



Greenwich University  
Pakistan-Mauritius

# Positive Post

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

## July in History

**July 8, 1947:** *Constituent Assembly of Pakistan approves the design of Pakistan.*

**July 9, 1948:** *Pakistan's first postage stamp is issued.*

**July 11, 1950:** *Pakistan joins the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.*

**July 14, 1953:** *Wazir Mansion Karachi, the birthplace of Quaid-e-Azam, is declared protected national monument.*

**July 17, 1958:** *First Nigar Film Awards held.*

**July 12, 1959:** *Shukriya Niaz Ali becomes first woman pilot of Pakistan.*

**July 31, 1690:** *Foundation stone of Mazar-i-Quaid (Mausoleum of M.A. Jinnah) is laid.*

**July 15, 1961:** *Jasmine is chosen as the national flower of Pakistan.*

**July 31, 1964:** *Pakistan, Iran and Turkey agree to establish RCD*

**July 2, 1972:** *Simla Agreement is signed between President Bhutto and Prime Minister Indra Gandhi.*

**July 24, 1976:** *Labore-Amritsar train service, Samjhota Express starts.*

**July 31, 1976:** *A.Q. Khan research laboratories established.*

**July 8, 1986:** *Peshawar Dry Port is inaugurated.*

**July 17, 1991:** *Pakistan unveils first battle tank Al-Khalid manufactured jointly by Pakistan and China.*

**July 15, 2001:** *Agra Summit starts. President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee holds talks over long-standing issues.*

**July 11, 2003:** *Labore-Delhi bus service resumed after suspension of 18 months.*

**July 14, 2005:** *NWFP Assembly passes the Hasba bill with a majority vote.*

## Justice Tahira Safdar likely to become first woman chief justice of Balochistan High Court



The Balochistan High Court (BHC) may have its first woman chief justice following the retirement of incumbent BHC Chief Justice Mohammad Noor Muskanzai, who is reaching superannuation on August 31.

The Dawn Newspaper has learned that the Judicial Commission, which is expected to meet on July 30 under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, may consider the elevation of Justice Syeda Tahira Safdar as BHC chief justice.

Justice Tahira Safdar, born on October 5, 1957 in Quetta, is the daughter of renowned lawyer Syed Imtiaz Hussain Baqri Hanafi. She made history in 1982 when she became the first woman civil judge in Balochistan.

If elevated to the top post of the provincial high court, she will make it to the history books

for the second time.

Justice Tahira Safdar is also a member of the three-judge special court which is conducting a trial of former president retired Gen Pervez Musharraf for committing treason by proclaiming the state of emergency on Nov 3, 2007. The special court was constituted under Section 4 Criminal Law Amendment (Special Court) Act 1976 for trial of offence of high treason.

She received her basic education from Cantonment Public School, Quetta, and went on to complete her Bachelors' Degree from the Government Girls College, Quetta.

Justice Tahira Safdar did her Masters in Urdu Literature from the University of Balochistan and completed her degree in Law from the University Law College, Quetta, in 1980.

Justice Safdar was successful in the competitive examination held by Balochistan Public Service Commission. Subsequently, she was promoted to the rank of Senior Civil Judge on June 29, 1987, and as Additional District and Sessions Judge on February 27, 1991.

On March 1, 1996, she was promoted as District and Sessions Judge. Justice Tahira Safdar also worked as a presiding officer in the Labour Court. She was appointed as a member of the Balochistan Services Tribunal on Oct 22, 1998, and worked as such until she was appointed the chairperson of the Balochistan Services Tribunal on July 10, 2009.

While working as chairperson, Justice Tahira Safdar was elevated to the position of Additional Judge of the high court on Sept 7, 2009, and confirmed as BHC judge on May 11, 2011.

*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.

## Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts will now offer diploma and degree courses



The Lahore Arts Council (LAC) took measures to turn classes into diploma and degree courses.

The LAC took measures on the syllabus of Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts and faculty hiring on Wednesday.

The meeting, headed by LAC Executive Director Atta Muhammad Khan, decided that teachers of music, dance, singing and other classes would submit their course outlines to the executive director in 15 days while the council would prepare a summary on the faculty needs.

Performing arts students will wear identity cards on the premises of Al-

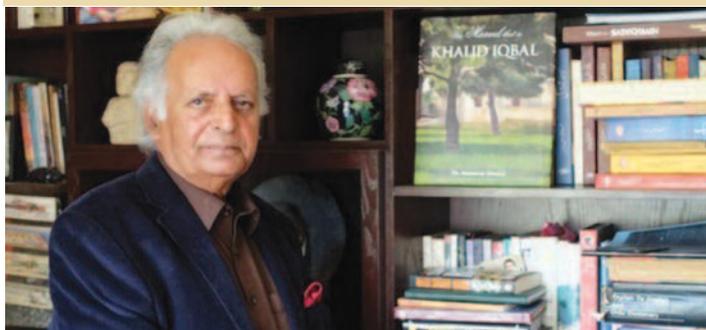
hamra. Mr Khan said the classes, usually taken as a hobby, would be turned into diploma and degree courses and the council had signed an accord with the Punjab University Musicology Department and more such agreements would be signed with other cultural organisations.

A second such meeting will be held where artistes, educationists, teachers and the administrative staff of Alhamra will discuss the measures.

The executive director said there was an immense talent in both visual and performing art fields in the country, which the academy would tap through streamlining the academy courses.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## PAL launches book on Mustansar Hussain Tarar



The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Tuesday launched a book on renowned writer Mustansar Hussain Tarar. The book has been prepared and launched by PAL.

Speaking at the event, PAL Chairman Syed Junaid Ikhtlaq said Mr Tarar has a very unique way of writing and that it is difficult to find similarities in his books.

He said nature has gifted Mr Tarar with a great sense of observation and creation due to which his literary work will always be remem-

bered.

Mr Tarar is an author, travel enthusiast, columnist and TV host and has been given a number of national and international awards. Mr Ikhtlaq said this is the 134th book PAL has produced regarding a literary figure.

The book has been written by Dr Ghafoor Shah Qasim, was reviewed by Dr Amjad Tufail and consists of 240 pages.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Rescued mountaineers ready to head home



Two British mountaineers were rescued early on Sunday and transported to Skardu along with the body of their teammate who was killed the previous day.

Timothy Miller and Bruce Normand were stranded in Camp II (5,900 metres) on the Ultar Peak in Hunza Valley after a large piece of a glacier fell on their tent, killing their expedition member Christian Huber from Austria.

The two British climbers were lucky to have escaped unhurt, said tour operator Abdul Karim, who was managing the three-member expedition on the 7,338 metre high Ultar Peak.

Abdul Karim told Dawn on Sunday that two army helicopters flew in at 6.45am to airlift the climbers.

"The body of the deceased was brought to the military hospital in Gilgit. The surviving climbers returned to Skardu to pick up their gear to head home," said Mr Karim.

The aerial rescue cost \$15,000, according to the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP).

ACP secretary Karrar Haidri told Dawn that Ultar Sar was not one of the highest peaks in the Karakoram Range, yet it was known for its dramatic rise over the famous Altit and Baltit forts in Karimabad, Hunza. "It is also recognised by the striking rising needle like spire called the Lady Finger," he said.

"The perception that Utlar is unconquerable has added to the appeal of this peak and climbers from around the world seldom take on the challenge," Mr Haidri said, adding that the Ultar Peak had seen few successful summits but claimed a number of lives over the years.

After three South Koreans were hit and severely injured by an avalanche last month while climbing Latok One, this is the second accident where an avalanche claimed the life of a mountaineer.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Google Doodle honours Mehdi Hassan on his 91st birthday



Ustad Mehdi Hassan Khan would've turned 91 today and to mark the maestro's birthday Google honoured him with a

doodle.

Wearing what the world remembers him in; a dark waist coat over

*Contd... on Pg.6*

## Pakistan beat Zimbabwe by 7 wickets to knock the hosts out of tri-nation series



Pakistan knocked Zimbabwe out of the Zim-Pak-Aus Twenty20 tri-series in Harare on Wednesday, beating the hosts by seven wickets with five deliveries to spare.

Captain Sarfraz Ahmed saw his side home with an unbeaten 38, meaning that Zimbabwean all-rounder Solomon Mire's efforts earlier in the game went in vain.

Mire struck 94, the highest score by a Zimbabwean in a T20I, but Zimbabwe's 162 for 4 was not enough to overcome the world's top ranked T20I side.

Pakistan's chase was given a rapid start by the openers. Haris Sohail and Fakhar Zaman took 56 from the powerplay, but Sohail holed out soon afterwards.

When Zaman skied Mire to depart for 47, Pakistan needed more than

eight runs an over from the last eight overs, but Sarfraz's innings of calm precision kept them up with the asking rate.

Executing his attacking strokes perfectly, Sarfraz found the gaps and the boundaries whenever they were needed.

He displayed a particularly deft touch with his late cut, taking boundaries off left-arm spinners Tendai Chisoro and Wellington Masakadza with the stroke.

With four runs needed from the final over, it was also the shot he used to end the game, gliding seamer Chris Mpofu to the third man boundary.

Pakistan will face fellow-finalists Australia on Thursday in a dead rubber before the final of the series is played on Sunday.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Students overcome physical challenges to get PhDs



The Government College University (GCU) Lahore awarded Aziza Saeed and Kausar Inyat with PhDs in philosophy after they completed their research on Urdu literature despite facing physical challenges.

Saeed is the first visually impaired student to receive a PhD from the varsity, while Inyat was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Talking to media, Saeed said that she had never allowed her visual inability to stand in the way of her pursuit for knowledge.

"Urdu Literature is perhaps the most challenging subject for a visually impaired person as the reading materials for this subject are not available in audio or digital forms," she maintained

I used to pay people to record books for me, she added. Saeed also demanded that the government set up a special digital library for Urdu Literature in the country to assist visually impaired students.

Meanwhile, Inyat said that she had completed a major chunk of her research work while lying in a hospital bed. However, she did not let the brain tumour stop her from achieving her dreams.

GCUF to hold 8th annual convocation

GCU Registrar Saboor Ahmed said these two women served as an inspiration for other students. "May all our students be able to materi-

alise their dreams and make us proud," he expressed.

Physicist Dr G Murtaza was the chief guest at the opening session at the varsity's 16th annual convocation. Alongside, Vice Chancellor Dr Hassan Amir Shah, he awarded degrees to students.

A total of 2,349 degrees will be awarded this year at the varsity's two day convocation.

In his address, the vice chancellor expressed that it had become increasingly difficult for the common man to afford quality education. Therefore, GCU awarded scholarships worth Rs62 million to students from its own budget and endowment fund, he revealed.

He also had a few words of advice for the students. In the pursuit of glory, you must retain the fundamental norms of creativity, farsightedness and persistence which are qualities that have always been cherished at GCU, he expressed.

He also counselled students to bridge the gap between their ideals and the harsh reality of life. "Your success lies in the patience and determination that you can muster up," he said.

During his address, G Murtaza appealed to students to never forget the contributions of their parents; your parents compromise a lot just so that you can be successful, he stated.

*Courtesy: The Express Tribune*

## Hog deer gives birth to a fawn at Lahore zoo

A hog deer gave birth to a fawn at the Lahore Zoo. After this addition, the number of hog deer at the zoo has risen to 18 three females and 15 males.

Zoo Director Hassan Ali Sukhera told Dawn the fawn and its mother are under strict observation. He said if the mother wouldn't feed the fawn then zoo staff would make some other arrangement.

When asked about the sick giraffe suffering from acute diarrhea, the director said he was improving fast, adding that both the male giraffes were fine now.

"With the addition of a fawn to the hog deer family, we have now 18 hog deer at the zoo", added Mr Sukhera.



He said though the zoo had not yet received the postmortem report of the female giraffe who had died on Friday night, doctors had told him that she suffered from inflammation in her intestine, that was the major caused of her death.

Zoo, he said, was taking all possible measures to improve the standard of captive breeding, which include better enclosures and other such facilities.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Motorcycle diaries: The 'Women on Wheels' initiative

"The sidesaddle took hold in the 14th century to protect the virginity of a teenage princess traveling across Europe to wed the young King of England," writes American journalist and author Jana Bombersbach of the policing of how women were to sit on a horse during the Middle Ages. According to her, Princess Anne of Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) was traveling to England to marry King Richard II when she was instructed to ride aside rather than astride.

Ancient Greek sculptures also show women riding aside; by the turn of the 16th century, it was believed to be the only 'ladylike' way to sit on a horse in Europe. "The woman does not live who can throw her leg over the back of a horse without profaning the grace of femininity," a male columnist elaborated in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1905. A similar mindset has kept women in Pakistan from choosing motorcycles – the most affordable mode of private transport – for their commutes.

While one can find many women in neighbouring India donning helmets and manoeuvring through the congested streets of Mumbai and New Delhi, a woman on a motorcycle is a rare sight even in



Karachi, a city of 7.6 million women, according to the latest census. Thankfully, the Punjab government has taken a commendable step to shatter this entirely unreasonable pretension.

Earlier this year, the provincial government launched a motorbike subsidy scheme as part of its 'Women on Wheels' initiative. Under the scheme, it aims to provide 3,000 customised motorcycles at subsidised rates along with free driving lessons. On May 13, the Punjab government handed the keys of 700 motorcycles at an event in Lahore as part of the initiative. After the event, the women participated in a motorcycle rally. Hundreds of women riding in tandem — just as they did two years ago in January

2016 for another 'Women on Wheels' rally, with the late human rights activist Asma Jahangir riding pillion on *The Mall*.

It is not just that these women now have the freedom of mobility; it is a fitting response to jeering men like the American columnist who believe femininity must be governed by rules set by men. A casual glance at reactions to the third annual bike rally organised by *Girls at Dhabas*, a small group fighting to reclaim public space for women in Pakistan, is enough evidence of the hate something as elementary as a woman riding a bicycle can elicit. When the group held concurrent bike rallies in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad on April 1 this year and posted photos on social media, a large number of men sent support-

ive messages. But an equal number of men were livid. For them, a woman on a bicycle was the pinnacle of depravity. In an environment this hostile, the Punjab government's initiative carries even more significance.

There are over 100 million women in Pakistan, nearly half the population. They are doctors, artists, stay-at-home mothers; they are breadwinners and heads of households. They are second to none. Their contribution to the economy is massive, and yet the potential for more is greater. Gulaban, 25, a housewife and mother of three from Thar's Hindu community, drives an imposing 60-tonne truck. Zenith Irfan, a student from Lahore, is the first Pakistani woman to drive across the country on her motorcycle — the subject of a recent biopic directed by Adnan Sarwar. Then there are countless other women compelled to get behind the wheel to make ends meet. Will we deny them? No country can possibly progress by inhibiting one half of its population and depriving it of equal opportunity. And for that, we do not need to reinvent the wheel; we only need to ensure there is just one direction it moves: forward.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## In a first, Navy inducts 32 religious, motivation officers

The 109th midshipmen and 18th SSC course commissioning parade, comprising 45 Pakistani and 43 midshipmen from friendly countries as well as 54 cadets of short service commission (SSC) course, was held at Pakistan Naval Academy PNS Rahbar on Saturday.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, who was the chief guest on the occasion, congratulated and extended felicitations to the graduating officers on achieving this milestone. He highlighted that in order to enhance spiritual combat power of the men, for the first time, 32 religious and motivation officers (RMOs) had been commissioned as part of the SSC course, according to an official state-

ment.

The statement, however, does not elaborate what spiritual combat power is and why the need was felt to induct religious and motivation officers to enhance it.

While taking stock of the prevailing geo-strategic situation, Admiral Abbasi said that Pakistan stands for peace and amity in the region and seeks harmonious and peaceful co-existence in the comity of nations. "However, it will be a mistake if our desire for peace is construed as our weakness. We are fully capable of giving a befitting response in case of any aggression against our country," he said.



The naval chief reiterated the firm resolve of the Pakistan Armed Forces and underscored that they were at the forefront of the national resolve of cleansing Pakistan from the scourge of terrorism.

The naval chief also mentioned the strategic shift from erstwhile participation of Pakistan Navy in the Combined Task Forces 150 and 151

under the auspices of the Combined Maritime Forces to Regional Maritime Security Patrols. "In order to pursue our national interests with strategic autonomy, we have now decided to institute regional maritime security patrols in the Indian Ocean region in line with the UN Resolutions and UN Convention on law of the sea," he said.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Emirates' A380 special flight lands at IIA



The Dubai-based Emirates Airlines will operate one of the world's largest double-deck passenger airplanes – A380 – to the new Islamabad International Airport (IIA) on July 8, the airlines announced.

A press release issued by the airlines said the one-off A380 flight EK-2524 would depart from Dubai on July 8 at 8am and arrive at the IIA at 1210pm.

The flight EK-2525 will depart from Islamabad at 3:40pm.

Emirates currently has 104 wide body double-deck airplanes A380s in service and 58 pending delivery, more than any airline globally, the airlines press release said, adding that it also recently announced a \$16 billion deal for 36 additional Airbus A380 aircraft.

The aircraft on this one-off service will be in a two-class configuration – economy and business

“We are proud to bring our flagship A380 aircraft to Islamabad, and we look forward to showcasing our innovative products on-board this iconic aircraft with the signature Emirates service.

“While this is a special flight; we

are very keen to launch a scheduled A380 service to Pakistan and will continue to work with authorities to realise these plans,” said, Divisional Senior Vice President Commercial Operations Centre of the airlines Sheikh Majid Al Mualla.

The Emirates A380 aircraft on this special one-off service will be in a two-class configuration offering spacious seats in economy class and fully flatbed seats in business class as well as Emirates' on-board lounge.

Emirates and Pakistan have a shared history tracing back to over 30 years when the airlines' flight landed in Karachi on October 25, 1985.

In the last three decades, Emirates has progressively expanded its operations and offering global connectivity and world-class services to Pakistan's major cities, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, Sialkot and Multan.

The Islamabad International Airport, which was made operational on May 3, has upgraded facilities to accommodate wide-body double-deck jet airliners with two special parking bays and latest jet bridges.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Turkey to sell four ships to Pakistan

Turkey will sell four corvette ships to Pakistan Navy, Defence Minister Nurettin Canikli was quoted as saying by state-run Anadolu agency.

Turkey said last year it had signed a memorandum of understanding for the sale, and Mr Canikli said the tender was now finalised.

He described it as Turkey's biggest single military export deal and “a



very important day” for the defence industry.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Lahore's Fort and Shalamar Gardens escape Unesco danger list



The World Heritage Committee at its meeting which concluded in Manama on Wednesday decided to not place the Shalamar Gardens and Fort, Lahore, on the list of World Heritage in Danger.

This was confirmed by an official of Unesco from Paris to this correspondent. Three sites in Kenya, Pakistan and Nepal were slated to be put on the list by the 21-member committee headed by Ambassador Sheikh Haya Al-Khalifa of Bahrain.

A Pakistan delegation, headed by permanent delegate to Unesco in Paris Ambassador Moinul Haque, defended its case. The delegation included managing director of the Punjab Mass Transit Authority Sibtain Fazal Halim and officials from Punjab's archaeology department as well as engineering department of the Lahore Development Authority.

The committee considered a report of the joint world heritage centre reactive monitoring mission to the Fort and Shalamar Gardens. The report felt that the ‘Orange Line Metro’ was already a reality and there was no alternative. It became clear to the mission that the provision of a metro for Lahore did not mean that it had to pass directly in front of the Shalamar Gardens. Two alternative schemes that could have provided a solution to a metro alignment were not taken forward by the provincial government, it

observed.

The fact that these were not considered, the report added, and that the World Heritage Committee was not appropriately informed of details of this major infrastructure project highlighted fundamental weaknesses in the protection and planning of the property, which must be urgently addressed.

The mission stressed the need to adequately manage and effectively control the encroachment and urban development in and around the two places, and in that regard the Punjab government should immediately undertake setting studies and implement procedures when proposing an enlargement of the Shalamar Gardens' buffer zone.

In a set of recommendations, the mission asked the Punjab government to rehabilitate the land immediately to the west of the Shalamar Gardens, which comprises historical buildings, and incorporate services for the site visitors. The area's main front side on the pedestrian GT Road should be treated accordingly, it added.

It was recommended to introduce environmental instruments in the buffer zone; implement control for height and construction regulations and remove all inappropriate structures; and install underground infrastructure.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pakistani table tennis star Iqra Rehman is helping other girls take up the sport

“When I first started playing I didn’t have my own racket; my sister and I shared one,” shares the 19-year-old

The table tennis camp at the Peshawar Table Tennis Club is in full swing.

Some 15 schoolgirls in green jerseys are busy working on their grip, stance, footwork, forehand and backhand drive, push, serves and return serves as a few senior players coach them. The enthusiasm of girls as they practice makes Pakistan junior table tennis champion Iqra Rehman very happy.

It wasn’t that long ago when the 19-year-old first discovered the game, which besides bringing her acclaim also posed so many challenges in her way to the top.

“It isn’t like things are easier for me now. Each day brings up a new challenge. I have just taught myself to take things in my stride now,” she smiles.

Iqra’s table tennis journey is both inspiring and motivating. “When I first started playing I didn’t even have my own racket. My sister and I shared one racket,” she says glancing at the plastic tubs lying next to the tables with extra rackets and lots and lots of ping pong balls.

Pakistan’s table tennis star Iqra Rehman, who hails from Chitral, is now helping other girls take up the game.

“I am originally from Chitral,” the champion begins her story. “I started taking table tennis seriously when I was 15 years old, after passing my Matric exams. But I was introduced to the game in class six when my family moved to Peshawar and me and my sister, Nimra, who is only a year younger, were admitted to the Government Comprehensive Higher Secondary School for Girls,” she says. “It was there that one day, when both of us had gone to the water cooler downstairs to fill up our water bottles, that we were met by a sports teacher, who casually asked us, judging from our skin colour and features perhaps, if we hailed from Chitral. Seeing us nod she smiled and said that some of



her best table tennis players had also been from Chitral, but they had passed out from school now. Then she invited us to her table tennis class. Nimra obediently followed her but I made up some excuse and ran away,” Iqra laughs at the memory. “I was more into volleyball and football then, but that teacher didn’t give up on me.”

Two years passed like this. Then there was a table tennis camp being organised by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Table Tennis Association in which, somehow, because of her sister who had started playing well by then Iqra, too found herself getting roped in. “But there were four girls and three rackets between us. I only got to play when my sister was free and when I could borrow her racket. Quite frankly, I was fine with the arrangement because not having a racket was my excuse for not playing,” she laughs.

“Another two years passed, I was playing off and on. It was our ninth and 10th years in school and our mother also wanted us to concentrate more on our studies rather than sports. I must mention here that Nimra, who had received a double promotion in school, was studying in the same year as me. Then after matriculation, she announced that she wanted to take up table tennis more seriously. Our father said that her going to practice and play at the club was out of the question if she planned doing it alone. I had to accompany her. Again there was only one racket. Hers. I never tried getting one for myself. So she would play with it first and then I would also swing it around a bit,” Iqra says.

It was going on like this when one

day her sister’s coach at the club noticed that the girls were sharing one racket. He then presented Iqra with a racket of her own. “That was when something changed. It was just a medium-level Chinese racket but it inspired me to play table tennis with all my heart. That’s when I also overtook Nimra in her game,” she says.

“The coach said to me that despite my playing so little he had noticed that my style was different from the others practicing at the club. He said that I had learnt shots when the others were learning footwork and stance. He said I played like a professional,” she says. **RIVALRY**

Working on improving her game further, Iqra started getting more praise from everyone who happened to watch her in action. But while a fan following grew around her she also created some enemies. “Another girl there, also a good player, became jealous. First she called me a showoff and then she started badmouthing me to the coach who used to encourage me. I used to go play at any table being supervised by any coach or senior and she would tell him that I did it because I had no faith in his coaching,” she says.

“At first it got to my coach, too. But then he asked me himself why I played at other tables to which I simply explained that I did it to not waste time since I didn’t like waiting for the others to finish at the table assigned to him. It was also a good warm-up, not to mention the extra practice, and he got my point,” she says.

“Then when that didn’t work my rival started pointing fingers at my character, saying I didn’t care about the table tennis game but liked indulging in other games women play to trap men.

This time her allegations really got to me. Things became so bad after a while that my thoughts turned to myself and how I carried myself. I started experiencing anxiety,” she says.

Iqra feels no embarrassment in saying that after a while she had to resort to therapy. “It wasn’t just what this girl was going around saying about me in our circles. It raised eyebrows even in my family when they got to hear about it. My father, his sister and my cousins all wanted me to give up playing, but it was too late for that. I had developed a love for the sport by then and couldn’t imagine giving it up,” she says.

“To satisfy them I would don a burqa and tell them I was going out to study but I would be wearing my practice kit underneath that garb. I got the courage to do this from my mother who has always been on my and my sister’s side. She would tell us, especially me, to not worry about anything the relatives said and follow my heart. And I did,” Iqra says.

“Not giving up I kept playing,” she says. Appearing for trials, getting selected for camps, getting selected in provincial and national squads and proving her mettle and winning at championships improved her ranking to make her the national junior female champion of Pakistan.

### PARALLEL BODIES

Due to infighting within the table tennis circles in Pakistan the sport itself has been badly affected and is at a standstill now. Iqra says that she is 19 and can no longer come under the category of a junior player, which is an under-18 category.

“But there is hardly any table tennis activity in the form of tournaments or championships going on here for us to compete in now. For international tournaments, too, you need to have a no objection certificate from the government or the Pakistan Sports Board [PSB] in order for the Federal Investigation Agency to let you travel and take part in any event abroad, which the players do not get because of the parallel table tennis bodies functioning here after the Pakistan Table Tennis Federation elections of last year,” Iqra explains.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Clutch Fakhar Zaman soars to number 2 spot in ICC T20I rankings



Fakhar Zaman, who cemented his reputation as a clutch former on Sunday, has deservedly soared to number two in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) T20I player rankings for batsmen.

The Man from Mardan, who made his name with a scintillating century in the ICC Champions Trophy final against India last year, was at it again in the Tri-nation T20 series decided against Australia.

Unfazed by wickets tumbling around him, Fakhar smashed a 46-ball 91 that paved way for Pakistan to track down the Aussies' 188-run target with four balls and six wickets to spare.

In all, Zaman scored a staggering 278 run in five outings in the Zimbabwe-hosted tournament at an average of 55.6 — almost unheard-of figures for the game's shortest international formats.

His incredible production was duly rewarded as the latest rankings published by the ICC has seen him soar

to the number two spot, behind just Australia captain Aaron Finch. Zaman now has 842 rating points just 49 less than Finch's tally.

Zaman's ascension sees India's Lokesh Rahul, previously number two, deteriorate to number three. Also among the casualties of Zaman's rise is his teammate Babar Azam, who is currently inactive owing to a forearm injury he suffered in March during the tour of England.

Meanwhile, spin starlet Shadab Khan continues to occupy the second spot in the corresponding T20I ratings for bowlers.

Elsewhere, Azam is number two in the ODI rankings for batsmen, trailing Indian captain Virat Kohli only. Hasan Ali is number three in the 50-over rankings for bowlers, whereas Mohammad Hafeez is number two in the all-rounder lists. No Pakistani player ranks among the top five in any of the Test cricket rankings.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

*Cont... from pg 2: Google Doodle honours*

cream coloured shalwar kameez, Mehdi Hassan's doodle sits with his harmonium, surrounded by candles and his music.

Mehdi Hassan's contribution to Pakistani film music was second to none. He lent his voice to more than 300 films and it is said that in all he sang more than 5,000 songs

Proof, if proof be needed, is that he won as many as eight Best Playback Singer Nigar Award trophies, a figure even Noor Jehan could not match. His solos include such im-

mortal numbers as 'Mujhe tum nazar se gira to rahe ho', 'Ik naye mod per le ayen hai halat mujhe', 'Yoon zindagi ki rah pe takra gaya koi' and 'Pyar bhary do sharmeelay nain'.

He belonged to the golden era of film music in the subcontinent. Top music directors of Pakistan's film industry felt honoured and privileged on getting their compositions sung by Mehdi Hassan.

The Pakistani singer passed away in June 2012 after battling a decade-long illness.

## NICVD records country's first LVAD implant surgery on a female patient



The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) on Monday announced that a team of its surgeons had successfully implanted the Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD), commonly known as a 'mechanical pump', in the chest of an elderly woman patient whose heart desperately needed mechanical support to properly pump blood into her body.

NICVD executive director Prof Nadeem Qamar and US-returned transplant surgeon Dr Pervaiz Chaudhry, who led the surgery, claimed they had slotted in an artificial heart into the chest of the patient.

"Dr Pervaiz Chaudhry led a team of our surgeons today and successfully implanted an artificial heart, technically known as LVAD, to a female patient," Prof Qamar told reporters at the facility after the surgery concluded.

He said the patient was doing fine after the surgery and would be able to breathe without support and talk to her family from Tuesday (today).

Procedure costs over Rs10m; it was performed for free at the hospital. The NICVD officials said the surgery was the first of its kind in Pakistan both in public and private sector hospitals.

The LVAD is a supportive device that helps in pumping of blood from the left ventricle of a patient whose heart's left ventricle has become weak while it does not replace the heart of the patient with the mechanical device.

Caretaker Sindh Health Minister Dr Sadia Rizvi was also present at the briefing.

Prof Qamar said the facility's ultimate goal was to achieve the target of heart transplant, which, he said, would be a reality within next two years.

"LVAD implants would continue in the days to come and we are going to perform another LVAD transplant in a couple of days at NICVD. We have identified some four to five patients who qualify for the LVAD insertion and these patients would get LVAD implants," said Prof Qamar.

He said an LVAD implant costs more than Rs10 million, while "not a single penny was received from the patient's family for the expensive surgery".

Earlier, NICVD had identified former hockey goalkeeper Mansoor Ahmed as its first patient to receive LVAD, but he died before the surgery could be performed on him. Prof Qamar said an American nurse, Abigail Boultinghouse, assisted the team of surgeons in the surgery, while doctors, postgraduate students, nurses and technicians were there to learn. He added that the US nurse would train local nurses in dealing with these patients after surgeries.

Dr Chaudhry said he had been performing implant surgeries for a decade. He said the surgery at NICVD was successful.

He said LVAD implant was a "destination therapy" for the patient, who would not require any heart transplant throughout her life as "this device would help her heart pump blood from seven to 10 years".

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Teefa in Trouble has made over 14 crores in its first week



Teefa in Trouble has racked up earnings of Rs14.26 crores in its first week of running, confirms the film's distributor Nadeem Mandviwalla. Rs9.86 crores were earned domestically and Rs4.4 crores internationally.

This is the "highest and unprecedented figure for Pakistani films on

a non holiday week", according to Mandviwalla who attributes the film's box office success to excellent marketing.

"In my opinion, Teefa is the best promoted film of the last 10 years. With a great teaser followed by a very exciting trailer and then followed by beautiful songs. The digi-

tal campaign of the film has been excellent. Proper time was given to all the promotional material to create the excitement in the public."

He added, "We can't ignore the fact in this that it was Ali Zafar's first production in Pakistan and generally everyone was waiting to see its outcome."

Mandviwalla doesn't believe that protests against the film or its main star affected its earnings in any way, but it's had other challenges.

"The biggest challenge was to open the film in the most troubled week of the year, i.e., the election week," says Mandviwalla.

In its upcoming second week, Teefa will clash with Mission Impossible: Fallout and Sanjay Dutt-starrer Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster 3, but he isn't worried.

"[The new releases] is only going to

complement the already successful film rather than compromise its business. They will give an added reason for people to come to the cinemas as they have greater choice of films to see. That can't become a deterrent [to Teefa]. It can only complement it."

*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](mailto: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](mailto:gu@greenwich.edu.pk) ; URL: [www.greenwich.edu.pk](http://www.greenwich.edu.pk)