



Mahmood Lodhi wins Asian Chess Championship

Pakistan's International Master (IM) Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi reached the pinnacle of his marathon career when he won the 6th edition of Asian Chess Championship in Lareston, Iran.

Playing with top IMs, FIDE Masters of the continent, Lodhi ended the tournament in a blaze of glory by accumulating eight six points after winning six matches and drawing two to emerge on the top in 44 masters championship.

Lodhi has been dominating the country's chess scene, having won 14 national titles. By winning the Asian title he also got the Grand Master (GM) for the second time in his career.

The 54-year-old Lodhi received a crystal trophy and modest \$500 prize money for his triumph as the continental champion.

"I have been waiting for this great moment for long and finally it came, My top objective is to become Grand Master for which I need funding to regularly feature on the international circuit, I hope I will get the respect, support and patronising for my triumph which a country's top player deserves," star chess master, said.

Top players from India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Malaysia, New Zealand and host Iran took part in 10-round championship.

The Chairman and Director of Mind Sports Association of Pakistan (MSAP) Khurshid Hadi and Tariq Rasheed Khan expressed delight over the grand success of Lodhi.

While congratulating Asian Champion Lodhi, they said MSAP would be duly honored at a reception on Lodhi's return.

Pakistan, Korea ink \$500 million framework agreement



Pakistan and the Republic of Korea signed a framework agreement amounting to US\$500 million in Islamabad which will enable Pakistan to complete various projects with Korean assistance.

The projects include improvement of Power distribution systems, hydro-power, road infrastructure, information technology as well as the Health Sector. The Secretary Economic Affairs Division and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea signed the Framework on behalf of their respective governments.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea said that Korea would extend all possible cooperation for economic development of Pakistan.

By Washma Iqbal BS48 5331

Courtesy: The News

Pakistan's first women truck driver



Breaking stereotypes and driving through gender-based obstacles, Shamim Akhtar from Rawalpindi is Pakistan's first female truck driver.

Driving cars for many years, Akhtar decided to step out of Pakistan's traditional domestic role which requires women to stay home, when she saw her family going through financial hardship. Therefore, in order to support two children at home and to cover the cost of her three eldest daughters' weddings, Akhtar set off to take driving lessons for heavy vehicles.

An inspiration for many, she was issued a public service vehicle license, a first for a Pakistani woman- allowing her to pull trailers, drive trucks and tractors.

By Adullah Sheikh BS43 3808 Courtesy: Express Tribune

Coke Studio season 8, lifting up the Pakistani Music Industry



Coke studio season 8 is one of the best and the most celebrated music serials which are displayed by Pakistani TV, it has been produced by Strings. For past numerous years, diverse smaller than expected serials have increased both global and national praise that's going to introduce valuable musical and excellent perfect work of art music of Pakistan which is loved all around the globe.

The season was animated underneath "The Sound of Nation" slogan. It began with the melody "Sohni Dharti" an energetic tribute to Sohail Rana and Masroor Anwar by the different specialists who have performed in the eighth season. The tune was pronounced as "the best of what Coke Studio has ever advertised.

Written by: Nida Latif BS48 5390

The Brighter Pakistan



Pakistan is constantly criticized in the global arena. Unfortunately, there are times of unrest and violence in our country, but that should not overshadow the glorious past and progressive present. Let's highlight spheres of influence where Pakistan has truly blazed a trail.

To begin with, it hardly requires any proof to say that Pakistan is a nation that entertains multicultural ethnicities and backgrounds Sindhi, Punjabi, Balochi, Pathan and Hazaras. We share a common language that binds us together 'Urdu', no matter where we live. We have the most brilliant technologist including youngest certified Microsoft expert Arifa Kareem (late), who was and still is a source of encouragement and inspiration for thousands of passionate Pakistani's who wish to exceed in the field of IT.

The first and the only nuclear-armed Muslim state that is home of world renowned philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi, who is running one of the largest ambulance networks in the world and was nominated for Nobel Peace prize.

Pakistan's literacy rate has grown by an astonishing 250% in the past five years, which is by far the largest increase in any country recorded till date. In every field, Pakistan has amazed the world by its immense potential. Economic progress is evident from the fact that Pakistan is the leading supplier of football and meets almost 50% of the global needs. We are a nation blessed with abundant natural resources including gold, copper, oil and gas.

Gwadar Port is a warm-water, deep-sea port situated on the Arabian Sea at Gwadar in Balochistan. Because of its ideal location at the mouth of gulf and opposite strategic choke points of Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman the port is visualized to become a regional hub serving incoming and outgoing commercial traffic of Middle East and Gulf countries. Pakistan has immense potential to light up as one of the greatest nations of the world.

Pakistan always had a zeal and commitment towards Art, Music and Drama. We had artists like Noor Jehan, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Anwar Maqsood, Moin Akhtar and many others who graced the world with their impeccable performance. Contemporary artists including Fawad Afzal Khan and Ali Zafar are heart throbs of subcontinent.

Let's not underestimate Pakistan. Attaching value to it and owning this nation is all we have. This is our journey, this is our destination.

Written by: Muhammad Umer Farooq BS485410

Jansher determined to pull Pakistan squash out of the depths



Former world number one Jansher Khan vowed to reverse Pakistan's flagging squash fortunes after he was appointed advisor to the Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) President

“Pakistan has immense talent for squash. Skill-wise our players are unparalleled but their physical fitness levels are yet to touch the international standard,” Jansher, who won the World Open a record eight times and the British Open six times, said. “It involves good organisation and discipline,” he said, adding that much more efforts were needed for resurgence on international level.

Pakistan has no player in its ranks who can qualify for the British Open main draw. According to Jansher, though, Pakistan had all the ingredients to become a formidable nation in squash once again. “We have great talent but we need to be focused. I'm sure soon we will start making squash champions.”

“I have decided to stay here to closely watch their game. I will be observing their game throughout the event. This will help me to assess where they really lack. This will help me to plan for their improvement accordingly. We have very good academies in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar. We can discover future champions from these academies. I will be happy if I assist my country in producing world champions,” said the 46-year-old.

The legendary squash player said that he would be working with two assistant trainers who would provide a regimen to players in his presence. “I will also be with them and once a week will myself train them.”

“Squash is a game which demands consistent hard work and training. There is no room for complacency in squash. We will have to make our players physically and mentally tough,” he added.

Twinkle wins Pakistan's first female Powerlifting gold



Nineteen-year-old Twinkle Sohail became the first woman from Pakistan to win an international gold medal at the 2015 Asian Bench Press Championships, outshining athletes from 12 other countries at the Sultan Qaboos Stadium in Muscat, Oman.

Twinkle featured in the 47kg junior U21 event, triumphing after securing six white flags from the judges after passing all three lifts perfectly. India and Turkmenistan secured silver and bronze respectively.

The Lahore-based powerlifter, who is part of Pakistan's Christian community, said the achievement was priceless; two years of her tireless efforts in the gym had finally paid off.

“I'm extremely happy, I'm excited, and I'm proud,” a very soft-spoken Twinkle told The Express Tribune. “I was a little nervous before coming here and competing at the top level in the continent. But I kept my nerves in check and I just knew that I had to perform well. I maintained my focus and now I'm a winner in my category. I still can't believe I've become the first female Pakistani powerlifter to win something this big. I'm still processing the feat.”

Twinkle said that she always wanted to make a name for Pakistan and herself in sports; she used to be a cyclist but chose powerlifting two years ago. “I was a cyclist but I switched to powerlifting as it's more competitive, and now a gold medal proves that I made the right decision.

“Our female athletes lack in style but they make up for everything with their hard work and diligence. Twinkle was extremely careful in her performance — very calculated and managed to lift weights beyond her capacity too.” added Malik.

The Pakistani Carpet display draws in thousands

The four-day Pakistan International Carpet Exhibition 2015, composed in Lahore from October 6-9 by the Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA), attracted several local as well as international visitors. PCMEA Exhibition Committee Chairman Akhtar Cooki said 65 national companies displayed their products in the exhibition that morphed into the largest showcase of Pakistan's carpet merchandise.

"Pakistan has huge potential of earning foreign exchange through export of carpet as the local companies have achieved excellence in terms of quality and met international standards," said Cooki. The exhibition offered many new varieties of hand-knotted carpets to visitors. The mega show attracted both foreign buyers and visitors, as the sizable presence of foreigners amazed everyone keeping in view of law and order situation in the country.

By Nida Latif BS48 5390 Courtesy: Dawn



Decrease in Polio all around Pakistan

Individuals from a universal observatory board on polio have communicated worry over Peshawar and Karachi transforming into the last battlegrounds in the battle to annihilate the illness, asking coordinated endeavours in the middle of Pakistan and Afghanistan for the reason.

Representative Ayesha Raza Farooq, the executive's central individual for polio, highlighted Pakistan endeavours to battle the infection at the meeting and how these had brought about an 85 for each penny decrease in a number of cases.

IMB Chairman Liam Donaldson praised Pakistan for the advancement accomplished subsequent to the last IMB meeting in April 2014, and trusted duty at all levels would proceed till the infection is killed.

By Baseer Shahbaz BS47 5226 Courtesy: The News



Global climate panel elects Pakistani as member

The Croatia-based Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has elected the head of Pakistan's climate change ministry as the vice-chairman of one of its working groups.

"This is a great milestone for the country. The election of Irfan Tariq brings global recognition to Pakistan's efforts in the global fight against climate change and the country's extreme vulnerability to the negative impacts of global warming," Climate Change Secretary Arif Ahmed Khan said.

By Shazma Karam BS46 5071 Courtesy: Express Tribune



Pink rickshaws take to the city streets in driving seat



The Environment Protection Foundation (TEPF) orchestrated a rally of Pink Rickshaws on The Mall on Saturday to bring issues to light about ladies business people.

"A rickshaw can be a method for gaining a business for a lady," said Zar Aslam, the TEPF CEO.

She said that ladies were bugged on streets and at working environments. "To counter this, we need to engage ladies. We need everybody's backing for the activity so we can purchase more rickshaws to give to the ladies," she said.

With Pakistani ladies frequently enduring the worst part of social obstructions and imbalance, the women just Pink Rickshaw administration has put ladies from Lahore in the driving seat to create income for their families.

The administration was dispatched with the aim of giving ladies from the lower social strata of society a chance to go in solace and in the meantime giving them money related autonomy.

She said that as of now, they had three electric and two petrol rickshaws. "We have prepared 20 ladies to utilize them in this way. Anybody can come and figure out how to drive a rickshaw. This is restricted to ladies to assume the responsibility of their lives," she said.

Amir Anwar, a rickshaw driver who prepared the ladies, said the members had adopted rapidly. Nadia Jamil, a brand representative for the Pink Rickshaw plan, said that it was a stunning experience.

This is an astonishing alternative for ladies who need to win their jobs. Ladies are exceeding expectations in each field. In any case, you see a couple of lady drivers on the streets. This is restricted of demonstrating that ladies can work in the general population transport segment too. It's a great step towards women empowerment in a male dominating society.

Pakistani Activist honoured with Global Citizen Award in New York



Pakistani human rights activist Syeda Ghulam Fatima was honoured with a Global Citizen award for her dedication to civil rights in Pakistan during the Clinton Global Citizen award ceremony held in New York.

Fatima works for the betterment of bonded labour in Pakistan as the elected general secretary of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front Pakistan (BLLF).

The activist is known for advocating compliance of the International Labour Organisation's key labour standards in Pakistan, as well as campaigning for legal rights of the mistreated brick kiln workers and female domestic and home-based workers in the country.

She is a member of the Provincial Committee for Abolition of Bonded Labour Punjab and of the District Vigilance Committee in the 12th district of Pakistan.

Recently, during his visit to Pakistan, photo blogger Brandon Stanton of Humans of New York coordinated with Fatima for the relief of bonded labour in Pakistan. HONY did a remarkable seven-photo series depicting the struggle of the female activist fighting against bonded labour. Moved by HONY's images, people from around the world donated \$2 million to BLLF.

The Clinton Global Citizen Awards were established in 2007 and represent President Bill Clinton's call to action by honouring 'outstanding individuals who exemplify global citizenship through their vision and leadership. These citizens have proven that diverse sectors of society can work together successfully to devise solutions that effect positive, lasting social change.



Goats, guns and generosity: How Pakistan stole an Aussie's heart

By Nida Latif BS48 5390 Courtesy: Dawn



An Australian named Joel Hill chose to visit Pakistan with his Pakistani friend.

He adored the general population's accommodation and individuals let him know that "Tell your companions back in Australia we are great individuals."

As indicated by him "Nobody attempted to scam me, sneer at me like I was an outsider (well, there was some perplexity at first) or, for the most part, seem to undermine or dreadful. Individuals constantly needed to make proper acquaintance, offer us chai, have a photograph taken and just babble."

Individuals here are dedicated, legitimate individuals who might promptly give you their last dollar or their last measure of chai.

ENDING NOTE:

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.

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