



Greenwich University
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Positive Post

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

April in History

May 18, 1950: *The Pesbarwar University comes into being.*

May 11, 1951: *University of Karachi is established.*

May 14, 1956: *PM Abiba Abdul Majeed presents the first five year plan.*

May 1, 1972: *Labour Day is celebrated for the first time in Pakistan.*

May 26, 1980: *Establishment of Federal Shariat Court is announced.*

May 16, 1991: *National Assembly adopts Shariat Bill.*

May 21, 1997: *Saeed Anwar slams world record score of 194 runs against India.*

May 12, 2000: *Supreme Court validated the October 1999 coup and granted General Pervez Musharraf executive and legislative authority for three years.*

May 22, 2004: *Pakistan readmitted to Common-wealth.*

May 14, 2006: *Charter of democracy (CoD) is signed by two former prime ministers of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto in London.*

23 May-15 July 2009: *Pakistan Army launched Operation Rah-e-Rast and cleared Swat Valley of all Taliban elements. It is regarded as one of the most successful counter insurgency operation in modern age*

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'Nothing is impossible': PM Abbasi inaugurates Islamabad International Airport



The newly constructed Islamabad International Airport (IIA) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi after going through its share of hiccups.

The plan to construct a new airport in Islamabad had been conceived just under forty years ago in 1980 but work on the international-standard greenfield airport hit a number of snags and delays over the years.

The Y-shaped airport is located 20 kilometres from Zero Point Islamabad and over 25km from Saddar, Rawalpindi, and is set to be the largest airport in the country, designed to facilitate 15 million passengers annually in the first phase, which will increase to 25m after its expansion.

According to PIA Spokesman Mashood Tajwar, the national flag carrier's second commercial flight PK-301 will take off for Karachi.

Strict security measures were in place as PM Abbasi arrived at the airport along with other officials for the ceremony. The inauguration

was initially supposed to take place on April 20 but it was delayed until May 3 due to certain technical problems and security issues.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Abbasi lauded the efforts of Sardar Mehtab, Irfan Illahi and Air Marshal Salam and other officials for their efforts to complete the airport project.

"Nothing is impossible, but this [constructing this airport] seemed like it was," the prime minister said. "But we have managed to complete this project as well."

He further said that although Pakistan's "liberal, open sky scheme" has been criticised, the policy has been kept in place because the government believes that the "passengers should have choices".

"Aviation is a challenging, dynamic field. It keeps changing rapidly and if we don't change ourselves we will be left behind," he stressed.

"It is very easy to criticise and hurl accusations," he said, adding that those in government have to deal

with challenges unknown to critics.

Full flight operations will be shifted to the new airport on May 3. All commercial and VIP flights from Benazir Bhutto International Airport (BBIA) will be moved to the new airport.

International carriers, including Emirates Airlines, Qatar Airways, Thai Airways, China Airlines, Oman Air, Etihad Airways, Saudi Airways, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways and Turkish Airlines, operate flights to and from Islamabad along with PIA, Shaheen Air and Air Blue.

Prior to the inauguration, the Pakistan Air Force had lent a hand to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for smooth and safe conduct of operations at the new airport.

A C-130 flight with passengers and luggage on board had landed at the newly constructed runway on Friday to assess its instrument landing pattern and the quality of the landing strip.

Earlier, PAF aircraft, including the lightweight super Mushshak trainer and Hercules transport aircraft, had also landed at the runway.

For air traffic deconfliction, PAF in consultation with the CAA air traffic controllers has readjusted its flying training areas and routes for smooth approach paths of the new airport.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan lead annual ICC T20 rankings



Pakistan retained the top spot in the annual International Cricket Council (ICC) Twenty20 cricket rankings after delivering stellar performances in T20 tournaments over the past year.

The top two spots on the rankings remain unchanged, with Pakistan leading the pack with 130 points and Australia close behind with 126 points.

"There were, in fact, no changes in the top seven positions, but the big development was down at number eight, where Afghanistan are the new entrants," the ICC said in a statement.

India attained the third position after gaining two points to reach

123, and are followed by New Zealand, who have retained their 116 points. England (115) have gained a solitary point and stand at number five.

Sri Lanka which had earlier ranked eighth slipped to the ninth spot after losing four points.

Bangladesh were ranked 10th in the list followed by Scotland, Zimbabwe, the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Oman and Ireland.

The green shirts have been riding a wave of success in the T20 format, their most recent win against the West Indies in a three-match series staged in Karachi this year.

Courtesy: Dawn

Coin in memory of Dr Pfau unveiled



State Bank of Pakistan Governor Tariq Bajwa and German Ambassador to Pakistan Martin Kobler unveiled a Rs50 commemorative coin at the SBP headquarters on Tuesday in memory of Dr Ruth Pfau.

The coin will be available to people from Wednesday.

Mr Bajwa said they had issued commemorative coins in the past

for great people like Quaid-i-Azam, Allama Iqbal, Fatima Jinnah and Abdul Sattar Edhi.

Mr Kobler, on the occasion, thanked the government of Pakistan.

The ceremony was attended by Consul General of Germany in Karachi Rainer Schmiedchen, Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre Karachi CEO Mervyn F. Lobo and others.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan makes its mark on the global scale yet again.

Digital rights activist and lawyer, Nighat Dad from Pakistan has landed on the Young Global Leaders 2018 list alongside Indian actor Priyanka Chopra and many other international influencers who are transforming how we define leadership.

The list includes 100 of the world's most promising and sought-after artists, public servants, business leaders, entrepreneurs and technologists under the age of 40 have been invited to join the World Economic Forum's community of Young Global Leaders.

Speaking to Images, Dad shares: "When I started working on digital rights, in all honesty, I didn't know if it'd even be recognised - let alone celebrated. I have said this on various platforms that I was laughed at by the very people who I was working for, because they thought digital rights end when the electricity goes off or when they shut down their computers. But this is not true, and everyone knows it now."

The 2018 class of Young Global Leaders will be joining a community and a five-year programme that will challenge them to think beyond their scope of expertise and be more impactful leaders. They were nominated because of their groundbreaking work, creative approaches to problems and ability to build bridges across cultures and between business, government, and civil society.

She added, "My aim with the work we're doing at the Digital Rights Foundation primarily focuses on ensuring that online spaces are safe for everyone to use, a space that is owned by no one but belongs to everyone."

"It was worrying when I saw young women who were long been oppressed in the offline world also chose to remain silent on the internet because they were scared of the 'consequences' that trolls and harassers will project on them."

Dad then revealed: "I only had two options: either let things be how they have been for generations -



which is easy to do; and the other option was to help them occupy these spaces - which even though requires a lot of efforts but is also equally rewarding. I chose the latter."

YGL has been dubbed as "the most exclusive private social network in the world" so you can imagine it's a big achievement.

"Acknowledgements and accomplishments like the Young Global Leaders 2018 is a motivation for me to keep moving forward and a sign that my work is making an impact on my people, the people of Pakistan. I'm thrilled and excited, to say the least, to join the 2018 cohort of the Young Global Leaders alongside some very amazing and accomplished leaders from around the world. This will be my opportunity to represent Pakistan and its people at a global platform that is known to advance change in communities across borders," said the activist.

Young Global Leaders is an independent non-profit organization managed from Geneva, Switzerland under the supervision of the Swiss government and was launched by World Economic Forum in 2004. It is governed by a board of 12 world and industry leaders such as Queen Rania of Jordan, Wikipedia co-founder, Jimmy Wales, Marissa Mayer of Yahoo! to name a few.

Courtesy: Dawn

Public school students make an impression at art exhibition

Government school students exhibited their artworks on Friday night at the Faraar gallery inside The Second Floor (T2F) for the opening of 'Ta'aruf An Introduction between Two Worlds' an exhibition of student art from two public girls' schools managed by the Zindagi Trust.

The show kicked off with a panel discussion titled 'Making Art Accessible', featuring writer and art critic Rumana Husain, I AM Karachi Executive Director Ambareen Thompson and Head of Arts at Zindagi Trust Anam Shakil Khan. It was moderated by curator and writer Aziz Sohail.

The panel adopted an interactive format, framing their discussion around questions collected from the audience, which made for an engaging conversation.

Speakers stressed the importance of art in public spaces, sharing their experiences of creating public art through I AM Karachi's walls project, performances at the Karachi Biennale and student contributions to a public art installation.

"Art is something that unites people from all walks of life because it isn't limited by language or religion," said Ambareen Thompson, inviting Karachiites in the audience to be fearless and creative in transforming the city through public art.

The students brought with them fresh perspectives to the conversation. Some wondered how an ordinary citizen could use art to bring about a positive social impact, while others shared stories of the mixed reactions they have faced to



even thinking about choosing art as a study or career option.

"Why do we draw boundaries around a child's creativity as she grows older?" asked Ayesha, a student of Class 9 at the Khatoon-e-Pakistan Government Girls School, while sharing a passionate account of the evolution of her mother's opinion of the arts as a career choice.

Ayesha, along with fellow student Hira from the SMB Fatima Jinnah Government Girls School, later impressed the audience with a live booth of blind contour sketches, where the two budding artists created portraits without looking at their canvases.

The exhibition itself featured portraits in the

styles of cubism, collage and abstraction inspired by Picasso, Da Vinci and Paul Klee, made by students ranging from Class 3 to Class 9.

Other prominent works included Monet-inspired impressionism drawings in pastel, a reinterpretation of the Mona Lisa in Pakistani cultures and optical illusions.

"I'm so inspired by these young girls and their passion for art despite the roadblocks they often face," said Saba Gul, founder and CEO of ethical fashion label Popinjay. "Their understanding of art forms and their confidence when they speak about their work is impressive. Coming to T2F to see their work and speak to them really made my day!"

"Meeting and conversing with these absolutely amazing and brilliant ladies behind the artwork was what made this event so unique for me," said Mazhar Qureshi, an associate at DAI/USAID. "I was really inspired by seeing their confidence and how well they embody their artistic ideas."

The two schools participating in the exhibition teach art as a weekly subject and cover diverse techniques, mediums and art history.

Advocating for art to be taught in all government schools, Sana Kazmi from Zindagi Trust shared that their reason for teaching art was to help students discover and hone their talents and to develop them into well-rounded citizens.

The exhibition will be up at T2F until May 17, noon to 10pm. Proceeds from the sale of the artworks will go to the students.

Courtesy: Dawn

Gen Bajwa named 68th 'most powerful' person in the world by Forbes

Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has been named among 'The World's Most Powerful People' by Forbes magazine in its annual ranking for 2018.

The army chief has been ranked as the 68th most powerful person in the world on a list that includes 75 personalities.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has been named the world's most powerful person for 2018, while Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump have been ranked second and third, respectively.

"Although the president is his boss on paper, Pakistan's chief of army staff is de facto the most powerful person in the nuclear armed state," says Forbes about Gen Bajwa.

"Javed Bajwa joins the world's most powerful at a



time when the rift between India and Pakistan is improving, partly thanks to his efforts."

Forbes, a New York-based bi-weekly magazine, observed that Gen Bajwa has a "difficult task" on his hands of maintaining peace in Pakistan, where militant groups are present, "while managing a complex relationship with India".

"Two years into his tenure as the head of the world's sixth largest army, Bajwa has established himself as a mediator and proponent

of democracy," the magazine wrote.

Gen Bajwa is one of 17 new entrants on the most powerful people list. Of these, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MBS), the Kingdom's de facto leader, is the only one who has made it to the top 10.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked 9th on the list, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel, ranked 4th, is the only woman among the top 10.

Forbes' yearly ranking of The World's Most Powerful People identifies one person out of every 100 million "whose actions mean the most".

"There are nearly 7.5 billion humans on planet Earth, but these 75 men and women make the world turn," the magazine wrote.

Courtesy: Dawn

This 23 year old woman rides all over Karachi on her Super Power Scooty

Suraiya is a security guard, who supervises a team of security personnel deployed at a media house

Don't assume that a name like Suraiya Shakoor belongs to a genteel actress or singer.

Suraiya, 23, is a security guard, who supervises a team of security personnel deployed at a media house. She mostly has a stern look on her face which, along with her demeanour, belies her age. But when her face breaks into a smile, you see the young woman behind the created or unconscious no-nonsense exterior she possesses.

What you may also miss is seeing her zipping along the maddening city roads on her Super Power Scooty, cutting through choked traffic and (a confession she should not have made) even driving over foot-paths when a main road is grid-locked. Regretfully, Shakoor is among the bikers who ascribe by the don't-hold-me-back traffic law.

For work, she dresses in straight black pants and a black blazer worn over a crisply ironed blue button-down, and her long hair is pulled back into a sleek ponytail. After work, the day we met, she was to take her scooty to the service centre. "They advised me to bring it for service every month so I won't have to pay as much for overall service if it's maintained well."

The bike she owns is easier to drive than other bikes, according to her. "I've driven several bikes, including the Honda 125, which is considered the heaviest," she says. She bought the scooty not as a hobby but for her work commute.

After completing her intermediate, she looked for a job to support her family of four younger siblings and her parents. But job interviews were the first hurdle for her. They were daunting, possibly not because of lack of confidence but more because of appearing presentable at interviews.

"I said I don't think I can wear shalwar kameez and dupatta as I had never worn women's apparel in my



life," says Shakoor straightforwardly. When asked why, she had a simple answer: "Never felt like it." Even in the government school she attended, the uniform required girls to take a sash and boys to wear a tie. And Shakoor opted for the tie.

The retired major who runs the security company (Vital) was to take her interview. He noticed that his young interviewee was out of sorts somehow. Are you wearing borrowed clothes? he asked her. "Main sameyt nahi pa rahi thi kapron ko [I wasn't able to carry off the clothes]," she explains to Eos. She told the major that this was the first time she was wearing ladies' clothes. I wear pants, she informed him.

She was selected for the job regardless of her discomfiture in traditional women's garb. When the commute from her home in Gulshan to her office in Nursery became bothersome, she decided to get herself a bike.

She told her boss of her plan only to become the butt of jokes at first; "Bike chalayegi?" they scoffed at work. But later her employer also helped out by giving her 5,000 rupees. Then Surraiya thought why not buy it on instalments? She forked out 5,000 rupees from her own pocket and 5,000 rupees was contributed by her uncle who is in the army and whose bike she would ride when younger.

She got her 70cc motorcycle after paying an advance of 15,000 rupees. The rest of the instalments she paid with her entire monthly salaries for six months, the total amounting to 70,000 rupees.

But jokes about her riding a motor-

bike, most likely in good humour, stopped at the office. Neither has Surraiya faced any harassment on the roads. Once the helmet is on though, you can't really tell if this is a woman or a thin man on the bike, so perhaps that works in her favour. Once, though, she was waved down by a cop on Shahrah e Faisal. Not unlike a quick-tempered rebel youth, anger bubbled inside her; she felt the cop was rude in the way he asked her to pull over. "Do you hear me?" the cop aggressively asked, as she was parking her bike on the side of the road. When she took her helmet off, Surraiya retorted: "I can hear you just fine. But if you want to stop ladies then keep lady cops to work with you." She was let go.

Instead of plans of buying another motorcycle later, she longs to drive a car. If she can't get into the army-which her heart is stuck on she plans to buy a Suzuki Every Van which the ladies-only cab hailing service Paxi uses.

This young security guard does not have time to consider whether she is toeing social norms or gender roles; she receives moral support from her family and does what she does to get the job done. She explains she has never once even spent the night outside her home, even at her best friend's her cousin's house.

She may be antisocial from the sound of it but, at the same time, being introverted does not hold her back from stepping out of her comfort zone. "I just had a drive that I must overcome every challenge thrown my way," she admits. "Maybe if I can see myself through this difficulty I won't find future challenges hard to tackle."

Courtesy: Dawn

The national park that never sleeps

It's the middle of the night, the floodlights are on and Ayub National Park is teeming with people.

Unlike other public parks in the city, Ayub Park does not close after sunset in Ramazan. Instead, it is taken over by young cricket players, who play until the pre-dawn hours and stop just in time for sehri.



Pakistanis are known for their love of cricket, and so it has become something of a tradition for young people in the inner areas to spend the Ramazan nights playing cricket from iftar until sehri. More than 12 clubs and 2,400 people play at Ayub Park every night.

In the past, high beam lights were installed on streets and roads, and players used tennis balls wrapped in white tape to ensure their visibility at night. But when local residents objected to the late night matches in residential areas, the players turned to the new grounds at Ayub Park.

"A few years ago, youngsters would connect 200 to 500W bulbs to the electricity metres in small streets, but now people have refused to allow them to continue connecting lights to their supply line because of inflation and the high electricity tariff. So we started coming to the playground," said Raja Bazaar resident Suleman Ahmed.

"We organise night matches in which teams can play Rs4,000 to enter and play," he said, adding that it was easy for teams to pay to play in a better environment.

Upon entering through the main gate on Jhelum Road, players can be seen dressed in their kits or being trained by professionals. Everyone, from six-year-old boys to older players can be seen playing cricket, while parents and visitors watch on. Hamza Ahmed, a trainer, said he was teaching under-16 players how to handle the cricket ball.

Courtesy: Dawn

National Assembly passes bill seeking protection of transgender rights

The National Assembly passed the landmark Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2017 with majority votes, DawnNewsTV reported.

The proposed law enables trans people to be recognised as they perceive themselves and register with the government institutions as transgenders. It also provides them basic rights such as obtaining driver's licences and passports. The bill was presented by PPP lawmaker Naveed Qamar. It was earlier unanimously approved by Senate in March this year.

In addition to this, the bill speaks against the harassment and discrimination of trans people in the workplace, in their homes and in a public setting. It also prescribes imprisonment of up to six months for those employing members of the marginalised community as beggars or compelling them to beg.

Also read: Kami Sid expresses joy as Transgender Persons Bill 2017 passes

Other landmark provisions of the proposed law that seek to protect the rights of the transgender community include:

- Transgender persons will be able to register to obtain a driver's licence and passport. They will have the option to get their gender changed in National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) records.
- Harassment of transgenders will be prohibited in and outside their homes.
- Trans persons will not be discriminated against by educational institutions, employers, in trade and health services, and when using public transport and buying or selling or renting a property they will also not be dismissed because of their gender identity.
- The government will establish a safe house for transgenders and provide them medical and educational facilities and psychological counselling.
- Separate rooms will be established at jails where transgenders



could be detained.

- Law enforcement agencies personnel will be sensitised to the rights of transgender people.
- Trans persons will be provided loans to start businesses on easy conditions.
- In addition to all basic rights, they will be entitled to inherit property.
- The government will take steps to ensure employment opportunities for transgenders.
- Transgenders will have the right to vote in all national, provincial and local government elections and they will not be discriminated against in their pursuit of a public office.
- They will have the right to assemble and access to public and entertainment sports.
- Anyone found guilty of forcing a transgender person to beg will be sentenced to six months in prison and served a fine of Rs50,000.

Editorial: Education for trans people

Before this, the only legal recognition of transgender individuals' rights in Pakistani law came from a Supreme Court ruling that conferred a number of fundamental rights, such as inheritance, issuance of a CNIC and entitlement to jobs, along with protection from police harassment.

The trans community is celebrating the recent approval of a bill protecting their rights.

Speaking to Images, model and activist Kami Sid said, "This bill is a collective approach of the people and it's a wonderful move. It talks about important issues concerning the trans community and highlights their inclusiveness in society."

Courtesy: Dawn

Tour de Khunjerab cycle race begins today



The three-day cycle race 'Tour de Khunjerab 2018' on Karakoram Highway will start from Gilgit city.

The race will culminate on Sunday at Khunjerab Pass, which is the highest paved international border between Pakistan and China at an altitude of 15,300 feet. The cyclists will cover a distance of 500 kilometres. The event is being organised by the Gilgit-Baltistan government in collaboration with Pakistan Cycling Federation to promote tourism in the region.

The race will start from Bab-i-Gilgit and after covering a distance of 73 kilometres, the participants will spend the night at Rakaposhi viewpoint in Nagar district. The cyclists will spend the second night in Sust, Upper Hunza. On Sunday, they will proceed to Khunjerab Pass and the race will conclude the same day.

After reaching Khunjerab Pass, the cyclists would be brought to Karimabad in vehicles.

The concluding ceremony will be held in Karimabad on Monday

wherein the participants of the race will be given local gifts and the winners will get certificates and prizes. The people, who want to be part of the event, will be allowed to start their journey behind the cyclists after few minutes.

Iqbal Hussian, the tourism director of the region, told Dawn that arrangements regarding security, health, environmental management and traffic plan were finalised for the race.

He said that 11 teams comprising 71 cyclists belonging to all the four provinces of the country, a team from Afghanistan and once cyclist each from Switzerland and the United States would participate in the event. Meanwhile, a member of Islamabad team received head injuries on Thursday after he fell down from the cycle during practice.

The injured cyclist was identified as Asad, 24. The local rescue teams shifted him to district headquarters hospital in Gilgit. Later, he was shifted to Islamabad.

Courtesy: Dawn

Stay positive and happy.

Work hard and don't give up hope.

Be open to criticism and keep learning.

Surround yourself with happy, warm and genuine people.

—Tena Desae

Jurra mosque a symbol of Swat's cultural heritage

The mosque in Jurra village is not only a worship place for the local people but also a resting place and symbol of Swat cultural heritage.

Located in the historical village of Jurra in Matta tehsil, the mosque, according to the villagers, is more than a century old. It was constructed by a local elder known as Khan Bahadar.

Made of stone-mud and wooden architecture with traditional wood carving of the Swat, the mosque after more than 100 years is still in good condition. Villagers say the worship place keeps them united

“More than 100 years before this mosque was constructed by Khan Bahadar and in its construction the villagers took part voluntarily. Apart from its civil work, several carpenters and wood carvers put their share by making and carving pillars with different floral designs,” Khaista Gul, a 95-year-old villager, who is also the caretaker of the



mosque, told Dawn.

He said that the mosque played an important role in keeping the villagers united as they not only offered prayers in it but also took rest there during the long dreary days of summer and cold days of winter as the mosque offered cool respite in the hot summer and warmth in the harsh winter.

The mosque is a symbol of unity for the villagers and a symbol of the cultural heritage of Swat.

“Besides being a place of worship, this mosque has protected our centuries' old heritage in form of wood carving as its every pillar is a monument of the past and each floral pattern represents the legacy of the past. We offer prayers amid our rich cultural heritage in the mosque and will keep it in the same state as we don't want it to lose its charm and cultural value,” said Mohammad Jameel, a resident of the village, who is an engineer by profession.

The floral design and motives on

some wooden pillars are also different from those in other ancient mosques of Swat. It makes the mosque unique and different. People visit the mosque in a large number to see its wooden carving on beams and pillars and its unique stone-mud architecture.

However, the best part of the mosque is its ancient water well and the unique water lifting technology. “It will travel you back in a time when water was lifted from wells in a different way. We lift water by a very simple technique known as counterpoise lift. The technique was used by ancient Egyptians for irrigation purposes. The present counterpoise lift in Jurra mosque is said to be more than 100 years old,” said Fazl Shah, another villager.

He added when tourists visited the mosque the counterpoise lift technique attracted them a lot and they took photos with it.

Courtesy: Dawn

This Pakistani cookbook just won at the Gourmand World Awards

The book that explores the history of biryani and kulchas won best Asian cookbook at the awards!

A Pakistani title has won at the Gourmand World Awards, aka the Oscars of the cookbook awards!

According to a press release, Sayeeda Leghari's Pakistan Heritage Cuisine A Food Story won 'Best Asian Cookbook in the World' at the 2018 Gourmand Awards that took place in Yantai, China yesterday. The coffee-table book was up against seven other cookbooks including Korean Wife's Secret Recipes (Hong Kong), Persian Kitchen (Israel), Fast Indian Cooking (Malaysia) and Lickerland, Asian Accented Desserts (USA).

The book was also nominated in the Culinary Heritage category

Leghari's book delves into the history and evolution of Pakistani cuisine, offering up insightful facts like the inventor of biryani was Empress Nur Jahan and the Nizam of Hyderabad Mir Qamar-uddin adopted the symbol of the kulcha bread on his flag.



“Through hearsay or documented evidence, I have tried giving the background of the creation of various dishes, which have come into our homes and daily lives, and while doing this I have celebrated our unsung cooks and chefs,” said Leghari at the launch of the book in November last year.

The only Pakistani title to have been honoured at the Gourmand Awards this year, Pakistan Heritage Cuisine has been published by Markings, which has previously won at Gourmand for Lal Majid's Deliciously Yours in 2014 and for the Pakistan-India collaborative cookbook Flavours of the Frontier in 2015.

Courtesy: Dawn

Balochistan's first health policy okayed

The Balochistan cabinet on Wednesday approved of the first Balochistan Health Policy. It also gave green light to the Balochistan Drugs Rules 2018 which would be sent to the Balochistan Assembly for approval.



The outgoing provincial cabinet's last meeting was presided over by Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo, where the cabinet also approved of an amendment made to the Balochistan Civil Servant Act 1974.

During the meeting, the cabinet decided to enhance per tonnage fee on ships being brought for scraping in the ship-breaking yard and approved of an amendment in the Ship Breaking Rules 1979 under which the fee per ton on the ships will be Rs 800 instead Rs 50. In view of the provincial government's vow to increase its provincial resources, the cabinet also approved the Balochistan Revenue Authority Amendment Bill 2018.

The meeting expressed its satisfaction over the performance of the cabinet formed for short-term under the leadership of Mr Bizenjo and observed that it had played an important role in disposing of provincial affairs in a limited period and resolved many pending issues. While addressing the last cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Bizenjo said that a cabinet was aimed to resolve problems of the province and speed up the pace of development in the province.

Courtesy: Dawn

Star of Latin Quarter is Pakistani

A NEWSPAPER hawker yelling at the top of his voice the day's headlines in the streets of Latin Quarter of Paris is as much an anomaly in the present epoch as, say a horse driven carriage.

Undaunted by the changes of time, Ali Akbar sets aside his old bicycle every day, seven days a week, exactly at 1pm at the same spot of boulevard St Germain as he has done for the past more than forty years.

Slim and dynamic at age sixty-four, Ali says the nostalgic memories are very much alive of the times when he sold hundreds of copies of dailies like *Le Monde* and *Libération*, in addition to weeklies *Charlie Hebdo* or *Journal du Dimanche*.

Today, thanks to the internet, practically nobody buys newspapers anymore, even less so from a hawker. But, says Ali: "I came to Paris from Pakistan when I was eighteen and this is the only thing I've ever enjoyed doing."

There is little doubt over his passion



for the profession he has developed in his own style by often screaming fake news just for fun: former president François Hollande dismissing his government and appointing his girlfriend Julie Gaye as prime minister or the extreme right, anti immigration leader Marine Le Pen converting to Islam. His inventiveness does not restrain him from shouting out news about his personal life as well: "What a catastrophe! My wife is back home!"

People sitting in legendary cafés like

Lipp, *Flore* or *Deux Magots* frequented in ancient times by intellectuals such as Verlaine, Rimbaud and Mallarmé and later by Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir laugh at Ali's jokes and readily buy his papers even if they don't need them.

He is also the author of a book *Je fais rire le monde mais le monde me fait pleurer* (I make the world laugh, but the world makes me cry), an autobiographical work recounting his poor family background in Rawalpindi and his survival struggles in Paris.

He says, "The book has turned my life in a new direction. I often end up pedaling a greater number of copies of it than those of *Le Monde* and *Charlie Hebdo* put together."

His wild imagination knows no limits. One afternoon he made everyone roll with laughter shouting the biggest scoop of the day: "Ali Akbar invited to join the French Academy of Literature!"

A real star of Latin Quarter in his own way, Ali is frequently invited by well known politicians, often by movie celebrities like Sophie Marceau to have a cup of coffee with them.

Ali who speaks in fluent, accent-less French says the publication of his book has brought in a certain change to his family life as well. His five sons between ages twenty-three and ten used to be a bit embarrassed by the fact of his being a newspaper hawker. "Now they are very proud to introduce me to their friends as a great writer."

Courtesy: Dawn

Swabi's tobacco growers are turning to vegetable farming

Use of modern farming techniques is helping local farmers in get good yield of bitter gourd and tomato, leading to a boost in their incomes. During the last few years, it has been observed that a good number of farmers have switched from growing tobacco to vegetables and fruits, particularly bitter gourd and tomato, and are getting the desired yields thanks to introduction of the vertical farming method.

Talking to Dawn here on Tuesday, growers said growing bitter gourd the traditional way did not yield the desired result, but use of the method had helped them get good crop.

In the past, the farmers said they did not give support to the bitter gourd crop, as a result, the plant spread over the land and during harvest the vegetable usually got damaged. Moreover, the crop was also exposed to diseases.

However, now the farmers grow the crop in a way known as vertical farming and from the very beginning the plant starts creeping upwards along the support made for it, giving the plant the required air and sunlight for better growth of the vegetable.

Jabeen Qamar, an agricultural expert, said the new technique had really worked and majority of farmers had switched to it.

"I knew the farmers felt hesitation in the beginning but now they have become familiar with the new technique," he added.

Mohammad Uzair, a farmer belonging to Pirtab village, said vertical farming had helped him get the desired yield.

The farmers said earlier they believed in conventional farming and remained stuck with outdated modes, but slowly and gradually



they came to know about the modern scientific techniques used in vegetable cultivation.

The farmers said land in Swabi was highly fertile and all kinds of vegetables and fruits could be grown there.

However, they said they needed guidance from agricultural experts on use of modern and scientific techniques.

Waqar Ahmad, a farmer, said earlier he earned about Rs20,000 in selling

bitter gourd but now his income had reached to Rs60,000 as he had now been using the vertical farming method for last three years.

The farmers said vertical farming had also proved very productive in cultivating tomato crop because the rain and harsh sun could not damage the crop.

They said before vertical farming their tomato crop was badly damaged by rain and diseases.

Courtesy: Dawn

Ramazan: When charity comes from the heart



Ramazan is that time of the year whereby an innate need to do good takes over the general populace. This is best portrayed by the number of free Iftari stalls set up around the city.

These stalls are set up for the less fortunate who are unable to afford a decent Iftari as well as commuters who are yet to reach their destinations and have to break their fast on the road. Interestingly, many of these Iftari gatherings are

organised by the not-so-affluent members of the society. However, a generous spirit and the desire to help others render all requisites irrelevant.

Thesedays, about four stalls can be seen in a two square-mile area in Saddar, which have been set up by some shop owners and other people. One such person is a rickshaw driver Abdul Razzaq, affectionately referred to as 'Chacha Razzaq' by his peers.

Razzaq runs an Iftari stall on Din Mohammad Wafai Road, a short distance from the Pakistan International Airlines booking office. A rickshaw driver by profession, he certainly is not from the upper income bracket.

Talking to The News, he said that he has to wake up at 4am every

morning to earn his livelihood. Just before Iftar time Razzaq takes a break to purchase Iftari items and set up a table for passersby and the less fortunate.

Upon being asked about the expenses incurred for such an altruistic exercise, Razzaq mentioned that it cost him around Rs150,000 for the whole month last year, which is a significant amount by any standard much less for a rickshaw driver. However, he has no complaints.

Razzaq said that he is thankful to God for having granted him the will and the strength to perform this charitable service. With temperatures rising in the metropolis, a kind act such as this one goes a long way.

Courtesy: The News



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