



Greenwich University
Pakistan-Mauritius

Positive Post

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

April in History

April 8, 1950: Liaquat-Nehru agreement is signed in New Delhi for Inter-Dominion problems.

April 18 – 24, 1955: Pakistan participates in the Bandung Conference.

April 22, 1961: Government institutes Film Awards.

April 6, 1970: First ordinance factory is inaugurated at Ghazipur.

April 21, 1972: Martial Law lifted; constitutional rule is restored in the country. Hamood-ur-Rehman is sworn in as Chief Justice of Pakistan.

April 10, 1973: 1973 Constitution of Pakistan enacted by the National Assembly.

April 6, 1978: First of the 13-volume exhaustive Urdu Dictionary is published by Taraqqi-i-Urdu Board.

April 8, 1982: Jabangir Khan wins British Open Squash Championship.

April 20, 1988: Jabangir Khan wins seventh Squash title in a row.

April 25, 1991: Jabangir 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.

April 15, 1999: Pakistan conducts test of a nuclear-capable short-range ballistic missile, Shaheen.

April 16, 1999: Pakistan won Coca-Cola Cup final at Sharjah crushing India by 8 wickets

April 26, 2006: Pervez Musharraf lays foundation-stone of Diamir-Bhasha dam.

PIA planes get a facelift



Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has formally introduced a new livery and added a portrait of the Markhor on its aircraft, including a large one on the tail and two on the engines.

The font of the PIA logo has also been changed and it has been added to the belly so it is visible when the aircraft is flying overhead.

The previous livery was introduced 10 years ago and needed to be changed, said PIA spokesperson Mashood Tajwar, adding that these changes were part of the airline's transformation and strategic business plan in order to give it a new and pleasant look.

"This is the first brand change in 10 years. Markhor is our national animal which can be found in the mountainous regions of Pakistan," he said.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Aviation Sardar Mehtab Ahmed Khan formally inaugurated the new livery and the portrait of the Markhor on Friday.

Senior officials of the PIA and Civil Aviation, including Secretary Aviation Irfan Elahi, PIA President and CEO Musharraf Rasool Cyan, COO Zia Qadir, CCO Bilal Munir Sheikh, Chief Technical Officer Amir Ali and HR Chief Asma Bajwa, were also present on the occasion.

Sardar Mehtab Ahmed Khan said PIA had taken a progressive step to rebuild its image and that it is one of the endeavours to rebrand PIA. He said the move also reiterates the country's commitment to the preservation of the Markhor.

Mr Cyan said the PIA management will be upgrading the level and standard of facilities it offers.

"I appreciate this effort of rebranding the airline's image. Markhor is the national animal, it is a fighter and does not lose heart in hard times," said the adviser on aviation. Meanwhile, Airbus A320 will land at the new Islamabad International Airport on Saturday as part of a mock exercise aimed at assessing preparations for official inauguration of new airport on April 20.

PIA spokesman Mashood Tajwar said the PIA's A320 would take off from Benazir Bhutto International Airport at 12:30pm on Saturday as PK-9001 and will make landing at new Islamabad International Airport at 1pm.

He said PIA president and CEO Dr Musharraf Rasool Cyan will be on board to assess the operational ability of the new airport.

For the mock exercise, more than 350 invitations have been issued to the PIA staff members' families, including some retired officials.

Courtesy: Dawn

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Positive Post is published to project positivity all around Pakistan amongst our youth and the entire nation. Our efforts are to inculcate patriotism and a sense of ownership in them. It is a compilation of news extracted by the students of Mass Communications and Media Studies of Greenwich University.

First T20: Pakistan outclass Windies in one-sided encounter to record 143-run victory

Pakistan thrashed a depleted West Indies side by 143 runs in the first Twenty20 on Sunday at the National Stadium in Karachi — the first international match in the city after nine years.

Pakistan, the world's top-ranked T20 side, equalled their highest total in the format of 203-5 in 20 overs before bowling the West Indies out for their lowest-ever T20 total 60 runs in 13.4 overs.

The West Indies, missing their regular skipper Carlos Brathwaite and stars like Chris Gayle and Kieron Pollard, could not handle Pakistan's varied bowling attack.

Only Marlon Samuels (18), Rayad Emrit (11) and Keemo Paul (10) reached double figures.

Pakistan's margin of victory is the second-biggest in T20s, behind Sri Lanka's 172-run win over Kenya in Johannesburg in 2007.

West Indies won the toss and chose to field. Previously, the hosts' biggest victory in T20s was a 102-run win against Bangladesh in Karachi in 2008, after scoring 203-5.

Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Nawaz and Shoaib Malik got two wickets each.

Debutant Hussain Talat top-scored for Pakistan with a 37-ball 41, hitting a six and two boundaries. He added 75 for the third wicket with skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, who scored a 22-ball 38 with a six and four boundaries.



Opener Fakhar Zaman hit a 24-ball 39, while Shoaib Malik played a fiery knock of 37 not out, facing 14 deliveries and hitting two sixes and four boundaries.

The charge helped Pakistan get 66 in the last five overs.

Despite this being the first international match in Karachi Pakistan's largest city only 18,000 people watched the match in the 33,000-capacity stadium. But those present were in a celebratory mood.

A relatively weakened West Indies 13-member squad arrived late on Saturday night amid tight security. The tourists have been provided with presidential-like security with dozens of armed guards escorting the teams during travel.

Pakistan awarded debuts to Asif Ali and Hussain Talat, who both performed well with the bat in the PSL while representing champions Islamabad United.

West Indies has Marlon Samuels and Samuel Badree as its most experienced players in the side, led by Jason Mohammed. All-rounder Keemo Paul and left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul made Twenty20 debuts for the tourists.

Courtesy: Dawn

Christians celebrate Easter with religious zeal across Pakistan

Christian community on Sunday celebrated Easter with fullest traditional religious zeal and fervour across the country. The religious festival commemorates the day followers believe Jesus was resurrected in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago.

Special services were hosted at different places where the Christian community attended special prayers for salvation, and for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Khalil Tahir Sandhu felicitated Christians on



Easter, saying the day has great importance for the community.

He said all religious minorities enjoy equal rights under the Constitution of Pakistan. The minister said there was a great need to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ to promote love, peace and sacrifice.

Courtesy: Dawn

200 year old palace Faiz Mahal gets a second life

Khairpur's pink palace, built in 1798, is being revived to its original glory through elaborate renovations

For someone expecting a glorious frontal view of one of the country's most beautiful heritage sites, the entrance gate to Faiz Mahal in Khairpur (Mirs), down to the dishevelled array of security personnel, is nondescript. In all its renovated glory, Faiz Mahal comes into view only after you turn a sharp bend on the gravel-shorn road that must have once been adorned by regal vehicles ferrying even more regal human freight.

Today, it stands in forlorn splendour, its current owners probably hard put in reviving the original glory that was lost to years of state apathy, a shortage of funds and the sheer helplessness of the Talpur executives of the estate when it came to tackling such a huge renovation project.

It is only in very recent times that the historic, architectural and heritage values of the building were taken into consideration. As a result, a painstaking renovation process has given Faiz Mahal a second lease of life. The once withering structure, where for a time (to quote Keats from *La Belle Dame Sans Merci*) 'no birds sang' and where the 'sedg e has withered from the lake', now sings a different tune: majestic grace, albeit with shades of nostalgia.



Standing proud over acres of prime real estate in Khairpur (Mirs), the mighty pink palace with its white trimmings, delicately-shaped balconies resting on cupolas of lily leaves, the sunbeams filtering florescent through the windows and tiers of countless rooms, bring back memories of the early days of the Talpur dynasty.

Having wrested the fiefdom from the Kalhoras for whose defence they had been commissioned, the Talpur foot soldiers had set up their own dynasty in 1783. Thereafter, had begun a reign of peace and prosperity riddled only by occasional familial disputes that resolved in due time. Faiz Mahal was built by Mir Sohrab Khan in 1798 and presently it serves as the home of H.H. Mir Murad Ali Khan Talpur II and his sons Prince Abbas Raza Talpur and Prince Mehdi Raza Talpur.

An elaborate renovation process has given Faiz Mahal a second lease of life.

Courtesy: Dawn

UN honours 7 Pakistani peacekeepers

Seven Pakistani peacekeepers who laid down their lives for global peace and security were honoured with a medal at the annual memorial ceremony held at United Nations headquarters in New York.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres attended the programme as the chief guest and paid homage to the peacekeepers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Pakistan has been one of the largest troop contributing countries for UN peacekeeping missions across the globe. So far, 156 Pakistani blue helmets have embraced martyrdom while serving under the UN umbrella.

The seven Pakistani peacekeepers honoured were Naik Qaiser Abbas



(UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic), Sepoy Yasir Abbas (African Union/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur), Sepoy Muhammad Ishtiaq Abbasi (UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Havildar Zishan Ahmed (MONUSCO Congo), Sepoy Hazrat Bilal (MINUSCA Central African Republic), Naik Abdul Ghafoor (MINUSCA Central African Republic) and Naik Attaur Rehman (MONUSCO Congo).

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistani-Australian engineer wins Commonwealth Young Person of the Year award

A Pakistani-Australian engineer who helps refugees start their own business in Australia was awarded the Commonwealth Young Person of the Year award at a forum in London's QE2 Centre.

Eighteen months after launching the programme, Usman Iftikhar was awarded the Commonwealth's highest honour for young achievers.

He was presented with the award by Commonwealth's newly appointed youth ambassador, Prince Harry.

Iftikhar, who represented Australia at the forum, conceptualised the idea of helping refugees and migrants find job opportunities based on his own struggle after moving to Australia in 2013.

Born in Pakistan, Iftikhar completed his Bachelor's degree from the GIK Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology and then moved to Australia to pursue a master's degree in engineering management.

"After finishing a master's degree with a distinction at the University of Wollongong, I had high hopes and big ambitions for my career. I had all the right ingredients on my



resume, yet I faced a major roadblock to finding any meaningful work in Australia," he wrote in a post for Medium.

He then co-founded Catalysr, which aims to help migrants and refugees develop their own business plans and make money using the skills they already have.

"Catalysr is the first startup incubator for refugees and migrants in Australia, enabling them to start their own business, create jobs for themselves and others, and be in control of their own destiny," according to Iftikhar.

"Our approach is to provide an alternate pathway to people and unleash their untapped potential to help change the landscape not just for them, but also their communities. We aim to provide the right conditions to accelerate that chain reaction in their life," he says.

Courtesy: Dawn

Karachi police trace family of man stuck in Saudi prison after video goes viral

Karachi police managed to trace the family of an elderly man reportedly languishing in a prison in Saudi Arabia, days after his plea for help went viral on social media.

In the video, inmate Muhammad Nadeem told the viewers the address of his Pakistan residence. Nadeem also explained that he does not have his National Identity Card (NIC) or passport with him and has been in jail for nearly a month.

"I have lived in Saudi Arabia for the past 35 years and returned to Pakistan thrice in all this time," Nadeem said in the video.

Another man can be seen asking Nadeem questions in the video while a third is heard in the recording. The men say that the elderly man is being held as a prisoner in a jail in the Shahrah Khazan area of

Riyadh.

After the video did rounds on social media, Nadeem's family were contacted by the police.

The prisoner's brother Waseem told Dawn that after Nadeem's job ended, he took asylum in a mosque and became a Moazzin there. The brother said he was not sure if Nadeem's travel documents were expired or lost.

The family have since asked relevant authorities to help with the required paperwork to bring Nadeem back to Pakistan.

According to police, contact has been established between Nadeem and his family, and a process has been initiated to arrange for required legal documents.

Courtesy: Dawn

Dozens participate in all-women bike rallies across Pakistan

The Girls at Dhabas movement was established to encourage women to repossess accessibility of streets and public spaces

The third annual bike rally by Girls at Dhabas started off on Sunday. The rally is an initiative aimed at collectively asserting a woman's right to navigate and hence reclaim public spaces on her terms.

The event encourages women in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad to challenge the dominant mindset that it is inappropriate for a woman to exercise her freedom of mobility. The rally was first started two years ago in solidarity with Aneeqa Ali, a cyclist in Lahore who was harassed and injured for riding her bike. The event triggered debate and condemnation for the misogynistic and sexist comments and actions of those who had harassed her and the idea that women should use cycling to empower themselves became intriguing and urgent.

The positive response to the rally led to women cyclist chapters to be formed in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad simultaneously. The Islamabad chapter is led by Meharbano Raja in collaboration with CYKIQ, a Nust student start up which provided bicycles for rent.

The 1.5 hour bicycle ride started from Attaturk Avenue in the evening and went down main Margalla Road, the F-6 Markaz and



then to the starting point again.

The rally consisted of about 30 or 40 women of all age groups, nationalities and with varying cycling skills.

"Today, we are here to support one another in promoting women empowerment, recognition and inclusion in society. We are here to motivate one another through support," said a participant of the rally, Sana.

Several other women participating in the rally said the issue of street harassment that women face is seldom given importance.

"People often dismiss it by referring to catcalling in a funny way or for it to be taken as flattery or worse, when the woman is blamed for the harassment she endures," another cyclist said.

"The Girls at Dhabas movement was established in order to encourage women to repossess accessibility of streets and dhabas and other public places they are not 'meant to go'. It has received great response for its rallies," Ms Raja said.

Courtesy: Dawn

18,000 Karachiites saved the national anthem at the Pak vs WI match

The sound system abruptly broke down at National Stadium, but was the patriotic kick-off to the match ruined? Not really

And yesterday's Pak vs West Indies match at Karachi's National Stadium saw another goof-up. But



before you facepalm, let us tell you there's a happy ending to this story! Halfway into the playing of the national anthem yesterday, the audio system at National Stadium abruptly broke down, leaving the players with no background music. But was the patriotic kick-off ruined? Not really.

Karachiites belted out the rest of the tarana from the stands to keep the players going, and while it wasn't the most mellifluous performance, we have to appreciate the love.

Courtesy: Dawn

Swat trout fish industry booming again

After years of recession the fishing industry in Swat is booming again with the fisheries department claiming that the production of trout fish would soon surge to 240,000 kilogramme annually and Swat would become one of the highest trout producing districts in the country.

During the Swat insurgency period from 2007 to 2009 most of the trout fish farm owners left their business as they said the militants would demand trout fish free of cost and they lost huge money. However, the 2010 floods wreaked havoc on the fishing industry, washing away the fish farms along with destroying natural fish fauna of all types of fishes in Swat River and all other smaller rivers and streams.

"The floods destroyed all the 27 trout fish farms along with natural breeding and feeding grounds of Swat and other local fish in the Swat River and all the tributaries, streams and lakes," assistant director fisheries, Ibrar Ahmad, told Dawn. He said that the total production of trout fish before 2010 was estimated at 50 tonnes.

Private fish farm owners in Swat said that the years from 2007 to 2010 proved bad for them as during the militancy their business activities halted because tourists stopped visiting Swat and majority of the militants took trout fish without paying money.

Khurshaid Alam, a trout fish farm owner at Biha village in Matta tehsil



who has been connected with the business since 2004, said that till 2007 his farm was profitable, but after that during insurgency period militants would take trout fish from his farm free of cost which resulted in heavy financial losses for him.

"During the militancy I suffered Rs2.50 million losses as Taliban did not pay a single penny to me. When normalcy returned after military operation in 2009 and no sooner did I take a sigh of relief that the flood washed away my entire farm worth Rs4 million in 2010, leaving me penniless," he told this correspondent.

However, with the help of USAID and fisheries department his fish farm was rehabilitated in 2011 and he was also provided trout fish seeds and feeds with all other equipment. "Now my business has been successfully revived and my small fish farm produces about 13,000 kilogramme trout fish annually," he said.

Swat valley has great potential for trout fish and more and more people are trying their luck in the business. According to people in Kalam, the first survey for trout fish was conducted during the former Swat state in which the area from Madyan up to Kalam, Utror, Gabral, Matiltan

and Usush was termed the most suitable for trout fish farming.

"The first successful experiment was conducted in 1953 to breed trout fish in Swat River and since then the production has been on the rise. In our area, for both the trout fish farms owners and those who catch them in the river it is the major source of income," said Shamsul Haq, a resident of Kalam who at first used to catch trout fish in the river, but recently established two trout fish farms and intended to establish more.

The 2010 floods had destroyed all the 27 trout fish farms along with the natural breeding and feeding grounds of fish in the Swat River and all its tributaries and lakes, says fisheries official Ibrar Ahmad

He said that the trout fish in Kalam and upper belt was famous for its taste and it was used as a gift. "We used to catch trout fish in the Swat River with rod whenever special guests came to us," he said. He said that there were more than 100 glacial lakes in Swat and these were the most suitable sites for trout fish where the government must carry out stocking activities. Of late, the fish industry saw a gradual uplift because both the governmental and non-governmental sectors invested in the industry.

Assistant director fisheries Ibrar Ahmad said that with the USAID funding the 26 trout fish farms which were destroyed by the floods were rehabilitated while the govern-

ment rehabilitated its own hatchery. "At least 26 trout fish farms have been constructed by the government after 2010 floods taking the number of such farms to 52," he said.

He added that a project titled "Development of Farm Fisheries in KP" has been launched by the provincial government on 50/50 public-private partnership and under which construction work was underway on 35 trout fish farms. About 10 of these farms are near completion," he said.

Mr Ahmad said that the total number of trout fish farms in Swat would reach to 116 taking the annual production from presently 6,000kg to 240,000kg. "It will generate Rs204 million as an annual revenue. Thus trout fish industry will become the third cash crop after fruit and vegetables in Swat," he said.

According to the fisheries department, Swat is famous for brown trout and rainbow trout. "In hatchery we rear rainbow trout and in natural water bodies we rear brown trout. In the entire Asia, Swat valley has got uniqueness that Kamloop trout can easily be reared here which is one of the types of rainbow trout and is bigger and more expensive than the normal trout," he said.

Mr Ahmad said that extensive gravel mining and disposal of drain water in the Swat River had also badly affected the natural breeding and feeding grounds for fish which must be controlled.

Courtesy: Dawn

Kami Sid's short film Rani will premiere at Newport Beach Film Festival

Transgender rights activist Kami Sid has been making strides as a model and actor in recent years and the latest highlight of her career will be her short film Rani's upcoming premiere in the States!

The short film has been selected for screening at the Newport Beach Film Festival, which will run from April 26 to May 3 in Orange County. Rani will screen on April 30 as part of the 'A Short Moment of Decision' program.

While she won't be able to attend the premiere due to a prior engagement in Germany, Kami is, of course, ecstatic about the premiere:

"I feel so proud that my film has been selected and is premiering in America. People are appreciating it and the film's story is actually very good so I love

that more people will get to see this wonderful work done by Pakistan," said Kami.

She added, "Everyone needs to know how we're doing good work. Hopefully, people will love it and it'll be played in many more film festivals."

After breaking the barrier by becoming the first transgender model in Pakistan, Kami had been working on Rani since last year. The film revolves around a transgender woman finding an abandoned infant and becoming a mother while facing many obstacles.

Said Kami, "I started my work in this industry in 2016 as the first transgender model in Pakistan. Now there are many transgender models making it in the media industry, getting all sorts of work.



I'm seeing society change for the better and everyone is starting to accept these changes in a very positive way. The transgender community is coming into the mainstream and we have many allies helping us."

More power to Kami!

Courtesy: Dawn

Cake earns over 4 crore in first week

The Asim Abbasi directorial has performed well at the box office due to positive word of mouth, says distributor

Asim Abbasi's family drama *Cake* has injected some fresh energy into the Pakistani box office, with earnings of 4.2 crore in the first week of its running.

The film, which stars Aamina Sheikh, Sanam Saeed and Adnan Malik, has earned 2 crores locally and 2.2 crores overseas, confirms the distributors Footprint Entertainment.

Director Asim Abbasi says he expects the film to earn more in the coming weeks, for *Cake* will release in USA and Canada on April 13.

Speaking to Images, Abbasi said, "This was not a big budget film, it



was a contained production. Have we broken even yet? No, but we are remaining positive because the film has yet to release in North America. But from what we're hearing, in local cinemas all the evening shows have been sold out and we're hoping the momentum will carry through this weekend as well.'

The film continues to show strong performance over its second weekend with heavy bookings in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, according to Footprint. A representative attributed its success so far to positive word of mouth.

Courtesy: Dawn

Iran eyes CPEC with growing interest after port visit



Iran's Minister for Roads and Urbanisation Abbas Akhondi expressed keen interest in exploring avenues available under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The minister is leading a high level Iranian delegation which visited Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

Akhondi also showed interest in transshipment cargo handling. He said that Iran is keen to work with Pakistan for interconnection linkage between Karachi Port and Bandar Abbas as well as the development of tourism and facilitation of 'zairain' (religious pilgrims).

He further said there was ample space of 204,000 hectares available at Bandar Abbas for promoting transshipment cargo handling facility.

KPT Chairman Rear Admiral Jamil

Akhtar briefed the Iranian delegation about various projects.

He said the port is currently working on the expansion programme under the 10-Year Karachi Port Improvement Plan.

The Iranian delegation took keen interest in the deepwater container port project of KPT along with other future projects including the multipurpose bulk terminal, cargo village, LNG terminal and port elevated expressway.

The KPT chairman said that special care has been taken for opening up investment opportunities in marine sector for private sector.

The Iranian delegation was also given a tour of the South Asia Pakistan Terminals Ltd at the Deepwater Container Port.

Courtesy: Dawn

Google Doodle celebrates Nazia Hassan's 53rd birthday



Google is paying tribute to legendary singer Nazia Hassan with its doodle feature on her 53rd birthday. Google honours prominent personalities and occasions with special logos that it calls 'doodles'.

In the past Google had also paid tribute to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Abdul Sattar Edhi, Noor Jehan and many others.

In a statement Google wrote, "When young Pakistani girls in the 1980s closed their eyes and clutched a pretend mic in their hands, swaying and singing, a major inspiration was Nazia Hassan. Hassan, sometimes referred to as the "Princess of Pop", was a sensation the likes of which hadn't been seen in the region in years. Young and graceful, with long flowing hair, she charmed the country by belting out favourite songs *Disco Deewane* and *Boom Boom* alongside her brother Zo-haib."

Nazia Hassan was a Pakistani pop singer, lawyer and social activist. She graduated from well reputed Rich-

mond, The American International University and University of London.

She started singing at the age of 10 and became one of the most prominent singers in Pakistan and India.

She earned the title of "Queen of Pop" in South Asia. She along with her brother Zoheeb Hassan sold over 65 million records worldwide and her English language single *Dreamer Deewane* made her the first Pakistani singer to make it to the British charts.

Nazia was Born on April 3rd, 1965 came into the limelight through Pakistan Television's programme "Sung Sung" and became Pakistan's most famous celebrities of 70s and 80s.

Nazia was not only a singer but she had also worked for the UN as well as for UNICEF. She also remained a dedicated scholar and philanthropist who worked for the rights of young people.

She died of lung cancer at a very young age of 35, in London leaving her fans in a state of dismay.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Karachiites show up in great numbers amid tight security to welcome international cricket

Pakistan outclass West Indies in a one-sided encounter to record a mammoth 143-run victory against the visitors.

Pakistan thrashed a jet-lagged West Indies by 143 runs in their Twenty20 opener on Sunday for the second biggest margin of victory in top-level T20 cricket.

Despite this being the first international match in Karachi Pakistan's largest city only 18,000 people watched the match in the 33,000-capacity stadium. But those present were in a celebratory mood.

"It's something we've been trying to prove, that it's safe to play here," said Zehra Kazmi, a housewife.

Aftab Khan, a student, said he was hoping for more top-level cricket on Pakistani soil. "I can't express my feelings in words so we welcome all the players from the international cricket," he said.

"They should come to Pakistan and play... because Pakistan is a very peaceful country."

The three-match T20 series against the West Indies is seen as a big step towards reviving international cricket in Pakistan, which was suspended in 2009 following a 2009 militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore.

Courtesy: Dawn

Health department plans to introduce generic prescriptions in hospitals

The health department has planned to introduce generic prescriptions in hospitals to provide less costly and quality drugs with appropriate dosages to the patients and avoid health complications.

Officials said that initially a government hospital would be selected for piloting a project on generic prescriptions with plans to replicate it in other hospitals in the province, according to a recent initiative of the health department.

A contact group, comprising senior officials, has been tasked by Health Secretary Abid Majeed to come up with a plan to introduce pharmacy shops in public sector hospitals and devise a mechanism in consultations with the doctors to start generic prescriptions in line with the WHO's and international standards, studies and protocols.

Move meant to provide less costly and quality drugs to patients

A letter issued by health secretary on March 28 wants the group to give a plan within two months

about introduction of pharmacies and ensure that people get correct drugs.

It said that prescriptions should be written in generic names with required strength, dosage with full name and address and history of illness with warnings and instructions at hospitals where pharmacies would operate in presence of pharmacists.

The plan also seeks to streamline writing of drugs to patients with support of doctors, main stakeholders, to put their signature or initials at the end of prescription proformas to be developed.

According to it, a recent study has pointed out that none of the 1,097 prescriptions analysed in six Peshawar-based hospitals qualified to meet the global set standards as 58.5 per cent weren't readable, 89 per cent didn't carry physician's name and 78 per cent lacked details about diagnosis.

The study found that 62 per cent of

the prescribed stuff happened to be painkillers, which harmed people economically and tended to give birth to ethical issues besides causing resistance and reactions etc.

It also listed harms caused by misuse of drugs, prescribed by doctors in some cases hurriedly and without taking into account proper patients' history. It said that presence of pharmacist was must in every hospital to help in appropriate use of medicines.

There were stances in which drugs were prescribed at the behest of the manufacturers and the purpose of the measure was to have pharmacies in hospitals and help proper dosage of medicines in accordance with international best practices and guidelines.

It has cited findings of premier institutions which say that written prescriptions must be printed or typed along with full information of patients and the prescribed drugs. Standard operating procedure should be put in place for clearly-

written prescription and a mechanism for record keeping should be devised for public and private hospitals in the province.

It says that patients should be protected not only from wrong medication but over-prescription of both the required and not-so-required drugs including pain-killers should be reduced.

"It is also imperative that we strike a balance of sort between prescription on generic and brand names so that public has a choice of going for less costly drugs, which will pave way for competition between brands and people will get products at lesser rates," it adds.

Therefore, hospital-based pharmacies, run on no-profit, no-loss basis, should be started from selected district headquarters hospitals to provide drugs on generic name.

Experts said that the plan would provide cheap medication and end monopoly of brand-based pharmaceutical companies.

Courtesy:Dawn

Mohsin Hamid's Exit West wins Aspen Words Literary Prize 2018



Mohsin Hamid is definitely one of the best authors Pakistan has to offer. Hamid's latest novel Exit West won the author the Aspen Words Literary Prize 2018. The inaugural awards were held in New York on April 10.

"Exit West is a novel about migration and how the world is changing and could change and how we are all migrants, and how we can find an optimistic future together," Hamid remarked in his acceptance speech at the ceremony.

"I'm really grateful to be honoured by this prize in particular, which is a prize that looks to books to have an impact on the world."

The author was awarded \$35,000 as prize money.

The Aspen Words Literary Prize is an annual award for an influential work of fiction that illuminates a vital contemporary issue and demonstrates the transformative power of literature on thought and culture.

Among its many other nominations, Exit West has been nominated for LA Times Book Prize and was also shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

Earlier this year, Mohsin was also awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz for his services to the field of literature.

Courtesy: Pakistan today

Pakistan set to open first ever school for transgender community



A school for the education and vocational training of Pakistan's transgender community is set to open its doors from April 15 in Lahore.

Named "The Gender Guardian", the school offers a full 12 years of academic education from the primary level to matriculation and then leading up to college.

The school will also impart technical education, such as fashion designing, beautician and hair styling courses, graphic designing, computer and mobile repairing, among others.

Asif Shahzad, the school's founder,

told the media that it has been built in collaboration with an NGO and two more such schools will be established in Islamabad and Karachi.

The management said that more than 40 aspiring students from the transgender community have already registered with the soon-to-be-operational school.

The school will be formally launched through an opening ceremony at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore's Alhamra Hall, with several names from the showbiz industry expected to attend.

Courtesy: Pakistan today

KP education dept launches drive to enrol over 800,000 children

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Elementary and Secondary Education (E&SE) Department on Tuesday launched an enrolment campaign to achieve the target of enrolling 850,000 children in nursery classes across the province.



According to a handout, the enrolment drive has been started in the government schools across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and it will continue till April 30, to achieve the annual enrolment target of 850,000 compared to the last year's 800,000.

In this connection, the department organised a launching ceremony at the Government Higher Secondary Husnain Sharif Shaheed School No 1, Peshawar. Minister E&SE Department Mohammad Atif Khan and MPA Shaukat Yusufzai were the special guests on this occasion.

In his brief remarks, the minister said that education was a key priority area of the provincial government as it had introduced a number of reforms to improve the quality of teaching and students learning outcomes.

"We increased the education budget from Rs64 billion to Rs136 billion and have inducted more than 40,000 highly qualified teachers through NTS," the minister said, adding that Rs29 billion had been spent on the provision of missing facilities in schools.

On this occasion, free books and school bags were also distributed among the newly-enrolled students and awareness walks held in various districts to highlight the importance of education.

In Mingora, education activists put the number of out-of-school children at 170,000 in Swat and vowed to motivate parents to enrol their children. Speaking at the launching ceremony of the campaign in Saidu Sharif, ADC Mohammad Tahir claimed that the district administration was

taking steps to increase enrolment in schools across the district.

District education office Nawab Ali vowed that the department would achieve the enrolment target.

MPA Fazal Hakeem said that the PTI-led provincial government had initiated multiple activities for the uplift of education in the province. The ceremony was followed by an awareness walk in which teachers, students and parents participated. In Kohat, the education department has fixed a target of enrolling 19,000 out-of-school children during the current drive. District nazim Naseem Afridi, district education officer Haziqur Rehman and deputy commissioner launched the enrolment drive at the Government School No 2.

An awareness walk from the said school up to Peshawar Chowk was also held and free bags and copies were distributed among the admitted children.

In Buner, deputy commissioner Zariful Maani and DEO Bakht

Zada launched the drive by enrolling students at a function held at the government school, Daggar. Teachers, students, parents and local people participated in the function.

In Battagram, a function was held in the Government Centennial Model High School. An awareness walk was held at the main bazaar which was participated by the education department officials, teachers, students and local people.

In Karak, an awareness walk led by SDEO Mohammad Farooq Khattak was held in Sabirabad. The participants, including parents, teachers and students, carried banners and placards which were inscribed with slogans about the importance of education.

On this occasion, Mr Khattak asked the teachers to visit all areas and pursue the parents to send their children to the schools as education was necessary for the progress and development of the country.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan conducts successful test of enhanced version of Babur Cruise Missile: ISPR



The successful test of an enhanced version of the indigenously developed Babur Cruise Missile was conducted by the Armed forces on Saturday, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The cruise missile incorporates advanced aerodynamics and avionics that can strike targets with high accuracy at a range of 700 kilometres.

Moreover, it is a low flying, terrain hugging missile, which carries stealth features and is capable of carrying different warheads.

Babur is equipped with state of the art navigational technologies of Terrain Contour Matching and all time Digital Scene Matching and

Area Co-relation.

Pakistan Navy test-fires submarine-launched cruise missile

These technologies enable it to engage various kinds of targets with pinpoint accuracy even in the absence of GPS navigation.

According to the military's media wing the cruise missile is an important part of Pakistan's strategic deterrence.

The President and Prime Minister of Pakistan lauded all those involved in the successful test of the missile.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

PM Abbasi reaches China to attend Boao conference 2018

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and seniors members of his cabinet on Sunday touched down in China to attend the Boao Forum Annual Conference for Asia.

The Prime Minister, who is accompanied by Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif and Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, will deliver his speech on Tuesday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte and other global leaders are also scheduled to make an appearance at the conference, which is being held in South China's island province of Hainan. PM Abbasi is also expected to hold meetings with the regional and global leaders in attendance.

The Boao conference is modeled after the World Economic Forum and is sometimes referred to as the Asian Davos.



The theme of this year's conference is "An open and innovative Asia for a world of greater prosperity". Participants will be expected to discuss key issues related to globalisation, the Belt and Road Initiative and innovation.

According to experts, the Boao forum will be a platform for global political and business leaders to share insights on China's economy, the B&R Initiative and fostering innovation, which will be the fundamental drivers for the creation of new growth engines for the world economy.

Courtesy: World Tribune Pakistan

Awami Theatre Festival begins with Munda Bigri Jaey

It was befitting on the part of the Arts Council to dedicate its first Awami Theatre Festival to the council's treasurer Shahnaz Siddiqui who passed away on April 13 because he himself was a renowned commercial theatre producer with plays such as the extremely popular Bakra Qiston Per to his credit.

It should also be appreciated that the council dedicated the event to the late Moin Akhtar too, who, among other things, was known for his successful stints on awami stage.

However, it's high time that the



begun).

This meant that the audience, which packed the open-air auditorium in

though, waiting for the fun to begin.

The play that was staged on the first day of the festival was titled Munda

lines. This made the audience heckle the performers a bit.

The play features the character of Ghulam (played by the senior artist Shakil Siddiqui) at its centre. He has just got married. His father (Rauf Lala) and mother (Naima Garaj, who received a generous applause when she appeared on stage) are worried about their daughter-in-law's behaviour. And they're not wrong.

The play, as it is always in the case of such ventures, is replete with sharp and witty one-liners and rib-



Arts Council revisited its strategy of having high-profile chief guests to inaugurate its events. For example, on Monday, provincial Information Minister Syed Nasir Husain Shah was supposed to declare the festival open. But he did not turn up (at least till the time the play had

two shakes of a lamb's tail, waited for the minister to arrive for two hours. Yes, the council's president Ahmed Shah later on said that what mattered to him was the audience and not the chief guests, but by that time it had already been quite late; and the weather was not friendly either. The awam sat there patiently,

Bigri Jaey written and directed by Rauf Lala. One assumes that since the drama started a little late, the director didn't have enough time to check the sound system. So, when the curtains went up and the first scene unfolded, the microphones weren't properly working because of which the actors had to repeat their

ticking repartee. It reminded one of the good old days of Karachi when the brilliant Umar Sharif used to rule awami theatre. Speaking of which, it wouldn't be a bad idea for the organisers to invite Sharif to close the festival on April 28.

Courtesy: images.dawn.com



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