

Positive Post

A Publication by Department of Mass Communication & Media Studies and the Diplomatic Academy



Greenwich University
Pakistan-Mauritius

January in History

January 12, 1952 :

Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), Headed by Founder Chairman Ghulam Faruque

January 1, 1955:

Pakistan International Airlines comes into being.

January 1, 1961:

Decimal coinage introduced in Pakistan.

January 5, 1963:

First trade agreement is signed between Pakistan and China.

January 10, 1966:

Tashkent Declaration signed between India and Pakistan.

January 30, 1972:

Pakistan snaps ties with Commonwealth on recognizing Bangladesh.

January 1, 1981:

Interest-free banking introduced.

January 3, 1981:

International Islamic University starts functioning.

January 3, 1982:

Pakistan defeats Argentina 12-3 in World Cup Hockey in Bombay.

January 15, 1983:

First three F-16 jets reach Pakistan.

January 25, 1983:

Wifaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Order is promulgated. Justice Sardar Iqbal is named, WM.

January 19, 1989:

Students unions are restored in Punjab .

January 12, 1992:

Lahore-Islamabad Motorway project launched.

January 15, 1994:

Pakistan Television transmission gets access to 38 countries via satellite.

January 2, 2006:

Dr. Shamsah Akhtar assumes office of State Bank Governor having the first woman Governor of SBP.

Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2018 covering socio-economic and political outcomes of the country. Several elements complemented the prospects including successful democratic transition, efficient counter-terrorism measures leading to enhanced peace and security, and foreign direct investment inflows under CPEC, among others. Albeit, decoupling economic growth from human development suggests that the country needs to enhance its scores in health, education and standard of living by ensuring political will, equitable financing and efficient governance to ensure parallel growth for marginalized segments as well. Civil and political liberties must grow hand in hand to ensure a conducive environment for democratic dialogue and accountability which ultimately supports its nation building process.

DEMOCRACY INDEX

Pakistan ranked 112th out of 167 countries in the Democracy Index scoring 4.17 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 4.26 in 2017.

Index from 0 (authoritarian regime) to 10 (full democracy)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Electoral process and pluralism, Civil liberties, Functioning of government, Political participation, and Political culture.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Pakistan ranked 150th out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 0.562 out of 1.000 in 2018 compared to 0.560 out of 1.000 in 2017.

Index from 0 (low development) to 1 (very high development)

Compiled based on indicators covering: life expectancy, education, and per capita income

PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Pakistan ranked 139th out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index scoring 43.24 out of 100 in 2018 compared to 43.55 in 2017.

Index from 0 (most press freedom) to 100 (least press freedom)

Compiled based on indicators covering: pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and infrastructure.

TERRORISM INDEX

Pakistan ranked 5th out of 163 countries in the Terrorism Index scoring 8.18 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 8.40 in 2017.

Index from 0 (lowest impact) to 10 (highest impact)

Compiled based on indicators covering : Total number of terrorist incidents in a given year, total number of fatalities caused by terrorism in a given year, total number of injuries caused by terrorism in a given year and the approximate level of total property damage from terrorist incidents in a given year.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

Pakistan ranked 131st out of 180 countries in the Economic Freedom Index scoring 54.4 out of 100 in 2018 compared to 52.8 out of 100 in 2017.

Index from 0 (repressed) to 100 (free)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Market openness, Regulatory efficiency, Government size and the rule of law.

Positive Post is a strategic effort to project achievement and contributions of Pakistan. While showcasing Greenwich University's cultural diplomacy initiatives, it also encapsulates a compilation of different developments complementing Pakistan's socio-cultural, economic and Political outcomes.

The Art of Diplomacy

Ali Jillani and Omair Abbas



Etymology

The term diplomacy is derived from the ancient Greek *diplōma*, composed of *diplo*, meaning “folded in two” and *ma* meaning “an object”. It basically referred to the classic folded document carrying a message or denoting a privilege granted by the kings or lords. The semantics later referred to documents carrying memorandums and agreements between and among leaders. Reckoning the evolution of the function itself, in the 18th century, the French term *diplomate* came to be referred to a person commissioned to represent the states across different negotiations.

Origins

Diplomacy is known as the method of influencing governments and people through dialogue and negotiation without the incidence of war. The origins of diplomacy have been located in pre-recorded history. Earliest tribes established it as a tool to negotiate marriages, regulation on trade and hunting etc. Such inter-tribal regulations could be the earliest founding principles for international law and foreign policy. The significance of outcomes achieved through diplomatic practice afforded a holy attribution to diplomats, and their inviolability was ensured even during wars. The greatest tradition of early diplomacy could be traced back into Middle East, the Mediterranean, China, and India, as early as 2850 B.C. Akkadian (Babylonian) established itself as the first diplomatic language which further formalized the practice of diplomacy.



Evolution

The historic evolution of diplomacy was enriched by various traditions and nations across times.

China

Chinese made a tremendous contribution to the progress of diplomacy and started practicing it as early as 1 millennium BCE. Their diplomatic conduct was directed by a righteous consciousness with several moral imperatives central to their dealings of statecraft. Truth, transparency and fair dealings served as fundamental principles and helped a great deal in



peace building among their various warring states. By 8th century they had a vast network of leagues, missions and resident envoys to foreign territories as a guarantee for good conduct.

India

Ancient Indian diplomacy also had a sophisticated outlook organized under the teachings of a shrewd statesman named Kautilya (also Chanakya). Kautilya’s genius codified a state system and foreign relations based on principles of self-interests ahead of moral considerations. It systemized state policy in six forms (war, peace, nonalignment, alliance, show of force and double-dealing). Such multi-dimensional policy tone fielded three different types of diplomats in foreign territories i.e. royal messengers (propagandists), commercial agents and spies.



Greece

Greek diplomacy set the foundations for post-renaissance European diplomacy and its modern landscape. The Greeks developed diplomatic vocab-



ulary, principles of international conduct (foundations for international law) and diplomatic immunities enjoyed by their entourages in foreign territories. The glorious tradition is reckoned to be the touchstone for modern international law and bodies; the Greeks hosted Greco-Persian congresses in 4th century BCE where the smallest states had the right to an audience on issues of economic and political nature.

Romans inherited the glorious tradition of diplomatic practices from the Greek and further excelled along with their empire. Roman Republic mandated the Senate to form foreign policy, although department for foreign affairs was dedicated to implement it. Roman-conquered areas were allowed a partial self-government under treaties, negotiated, finalized and sustained through diplomacy, which also established Latin as the international language of diplomacy.



Islam

In the backdrop of a fallen Roman empire, the expansion of Islamic tradition and culture flourished diplomacy to different corners of the world in the 7th century. Diplomatic missions served as an essential instrument for preaching Islam, negotiating peace and securing protective havens for Muslims in the early times. The Arabs were able to consolidate diplomatic relations uniting them with Persians and Turks under the banner of Islam. Islamic rulers and jurists developed articulate protocols for protection of emissaries which flourished their diplomatic relations with non-Muslim states.



Byzantium

Byzantium employed the sheer astuteness of diplomatic art to ensure its strategic survival caught amid unsure geo-strategics. The diplomats were trained professionals with written guidelines to advance economic and political objectives for the empire. By the 12th century, espionage and intelligence, from both allies and enemies, had been established as a norm in diplomatic practice. Byzantine diplomats played an incisive role in statecraft and their information served a key input in framing foreign policy.

Many elements of diplomatic practices at the outset of Renaissance were reminiscent of Byzantine diplomacy.

Modern Diplomacy

Post-renaissance European state-system institutionalized diplomatic practice as a central instrument to orchestrate bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations. Its strategic scope expanded as a cross-cutting norm across



mandates of cultural, social, economic and political significance. France established the first foreign ministry in 1626 recognizing diplomacy as a process of continuous negotiation. Cardinal Richelieu secularized foreign policy, beyond dynastic, ethical or cultural influences, considerate only of



a state's *raison d'etat* (national interest). England established the first modern courier service in 1641 to effectively communicate with its diplomats across continents using ciphered diction.



Louis XIV's influence in the late 17th century concentrated diplomatic profession to aristocracy, employing Nobles to serve as emissaries of the King, while also establishing French as the lingua franca of diplomacy.

The emergence of United States and the influence of the likes of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson democratized the royal outlook of diplomatic practice. English soon overhauled French as the international language of diplomacy, supported by the remnants of British colonialism around the world.

Diplomacy globalized in the 20th century, transforming geo-strategic power configurations with the emergence of transnational and trans-regional networks. Other than official processes, unofficial diplomacy conducted by nongovernmental organizations also holds tremendous significance today, specially in development and normative struggles.

Nature & Purpose

Diplomacy is an instrument of foreign policy and the principle substitute for use of force in statecraft. It usually employs soft power through dialogue and negotiation to attain strategic objectives through nonviolent means. Despite its nonviolent nature, diplomacy sometimes may use threats of violent measures or coercive actions like economic sanctions etc. However, the ultimate ambition invariably focuses mutual assent and goodwill of foreign relations with others. The purpose is to safeguard, advance and sustain the interests of a specific party against another through articulate negotiable and non-negotiable terms. It chiefly aims to safeguard a country's moral, economic, political and territorial integrity and interests in the international arena.

Diplomats

Diplomats are the face of a nation to another, and primary architects of diplomatic relations with friends and foes alike. They personify country's

strategic image in the international arena and shape its foreign policy through their incisive inputs. The sophistication of diplomatic tradition continues to enrich with the introduction of articulate approaches, skills and specializations essential for fulfilment and protection of national interests on foreign soil. Several diplomatic missions specializing in their strategic areas are deployed to a single country to achieve different foreign policy objectives in the modern era. With multi-disciplinary foreign policy aspects, the relevance of diplomatic officials cross-cuts many domains from politics and trade negotiations to aid and development branding in recipient countries.

Significance

The art of diplomacy continues to gain strategic significance directly linked to a state's survival and triumph across socio-cultural, economic and political arenas in the world. Diplomatic efficiency plays central in both re-building and sustenance of peace processes amid complex geo-strategic environment. Even in case of a war, reconciliation is centrally dependent on diplomatic diligence to curb hostility in bilateral ties. Globalization has furthered the significance of diplomacy in the era of competitive global economic and political sphere.

To be continued....

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Manto Drama Festival kicks off in Lahore

The two-day festival at Alhama Art Centre opened with a play based on Manto's famous short story Toba Tek Singh.

Two-day Manto Drama Festival, that was in the news two weeks back due to the postponement, on works of Saadat Hasan Manto, stated to be the one of the greatest, if not the greatest, short story writers of Urdu, started at Alhama Art Centre, The Mall, on Tuesday.

The festival organised by the Lahore Arts Council (LAC) pulled in a large gathering of Manto lovers and theatergoers alike. It witnessed a large attendance on the inaugural day.

The curtain raised with Ajoka Theatre's famous play Toba Tek Singh, based on a famous short story of Manto. Nirvaan Nadeem, the director, gave a brief introduction of the play, saying that all the artistes performing in the play were newcomers in the field of acting.



"All these new faces joined Ajoka's acting classes and now they have turned into precious talent, starting their acting career at the stage of Alhama," said Nirvaan. He thanked the LAC for holding the drama festival, featuring different theatre groups and giving meaningful and socially relevant theatre its much-needed space.

The moving spirit behind Ajoka, Shahid Nadeem, said Ajoka was paying a tribute to Manto by staging this play. He said Ajoka had a busy schedule ahead as theatrical

performances were due in Karachi and Lahore. "We shall stage the play, Bari, on Feb 8 at the Punjab Institute of Language, Art and Culture (Pilac). Feb 8 is also the late Madeeha Gauhar's birth anniversary," he added.

The second play, titled Manto Sey Milye, was staged by Aks Theatre, an eight-year-old theatre group, doing performances in many cities.

The director of the play, Afzaal Nabi, told Dawn that Manto Sey Milye had been staged twice in Islamabad,

once in Karachi and once in Faisalabad. "The play was first staged in Islamabad in 2010 and got a great response from the audience."

Mr Nabi said the play was based on a collage of stories by Manto. The three-act play was more focused on Manto's life in Pakistan and difficulties he faced for being a bold writer.

Both the plays were highly appreciated by the audience. The Hall 2 of Alhama was jam-packed with the audience and many could be seen sitting on the hall's side stairs.

LAC Executive Director Athar Ali Khan said the festival was the continuation of the council's old tradition of staging a theatre festival every year. He said drama festival was the regular feature of the council.

On Wednesday, the closing day of the festival, the Azad Theatre would perform, Dafa 292, and Mass Foundation will stage, Yeh Tha Manto.

Courtesy: Dawn

Winter festival in Malam Jabba attracts thousands

Thousands of tourists, both locals and foreigners, have thronged Malam Jabba, the ski resort in Swat, to attend the snow and winter festival.

Lauding the natural beauty of the area, they said that Malam Jabba was like a paradise for tourists as it was offering all sorts of fun to the adventure seekers and nature lovers.

They tourists enjoyed snow tubing, snowboarding, snow hiking and trekking, ride in chairlift as well as the newly introduced ice skating in the scenic valley of the mighty Hindukush range.

A couple from Belgium said that Swat was an amazing valley. "We are excited to see such an amazingly scenic spot. Malam Jabba is beautiful and peaceful place having a unique peak with forests around and full of snow and snow-related adventure here," Nicholas and Emile told Dawn.

They said that they enjoyed a perfect nature amid the high peak mountains. They advised the foreign tourists to visit the area to enjoy natural beauty and have adventure.



Amel, another tourist from France, also praised the natural beauty of Malam Jabba and said that it was worth visiting valley. She praised the hospitality of Pakhtuns and said that the beautiful people of the beautiful valley excelled in hospitality.

"The valley is beautiful with unique landscape and hospitable people. I must say that tourists from around the world should come here and experience this amazing beauty," she added.

Many tourists enjoyed ice skating, especially the youth, and did not want to stop when they entered the ice rink. A special trainer was also present to train the newcomers.

"At first the newcomers hesitate to take part in the ice skating but once they adjust themselves, they don't want to go out of the ice rink," said Asmat Ali, an ice skating trainer.

Jan Verduyan, the general manager operations of Hashoo hotels in Pakistan, was also among the tourists, who said that Malam Jabba, with so many amusements would, no doubt, be the future destination for national as well as foreign tourists.

The tourists also enjoyed yoga on the 9,000 feet high peak of Malam Jabba.

They said that it was for the first time in their life to have enjoyed amazingly fresh air while doing

yoga and attaining spiritual and physical strength, which they could not find anywhere in the country.

Umair Sami, the director of Samson Group, said that the event was meant to attract tourists for winter tourism where they could enjoy different activities.

However, ski competitions could not be arranged in the resort owing to less quantity of snow. The organisers said that ski competitions would be held after the next snow-fall in the valley.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pomp, pageantry and protocol: Visuals from UAE crown prince's brief visit to Islamabad

The visit included a one-on-one meeting between the crown prince and PM Imran Khan and delegation-level talks. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan paid a quick visit to Islamabad his first in nearly 12 years and met the prime minister and other top



officials as both countries seek to capitalise on the fresh momentum in ties due to a flurry of recent contacts at the leadership level.

Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, who last visited Pakistan in 2007, was given a red carpet welcome and a 21-gun salute when he touched down at Nur Khan airbase around noon today amid much fanfare in the capital. A troupe of folk musicians and cultural dancers also put on a small show to receive him.

Prime Minister Imran Khan hugged the crown prince as he stepped off the plane and then, setting aside protocol, drove him personally to PM House where a welcome ceremony was held in his honour.

Courtesy: Dawn

Courtesy: Dawn

Sikhs celebrate Guru Gobind's birth anniversary

The 352nd birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh was celebrated here on Sunday amid tight security and people from various minority groups participated in the event.

The celebrations in connection with the birth anniversary had commenced on Friday and concluded in Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh at Mohallah Jogan Shah Qissa Khwani, Peshawar.

According to a statement, the three-day event was organised by the Auqaf, Religious and Minority Affairs Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to show harmony and celebrate inclusiveness.

Auqaf secretary says budget allocated for religious festivals of minorities

On the first day, a procession was held which was marked by rendering of hymns by Sikh community, including men and women. Over 5,000 Sikh devotees from across Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa took part in the procession and then other rituals followed by Langar (feast).

Adequate measures were put in place by the police department to ensure full security for smooth celebration of the event.

The chief guests included MPAs Ravi Kumar and Wazirzada and Sikh community leader Ranjeet Singh besides some government officials. The major attraction of the procession was the display of 'Gatka,' a famous Sikh martial art and other sword exercises.

On this occasion, MPA Ravi Kumar paid

tribute to the slain Soran Singh and said that his services as adviser to the chief minister and his personal efforts for the communities would always be remembered.

He also said that such events would build understanding of traditions and beliefs of minorities and people here had shown a sign of interfaith harmony. In response to the demand of Sikh community, he said that Shamshan Ghat would soon be set up.

In this regard, MPA Wazirzada said that celebration of minorities' events would help spread love and peace. He maintained that the minorities were allowed to practice their religion freely. Auqaf department secretary Hidayat Jan stated that they had allocated budget for religious festivals of minorities of KP. Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th Sikh Guru, a spiritual master and philosopher.

This art exhibition showcases the history of Japanese martial arts

The event also included live Judo, Karate and Ninjutsu performances by Pakistani masters.

An art exhibition showcasing the history of martial arts and weapons opened at the National Art Gallery.

The event also included live Judo, Karate and Ninjutsu performances by Pakistani masters.

Japanese Ambassador Takashi Kurai inaugurated the travelling exhibition titled *The Spirit of Budo: the history of Japan's martial arts*. The exhibition has been to many countries and is in Pakistan for the second time.

He spoke about the philosophy of martial arts, its evolution over 1,000 years from battlefield combat techniques to popular sports or physical exercise and how its spirit is still inherent in the daily lives of the Japanese.

Ambassador Kurai told Dawn that the exhibit aims at highlighting the spiritual aspect of the Budo through the development of body and soul.

"The martial arts attach more im-



portance to the spiritual aspect than to combat," he said.

With their techniques and armoury, Budo arts have been so immensely popular in the world that they are often seen as representative images of Japan, the envoy said.

"I am very glad to see the popularity of the Japanese martial arts among the Pakistani people, particularly the interest shown by youngsters in the art," Mr Kurai said.

The two-week exhibit features paintings of 17th Century battles, photographs of Japanese sumo wrestling, reproductions of various shapes of bamboo bows, arrows, helmets and gunpowder cases, helmet breakers, armours and swords traditionally used in Budo or martial arts, representing a

fascinating history of Japanese martial arts and their place in modern, global and popular culture.

Due to the many years of conflict in Japan the earliest people of the island developed an interest in the study of violence, weaponry and combat.

It was however, consolidated and formalised in the 12th Century with the rise of the professional warrior class.

Budo-martial ways- encompasses both physical and spiritual dimensions and serves as a path to self-perfection.

F.S Ninja Academy's chief instructor Irfan Bhatti and his assistant Naveed Anwer Bhatti, who are providing martial arts training in 60

schools of the twin cities and 10 institutes, and their students performed the Ninjutsu style of judo, karate and sword amid applause from the audience.

Pak-Japan Friendship Forum president Khalid Malik said that the aim of the show is to popularise Japanese martial arts and strengthen cultural ties between the two countries.

Moeeni, a visitor, said the secret of the development and survival of a country lies in the preservation of cultural heritage and learning from the past experiences and mistakes. "Pakistan being the cradle of ancient civilisations was once the popular destination of religious tourism. Tourists from Japan would visit the country in large numbers before the 80s. This can be revived by promoting the cultural diversity of the country", he said.

The exhibition was organized by Japanese embassy in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts and the Japan Foundation. The exhibition will remain open till January 21 from 9am to 5pm daily except on Mondays.

Courtesy: Dawn

Google pays tribute to father of Pakistani cricket

Google on Thursday released a doodle in honour of the legendary Pakistani cricketer, Abdul Hafeez Kardar, on what would have been his 94th birthday.

The search engine giant remembered Mr Kardar who is affectionately known as "The Skipper" with a doodle showing the cricketer play an elegant shot on the front foot.

"One of the few players to have played Test cricket for both India and Pakistan, Kardar captained Pakistan's first Test team and is widely remembered as the father of Pakistani cricket," Google said in its post describing the cricketer.

Born on Jan 17, 1925, in Lahore, to a prominent cricket-playing family, Mr Kardar was educated at Islamia College and travelled to England to represent India in Test play. He

went on to play for Oxford and Warwickshire County Cricket Club where he was coached by the esteemed New Zealand cricketer Martin Donnelly.

Following partition in 1947, Mr Kardar joined the Pakistani team and campaigned for the country to earn full Test status, which was finally granted in 1952.

An important character in the cricket history of Pakistan, he captained the national team in their first Test series in 1952. Although India emerged victorious in the series, Pakistan achieved their first Test win under his stewardship in their only second Test outing in Lucknow.

As a left-handed batsman and a slow left-arm orthodox spin bowler, he amassed 927 runs in 26 matches



at an average of 23.76, hitting a total of six half centuries. In bowling, he took 21 wickets at an average of 45.42. In first-class cricket, he scored 6,832 runs and took 344 wickets.

He captained Pakistan team in 23 matches, leading the national side to win over all the then Test-playing nations except South Africa, whom they never faced.

"A fierce competitor on and off the field, Kardar was deeply engaged in

the organisation of Pakistani cricket, an early advocate of neutral umpires, and a passionate pro- tester against political interference in the administration," read the Google post.

In recognition of his contributions to Pakistani cricket, Mr Kardar received the Pride of Performance Award from the government of Pakistan in 1958.

He breathed his last at the age of 71 on April 21, 1996.

Courtesy: Dawn

PIA launches international flights from Sialkot International Airport

National flag-carrier Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Sunday launched direct international passenger flights from Sialkot International Airport (SIAL) to Europe.

PIA and SIAL together hosted a launch ceremony at the airport with Minister for Aviation Mian Muhammad Soomro presiding over the event. As PIA flight PK-720 carrying 300 passengers from Paris via Barcelona touched down in Sialkot, it was accorded a water cannon salute by aviators and ground staff.

PIA flight PK-720 being given a water cannon salute. — Photo provided by author

The passengers were given a warm welcome by Special Assistant to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Youth Affairs Usman Dar, SIAL Chairman Nadeem Qureshi, Provincial Minister for Special Education Chaudhry Muhammad Ikhtlaq, senior PIA officials and travel industry leaders.



Soomro then formally launched PIA's Europe-bound flights from SIAL, with PK-769 departing for Paris and Barcelona.

Senior PIA officials said that during the initial stage, PIA will run direct flights between Paris, Barcelona and Sialkot once a week, and the number of flights to other European countries will be increased soon.

Soomro, while addressing the participants of the ceremony, praised the spirit and struggle of Sialkot's business community, which estab-

lished Asia's first-ever private sector airport, SIAL, on a self-help basis and then went on to establish a private airline, AirSial, also through their own means.

He said the government was making sincere efforts to ensure the provision of international standard and advanced aviation facilities for passengers at all airports across Pakistan.

Minister for Aviation Mian Muhammad Soomro pictured cutting the ribbon to mark the launch of PIA's flights to and from Europe.

The aviation minister also took the opportunity to give a nod to the city's exporters whom he termed as "the jewels of the nation's economy". He recognised their pivotal role in strengthening the economy and boosting exports, earning precious foreign exchange to the tune of US \$2 billion annually.

SIAL Chairman Nadeem Anwar Qureshi said the success of the international airport had built trust and boosted the confidence of foreign airlines.

He said after the successful flight operation conducted by Saudi Arabia's private international airline, Saudi Gulf Airline, direct passenger flights between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan would also be launched by the official airline, Saudi Arabian Airlines, very soon.

The chairman added that as many as 55 international passenger flights will take off to foreign destinations from SIAL, a number which will soon see an increase due to the growing number of passengers.

Courtesy: Dawn

Karachi Arts Council holds event to raise human rights awareness

The event touched upon issues such as violation of human rights, unemployment, lack of health facilities etc.

To learn about human rights and important international days, Tehrik-i-Niswan, along with its partner organisations held an event called Sahar Awaz Deti Hai at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi on Wednesday evening.

The programme was open to the general public, and it was nice to see the auditorium filled to capacity in quick time. A great many people waited outside the venue to step in.

The host of the show informed the audience that the purpose of the event was to raise awareness about issues such as violation of human rights, unemployment, lack of health facilities etc. Insecurity, too, was a problem. He then talked about the international days, such as Dec 10 which is Human Rights Day.



After that Sheema Kermani called on stage Fatima who recited a poem written by Rasul Bakhsh Palijo. Fatima read it with a great deal of feeling. After her recital Ms Kermani remarked that Mr Palijo was not only a respected politician but also a poet.

Next up was a video of a composition based on Fahmida Riaz's poem Aseer Shehzadi. It was nice to see the youngsters in the crowd paying attention to thought-provoking

stuff. The visuals captured the crux of the poem very well.

The video was followed by a documentary on Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai. It was a touching presentation. It showed, in brief time, Ms Yousafzai's invaluable contribution to girls' education in Pakistan and its impact on the entire world.

Next up was a dastan goi session participated by five young boys

(trained by Napa's graduates). They narrated pieces from Fasana-i-Azad beginning with Saf Shikan Batair.

The youngsters performed with such confidence, and correct enunciation, that it felt like one was listening to a bunch of professional artists. The audience liked their act. Other colourful as well as thought-provoking items were also lined up for the event.

Courtesy: Dawn

“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.”

- Albert Einstein

A variety of flavours on offer at Karachi Eat Festival 2019

The Karachi Eat Festival (KEF), despite competition from several other smaller festivals held in the city, enjoys a cult-like status and on Friday, the event's opening day, Karachiites thronged the Beach Park in Clifton to partake in the latest culinary offerings that aim to push the traditional boundaries of fast food and gourmet meals.

"With around 95 food stalls this year, almost 56 are of home cooks, or budding 'foodpreneurs', who don't have restaurants of their own, who are the real gems of the festival," says Omar Omari of CKO Event Architecture, the organisers of the festival.

There are many success stories that have come out from the KEF. Wingitt, Desi Gali, Jucy Lucy all started off as stalls at the KEF and ventured out and became big businesses. Babamoo is one such success story that has emerged from the KEF and has made a name in Karachi's culinary world.

'Karachi is an audience hungry for innovation in the area of food'

Run by brothers Ibad and Nabil, along with two other partners, the Babamoo stall was in full swing on the first day as the orders had already started rolling in moments



after the KEF was officially open. "When we first took part in last year's KEF we wanted to launch an item that hadn't been introduced

and feedback we got was tremendous. Within five hours we had sold off the stock we had planned for three days."



to foodies in Karachi before the jacket potato and innovative toppings. To be honest we had not expected it to sell much as it was a niche product. However, the come

The brothers opened up their first restaurant in March. Nabil is of the opinion that "Karachi is an audience hungry for innovation in the area of food and the KEF is an es-

sential place that provides a platform to budding foodpreneurs."

Tayyaba Gul's patisserie tucked away in one corner at the KEF is another such home-based venture that is introducing to the Karachi audience flavours from France. A graduate of Le Cordon Bleu, she returned to Pakistan almost two years ago and established Le Saint Honoré Pâtisserie, which focuses entirely on French desserts. Her signature offering are smaller versions of the St. Honoré cake, also known as St. Honoratus cake, which is a pastry named for the French patron saint of bakers and pastry chefs.

According to Omari, the design philosophy behind KEF is to make the festival look premium but making it accessible to everybody. This allows those from all walks of life access to a shared space at the same time, and on Friday the KEF seemed to have successfully accomplished this vision.

A parking map, event layout and stalls list is provided on the Facebook page of the festival. The KEF 2019 will continue on Saturday and Sunday, from 12.30pm to 10.30pm. Published in Dawn, January 12th, 2019

Courtesy: Dawn



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