nal (3100-2700 BC), and the Kulli (2600-1900 BC).

"For this period, very few sites have been documented and archaeologists stopped their work in Baluchistan in 2007 due to political issues in the area," she told AFP.

Although not new or unique, they provided valuable evidence of a period where most of the remaining graves had been destroyed. "For archaeologists, it's very important because it's the only evidence of funerary material from this period," she said.

Qureshi said the 445 objects would be shipped back to Pakistan "within a few weeks," although it was not immediately clear where they would be exhibited.

Courtesy: Dawn

Ode to the lost art of news calligraphy

Once upon a time, there were no computers in the newsrooms; there were calligraphers.

In an interview with Dawn, 67 year old Ghulam Mohiuddin shared that he started his career as a katib at Hurriyat. He was just 15 at the time.

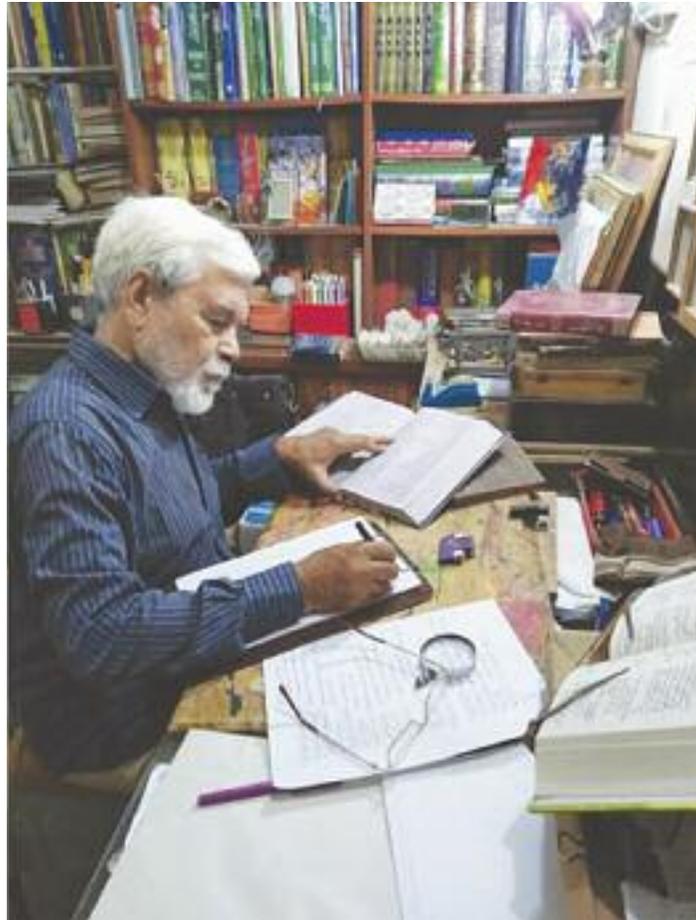
“By the time I was 17 or 18, the senior calligraphers in the newsroom were upset with me because I would write the headline for the lede stories. They thought I was too young to be given such an important job,” he said. But, he added, the night shift in the newsroom ran on a very tight deadline. “It was about who could write the headline the fastest and make it look beautiful. My first headline was about a pipe bursting in the city,” he added.

Mr Mohiuddin — who has worked for Mashriq, Jang, Dunya and Akhbar-i-Jahan — said that when he started his career, his father made him promise that he would learn another skill or go into sub-editing and reporting.

“One day we were at work, I think it was the mid-80s or so and we saw a computer being used to take out the pages. My father turned to me and said, you better have a backup plan,” he explained.

Emperor Shah Jahan is said to have got some of the best calligraphers. Looking back at his time in the newsroom, Mr Mohiuddin said: “News-papers were the place to be at that time. Newspapers like Hurriyat and Anjam had around 50 katibs each. I think it was five calligraphers per page or maybe more depending on the size.”

Some of the giants in the field, according to Mr Mohiuddin, were Jang’s Chacha Fazal and Sultan sahab, Hurriyat’s Aziz Ahmed, and Anjum’s Baray and Chhotay Imtiaz. Unfortunately, he regretted, calligraphy — particularly in the print industry — has died. “The problem is that though there are a lot of schools and softwares you can learn it from, no one teaches the real thought and history behind it. Ummat used to use the Lahori script while Jang’s Chacha Fazal



used the Lucknowi script which was a mix of the Dehlvi and Persian script,” he said.

There was a time, he said, when you could find calligraphers around Radio Pakistan and Bahadur Shah Zafar Bazaar. But, not anymore. The shift to digital

According to Mohammad Irshad of Mashriq, calligraphy is a lost art.

Sharing a brief history of the newspaper, he said Mashriq was published from Lahore in the 60s and was part of the National Press Trust.

“We used to print in six cities and each city had its own calligraphers. I believe in those days our editorial staff was quite small in comparison with our calligraphers,” he said.

“Headlines on the front page were done by one team of calligraphers while the headlines for inside pages or shorter stories and magazines were done by another. Once the headlines were done, then we would

develop a film which would then go for designing and graphics. Now we use InPage and Coral Draw for everything,” he said.

It was the mid to late 90s, when the newspaper shifted to digitalisation, he claims.

At Ummat, the title of last katib lies with Abdul Rashid Shahid. While he doesn’t write headlines for the paper anymore owing to his poor health, he still overlooks the process from a distance.

Mr Shahid, who learnt the art from his grandfather, started his career at the young age of 12. “Till a few years ago, I used to write headlines for Ummat by hand but now everything has gone digital,” he said.

The history Rauf Parekh, a linguist and lexicographer, told Dawn that calligraphy was all about the aesthetic.

“When they started printing in Urdu, everything was done by hand. Back in the time of the Mughals. I

think it was Emperor Shah Jahan when the Portuguese brought in a rudimentary printing press as they wanted to set up a printing press. Shah Jahan then got some of his best calligraphers,” he said.

It was interesting to note, he said, that Naskh is an Arabic script which is used to print Sindhi but it was not beautiful to look at.

“People have difficulty in reading it look at the magazine Sir Syed took out, or Allama Iqbal’s writings ... people liked the content, but not the print type. It took over a century to resolve,” he explained.

“Nastaliq on the other hand, is the Iranian script we use for Urdu. It is what Jang uses. People such as Mutloobul Hassan Sayed and Jamil Ahmed Mirza brought a revolution in the Urdu language when they computerised Nastaliq,” said Mr Parekh.

According to Mahmood Sham who was associated with Jang for years it has now become obsolete.

“At the beginning of my career, we used a yellow paper you only had one shot to get it right then we moved to letho, butterpaper and black pelican ink in the ’60s and ’70s. These were the days we used to do cutting and pasting. Then came colour printing in the ’90s and introduced films,” he said.

Courtesy: Dawn



Footballer Hajra Khan gets a Guinness World Records hat-trick

"It's an honour to represent Pakistan amongst 50+ countries at this event," says the captain of the football team

Hajra Khan, the captain of the Pakistani football team, is a rising star as she has managed to achieve 3 football-related Guinness world records in the past year.

While Pakistan's male football team has failed to garner attention, Khan has been internationally acclaimed for being a rising athlete as she's played for Equal Playing Field to explore new horizons, and smash records for female athletes. Equal Playing Field (EPF) is a grassroots, non-profit initiative to challenge gender inequality in sport and to promote sports development for girls and women globally, especially in marginalised country contexts.

Speaking to Images, Khan revealed "It is an honour to represent Pakistan amongst 50+ countries at this event. But the message I aim to send out with these world records and achievements



is far deeper - it is to get the next generation of girls to come out and play without any hesitation and resistance where they will not have to worry about their rights or inequality".

Last year, Hajra Khan managed to set the world

record for playing in a football match at the lowest altitude in the history of the game at the Dead Sea in Jordan. This was not the end to Hajra's success story though as she went on to set two more world records this year in Lyon, France.

Earlier this time around, she participated in the world's longest football match that lasted for three and a half hours consecutively where she managed to score 4 goals by herself.

Hajra wrote "Super exhausted but what a great experience! Proud of myself for lasting that long after 11 hrs of travel no sleep".

This wasn't it for Hajra though as she also managed to play in an inclusive match which involved over 51 nationalities whilst the previous world record was held by a match that involved 30 nationalities. That makes it 3 Guinness world records for this Pakistani powerhouse.

It's upsetting that there are female athletes like Hajra who fail to garner as much attention as their male counterparts who barely reach the same heights as Hajra has managed to.

But oh well, there's no denying that the footballer serves as a role model for other women around the world who hope to defy the shackles of patriarchy in the hopes of pursuing their dreams.

Courtesy: Dawn

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