



December, 2017
Newsletter

Voice of Youth

Pakistan Youth Hostels Association

International Youth Day, blessings of Independence celebrated at PYHA

Youths pledge to make Pakistan a land of peace, prosperity and sports

Youth of Islamabad and Rawalpindi during a ceremony in connection with 'International

while participating in the ceremony organized at the Pakistan Youth Hostel Association (PYHA)

Secretary PYHA ex-Ambassador Qazi Humayun welcomed the guests and highlighted the

PYHA's endeavors to popularize sports and adventurism, Ambassador Humayun said "hostelling drives sustainable tourism to foster development globally. The amazing thing is that your travels with us can help us do this. When you travel you learn, spread your message, take a new one back home and this opens your mind". He said the Youth Hostels are there in the hilly and mountainous areas to offer boarding on affordable and discounted rates.

Chaudhry Nasim Pervaiz, a historian enlightened the audience about various stages of the Pakistan Movement that led to the establishment of Pakistan. "The price of Pakistan, my children, is very high and you should learn to value and cherish it." Nasim Pervaiz, born in 1950, shared with the audience his father

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Students along with poets in a group photo after the event marking Independence Day and International Youth Day.

Youth Day and Pakistan Day', pledged to make Pakistan a great country of the world, a leading nation and a land of peace prosperity and sports. They made this solemn pledge

Islamabad chapter. A Mushaira (Poetic Recital) was also organized on the occasion in which noted poets of Islamabad and Rawalpindi read out their patriotic kalam.

significance of the day. He said we should acknowledge the sacrifices of our forefathers and value the blessing of freedom. About the UN International Youth Day and the



Students of various schools presenting patriotic songs

Pakistan Youth Hostels Association promoting tourism in a unique way

Experts call for promotion of Pakistan's indigenous tourism, exploit its untapped potential

It is high time that Pakistan's public and private sectors should join hands and promote its indigenous tourism. The world should be informed about the

tourism, hiking and mountaineering. Qazi regretted that we could not make full use of the tourism opportunities and out of the US\$ 1.3 trillion earned through tourism

to the countries' economy and our neighbouring country India alone earns a handsome annual amount of \$19700 million. Even Maldives and Nepal



treasures of natural beauty and heritage sprawling across the country. This was said by the National Secretary of the Pakistan Youth Hostel Association (PYHA) former ambassador Qazi Humayun during a ceremony in connection with the World Tourism Day organized at the Islamabad chapter of the PYHA. It may be noted that the UN's theme of the year 2017 for World Tourism Day is "Sustainable Tourism: A tool for development." Tourism experts and veteran adventurers and mountaineers also addressed the ceremony and called for promotion of Pakistan's tourism and thus export the country's soft image abroad.

Ambassador Qazi Humayun who has served in Italy for five years as Pakistan's top diplomat and is quite familiar with world's tourism industry and its impact on the global economy was quite vocal for promoting Pakistan's unexploited and untapped tourism sector. Spearheading a nationwide network of 19 youth hostels to offer youths residential facilities on discounted rates and thus promoting

industry, Pakistan's share is not even a bare US\$1000 million.

Ambassador Qazi Humayun was of the view



President Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan Aftab ur Rehman Rana is presenting a set of his books to National Secretary PYHA Ambassador (r) Qazi Humayun

that in the present day world tourism industry has become a major contributor



Participants of the ceremony in a group photo

earn from their tourism industries \$2696 million and \$487million respectively but Pakistan where relics of the oldest civilizations of the world exist in forms of Gandhara, Mohenjodaro and Kelash Valley the figure hovers around \$282 million. Giving a brief background of the youth hostels, he said first youth hostel was established back in 1953 in Bhurban and then slowly but steadily the hostels kept emerging in the far and wide of the country and now we have our hostels in Taxila, Khanaspur, Naran, Lahore, Karachi and in short across the country. "Pakistan Youth Hostel Association is member of the International Youth Hostels Association and we actively participate in the activities that support and promote youth and their healthy pursuits", he said. Even on Sunday one could see over 150 youths from Balochistan living in Islamabad's youth hostel and enjoying its hospitality. The World Tourism Day ceremony was also addressed by tourism expert and well-known exponent of the industry, Aftab ur Rehman Rana.

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Climate Diplomacy Day observed in capital

European Union (EU) and World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature jointly celebrated Climate Diplomacy Day in Islamabad to raise awareness in people regarding negative consequences of Carbon and greenhouse emissions in the air.



EU countries' diplomats, UN representatives, members of civil society and youths take part in Bicycle Rally held to mark Climate Diplomacy Day.

People from all walks of life—men, women, children, families and members of civil society expressed their concerns on climate change and its impact on our lives. The event was in fact part of the exchanges taking place worldwide in exploring opportunities through the transition to low carbon economies while ensuring equitable access to sustainable development. A ride on bicycle was held to mark the day. The

event started with the participants cycling from Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on a designated route as a symbolic gesture to raise awareness to curtail the growth of greenhouse emissions by promoting eco-friendly modes of trans-

portation. One of the participants a diplomat from European country said the event highlighted greenhouse emissions and called for promoting eco-friendly transportation modes. The cycle ride was followed by screening of a thematic

documentary, "There Will Be Water," which is the story of a man who experiments with turning ocean water into drinking water and establishes greenhouses in the desert. He believes that he can make a difference by daring to pursue a dream.

A short documentary competition was also launched this year for students on 'Climate change and poverty' and 'Climate Change - From Global to Local' themes. Students from various cities across Pakistan participated in the competition. The winner of the documentary contest, Imtiaz Abbasi hails from Jamshoro, Sindh. His documentary highlighted devastating poverty due to a drought-like situation in Dadu, Sindh, because of the climate change. European Union Ambassador Jean-François Cautain said: "The EU remains committed to the Paris Agreement and its full implementation while progressing steadily with the finalization of the measures to reduce emissions by at least 40pc by 2030.

Youth Hostel promoting tourism.....

Principal of Margalla College for Women Prof Saleha Jabeen also participated in the programme by sending the promising students and faculty of her college. One could see a large number of youth too, concerned over the deteriorating situation of our forests, prominent tourism spots and increasing pollution on the peaks of hills and mountains. Earlier, Mr Aftabur Rehman said Pakistan though a home to old civilizations and historic places needed to do a lot more to promote and support its tourism industry.

"We've rich forest, old historical fortresses, long unending seashores, unique wildlife, mountain peaks and valleys, rivers and glaciers. However, we need to learn to cash on our treasures", he said. At the end of the ceremony, Mr Aftab presented his book to Ambassador Humayun commending his services for promotion of youth hostelling.

International Youth DAY.....

Chaudhry Nasim Pervaiz's account of the riots in 1947, how his father, a young boy at that time, took refuge in Jamia Masjid of Delhi and saw hundreds of Muslims including his own relatives slaughtered in the massacre. Students of Margalla College F-7/4, Palwasha Iqbal, Hajra Riaz another student Ahmed Bilal delivered speeches on Independence and How to realize dream of Quaid-e-Azam. Anusha and Iman two little girls presented patri-

otic song on the occasion. Students were unanimous in their view that at a time when Pakistan is 70-year old, a charter should be given for the youth of Pakistan to set a line of action forward. Fareha Yousaf, Students Adviser at a private school system called upon the grown-ups to engage their children in day-to-

day activities so that they could grow up into productive members of society. Attired in green clothes with Pakistan flags on their shoulders the students were giving the audience a promise of better and brighter future. At the end of the ceremony, poets Anjum Khaliq, Asghar Abid, Shaida Chishti, Wafa Chishti, Ali Kaswar and Assad Ali presented their patriotic kalam and reiterated their belief in Pakistan and its future. They said we have noble examples of Quaid-e-Azam, Liaquat Ali



National Secretary PYHA, Qazi Humayun, Chaudhry Nasim Pervaiz, Ahmed Bilal and Haram Safdar addressing on the occasion of International Youth Day celebrations

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International Youth Hostels Federation CEO Meeting, 2017 Zurich



Delegates of IYHF CEO Meeting 2017 Zurich

A CEO's meeting was organized by "International Youth Hostels Federation (IYHF)" 10 - 12 September, 2017 in collaboration with Swiss Youth Hostels in Zurich, Switzerland. The National Secretary (CEO)

Ambassador (r) Qazi Humayun represented Pakistan Youth Hostels Association (PYHA). 66 Delegates from different countries including USA, Australia, Canada, China, England, France, Germany,

Japan, Korea, Qatar and Saudi Arabia participated. The meeting discussed:

- Achievements and Challenges
- Future Business Plans
- Different Strategies to promote Tourism

- Digital Marketing Techniques (Website, Google Ads, Social Networks and Mobile Apps etc.)
- Celebration of the events like "Sleep for Peace" and other International Days.

Cycling for Peace: Activist Gul-e-Afshan reaches Swat on motorbike

Pakistan's well-known peace activist, Gul-e-Afshan has arrived in Swat on a motorbike with a message of peace and harmony.

Gul-e-Afshan who hails from Sargodha also attended a reception at the Swat Press Club where she told the media persons about her passion for cycling. She said she started her journey from Islamabad to Buner and then to Swat on her motorbike. According to her, the purpose behind travelling to Swat by herself was to tell the world that peace was restored in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She said the travelling of a lone woman in different parts of the country on a motorbike without any fear was a proof that Pakistan was a safe country for tourists and adventurers. She said she wanted to

tell the tourists from Pakistan and rest of the world to come to Swat and enjoy its scenic beauty after restoration of peace in the area.

Gul-e-Afshan Tariq has made

suffering from a knee ligament injury and could not walk normally and was left by all due to this handicap, has made her achievement all the more unique and singular.



the world record by cycling over 4,693 meters, and covering 1,000 km in 9 days, Khunjerab (Pak-China Border) on a bicycle. The fact that she is

Gul-e-Afshan is also a trained fighter and a member of Pakistan's National Youth Assembly. She is a brand ambassador of 'Ladies of Pakistan' and Tedx

Speaker 2016. Her mission is to promote a positive image of Pakistan. "I cycled from Islamabad to Khunjerab in 9 days, at -5 degrees covering over 1,000 kms," she told media after the record breaking achievement. There was a time when my own family members, my classmates, and my friends left me, because I couldn't walk due to a ligament injury in my knee. I would go to the classroom alone with the help of crutches. During this period, my father passed away. This was the moment I realized I had to be strong for myself and my family. I learnt to stand with my head held high." She got a job shortly before she completed her engineering. She has been into sports for the past six years.