



Students of various schools and colleges busy in drawing posters at the Youth Hostel, Islamabad.

International Mountain Day

poster competition and hoped they would continue to express their love for mountains in their art.

Conservationist and President of Sustainable Tourism Foundation Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana in his presentation highlighted the importance of mountains and drew the youth's attention toward the great treasure of Nature as they are custodian of future. Pakistan, he said is the unique land where three Mountain Ranges Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindukush meet. Mountains are called the water towers and they are the primary source of water for the Indus valley. Not only Pakistan's northern region but Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh are home to some rare mountains range and people living in these mountain areas reflect diversity and speak more than 26 languages, he said.

"Pakistan's biggest and the world's second largest salt reserves are also found in these mountains," he said, obviously, referring to the Khewra Salt Mines. "Besides these treasures of salt and diversity of culture, there are

some unique lakes and streams found among these mountains," said Aftab. He said, "There are around 300 lakes found in the mountain beds of Pakistan. Pakistan also

Aftab Rana also showed a documentary about the youths' annual activity he organizes to raise awareness about mountains. Each participant of that 20-day activity is called

the end position holders of the poster competition were announced. In children's category Zoya Rizwan won Rs3,000 and certificate while the first prize of Rs15,000 was bagged by Qurat-ul-Ain of IMCG F-7/4, the second position and cash prize of Rs10,000 was grabbed by Sara Mehboob while the third prize of Rs. 5000 was given to Narmeen Tariq.

Later, National Secretary PYHA, Ambassador Qazi Humayun in recognition of the role played by teachers, students and members of civil society to make the International Mountain Day a successful event gave away certificates of appreciation. The recipients included: Principal of the IMCG (PG) F-7/4, Islamabad Prof Sualeha Jabeen, Prof Bushra Nisar, IMCG, I-8/3 Islamabad, Prof Farah Assad, Dept of Fine Arts, IMCG F-8/1, Lecturer, Dept of Fine Arts, IMCG F-7/3, Waheed Ur Rehman, Lecturer, Dept of Urdu IMCG I-8/3, Fazeelat Hussain, Lecturer, Dept of Fine Arts, IMCG F-7/4 Ms Nayab Rizwan and Anam Nabeel.

Mazharul Islam, the acclaimed short story writer and creative organizer of the event was commended by the participants for making the International Mountain Day a huge success.



Participants of the poster competition held to celebrate International Mountain Day.



Young artists of Margallah College Islamabad with Principal Mrs. Sualeha Jabeen

enjoys the sole distinction of having the highest paved road called Karakoram Highway which is now called the CPEC in its mountain range."

eco guard and on his/her return convinces the peers, friends and colleagues about mountain conservation and environment protection. At



March, 2018

Newsletter

Voice of Youth

Pakistan Youth Hostels Association

International Mountain Day celebrated at PYHA More than 30 million Pakistanis depend on mountains for livelihood

"More than 30 million Pakistanis are directly or indirectly relying on mountains for their livelihood and it is imperative on us to conserve, protect and promote mountains and mountaineering." National Secretary of the Pakistan Youth Hostels Association (PYHA) and former ambassador Qazi Humayun said this at a poster competition and lecture organized at the PYHA Islamabad chapter on Dec 11, 2017.

PYHA has been organizing Mountain Day, Tourism Day and Independence Day by organizing seminars, lectures and youthful healthy activities promoting adventure, tourism and sports. Around 40 students from Islamabad's schools, colleges and universities participated in the Mountain Day ceremony. They expressed their love and passion to promote mountaineering and a pollution free Pakistan.



These educational institutes included FG College for Home Economics, IMCG F-7/4, Air University, Bahria University and IMCG F-6/2. Ambassador Humayun was of the opinion that mountains of Pakistan not only guaranteed sustain-

able environment conditions but they were also home to

glaciers which were huge reservoirs of water. He congratulated

the successful students of the

Continued on page 4



National Secretary Pakistan Youth Hostels Association Ambassador (r) Qazi Humayun, President of Sustainable Tourism Foundation Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana, judges of the poster competition Wahid-ur-Rehman and Prof. Farah Aslam and position holder students on the occasion of International Mountain Day celebrated at Youth Hostel Islamabad

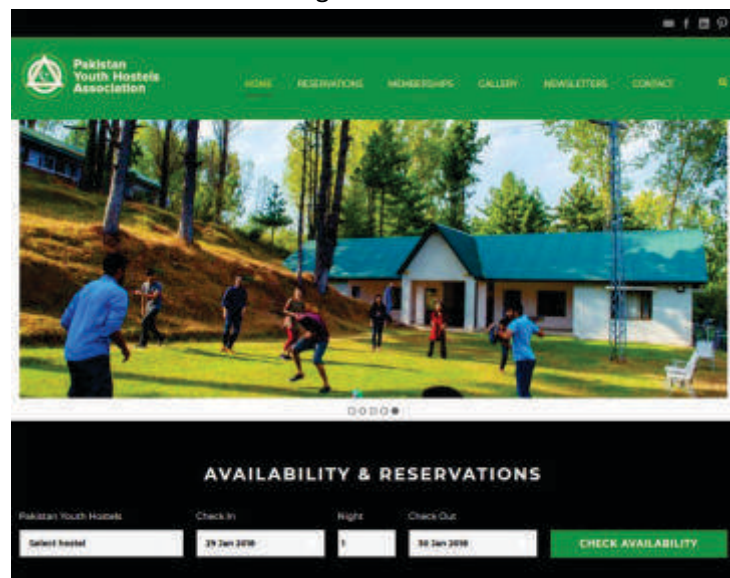


Pakistan Youth Hostels Association launches its own website

www.PakistanYouthHostels.com

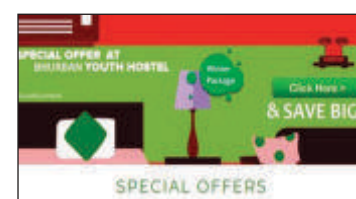
Pakistan Youth Hostels Association has launched its website to facilitate the local and foreign tourists, visitors and youth. Hostels and boarding houses all over the world are providing this online facility to their valued boarders and guests as they might seek online reservation of rooms before setting on a journey. PYHA decided to launch its website after tremendous growth of its popularity among the youth as well as in the national and international explorers. It is largely because of the discounted rates of accommodation the hostel offers to its guests and the secure environment they live

in. Online reservation and registrations save these adventurers



from multiple hassle on their way.

From the website, they can learn about all PYHA operational hostels, its online reservation status, online membership application system, hostels gallery, upcoming activities of the PYHA and other information like direct



contact information, live chat box for quick messaging and official social media page.

In the company of ancient civilization Make your stay in Youth Hostel Taxila a life-time experience

Piplan, the ancient Buddhist monastic establishment in Taxila that was named after the thick Peepal trees of the

To the east of the site is a courtyard of a monastery dating back to the late Partian or early Kushan times. It consists

side, and a converted stupa to the east. The cells were built on two storeys, and as per the traditional Gandharan style of archi-



area, is a Buddhist archaeological jewel located in a calm valley that despite its unique landscape stayed hidden from local and foreign tourists and the public.

The ancient site lies at the foot hills between Mohra Maradu and Julian, the ancient Taxila University. According to historians and archaeologists, the site was excavated in 1923-24, under Sir John Marshall, Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India. The site actually belongs to two different periods of time.

of an open quadrangle in the centre with a range of cells on all its four sides. In the middle of the courtyard is the base-ment of a square stupa. The site indeed is like a treasure island where you can find glimpses of the ancient history of Pre-Christian era.

The researchers believe the second monastery was constructed out of heavy, semi-ashlar masonry, and was exceptionally well-preserved. The ruins of the second monastery reveal that it comprised a court of cells on the north

ture, consisted of an open quadrangle with cells for monks on all four sides and a pillared veranda. In short, the ancient monastery site of Piplan and the Museum of Taxila have much more to offer to the tourists, researchers particularly the young adventurers and visitors than any other archa-eological and historical place. Pakistan Youth Hostel offers its facility to all those who want to make their visit memorable by visiting Taxila Museum, ruins of the ancient Buddhist civilization and the ancient monastery site of Piplan on special discounted rates.

WHAT OUR GUESTS SAY ABOUT US

I am a traveler from Hong Kong, China. I have been traveling for more than a year now. This time I visited Pakistan to



Vivean Taki

explore this beautiful country and stayed at Youth Hostel Islamabad. I found this place neat and clean to stay with affordable accommodation in the very heart of the city, which is amazing! I recommend international travelers to stay here while traveling next time.

Air Chief Marshal sees huge scope for Skiing in Gilgit valley

Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman expressed his hope and confidence that Skiing would be ranked among the major sports

establishing a Ski School for the children at Rattoo and Malam Jabba. He expressed his confidence that skiing sports



of the Gilgit valley. He said this while attending prize distribution ceremony of the Saadia Khan Ski Cup competition. The ceremony held at Naltar. In the competition, Gilgit Bal-tistan Scouts outclassed their rivals and convincingly won the Cup by bagging all medals.

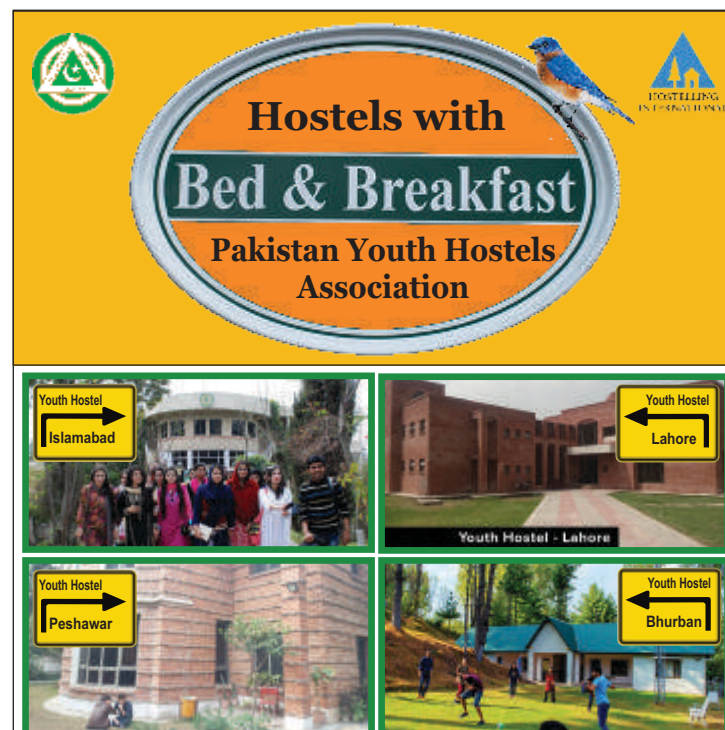
The Air Chief also awarded prizes in cross country, skating, ice skating and snowboarding competitions. Addressing the closing ceremony, the Air Chief said, "The efforts of Ski Federation of Pakistan in making Skiing accessible to the youth of our country are really commendable. I urge the SFP to bring in young boys and girls from other parts of the country as well and offer them these facilities here". The Air Chief said, "It is heartening to note that SFP is

would prove very rewarding for our players and can pave the way for them to participate in international skiing competition. Talking about the development plans of PAF for the Naltar Valley, he said, "We are looking forward to making Naltar Valley into an international standard resort. Moreover, PAF has also envisaged a new skill development plan by starting educational and vocational training for the students of this area".

The ski competition continued for three days at PAF Ski Resort, Naltar. Skiers from various Ski Associations of Pakistan participated in the championship in temperatures below freezing point. A large number of spectators and Ski lovers from all over the country came to witness the championship.



Children in animal costumes parade at Marghazar Zoo to raise awareness about wildlife and a tree plantation campaign organized by the CDA and Metropolitan Corporation



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