



April in History

April 22, 1961:

Government institutes Film Awards.

April 21, 1963:

The Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors adopts code of Press Ethics.

April 6, 1970:

First ordnance factory is inaugurated at Ghazipur.

April 6, 1978:

First of the 13-volume exhaustive Urdu Dictionary is published by Taraqqi-i-Urdu Board.

April 8, 1982:

Jahangir Khan wins British Open Squash Championship.

April 22, 1991:

Jahangir Khan creates history by winning British Open Squash title for the record tenth consecutive time.

April 26, 1992:

Pakistan's Alam Channa enters Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest man in the world.

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- ☞ The Richest Poor Man
- ☞ Pakistani rewarded by crown prince for saving Saudi national's life

IMF 'encouraged' by Pakistani airline reform step



The International Monetary Fund is encouraged that Pakistan will convert its cash-strapped national airline into a limited company but said it will see if the reforms go far enough in restructuring the loss-making entity.

Parliament adopted a law on Monday to convert Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) into a limited company but it prevents the government from giving up its management control. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had made the privatisation of the company a top goal when he came to power in 2013.

The privatisation of it and 67 other state-owned companies also a major element of the \$6.6 billion IMF package that helped Pakistan stave off default in 2013. It will end in September this year.

"We are encouraged that a consensus has been reached on corporatisation of PIA," Harald

Finger, IMF mission chief for Pakistan, told Reuters in an email. "We will need to study the approved bill and discuss with the authorities their emerging plans to run PIA strictly as a commercial entity and strengthen its performance in the absence of a transfer of management control to a private investor."

PIA has accumulated losses of more than \$3 billion. It and other loss-making companies, including power distribution companies and steel giant Pakistan Steel Mills, cost the government an estimated \$5 billion a year.

In February, the IMF released the last \$497 million tranche of its loan, even after Pakistan shelved plans to privatise its power supply companies and said it would miss deadlines to sell other loss-making state firms. Another \$1.1 billion remains to be released.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

'Log-kya-kahein-gey syndrome keeping people away from mental health professionals'

In Pakistani society and others as regressive as ours, the 'log-kya-kahein-gey' syndrome remains one of the main reasons people continue to shy away from visiting professionals for mental health related issues. Unfortunately, what we fail to realise is that such attitudes are only worsening our people's suffering.

This oft-repeated but still highly relevant message was conveyed by Ibadullah Shaikh, one of three speakers at a mental health awareness workshop, titled 'Taskeen', organised at the T2F..



The event is part of a collaborative effort initiated by the Pakistan Association for Mental Health, Humanity Initiative and CareForHealth. As Shaikh explained, the trio's 'Taskeen' initiative aims at helping realign the misconstrued concepts regarding mental health in Pakistani society, and help foster an environment in which people can shrug off the social stigma attached to mental illnesses.

Shaikh, himself a survivor who now works as an advocate for physical and mental wellness, spoke of the need for stronger support networks, starting from families to the practical domain. "Anyone who tries to open up about a mental issue he or she may be facing has to bear through a barrage of skepticism and criticism," he stated, "And, it is not just family members who tend to fail their loved ones; friends, colleagues and superiors can be equally apathetic in such situations."

Speaking of the stigma attached

to mental illnesses, Shaikh cited examples of known personalities – physicist Stephen Hawking, former Pakistani cricketer Wasim Akram and Indian film actress Deepika Padukone – who rose up to face such challenges with inspirational courage.

"They all consulted professionals who helped them overcome their issues, unlike people in our society who would eventually die a slow death out of the fear of what others might have to say about their problems."

However, for Shaikh, the road to successful rehabilitation for Pakistanis was made even tougher by the alarming dearth of mental health professionals in the country.

"There are only around 450 professionals catering to a population of over 20 million people. That is, simply put, an absurd ratio and leaves us thinking about what is really to blame here; those who don't speak out

about their mental health issues, or the appalling lack of mental health professionals in the country."

Another speaker, Dr Taha Sabri, a medical school graduate, spoke about the factors causing mental illnesses, stating that biological, psychological and environmental factors were all equally important to this end.

"It is commonly believed that people with mental illness have a tendency to be violent. This assumption is as far from the truth as possible, as researches show that 90 percent of mental health patients are non-violent. In fact, studies show that most of them have actually been victims of violence in their lives."

In her talk, psychologist Alizeh Valjee, founder of CareForHealth, focused on the power of attentive listening and how a compassionate attitude could ease their road to recovery.

By: Javeria Ilyas , BS 46 5132
Courtesy: The News

Pakistan, China upbeat over Afghan peace prospects

Pakistan and China will continue to work closely with Afghanistan's government to bring about peace and stability in the war-torn country, despite President Ashraf Ghani's recent statement that Kabul will no longer seek Islamabad's help in the reconciliation process.

The announcement came after a meeting between China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz in Beijing.

Aziz is in China to attend the 5th foreign ministers' meeting of the Conference on Interac-

tion and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). He met the Chinese minister on the fringes of the summit.

The two top diplomats reviewed bilateral ties and exchanged views on regional and international developments, including the current situation in Afghanistan, a statement issued by Pakistan's Foreign Office said. It added that there was "complete convergence of views between the two sides on regional and international developments."

"It was agreed that Pakistan and China will continue to work



closely with the Afghan government in its efforts to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan," said the FO statement. "In this context, the two sides recognised the importance of pro-

moting the Quadrilateral Consultative Group (QCG) in facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process."

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Traffic Violation Evidence System (TVES) By Karachi Traffic Police Is Gaining Momentum



By now a lot of you, especially Karachi residents, may already know that the Karachi Traffic Police Department has introduced a Traffic Violation Evidence System, TVES for short, this year. It is arguably by far the biggest step towards the development of the overall traffic system of Karachi, which by the way has been ignored for many years.

For those who are still unaware of what it is, let me explain it a little for you. The TVES system was officially launched on Friday the 1st of January 2016 in collaboration with a private cellular network company (Telenor Easy Paisa).

Let's take a closer look at TVES. First things first, how does it work?

The process is fairly simple to understand. CCTV cameras are installed at multiple locations across the city which have a clear view of the vehicle's number plates at the intersections/traffic signals. The cameras record any traffic violations as they happen. Once the record is saved, the information regard-

ing the law violator will be scooped out of the Citizens Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) database using the license plate numbers.

Another alternate to the CCTV are the mobile units manned by traffic police personnel, who will be taking photographs of law offending motor vehicles. This is especially helpful in areas where CCTV coverage is non-existent or either useless.

Karachi Traffic Police Once enough evidence of footage has been collected, it will then be shifted to the Karachi Police Department's TVES Cell, which is currently being operated at the Karachi Traffic Police HQ in Garden, Defense. If it is confirmed that the vehicle owner has actually broken the law, then a ticket/electronic challan is immediately delivered to his/her doorstep by courier.

Now the second step: what to do once you get the ticket? Well, this is as simple as it gets. Or is it?

If any of you ever get a ticket mailed to you, I do sure hope not,

it'll look something like this:

Challan - Traffic Violation edited

It contains all the details including the name of the car and the car owner. The engine number, registration number, chassis number including the type of offence and the place where the offence took place. The fine for most traffic violations is PKR 300, which I personally think is sufficient enough for a person to think twice from making the

same mistake.

What you have to do is, deposit the challan fine at the particular TVES traffic police locations. The alternate is to deposit the amount at a Telenor Franchise. If you decide not to, well the warning given would be more than enough to compel you to do so. If you do not remove your fines, the traffic police will have the authority to carry out extreme measures like deadlock the file of the violator's vehicle. The violator will not be able to transfer his/her file in case they want to sell the car until all the dues are cleared.

The news about this system is spreading fast. Why? Well because many can see the system bearing fruit. A lot of people have already received these electronic challans and have no objection as their violation can be clearly seen in the evidence picture provided. A sharp decline in traffic violations has been observed in Karachi. Especially wherever the CCTV cameras are up and running.

By: *Shaneel Badar, BS47 5194*
Courtesy: *www.pakwheels.com*

Vidya Balan just gushed about Pakistani dramas



Vidya Balan sure loves Pakistani dramas!

They are her binge-watching shows of choice when she

wants to unwind after a long day of shooting, the actress said on Twitter.

By: *Abdullah Sheikh, BS43 3808*

Majority of female students among 238 gold medalists

Standing in black gowns with their heads held high, around 1,866 students of University of Karachi (KU) received their entry passes into the real world on Saturday evening.

The students lined up at university's Valika Cricket Stadium to receive their degrees, surrounded by friends, family and faculty members, during the 26th convocation of the varsity.

As many as 238 gold medals were awarded during the ceremony. Eighty per cent of the medals were received by female students, announced KU registrar Prof Dr Moazzam Ali Khan.



"Students graduating today are the leaders of tomorrow, and they have a great responsibility on their shoulders to work for the prosperity of their nation," said education minister and KU pro-chancellor Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, the chief guest at the event.

Speaking about the university, KU Vice-Chancellor Dr Muhammad Qaiser said the varsity is a model educational institution for all academics and educational institutions of the

country.

About 486 research papers by KU faculty members have been published in renowned journals of the world, he informed.

"I was also a student of KU and what I have achieved today is because of this university," said Khuhro. KU is a magnificent success story since the last 65 years, he added.

The minister also called for abolishing quotas in the admission policy of the varsity. Sindh government is spending billions of rupees in the education sector to improve it, he said.

He also announced an additional salary of one month to all the grade one to 16 non-teaching employees of KU.

A special gold medal was awarded to Quratulain Hyder of the mathematics department, who scored the highest marks in the university. The medal is named after the martyrs of Army Public School, Peshawar, titled 'Shuhada-e-Peshawar medal'.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune
Fazila Zaheer BS48 5431

Did you know? Swedish rapper Elliphant shot a video in Pakistan



Elliphant was in Islamabad recently for a concert with Diplo and shot the video over the course of a day

Swedish rapper Elliphant did more than just perform at the Diplo concert in Islamabad earlier this year.

Before she left, she also shot a video of 'Spoon Me', a track off her recently released album Living Life Golden.

The video sees Elliphant in the company of "three beautiful and brave people," Veena, Saima and Zaini.

"I was planning on trying to make a video for 'Spoon Me'

while being [in Islamabad] for a massive performance with Diplo some weeks back, but I didn't know what or how I was going to make it special," Elliphant told Vice. "But when I met the girls I knew they would star in it and give it that realness I always look for in my videos. We made it in one day and everybody involved did an amazing job... Blissh."

The video was shot over a course of a day, revealed the director Shahbaz Shigri in a Facebook post that announced its release. Shigri shares directing credits with his wife Aisha Linnea

By: Mumal Alam, BS48 5385
Courtesy: Dawn.com

Pakistani rewarded by crown prince for saving Saudi national's life

Pakistani national Shaukat Amin was honoured by Crown Prince Muhammad bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz for saving a Saudi citizen from drowning in a flood in Assir, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Saturday.

The crown prince offered Amin a financial reward for saving Fahd Al Qahtani who had been swept away by floods in Tathleeth Valley in the Assir region, the Saudi Civil Defence Directorate tweeted.

The Pakistani thanked the prince for his appreciation.

At least 18 people were killed as



heavy rains and floods lashed Saudi Arabia last week. The toll covered much of the country, from Riyadh to Hail, Mecca, Medina, Al-Baha, Asir, Najran and Jazan. The civil defence agency said it rescued 915 people.

By: Fazila Zaheer, BS48 5431
Courtesy: Dawn.com

The Lahooti Mela

What happens when Karachi goes to Hyderabad for a Sufi music festival?

During our two days in Hyderabad we made at least twenty new friends, all of whom exchanged their numbers with us and promised to meet when they were in Karachi.

There was the duo who carried a guitar and strummed tunes as we walked along; the girl we stopped to ask for directions who became our friend later; two Karachiites who had hopped on a bus to the festival just a few hours ago; their poodle Tina; the policeman who shared smokes and life experiences with us; the twins who were poets and artists; KU students who wanted to talk radical politics; the large crowd of music loving friends who huddled everyone into a crowd so they could sing for us; and the group of high school students who had just decided to volunteer their time to the festival, because as they said, “things like these rarely happened in the city.”

Organised by Lahooti Live Sessions (the brainchild of The Sketches' Saif Samejo), Lahooti Mela the Sufi festival was taking place after a long hiatus. When we planned our trip, it was the music we were thinking about, not so much the people attending. Sounds of Kolachi, Mai Dhai, The Sketches, Zoe Viccaji, Gumby and Sara Haider all in once place, in two days, and of all places Hyderabad.

The two days were quiet and serene when they weren't filled with bursts of music. In the morning, this came from the hordes of men setting up the stage, erecting tents and lifting instruments.

The festival's energy, as it built

up, stayed throughout the weekend. On Friday night, the Sketches launched their new album and performed for the first time in their home city. Perhaps that explained the crowd of 3,000 people — more than I one might imagine at a festival in Hyderabad.



By afternoon, the sounds were the rush of people, occasionally the tapping of feet, and conversations in all tenors interrupted by music in Urdu, Sindhi, and languages we did not understand. All emanated from a tent smack in the center of the main garden of Niaz Stadium, the chosen venue... sometimes the crooning of Arieab Azhar, sometimes the fierce voice of Mai Dhai.

Aside from the main tent, where people sprawled on every inch of the floor and others stood around them in a circle, the festival's arrangements were minimal. Except for a second tent hosting food stalls, and an area further down for the main stage, the garden consisted of no elaborate decor but was cleverly planned; there was enough space for people to move about.

As the day got hotter, more attendees shuffled indoors to attend the panel discussions — festivals in our part of the world are incomplete without them, it seems!

Speakers discussed everything from poetry to politics, but memorable moments were Ali Noor, Zohaib Qazi and Sara Haider opening up about their creative processes; the audience rippling with laughter (even those who could not understand Sindhi) every time poet Hafiz

Nizamani took the mic; Suhaee Abro gracing the stage with her fierce presence; and YBQ regaling the audience (as always) with experiences of life and love. An added bonus was the brief music performances before each panel.

The crowd was headbanging by the time Gumby finished his set before his 'beat to bucks' panel, Nizamani garnered more laughter than I have heard in a single room, boys broke into bhangra when folk music was playing, first one, then two -- then a whole circle in sync, and singers joined the audience when they weren't on stage, participating with the crowd.

The Rs800 ticket meant many who wanted to attend could not. I couldn't help but think how gatekeeping limits access and unfortunately, goes hand in hand with our ideas of promoting (and preserving) art and culture.

The energy, as it built up, stayed

throughout the weekend. On Friday night, the Sketches launched their new album and performed for the first time in their home city. Perhaps that explained the crowd of 3,000 people, which grew to 5,000, then 12,000 — more than I one might imagine at a festival in Hyderabad.

Despite the fact that an impressive number of people had shown up from all over the country and all over the city, the 800 rupees ticket meant there were many who could not. I couldn't help but think how gatekeeping limits access and unfortunately, goes hand in hand with our ideas of promoting (and preserving) art and culture.

Still, Lahooti managed a convivial mood and spirit I have not seen in all of Karachi's literary festivals and food galas. And all of this in the company of music.

Many panelists talked about their love and drive for music, and others elaborated on their passion their province and language. There was plenty of community to go around because of shared pleasure — it was visible at moments in the crowd too: when the audience collectively asked a speaker to switch over to Sindhi; when boys were urged by their friends to get up and dance to folk music, and they did not refuse; when volunteers helplessly explained that musicians could not comply to their demands of encore but no one minded; and when musicians and singers themselves got up — while continuing to play their hearts out — to join the audience in tapping to their own beat, perhaps their bodies inspired by crowd's response.

By: Mizna Khan, BS485341
Courtesy: Dawn.com

At the Aks festival, the stories of Pakistan's transgender community get heard

A festival that aims to shed light on the lives, culture and identity of the transgender community and other sexual minorities in Pakistan through film, art and dialogue opened at T2F.

Held consecutively in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi, the first day of the four-day Aks Film, Art and Dialogue Festival in Karachi featured short documentaries under the banner 'Made in Pakistan' as well as a screening of *Immaculate Conception* by British-Pakistani filmmaker Jamil Dehlavi.

Paintings by Kajal Mitra, a transgender from the Christian community a "double minority" according to prominent Karachi-based transgender activist Kami will also be part of the festival.

The first Aks festival was organised in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2014 by Saadat who had previously made a film with Kami, called 'Chuppan Chupai'.

"I invited Neeli Rana [a Lahore-based transgender activist] to attend the festival in Copenhagen and she suggested that we do a similar event in Pakistan," he said speaking to Dawn. The Pakistan version of the festival has been organised by Saadat, Kami, Neeli Rana, Jannat Ali (another transgender activist) and supported by the Goethe Institut and Forum for Dignity Initiatives (a Lahore-based human rights advocacy group) among others.

"I did have concerns regarding safety and security for this event that is why we kept it invitation-only," said Saadat, "Only those that sent a request to attend were permitted and they were screened before being allowed to attend."



The first half of the festival featured fiction and docu-fiction dramas by name of 'Katchi', 'As I remember' and 'Nightlife'.

"I wanted to show that there is a vibrant indie filmmaker scene in Pakistan as well through these screenings," related Saadat.

'Katchi' by Amina Malik had its premiere at the festival and focuses on the life of a 'Murat' (a term coined by the local community for a transgender woman) in a reverse narrative form. Although it is a fiction film, it is largely based on a true story of a transgender guru in Pakistan. Malik was scheduled for a talk at the event but couldn't turn up.

'Nightlife' by Harune Massey is about the abuse suffered by teenage male sex workers who lose as street-side masseurs in Lahore. 'As I remember' by Saqib Noman is a story about a boy and his 'cute' friendship with another boy and follows them as they live their lives within the Walled City of Lahore. The film documents the

abuse and harassment they face on the streets.

This was perhaps the first time Jamil Dehlavi's *Immaculate Conception*, which prominently depicts the transgender community in Pakistan, was shown to an audience partly comprising the transgender community itself. "This film was made 35 years ago and I don't know whether you're going to slaughter me or not," laughed Dehlavi, "I would be very curious to know what you [the community] think."

"I'm from the transgender community," said Shahzadi, "I would like to clarify that not all transgender people are hijras. We try to show ourselves as being beautiful, whereas in the movie the transgender people you've shown look very scary. The makeup is loud and garish." She along with another member of their community, Iraj, felt very strongly that there was a need to show the community in a more 'positive' light as opposed to as the villains they were made out to be.

Dehlavi clarified that this film was originally made for a British audience and this was the first time he was getting feedback from the Pakistani transgender community. And that he would try to incorporate that if he made another film on the community.

Some senior members such as the well-known activist, Bindya Rana, among others were slightly disturbed that the film showed a very stereotypical image of the community but added that this wasn't a documentary, it was a feature film and therefore open to interpretation.

"That doesn't really happen in the community," said Iraj, after the film. "Maybe it does in the villages," suggested Kami.

Perhaps the Aks festival is proving to be educational for the community as well as for outsiders. At the very least it's an encouraging discussion on gender issues in Pakistan and their depiction in film and art.

By: Mizna Khan, BS48 5341
Courtesy: Dawn

GCU teacher donates land, lifetime savings

A Government College University teacher has announced donating his savings for his institution.

Dr Zaheer Ahmed Siddique, the 82-year-old eminent poet and distinguished professor of Persian language, pledged to donate his Rs140 million land and Rs5m lifetime savings to the GCU Endowment Fund Trust for the scholarships of financially challenged students.

services in research, administration, and teaching for GCU, had been donating all his salary to the GCU Endowment Trust since long for the fee of deserving students.

He said the nations world over had progressed by developing their universities and research institutes, but unfortunately in Pakistan the culture to support or donate the property to an education institution had yet not



Prof Siddique, the author of 52 books including Pakistan's first Persian to Urdu dictionary, handed over the Rs5m cheque to Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Hasan Amir Shah.

Endowment fund to spend Rs145m on deserving students

Prof Siddique's son Naveed Siddique is the adviser to Bill Gates at Microsoft and her daughter is the professor of English literature at the FCC University, Lahore. His younger son works at an executive post with a multinational company in Pakistan.

Prof Siddique said he had initiated a legal process to transfer the land to the university.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof Shah said the inspiring Dr Siddique, who has more than 50year meritorious

developed.

He said Prof Siddique had set a precedent which other would follow. "Prof Zaheer is not a rich person at all, and all he had, has been donated to the GCU Endowment Fund," he added.

GCU Endowment Fund Trust secretary Dr Khalid Manzoor Butt said the GCU was the only public sector university in Pakistan to have an active endowment fund trust, which gives scholarships worth more than Rs20 million to deserving students every year.

He said the endowment fund never spent the principal amount but the profit earned from the principal amount was spent on financially challenged students.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan role in Afghan peace process positive: US



The United States wants the Afghan peace process to continue and appreciates the "positive role" Pakistan is playing for continuing this process, says the State Department.

briefing on Tuesday evening follows a strong criticism of Pakistan's Afghan policy, which was also expressed at a State Department news briefing last week.

By: Fazila Zabeer, BS48 5431

Courtesy: Dawn

The statement given at a news

The Richest Poor Man

For over 60 years, Abdul Sattar Edhi has shown us the power of one individual's unwavering commitment and sincerity to the cause of humanity. As I write this, it pains me to say that Edhi has been robbed of just that.



When we first decided to conduct an interview of Edhi, we were too busy trying to coordinate the 'perfect' interview of arguably one of greatest living humanitarians in the world. We wanted everything to be perfect, down to the setting, the lighting and even the conversation. When we finally met him, everything was thrown out of the window.

to realise that his story could not be told in a 30-minute interview. "I want to go now," he said, looking at me dead in the eye before lowering his gaze towards the ground. The cameras rolled and so did we.

Edhi, the obstinately humble hero to Pakistan's masses

Maya Angelou famously said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Such will be the legacy of Abdul Sattar Edhi. His story will only live among the people; long after he has left us.

A frail Edhi walked out of his room and sat down on the only sofa in the tiny room from where he operates his charity empire. It didn't take long for us

By: Abdullah Sheikh, BS43 3808

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Soon Valley to become tourist destination'



'A spokesperson for the Sargodha division commissioner said on Sunday that the government would spend Rs 200 million on a project to beautify Soon Valley in Kushab district. He said they wanted to make Soon Valley an international tourist destination. "Several recreational facilities will be added." Work on the Kanthi Garden and Khabeli Lake will be completed by June, he said. "This will be the first phase of the project."

11 tourist attractions to visit in Pakistan

The second phase of the project will be completed by June, next year. "We are trying to develop the infrastructure of Soon Valley." He said Khabeli Lake was an ideal location for boating. He said thousands of migratory birds visited Uchali, in Khushab district, each year. "It is an ideal place for bird watchers."

By: *Abdullah Sheikh, BS43 3808*

Courtesy: *Express Tribune*



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