



December in History

December 24, 1952:

UN Security Council adopts the Anglo-American Resolution on Kashmir urging immediate demilitarization talks between India, Pakistan.

December 31, 1952:

Pakistan National Scouts instituted.

December 22, 1957:

Malik Feroz Khan Noon is sworn in as seventh Prime Minister of Pakistan.

December 7, 1970:

First General elections held. Awami League and Pakistan People Party emerge as leading parties in East and West Pakistan.

December 19, 1970:

Pakistan wins gold medal in Asian Games hockey, beating India 1-0.

December 20, 1971:

General Yahya Khan hands over power to Z. A. Bhutto, who takes over as President and Chief Martial Law Administrator.

December 30, 1973:

Z. A. Bhutto lays foundation stone of Pakistan Steel Mills.

December 27, 1975:

1976 is declared Quaid's Century year.

December 31, 1985:

Martial Law is lifted, amended 1973 Constitution revived.

December 2, 1988:

Benazir Bhutto is sworn in as first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan.

December 12, 1990:

Pakistan becomes 37th country to send expedition to Antarctica.

December 4, 1994:

Pakistan regains World Hockey Championship title after 12 years, beating Holland 4-3.

Shehbaz inaugurates kidney and liver institute

On December 25, every year ceremonies are organised and floral wreaths are laid at the mausoleums of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal, but this year it is a unique moment that the Punjab government has given the gift of a hospital to the public according to the vision of the Quaid, said Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He was talking to the media after officially inaugurating the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) and Research Centre on Monday.

The first phase of the hospital has been made operational where the deserving patients would be treated totally free-of-charge while the rich would have to pay and this was the vision of the Quaid, he added.

Where there's smoke: Fire hazards rife at hospitals

The chief minister said that the Punjab government has written a new history by setting up this institution with its own resources and it would bridge the gap between the poor and the rich. He added that around Rs20 billion were spent for the 100-bed facility.

Shehbaz said that the Quaid-e-Azam had made a separate



country where everyone is provided justice and equal opportunities in education and healthcare. "Every citizen has equal rights without any discrimination of colour, creed and race, however, 70 years have passed but this dream has not been materialised as yet because we have forgotten the great sacrifices of our forefathers."

He said that Punjab government has developed PKLI from its own resources and hepatitis filter clinics are attached to it which is treating patients in different districts. In the beginning of the next year, such filter clinics will be functional in all the districts of the province and the poor patients coming from anywhere in the country will be treated free of cost. "I salute those who have quit their jobs in the foreign countries just to join the PKLI and serve the deserving people," he said. He said that it is the duty of every segment of life to play their role

in nation-building because Pakistan can be made a great state by following the golden principles of honesty, hard work and trust.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

What's inside:

- Canada offers soft visa regime for Pakistani tech start-ups
- Pakistan National Council of Arts hosts five-day Iranian Film Festival
- Shahbaz Sharif off to Saudi Arabia for 'important' meetings
- FBISE spends Rs49m to get high tech with digital upgrading
- Preparations for Aga Khan's arrival in full swing in Chitral
- Karachi Biennale played important role in city's life
- Weeklong winter festival underway in Baltistan
- Dian pilgrims arrive at Katas Raj
- A festival of football ends in Karachi leaving all yearning for more
- Chinese entrepreneurs express interest in construction sector

Canada offers soft visa regime for Pakistani tech start-ups

Pakistani start-ups and entrepreneurs will be provided greater access to the Toronto-Waterloo region, often referred to as the Silicon Valley of the North and home to thousands of tech start-ups and international companies, according to a new visa programme offered by the Canadian government.

A representative of Accelerator Centre, based in the Canadian Silicon Valley, unveiled features of the visa programme for Pakistani tech start-ups and entrepreneurs at the Momentum Pakistan 2018, said Momentum Pakistan founder Amir Jafri.

The Canadian government is open to providing a 52-week work permit or permanent residency to Pakistani tech start-ups. The mega event Momentum Pakistan 2018 is bringing the digital world's giants like Facebook, Amazon Web Services, IBM, Microsoft and several others to Karachi on February 19 and 20 where their representatives will engage in mentoring and support Pakistani entrepreneurs and start-ups professionally and financially.

Apart from this, premier Pakistani and international companies will discuss sharing their APIs (Application Programming Interface) with other start-ups.

With international tech companies reaching out to Pakistani start-ups, the Canadian government's visa programme seems like a boon for the start-ups to develop brand and build their businesses in international markets.

"The start-ups need not relocate to Canada at all," Jafri said, quoting Cam Wind of the Accelerator Centre's Startup Visa Programme. The Canadian incubator's representative is likely to attend the Momentum Pakistan 2018 event in Karachi to interact with and support the start-ups. Its officials will also address Pakistani start-ups' concerns about the visa programme once a month through a video session using the Momentum Pakistan 2018 platform.

Quoting Cam Wind, Jafri said Pakistani start-ups could keep their operations in Pakistan



while the visa would facilitate them in working under Canadian entrepreneurial-friendly systems.

Those granted visa can have access to all Canadian corporate programmes, mentors and other resources during the 52-week stay in Canada.

FBISE spends Rs49m to get high tech with digital upgrading

Cam Wind said preference would be given to start-ups with innovative technology-based initiatives, not services, and with a history of impressive revenue generation, a strong founding

team, a clear future vision and a growth perspective.

Jafri said the start-ups could accelerate rapidly in collaboration with the international market and penetration in the Canadian market.

Since getting a visa for developed countries has become difficult for Pakistani entrepreneurs, the Canadian government's offer could be a game changer, he said, adding the presence of the Canadian Silicon Valley's representatives would open new avenues for the local start-ups.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Pakistan National Council of Arts hosts five-day Iranian Film Festival

The festival is being hosted by the Iranian embassy in Islamabad in collaboration with PNCA and Lok Virsa

A five-day Iranian Film Festival began on Monday at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) and will feature five Iranian films on the country's culture, Islamic values and social issues.

The films which will be screened during the event are So Far So Close, Bodyguard, A Cube of Sugar, Crazy Castle and Where Are My Shoes?

So Far So Close was screened soon after the inaugural ceremony and the second film will be shown on Tuesday at the PNCA auditorium. The last three films will be screened at



Lok Virsa.

Speaking as the chief guest at the opening ceremony, Minister of State for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb said Iranian films are vibrant and show the societal and Islamic values of Iran.

"Iranian film makers do not follow international trends and try different things. They have gained international recognition and produce Oscar winning films. Their films are a true reflection of their religion and society," the minister said.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan wants peace in region

Foreign minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif Wednesday said Pakistan wanted peace in the region and many other countries were also playing role for regional peace.

Pakistan and Afghanistan had border sharing with China and there was convergence of interests for the three countries however peace was vital element to get benefit from it, he said talking to a private news channel.

He said Pakistan was enjoying deep relations with China and it can play a important role of mediation between Pakistan and



Afghanistan.

To a question, he said foreign minister of China had taken initiative to hold a tripartite dialogue of Pakistan China and Afghanistan to discuss regional issues.

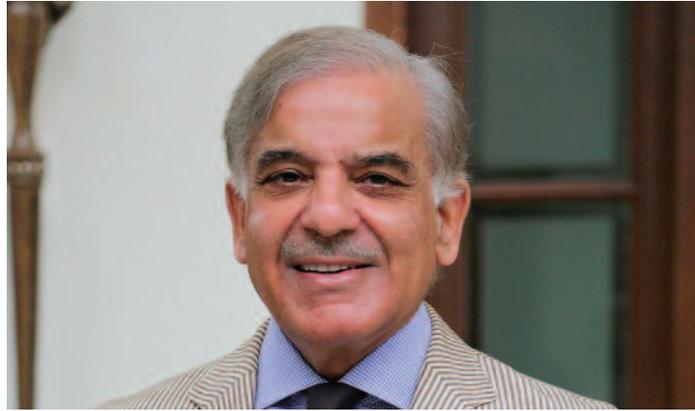
Shahbaz Sharif off to Saudi Arabia for 'important' meetings

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif left for Saudi Arabia. According to an official press release, the chief minister will hold 'important' meetings in the kingdom, besides performing Umra. No word was given about the nature of the meetings.

The departure, however, set many tongues wagging as Mr Sharif travelled in a special plane sent by the kingdom. Also the visit came at the heels of his nomination as the PML-N candidate for the prime minister office.

A couple of days ago, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Admiral Nawaf Ahmad Al Maliki, along with envoys of around two dozen countries, had called on the chief minister.

Federal Climate Change Minister Mushahidullah Khan told Dawn by phone that various issues of international and national importance would be discussed during the meetings in Saudi Arabia. He termed the visit good news for the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, but did not elaborate it. With speculation rife, PTI wants



purpose of visit stated

Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah, a close aide to the chief minister, seconded Mr Khan's views and said: "Mian Shahbaz Sharif will definitely discuss issues of national importance — not just of Punjab — with his Saudi hosts. Saudi Arabia has been our trusted brotherly country for decades and we are relying on it in many economic and other matters of international importance."

A PML-N leader, who requested not to be named, said that for many years the United States used to play its role in Pakistani politics through Saudi Arabia and the chief minister's visit should be

seen in that perspective.

In response to a question, he said the Panama Papers case, besides other issues, would definitely figure in the meetings. He said Shahbaz Sharif presently was not in a position to offer anything to the Saudis but could promise something in the future.

The opposition also senses that to its disadvantage as the visit is being used to build stature of the chief minister as future prime minister of the country.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's spokesman Fawad Chaudhry said they're concerned at the visit un-

dertaken without any prior notice to any authority or institution. He said people should be taken into confidence about the purpose and objectives of the visit.

The Sharifs used to enjoy good relations with the Saudis who had rescued them from military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf in 2000 and hosted the family during its seven-year exile in Jeddah. But the relations got sour after Islamabad refused to lend Riyadh its forces for the Yemen war.

Some believe that the issue was instrumental in making some Gulf states cooperate with Pakistani authorities in the Panama Papers investigations against then prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

They also showed their fury by not allowing Mr Sharif to speak at the Arab-Islamic-American summit also attended by US President Donald Trump.

Meanwhile, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif held a consultative meeting in Lahore to finalise schedule for his public meetings in Punjab.

Courtesy: Dawn

FBISE spends Rs49m to get high tech with digital upgrading

Cam Wind said preference would be given to start-ups with innovative technology-based initiatives, not services, and with a history of impressive revenue generation, a strong founding team, a clear future vision and a growth perspective.

Jafri said the start-ups could accelerate rapidly in collaboration with the international market and penetration in the Canadian market.

Since getting a visa for developed countries has become difficult for Pakistani entrepreneurs, the Canadian



government's offer could be a game changer, he said, adding the presence of the Canadian Silicon Valley's representatives would open new avenues for the local start-ups.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Conquering terror with festivity: Christians celebrate Christmas across Pakistan

Churches and Christian neighbourhoods have been decorated with Christmas lights and trees.

Christmas festivities and holiday spirit are in the air as the Christian community throughout Pakistan celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ on Monday amid tight security.

Across the country, churches and streets were decorated with Christmas lights and trees. Several bakeries sold customised Christmas cakes, while Christmas merchandise was on display in markets as many children across Pakistan



dressed up as Santa Claus.

Worshippers, dressed up in festive outfits, poured into churches to attend prayer services along with their families. Strict security measures were taken to ensure security of the Christian community and forces had been deployed outside churches to thwart any untoward incident.

Courtesy: Dawn

Preparations for Aga Khan's arrival in full swing in Chitral

Preparations are in full swing here for receiving Prince Karim Aga Khan, the 49th Imam of Ismaili Muslim community, who is scheduled to arrive in the second week of December in connection with the golden jubilee celebrations of his Imam.

A source in the Ismaili regional council of Chitral, requesting not to be named, told this scribe that the followers of Ismaili sect would have a sight of their spiritual leader in Booni and Garam Chashma, for which two Didaar Gaahs (place of sighting) were near completion.

He said that Aga Khan would deliver sermons at both the ven-

ues which would be the zenith of the congregations. He said that invitation cards had been sent to the pilgrims as only the cardholders would be able to enter the Didaar Gaah. The residents of villages located near the venues had already volunteered to host the pilgrims coming from distant places.

After his accession to Imamate in 1957, Aga Khan visited Chitral in 1976, 1983 and 2003 and during each visit congregations of his followers were held in Booni and Garam Chashma.

Khosh Murad, a member of Ismaili community from Booni, said that this time the arrival of



the leader was being given more importance than before as it formed the part of golden jubilee celebrations. He said that the Jammats (worship places) in the region had been decorated for the occasion.

He said that members of the Sunni community were also extending help to the Ismaili community to accomplish dif-

ferent tasks, including construction of the sighting places. "This is a positive development and will promote communal harmony," he said.

Nazir Hussain Shah of Yarkhoon valley said that Ismaili people working outside Chitral district had started arriving here to take part in the celebrations.

Courtesy: Dawn

Karachiites allowed to celebrate New Year's Eve at Seaview

In a welcoming move, the Sindh government has decided not to block roads leading to Karachi's Seaview, allowing citizens to celebrate the New Year's Eve at the beach.



"The citizens of Karachi are responsible people, therefore, they shouldn't be stopped from visiting Seaview on New Year's Eve," Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said while speaking with the media on Sunday morning, Express News reported.

He was reviewing security arrangements made to thwart any untoward incident from happening in the city during the New Year's festivities.

Roads leading to Seaview and surrounding areas are traditionally blocked to minimise crowd at the Karachi's famous beach on New Year's Eve.

One wheeling, riding silencerless motorcycles and aerial firing,

however, will remain banned today and on January 1, according to a notification issued by the provincial government.

Directing the DIG South to remove blockades from all routes in the city's upscale Defence Housing Authority (DHA) neighbourhood, CM Shah said Karachiites will not create any issues for the administration.

The decision followed Sindh Home Minister Suhail Anwar Sial's visit to different parts of the city including Seaview on Saturday night, when he ordered the administration to immediately remove all containers blocking the main roads in DHA and Clifton areas.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Sadiq Khan brings 'London is open' invitation to Karachi, visits Quaid's mausoleum

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, during his visit to Karachi on Friday, said that he was proud of his Pakistani heritage, adding that it had been "a privilege" to have visited the country.

After arriving in the city, he visited the mausoleum of Quaid-i-Azam amid strict security, where he offered feteha



and laid down flower wreaths on the grave of the founder of Pakistan.

Courtesy: Dawn

People rejoice as snow blankets Shangla valley, Murree

Heavy snowfall that has been continuing in various parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Shangla district for three days has turned the weather cold and restricted the residents of hilly areas to stay indoors.

Nevertheless, children rejoiced on hills covered with a blanket of snow in Shangla, even as the precipitation made getting around difficult.

Meanwhile, Murree and its ad-



joining areas received six inches of snow on Tuesday after a long dry spell. A large number of tourists thronged the hill station and engaged in snowball fights.

Courtesy: Dawn

Karachi Biennale played important role in city's life'

A panel discussion on the recently held first Karachi Biennale (KB) took place at the Amin Gulgee Gallery on Thursday. Moderated by Zarmeene Shah, the panelists included artist Meher Afroze, artist and chief curator of KB Amin Gulgee, architect Marvi Mazhar and writer H.M. Naqvi.



Answering the question about how she saw KB 17, Ms Afroze said she came to Karachi in the 1970s when there were not many art galleries but there were individuals such as Ali Imam, Bashir Mirza, Kohari and Sadequain who had open minds. Imam used to encourage and guide young artists. It's our fortune or misfortune that due to the political situation in the country we could not develop a system. Against that backdrop, KB 17 was a much-needed collective event.

Ms Afroze said it was important to engage the younger generation, and since the young ones

were seen taking part in the biennale, it was a timely event.

Describing the event in the public art context, Mr Gulgee said public art had longevity. He called KB 17 "an ode to my city".

Ms Mazhar said working in a heritage district you were constantly facing a bureaucratic process. The idea was that you could not touch the skin or façade of a building. But it was important. What usually happened was that the public or civil society raised their voice that "it's our visual". They owned the space no matter who owned

it on paper. If you closed doors, there's no dialogue. KB 17 actually opened that venue for people to experience those places. The event was an opportunity for starting a conversation.

Mr Naqvi said in Karachi one had attended the urs of Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi, participated in a qawwali at Pakistan Chowk, but also saw last week the city was shut down. Therefore the biennale played an important role in the life of the city.

Mr Naqvi told the moderator that he saw children and art critics gathered at Frere Hall

gawking at an art performance, and called it a pleasant (khush-gawar) development where each person brought their own narrative to the performance. However, he feared the narrative of this city would be held hostage again. He feared that public space would be contested by minds that did not have the tools to appreciate different narratives.

Ms Afroze went down memory lane one more time to the 1970s Karachi when at the Arts Council Sadequain would be busy doing his art, with a host of people gathered around him. She argued we needed to be "alert" to the perils of the time to come, which we were not. As a result, things began to deteriorate. She stressed that KB needed to be sustained otherwise it would fade out. She suggested that in order to sustain it small events should keep taking place on a regular basis.

Courtesy: Dawn

Hindu pilgrims arrive at Katas Raj

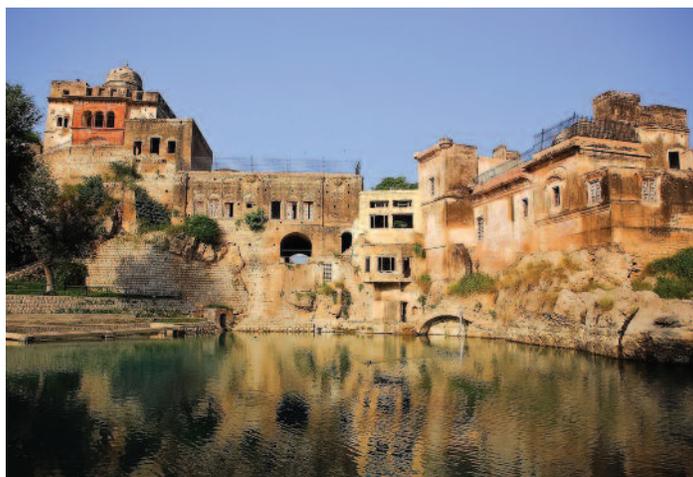
As many as 84 Hindu pilgrims from India arrived at Katas Raj.

The Indian pilgrims were visibly upset when they saw the dried pond.

Hindus visited the place to perform Ashnan (bath), in the pond at Katas Raj as part of their rituals.

The present level of water at the pond is a result of the authorities acting against nearby cement plants and forcing them to turn off their tubewells, a senior official of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) said.

A three-judge bench, headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, during a hear-



ing on a suo motu notice on Thursday, issued notices to cement plants.

The suo motu notice was taken on the basis of media reports that the Katas Raj pond was drying

out due to massive groundwater depletion by nearby cement factories.

The ETPB has installed a camp in the centre of the pond so that the pilgrims can perform their

rituals.

A reception would also be held in honour of the pilgrims at Katas Raj Reception Hall.

Evacuee Trust Property Board Chairman Siddiquil Farooq visited Katas Raj on Saturday evening and reviewed arrangements for the pilgrims.

Foolproof security arrangements have been made for the pilgrims who would leave Katas Raj on Dec 4.

"As many as 700 police personnel have been deployed for security of the pilgrims," a police official told.

Courtesy: Dawn

Weeklong winter festival underway in Baltistan

The weeklong winter festival of lights is underway across the Baltistan region.

The people of Baltistan division begin celebrating the Mayfung festival (in Balti language May-fung means festivity of waving fire and light at night) on the night of Dec 21, to mark the end of the longest night of the year.

People holding torches made of wood dance on traditional music, lit bonfires and distribute traditional dishes among participants of the event.

The Jashn-i-Mafung events are being organised in Shigar, Ghanche and Kharmang districts of Baltistan. The main



event of the festival was held at Yadgar-i-Shuhda in Skardu on Monday, attended among others by GB senior minister Akbar Taban, commissioner Baltistan Hamza Salick, Skardu deputy commissioner Nadeem Nasir, and civil and military officials.

Candles were also lighted at rooftops of houses in nearby

areas. There are various interpretations and views surrounding the festival.

Nadeem Shigri, a local, said the festival had been celebrated in the area since decades. According to his elders, he said the festival dated back to pre-Islamic history, and its basic aim was to celebrate the end of the longest

night of winter and welcome the New Year. He said there was a conception that the event helped locals avoid misfortunes. People in the Baltistan region celebrate the event amid harsh weather with temperatures plunging to as low as minuses 15 degree Celsius.

The Skardu city was lighted with candles and bonfires and people also waved torches in their hands.

Speaking at the main function in Skardu, senior minister Akbar Taban said organising such events helped promote and preserve local unique culture and traditions.

Courtesy: Dawn

Abbasi becomes first Pakistan PM to board submarine in open sea



Shahid Khaqan Abbasi became the first prime minister of the country to board a submarine in the open sea, and also conduct diving and surfacing procedures after which he earned the traditional Dolphin insignia of the navy, which is bestowed upon submariners.

The premier made his maiden voyage onboard the PN Saad

(submarine) along with Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, said a press release issued on Sunday.

During his visit, PM Abbasi was briefed on the history of Pakistan Navy's submarine force and achievements made by this elite force during the 1965 and 1971 wars.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Foreign experts hail Pakistan's role in sports medicine



Foreign delegates have lauded Pakistan's contribution in creating awareness about sports medicine globally in general and across the country in particular.

"Pakistan played a lead role in the setting up of the Asian Federation of Sports Medicine (AFSM) in 1990 as the late Dr Nishat Malik was elected its founding secretary during that year," they observed.

The delegates made these re-

marks during the 17th SMAP and AFSM Sports Medicine Congress that concluded here on Saturday.

Some 150 people including foreign participants from the United Kingdom, Saudi Arab, Iran, Canada, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong attended the two-day regional moot which was held in Pakistan for the second time. The country hosted the congress for the first time back in 2004.

Courtesy: Dawn

Eid Miladun Nabi to be celebrated today

Eid Miladun Nabi (Peace be upon him) will be celebrated across the country with religious zeal and fervour.

The day will start with a 31-gun salute in the federal capital and 21-gun salute in provincial capitals to pay homage to the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Celebratory processions will be taken out in all parts of the country and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Government and private buildings have been lit up. Streets, mosques, shrines, shopping centres and houses have also been



illuminated with colourful lights.

Special conferences, events and Mahafil-i-Naat have been arranged to pay homage to the last messenger whose life and teachings are a beacon of light. Seerat conferences will be held at the provincial headquarters along with other cities and

towns. Religious scholars will highlight various aspects of Seeratun Nabi (PBUH) and call on people to follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Special prayers will be held for progress and prosperity of the country.

Strict security measures have been made in major cities to avoid any untoward incident.

Pakistan Television, Radio Pakistan and other media houses will air special programmes under-lining different features of the life of the Prophet (PBUH).

Courtesy: Dawn

Chinese entrepreneurs express interest in construction sector

Chinese entrepreneurs are willing to develop cooperation with their Pakistani counterparts to construct highrise buildings.

Private sectors of both the countries should jointly exploit untapped areas of mutual collaboration.

These views were expressed by Adven Zhu, the managing director of Suzhou China Aviation Technology Equipment Co, at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The delegation, led by Mr Zhu, represented various sectors, including infrastructure development, construction of roads, high-rise buildings, IT, manufacturing of mechanical products, cold-bend steel, elevator components, mechanical components and furniture.

“We want to enter into joint ventures and investment in Pakistan,” Mr Zhu said, adding this was their first visit to Pakistan and they found the country a potential market for business and investment. Pakistan has a big consumer market and a strategic



geographic location.

He said there was a need for high-rise buildings in Pakistan and with efficient expertise in this sector the Chinese could enter into joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts to cater to the growing demand in the real estate developments.

Sheikh Amir Waheed, the ICCI president, said CPEC had opened new avenues for long-term cooperation between China and Pakistan.

He said private sectors of both the countries should enhance interactions to explore match makings in CPEC and other projects in Pakistan.

“By investing in Pakistan, Chinese investors would be in a better position to enhance exports to South and Central Asia, Middle East, Europe and many other potential markets,” Mr Waheed said.

He said many sectors of Pakistan’s economy, including infrastructure development, high-rise buildings, aviation, steel and aluminum, were opened for foreign investors. He urged the Chinese investors to explore these potential sectors for JVs.

He said Chinese investors should bring technology and machinery to set up manufacturing plants in Pakistan.

Courtesy: Dawn

A festival of football ends in Karachi leaving all yearning for more

It ended in yet another glorious triumph for Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) but almost everyone who was there, and all who were part of it, hoped it would be a start of regular football activity in the country.



At times the announcer at the packed-to-capacity KMC Stadium called out to world’s football governing body FIFA to look at the passion the people of Pakistan have for football in the country, asking it to resolve the crisis plaguing the game for the last several years.

Probably everyone agreed; from the fans to the players, team officials to organisers.

“I certainly want to watch more local football,” young fan Mohammad Ali Jawwad said after the final of the inaugural Naya Nazimabad Quaid-i-Azam Departmental Football Tournament here on Sunday. “I hope more tournaments are organised in the near future.”

Many call football the game of the masses in Pakistan but detractors point to the fact that most fans follow European football than the local game. This three-week long tournament, though, saw people from all spectrums of the society converge with most games from the quarter-finals stage being watched on by a full house at the KMC Stadium.

Courtesy: Dawn

2017 — a year of farewells, triumph and trial for Pakistan

PAKISTAN cricket experienced a mixed year in 2017 that comprised farewells, triumph and trial.

They started the year on a sour note by getting whitewashed Down Under as Australia cantered to another clinical result at the Sydney Cricket Ground to complete their fourth successive 3-0 sweep over Pakistan 12 straight Test victories dating back from the 1999-2000 season.

The reputation of the country was then thrown into disarray when the Pakistan Super League (PSL)'s second edition start was rocked by news of several players reported to be involved in spot-fixing and subsequently punished under PCB's anti-corruption code after investigation which was backed by International Cricket Council (ICC)'s Anti-Corruption and Security Unit.

Next to follow were the simultaneous retirements of elder statesmen Misbah-ul-Haq and Younis Khan, as the duo together finished their international careers in the most appropriate manner as Pakistan finally ended their 59-year drought in the Caribbean with a Test series victory over the West Indies.

And then came the most memorable occasion when Pakistan won a global title after an eight-year hiatus as Sarfraz Ahmed led the country to ICC Champions Trophy win on a glorious English summer day at The Oval.



The long-awaited return of high-profile international cricket to the country was another milestone for the nation when a World XI visited Lahore for an official T20 series at the Gaddafi Stadium, which later also staged another T20 fixture against Sri Lanka, the team which came under terror attacks at the very same venue in March 2009.

A low point for the country was the inept capitulation in their first series since Younis and Misbah left the scene as Sarfraz began his tenure as the new Test leader on a dubious note as Pakistan lost their proud record of never losing a series in the United Arab Emirates with Sri Lanka sweeping the two-match series.

And then late in the year, Saeed Ajmal, the genial off-spinner who was forced out of international arena after becoming the most prominent victim of ICC's crackdown on suspect bowling action three years earlier, followed into the footsteps of Misbah and Younis, who were his longtime team-mates during a successful period for Pakistan.

The month of February made headlines for all the wrong reasons due to the spot-fixing scandal in the PSL, the second edition of which began with the provisional suspension of Islamabad United's opening pair of Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif. On the field of play, Peshawar Zalmi emerged winners of PSL's second edition. The decision to play the final in Lahore meant Quetta Gladiators' first-choice foreign players all refused to travel to Pakistan and their replacements not being that proficient to prevent Gladiators ending up runners-up for the second year running.

Younis began his final journey by becoming the first and thus far the only one from Pakistan to go past 10,000 runs in the opening Test in Kingston, Jamaica where Misbah stood out with an unbeaten 99 in the first innings before his side won by seven wickets.

2017 brought sheer joy for the Pakistanis on June 18, a day when India were outplayed in the Champions Trophy final after Pakistan's nervy start in the tour-

nament as Virat Kohli's men strolled to a 124-run win under D/L method after rain disrupted action at Edgbaston.

However, there was another twist in the tale and a much-needed fillip for Sarfraz's charges, who were in a do-or-die situation from then onwards. Pakistan edged past South Africa and Sri Lanka in the remaining group matches before surprising tournament favourites England with a rousing eight-wicket victory in the semi-final at Cardiff.

On the big day itself, there were more surprises in store. Fakhar Zaman announced himself to the cricketing world with a dominant 114 off 106 balls to power Pakistan to a commanding 338-4 before Mohammad Amir rocked the Indians with a fiery burst upfront as the left-armer sent back Rohit Sharma, Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan in the space of 28 balls in his opening spell.

There was no looking back for Pakistan as the clinical 180-run victory margin confirmed their superiority, coinciding with the emergence of new cult hero in fast bowler Hasan Ali who was deservedly voted man-of-the-tournament.

Pakistan further maintained their supremacy in the ODI and T20, brushing aside Sri Lanka 8-0 in the two formats and also winning the World XI fixtures 2-1.

Courtesy: Dawn

Patron:
Ms. Seema Mughal
Vice Chancellor
Editor:
Rizwana Amin
Assistant Professor
Graphics & Layout:
Shazia Anwar

Greenwichians interested in contributions! Shoot an email to the editor, including your name, roll number and your work at rizwana@greenwich.edu.pk

Greenwich  *University*

Pakistan - Mauritius
Greenwich University, DK-10, 38th Street, Darakshan, Phase VI,
Defence Housing Authority, Karachi-75500, Pakistan
UAN: (021)111-202-303; Tel: (021) 35840397-98; Fax: (021)35851910
Email: gu@greenwich.edu.pk; URL: www.greenwich.edu.pk