

Fard

Issue No. 4, October 2012

Individualland
Creating space for the individual

Celebrating Pakistani Youth



Supported by:

Friedrich Naumann
STIFTUNG **FÜR DIE FREIHEIT**

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Individualland

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From the Editor's Desk...

Dear Readers,

The world always seems small and life always large, when one is in his/her adolescent years. One is never bothered about the clichés and paradoxes of life. Come what may, we feel as if the world is made for us and we are the conquerors. Nothing can stop us. Nostalgia ensues when we think about the years when we were young; a sudden memory of the past puts a smile on your face during a busy day at the office. The mistakes and experiences gained during the youthful years turn into advice for our children. Youth! What a fantastic experience! It comes at an early age and always leaves us wanting it more.

This month's Fard is all about celebrating the youthful days of our lives. To pause for a while and celebrate the times when we were young. "Celebrating the youth" was chosen as this month's theme. To celebrate and applaud the young blood of our country, who are making us proud by achieving the impossible. This issue has tried to shed light on such young personalities, young people who in our opinion have in one way or other remained aloof from the mainstream media. We have intruded on their personal lives a little through our interviews, border line (!) stalked them over the internet and have written about them so that the people around us could know them a bit better than before.

In this month's FARD we have young people like Shafay Thobani, the computer genius, Anam Bandey the swimmer in recent Olympics, personalities like Carla Khan the squash champion who represented Pakistan at young age and Moin Khan the biker who rode all the way from US to Pakistan. The idea is not just to celebrate the young age specifically, however the thought is to celebrate and encourage the achievements of various people belonging to various walks of life at any given age. Age is just a number as they say ...

Without taking your time any further I leave you with these words. "Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18" – Mark Twain

With much enthusiasm and anticipation for receiving your feedback, we leave you with this year's Fard.

Hamza Khan

The Little Genius

Rehan Ali

The young Thobani has set new parameters of being a genius. You are no longer required to have a long, uncombed frizzy hair, a long beard, big round spectacles and a white tarnished lab coat to be a genius any more. Sir Einstein: No offence!

The laws of the universe have been challenged; gravity is about to be deceived as our little boy named Shafay at the young age of eight has accomplished what most cannot even expect despite growing old in labs and drooling in front of computer screens.

Master Shafay made the headlines when this year, he secured ninety one marks in a test; "Prometric test". Despite researching for this article again and again and asking my friends that what is a prometric test, I have failed to fully comprehend the dynamics of it. I have just understood this much that it is an exam which is not easy to pass and smart people from Microsoft, IBM etc. compete in this examination and even then do not achieve what our Thobani Junior has. Ninety one marks. Yes! Try repeating the marks again in your minds. Recall how we felt exuberant and touched the roof, when you or I scored a mere fifty percent marks in our secondary school examinations. Thobani has not even reached that age and at an age of eight aced an exam which I am sure most of us have not even heard of before.

This Pakistani child has become a computer genius at the age of 8. At our age, we have not even become human yet.



<http://tribune.com.pk/story/406713/shafay-thobani-worlds-youngest-mcts-or-self-proclaimed-child-prodigy/>

Recall at the age of eight how we passed our days. Need I state what our daily rituals were? Shafay is on the path where he in the days to come will not only fulfil his dreams; but will also make his country proud. We have abandoned all hopes of pride and honour from our leaders, actors and others, at least we have Thobani junior to fall back on. We wish you all the best and may you accomplish more in days to come.

Taking full use of the technology and the gadgets around us we were easily able to contact Thobani Senior, who was kind enough to forward our questions to Shafay who, via video conferencing gave answers to questions to his dad and then his dad e-mailed us the answers. Now! This is what I call the proper use of the hi-fi gadgets around us. Let us be honest most of our parents are still trying to learn how a cell-phone works and above all how a short message (SMS) is sent.

Shafay resembles his father as he tries to hide his cute smile behind the heavy black striped suit and blue tie while interviewing. For him since the beginning his inspiration has remained his father. When he grows old he would want to be a Systems Engineer just like him. I am sure give him two more years and he will be able to crack all the secrets of being a Systems Engineer.

Like I said earlier we have a new genius in town, a genius 2.0 if I may, is a genius who does not like to spend all his time behind a computer trying to outlearn himself! Rather he gives ample time to playing games, especially on his portable play station (PSP), enjoys swimming and playing football. Ours is a wizard who likes ice-creams too while he cracks the software codes. It would not be wrong to say that we have a genius-nerd, who is not afraid to go out, make friends' play, laugh and at the same time while yawning and walking here and there ace one of the most difficult tests of this age.

My team insisted that I ask Shafay 'How did he find the art of Networking'? As a person, who has always remained an arm's length from computers, I had no clue, what this question meant. But later when I further probed, the art of networking is mingling of two or more computers with each other so that the data could be shared easily and effectively. Shafay told us that there were many difficult things which came forth, but his father gave him day to day examples which cleared his concepts as a result of which he is now more confident in working in that field than before. I am sure with such an experienced, encouraging friend/dad one can understand even the most complex nature of things.

Shafay did not achieve all this by sheer luck and being smart. According to him, he really worked hard for the exams. Adopted a routine for almost thirteen months, where he used to get up early in the morning for school and after his school went to his father's office to practice his skills and later in the evening took computer classes to further develop himself. This hard work and professionalism at such an early age is a rarity I must add. Most of us who have entered their professional lives still arrive late at the offices and face the wrath of our bosses but hats off to this young fellow who has embarrassed us all.

Shafay and his dad plan on establishing an academy for the young people of this country, "The World's Youngest Technology Specialist Training Center." This academy will groom other young children fond of

computers and gadgets and will help make new records, hopefully. A tiring task to undertake but refreshing since our leaders and government has abandoned all such ventures.

On a lighter note when we inquired whether such a genius could fix a simple computer? To this he replied that "I have a good knowledge of hardware, networks and operating systems depending upon the nature of the problem, I can certainly give it a try to fix it for you. I am the World's Youngest Certified Technology Specialist but I need to learn more and gain experience."

Indeed a confident and humble reply by smart kid like Thobani. At such an age he speaks with intelligence and confidence.

For more information regarding the article or magazine, please contact:
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Against the Wind

Adeel Babri

On your marks get set go.....!

The flying machines always intrigued her. She would run outside whenever she used to hear the engines of the aero planes roaring, flying high in the skies. She always imagined piloting one of these machines someday; little did she know that fate had other plans for her. She was to become the fastest runner in South Asia. In only 11.81 seconds covered a distance of 100 meters in a race in South Asian Federation Games (SAF). By doing so she became the first Pakistani woman to win a gold medal in SAF games. Without further ado, I present Naseem Hameed.



Due to her speed it was not easy to catch her. We had to call in our filed runners, clock time and finally we were able to track her down. Though we did not know where the time flew while we were interviewing her over the phone. But I can tell you this; it was a delight talking to her. We thought like her feet, she would speak swiftly and it would be difficult to keep pace with her, but she proved us wrong. Her jolly remarks and giggles in the middle of the questions made us forget that we were talking to someone who runs so fast. While asking about her childhood Naseem told us that she was famous for her mischief.

What she enjoyed the most was when she used to pour water into other people's cigarette packs. Coming from a person who smokes, I can tell you how it would have felt but at the same time it makes others laugh. So for initiating laughter therapy losing a pack of cigarette now and then is acceptable.

Running fast never meant running away from problems and difficult times for Naseem. As a struggling athlete, she told us about the difficulties and hardships she faced. Taking a long breath she stated them matter of factly without going into further details. But what she does remember is the staring eyes of the men and the comments she was subjected to. I can guarantee that these same men, when she made it big, would have distributed sweets in the locality telling people how well they knew her.



<http://www.friendskornet.com/forum/photopost/showphoto.php/photo/175820/title/naseem-hameed/cat/fav>

She tells us in her own words that her family, friends, loved ones supported and encouraged her one hundred percent in this regard. Apart from the encouragement she really worked hard and underwent an eight to ten hours of physical training everyday with very few breaks in between. I can only

imagine how excruciatingly hard it is to work-out 8 to 10 hours a day. I cannot spend more than 15 minutes on a treadmill and when I'm done I assume I have run long enough to take a break for a week.

She agrees that there are no avenues or infrastructure for women as well as men when it comes to sports in the country. But she states that "once you make it big then it's enough to make a decent living but before that you have to work to make ends meet". This is what real Pakistan is actually. Very few in this country are blessed with a secure future. People like Naseem should not only be praised for her speed but also be respected for the way she survived the storms and hardship she faced while struggling.

While talking to her, Naseem mentioned that she's a sports fan. She not only finds athletics interesting but also follows football matches and leagues and above all 'wrestling'. John Cena and Rock (whoever they are) are her favorite wrestlers. She is not the only sportsperson in her family; she tells us that her sister is a football player. She currently plays for some league as we speak, not only amazing but an inspiration for all the girls out there. Do not be reluctant in pursuing the dreams you have.

Already crowned as South Asia's fastest woman, what is next? We asked her, she replied "Prepare other children for athletics, in order to bring out a lot of hidden talent and make them even better than this Naseem Hameed".

Naseem Hameed, we as citizens of this country are proud of you. You have done enough to honour this country, and since you

are not backing down, we encourage and support you completely in whatever you do. Best of luck!

For more information regarding the article or magazine, please contact:
info@individualland.com

A job well done!

Hamza Swati

High achievers or doers have always intrigued me. Not because what they have achieved, but the idea of what kept them going. Some have done it for the search of truth, some did it for passion, some did it for money, power, etc. Some have even done it because they did not have anything else to do. However apart from these categories there is another which achieves remarkable milestones just so to find something about themselves. To see till what distance they can go. Now that is a creed to watch out for. Achieving something is no doubt in itself immense, but until and unless there is a real purpose to it, the achievement fades with time.



<http://blog.paksc.org/2011/12/11/pakistan-11-year-girl-sitara-sets-world-record-o-level/>

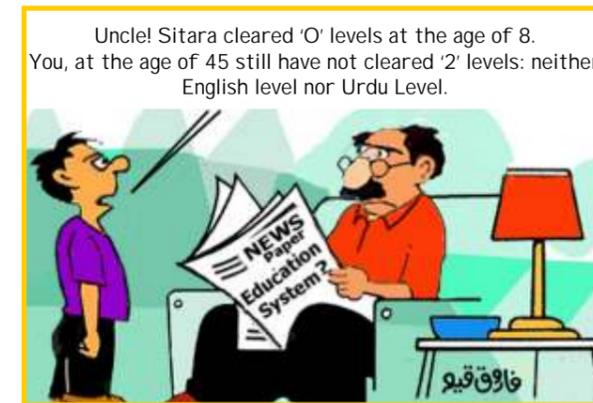
We have one particular achiever amongst us, who has outdone most of us. At the age of 11 she has successfully passed her Ordinary -level exams. Ordinary levels, most commonly known as 'O' levels, is the British examination equivalent to the matriculation exam of Pakistan. We have heard about students who have taken numerous courses in 'O' levels and aced them and we have heard about students who have taken distinctions in various courses, but it is quite extraordinary when an eleven year old girl clears 'O' level examinations. The usual age of children appearing for these exams is sixteen. What is more fascinating is that Sitara left school when she was in grade 3 and since then has studied

and cleared each grade while studying at home. She was nine years old when she passed her first 'O' levels subject, which was none other than chemistry. By the way that is her favorite subject as well. I still remember my romance with organic chemistry, my disputes with reactivity series, two-timing with the periodic table and of course love with the electrolysis process (because it was the easiest of all) but never was chemistry my favorite subject.

According to her, the school learning system is all based on cramming and re-reading the text books again and again. As a result of which there is no intellectual growth of the mind. Further she elaborates that as far as reading and learning books are concerned, one can easily do that at home in much less time as than one whole year. One agrees that our education system does not encourage the critical analysis and other aspects of the brain, but one should not miss out the fun and other learning involved at school. What about the collective punishments in front of the principal's office? What about making friends and standing up for them in front of others? What about bullies? What about waiting anxiously for the break time? What about bunking the classes and coming up with new ways to bunk the class while the teacher is facing the whiteboard? Nostalgic! Isn't it! These are all the other aspects which one learns in school which helps a lot in shaping ones personality. But Sitara thinks that we all live our lives strangled in chains. In order to go beyond, do the unthinkable, one has to break away from the chains and discover the force which drives one.

What does she say when asked about how it feels to be the youngest child to achieve such a mark? Her reply, "I did it by the Grace of God. I am not proud only of this. It's just feeling that I did something good for my beloved country."

Surely Sitara, by achieving such a feat you have shown the world, what Pakistanis are capable of. We have often been misjudged by the world. This accomplishment of yours will definitely help them rethink. Sitara has now successfully cleared the first year of Advanced levels (equivalent to higher secondary) and is busy clearing the remaining half of the degree.



While interviewing her and going through the notes again and again, I could not help but notice the confidence Sitara has in herself. When we asked about the role of her parents in all this she objectively analyzed their role by saying they motivated her, provided her the best facilities, but in the same breadth said, "But you must keep in mind that parents and teachers just open the doors. You have to pass through the doors yourself". I can assure you that there is a very strong and determined person in the making. Hers is a type which is hard to come by.

Her strong will reflected when she analyzed the curriculum and conditions of our academic institutions. She was adamant that "we must change our curriculum and especially our teaching methods". Curriculum should be more challenging, conceptual and teaching should definitely be more than making students learn from the books.

It became too difficult to comprehend this girl. We had to ask her a question which could assure us that there is a child inside Sitara. So we asked her, who are you favorite author/s? It was a relief when we heard the names of J.K. Rowling and Enid Blyton from her. It convinced us that we were indeed talking to a little

girl and no one else. Besides that she further elaborated that she also like to cook, paint and above all watch cartoons. Not a fan of movies, but Thank God for the cartoons.

Her aim is to excel in the field of biochemistry, and her goal is to be like Dr Abdus Salam. I hope when she reaches the stage to take the Nobel Prize for a new discovery in biochemistry, Pakistan is exhilarated and gives her the respect she deserves.

For more information regarding the article or magazine, please contact:
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Lady Khan

Adeel Babri

From Chengis Khan to Imran Khan, Pakistan has always been fascinated by the surname Khan. Be it Ayub Khan in politics or Imran Khan in cricket or Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan in the music world. Squash is another field in which the Khans have proudly represented Pakistan all across the world. In the field of squash, the Khan name is hard to miss, who has represented Pakistan on a number of occasions all across the globe. Now there is another Khan. Carla Khan, is the granddaughter of the renowned squash legend Azam Khan and niece of the famous squash player Hashim Khan.

It seems as if squash runs in their bloods. Carla is also the daughter of tennis star Wasil Khan who was the junior world champion.

Carla started playing squash at the early age of 12. It seems as if from the very first moment when she stepped behind the closed glass doors of the court she had realized that this is what she was born to do. As her career progressed, she started representing Pakistan, Prior to that she used to represent England. History was in the making, as she was the first female not only from the country but perhaps the first Lady



<http://www.carlakhan.co.uk/photo.asp>

Khan to represent Pakistan in the international arena. Carla made her mark by winning the grand title of the El Salvador Open by beating Mexican Samantha Teran in straight sets (9-1, 2-9, 9-3, and 9-1). Further on in 2003, which is also considered her most successful year, she won the Ottawa International Open in Canada by beating Melissa Martin of Australia (3-9, 4-9, 9-4, 9-7, 9-3). 2003 being her most successful year also landed her in the top thirty of the world rankings, making her Pakistan's number one.



2004 brought further luck for Carla, when she defeated Malaysian Nicol David in the Irish Open. Resultantly she climbed up to number 21 in the international ranking. She couldn't let anyone win the first ever women's International tournament in Pakistan, so by not dropping a single game she beat Sharon Wee from Malaysia in straight sets (9-1, 9-3, 9-4). At the 4th Women Islamic Games 2005 in Tehran Carla made it to the finals, but unfortunately lost to Malaysian Tricia Chua. Her fans range from young to the old and not just Pakistanis living in the country adore her, but those living abroad always look up to her as pride of the country.

At the South Asian Games in Sri Lanka in 2006 she developed an injury and was informed that her playing days were over. But she was not ready to accept defeat so early. She returned in 2007 and after winning the Iranian Open and the Austrian Open

climbed back to the 40s in international rankings. In 2008 at the age of twenty seven, she made her final decision and announced her retirement.

In an interview with Pakpassion.net Carla was asked that whether Pakistani Sports Ministry provided you any support? To this Carla was candid enough to say that the Pakistani sports ministry did not provide any kind of support to her. No encouragement as well as no financial support of any sort. She did not even have a coach. It was her sheer determination and the support of her parents which led her to the echelons of fame in squash. Despite the cold attitude shown by the government of Pakistan, she went on representing Pakistan at international championships. Perhaps the policy makers of our country should wake up to the magnitude of Carla's achievements for this country.

Carla is proud to acknowledge the fact that she is amongst the few females who have made way for other women who want to pursue careers in sports. She is quoted saying to Pakpassion, *"It made them believe it's normal and enjoyable"*.

Carla has not fully left the sport as she trains, continues to play leagues and coaches squash players. She now has had the opportunity to coach in many countries having being invited to coach the Iranian women's team, Egyptian women team, Pakistan girls and in 2008-2009 she coached full time in New York, USA developing the women's squash at a prestigious Country Club.

Carla is still considered a role model by many sports women in Pakistan. This is perhaps her biggest contribution for Pakistani women, who have always been subjugated by men. She did not just win so many titles for the country and make everyone proud but opened a new avenue for women.

¹K. Mohsin and M. Uzair, PakPassion Presents an exclusive interview of Carla Khan. 2010. Accessed from: http://www.pakpassion.net/articles/pakpassion_presents_an_interview_with_carla_khan. Accessed on 5th October 2012.

² ibid

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Our Free Independent and Responsible Media Engagements



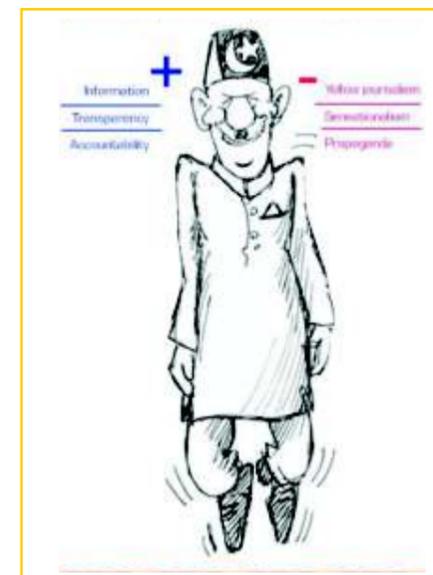
Our Free Independent and Responsible Media Perspective

We need a self critical media.

as part of our **Free, Independent and Responsible Media (FIRM)** campaign

Unbiased + critical thinking = independent media

as part of our **Free, Independent and Responsible Media (FIRM)** campaign



Words are the new weapons, satellites the new artillery, Caesar had his legions, Napoleon had his armies, I have my divisions TV, news, magazines

[Movie: Tomorrow Never Dies]

as part of our **Free, Independent and Responsible Media (FIRM)** campaign

Ibn Batutta of our times!

Hamza Swati

Going by the name of 'different agenda' and having boiled rice with ketchup for eighteen months surely is a sign of determination and a drive to do something out of the box. In the past, the country met Moin Khan, the wicket keeper in the 1992 cricket world cup who then became known for his sweep shots. But now another Moin Khan has crossed our path.

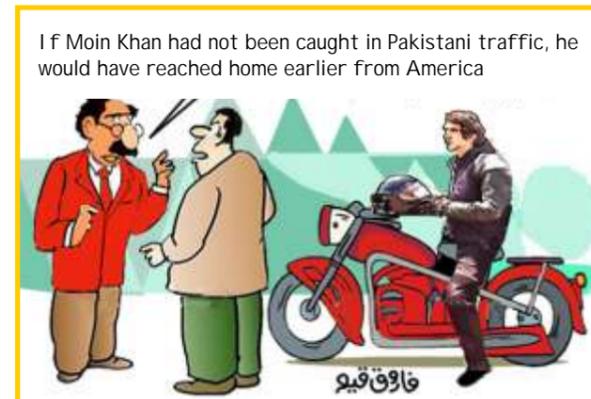
Moin Khan - a person in his mid-twenties, young, energetic and a motive to transform the image of our country in the eyes of the world. When I hear or read about the term image building, my mind automatically interprets it as two high public officials shaking hands in front of the cameras, or theatre performances in various countries or songs and service messages. But surely, a person with a bike and Pakistan's flag on his back has now totally given a new dimension to the meaning of the term 'image building'.



<http://www.defence.pk/forums/members-club/150771-pakistani-man-travels-california-lahore-his-motorbike.html>

June, 11, 2011 was the day our biker boy began his journey from Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. He then crossed the Atlantic, reached Germany, offloaded his bike and began his enduring bike ride across Eastern Europe into Asia and finally reached Pakistan on December, 31, 2011. It was not easy I am sure. A 45000 km journey by bike must have posed extraordinary obstacles in the way of our Moin boy.

And I must add here that it was not that he was carrying his papa's credit card in his back pocket which helped him fill his fuel tank, pay for his food and lodgings where ever he made a stop. The determined Moin sold his television, car, playstation and even furniture to gather the resources for the journey. As he tells it, he had to ask for a place to crash from random people, strangers who he had never met before in his entire life. In spite of absence of the formalities of knowing each other Biker Khan states that he was given a comfortable place to spend a night by Turkish boys in Turkey at a gas station. Surely our boy knew how to charm people with his smile and



wits. Way to go man!

While answering a question, Moin thought that people will be reluctant to see a Pakistani flag drifting through their streets but it was the other way around while he travelled across the territories.

The 'never give up' attitude of our Moin made him the person he is today. Now where ever he goes, crowds gather up to meet him just to see him standing in front of them.

'I had anxiety attacks from the fear of the unknown, there was too much to worry about', he said. However the bike ride was not only an image building process but it was a journey in which he experienced his inner self, a self-actualization.

Life on the road was not all cherry and vanilla for Moin. While traveling through Romania he met a terrible accident. In this accident his ribs and wrists were broken. Still adamant, he took a break from the road for six months, recovered and was on the road again. Perhaps the anticipation of entering Pakistan and meeting his people kept him going. If I had been there, first thing I would have done would have been to call my dad, told him I missed him, emotional black mail If I may say so, and would have been out of Romania on the next flight to Pakistan. But a bow to Mr Khan is must in this regard.

The 45,000 km long journey has wiped the habit of sitting idle from Moin's psyche. He is deeply involved in various initiatives working for the progress of the country. The current journey which he has undertaken is to give motorcycle lessons to girls and women in Pakistan. And you know what he tries to achieve from this? Any guesses? He aims to empower the women. Simple, unique and innovative! Fabulous, why do not such ideas blossom in the minds of the people already working to empower women or the government? Is Benazir Income Support program the only innovative idea we can come up with when we think about empowering the women in this country?

He further plans to travel across the country, document it and present it to the world so that the world finds out what real Pakistan is all about. Not only am I all for it, but if Moin is looking for a naive, ignorant and having no travelling experience sort of a person as his bike companion I am willing to join him. (Moin by the way I don't know how to ride a bike. Perhaps I can join one of your bike classes before we start our journey?)

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Do you YAP?

Young? Bored?

Are you often accused of being argumentative or in our parlance "yapping?"

If so, then we are a match made in heaven.

We are organizing a national speech competition across Pakistan. Join us as we journey across Pakistan to find YAPPERS i.e. 16-19 year olds who are articulate enough to win their argument.

From the thousands competing, only 20 lucky contestants will have a chance to become Young Ambassadors of Peace (YAP) who will then be trained to become even better than they already are

...and oh did we mention that

These "Young Ambassadors of Peace", will then appear in an exciting television reality show.

If you have it in you, connect with us and start YAPPING

Website: <http://www.individualland.com> E-mail: info@individualland.com
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Breaking the precedents

Sundas Syeda

What is the first reaction we encounter, when we see women wearing police uniforms and standing beside their male counterparts on roads, giving tickets or at police stations, registering complaints or listening to the problems of various civilian women? A sort of hard thought to register in the minds? Especially when the mind is of a male who is living in this very society in which we currently breathe in. Of course! Our minds haven't evolved enough to assimilate the roles (which require force, power, authority, guns and fighting etc.) with women. To put it in the words of Darwin still evolving though not physically but mentally surely!

Police is always associated with force, strength and authority. These terms are often used to describe the men in this part of the world. Still considered as a struggling country, Pakistan has a male dominated society. Where male remains the foci of attention at home and even in the country. Women have always been suppressed. They have always been expected to succumb to the wishes and demands of the men around them. Be it father, brother, husband or even son in some cases. Those who do not and have their own opinions and perceptions are often labeled as disobedient or incompetent. Despite the work of gender specialists, this thought still is prevalent in most parts of the country.

If your wife is in the police, you have to come home on time



However, there are positive examples despite the hardships and the burdens of various kinds, women



Photo Credits: Individualland

have finally realized that we have now entered the 21st century and are no longer bound to follow draconian norms. Women are coming forth and taking part in various professions of life. Of course, despite being professional women they still have to take care of the household. No matter how successful a woman becomes, if the children are not groomed properly she is blamed, if there is no food on the table it is due to her, even if there is no water supply it's her fault. It is really hard for women to lead a life free of worries.

Nonetheless, women are now present in some of the professions, for instance as our leader, actresses, doctors, nurses, recently in the past as engineers, scientists. But we still are unable to place women in the roles of Naib Subhedars in the army, or the driver of tanks or in police uniforms guarding the streets and ensuring that the bad ones are put behind bars.

While going through the list of names of young achievers in Pakistan, it was hard to skip the women who are serving this country and its citizens in different manner than is traditionally expected of them. By joining the police service of this country these women aim at making a difference in Pakistan. Breaking the stereotypical shackles is what differentiates them from others. Amongst the many that are revolting against the stereotypes of this



Photo Credits: Individualland

society, two women have caught our eye, Nadia Sumaira and Nargis Ashraf.

Both these women are currently serving as police constables in Karachi and are fully determined to serve the citizens of this country.

It was the harassment faced by women in their daily lives which inspired both these ladies to join the police service. As one puts it, "I wanted to work for the welfare of the people and especially for women who come on television and share their stories of how they became victims of domestic violence."

Although a difficult step to take but as Nadia puts it her family was very happy when she joined the police department. Nadia gives all the credit to her father who being a police officer himself encouraged and helped her in the first place. It is a sense of pride and honour that such fathers exist in our country, who support the dreams and aspirations of their children whether they are boys or girls. Nargis too was supported by her family and further states that "My family is very open minded. That is why I did not face any difficulty from their side for joining the police service".

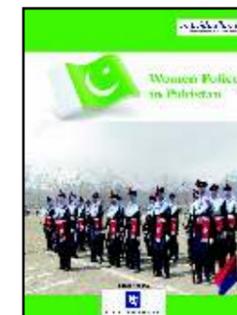
Further these two young women police officials elaborate that people now treat them with more respect. Although there are times when the people are a bit rude but when the ladies as police officials interact with them with respect their attitudes change immediately.

Nadia is a part of Eaglet force squad. She went through rigorous physical and mental training to become a part of it. As far as Nargis is concerned she tells us that she was selected for a commando training which she passed with flying colours. Indeed these women are easily able to fight and handle any sort of person. I am sure I would never want to cross paths with these powerful women, who know how to fight and make the other person run for his life.

It is indeed a privilege and an honour to talk to such women, who are not standing down for anybody and any reason. We want such women to come forth and claim what is fundamentally theirs. This country was not only created for the purpose of men dominating every walk of life. These women are an inspiration to all those out there who think that they have the potential and are able to make a difference in others' lives.

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Our Publications on Women Police



History in the Making!

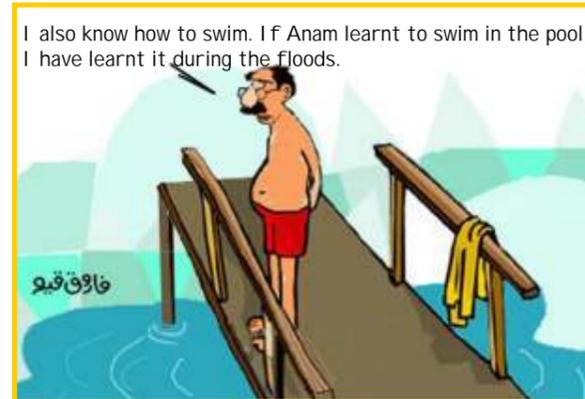
Rehan Ali

The gods buried in the great city of Olympus in Greece must be turning in their graves. Alexander's remains must have shivered once more, when news about a Pakistani swimmer taking part in the Olympics was flashed all across the world. Alexander must be desperately dying (again) to tweet about a young girl hailing from a place where he fought his last of battles. Irony I suppose, or is it history in the making? Personally I chose the latter.

It is refreshing to hear about a Pakistani taking part in and getting recognition for a sport other than cricket, squash, tennis, hockey, qabadi, snooker, desert rally etc. It was swimming in which Pakistan has made its mark recently. Apart from being known as democratically challenged, corrupt administration, extremist society, Pakistan now is also known across the world as a country, from where a young girl of fifteen years of age took part in swimming Olympics and competed with renowned swimming professionals from all over the world. So what if she lives in United Kingdom, so what if she came last in the tournament? As far as she has represented Pakistan on international forums and speaks a word or two of Urdu, she is most definitely Pakistani. At least this is the criteria for our chosen democratically elected future leader Dear Bilawal therefore she fits most perfectly.



<http://www.brecorder.com/sports/olympic-2012-london/70618-anum-bandey-breaks-national-record-at-london-olympics.html>



Now let's be serious and forget about Bilawal for a while. I am amongst the many who are overjoyed and glad that one of ours participated in Olympics at such a young age and frankly I really don't care whether she won or lost or stood last. For me what matters is that she swam in the very same waters in which the top ranking professionals swam in 2012 Olympics. In my opinion she is off to a great start and will definitely bag gold medals in future world events.

Anam Bandey started off her professional career as a swimming professional in 2011, when she participated in the 14th Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) world championship held in Shanghai, China. In Olympics 2012 she not only participated in the tournament but also set a new national record in the 400 meters individual medley by completing it in 5 minutes and 37.11 seconds.

Miss Bandey had been training in Islamabad for the past three years before Olympics and participating in FINA was a turning point from where she was selected in the Olympics 2012. She had begun her career by participating in domestic events and had to undergo intense training and exercises to make it to the Olympics. I fail to understand the fact that when our media reported Anam losing in the Olympics and highlighting that she stood last, why did they miss out on stating that despite the hard work and excruciating training she lost.



<http://blogs.thenews.com.pk/blogs/2012/07/anum-banday-%E2%80%93-honor-or-failure/>

When asked by various news reporters how did she feel when she lost, she mustered up her courage and took it bravely, and replied, "I was happy with my performance because I was able to improve and now my main target is to qualify for next Olympics".

Anam's main focus now is to participate and bag a medal or two in the next Olympics.

Finishing last does not bother her as she was there to participate and feel the adrenalin gushing. She had it in her mind that there was a slim chance of her qualifying; she is motivated and excited rather than scared about the future.

Currently Anam is in London, training and swimming at Barnet Cophall Swimming Club North West London. I wish her the very best of luck for the future. Fifteen year old Anam! You are surely on the path to great things and I as a Pakistani encourage and support you completely.

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as part of our **Free,**
Independent and Responsible
Media (FIRM) campaign

Policies for Youth

Zulfiqar Haider

Be it the supremely powerful America or the dilemma plagued African states, it is primarily the youth of a nation that forms the concrete bedrock for the achievement and prosperity of a nation. 63 per cent of Pakistan's population is under the age of 25 years. This shows that Pakistan has the potential of utilizing its youth in the development and growth of itself. Unfortunately for the last sixty five years the government has been unsuccessful in creating a youth policy whether it is education, sports etc. But despite having no concrete policy, Pakistani youth is very talented and has achieved a lot.

There are many examples of Pakistani youth achievers like Ali Raza, a twenty five year old who being the first Pakistani to receive more than hundred official certificates in designing and software development from the world's most renowned organizations like Microsoft, Adobe, Oracle and Zend. Then there is Shafay Thobani who made Pakistan proud by becoming the youngest Microsoft technology specialist at the age of eight. There is Anam Bandey the first Pakistani female swimmer to participate in the Olympics. There is Naseem Hameed who became the fastest woman in South Asia when she won a gold medal in the 100 meter event of the eleventh South Asian Games in Bangladesh in 2010.

The state of Pakistan has a duty towards its young citizens to provide them with better opportunities, so that in return when they become adults they are able to contribute to the society as well as the economy of the country. In 2009, with the efforts from the civil society organizations a national youth policy was drafted and presented, which focused on utilizing and tapping the youth of the country. However after the 18th amendment was passed, like many others youth too became a provincial subject and the national policy stood null and void. Nevertheless the struggle to draft and youth policies at provincial levels continued and as a result of which Punjab has recently presented a youth policy which focuses on

tapping the youth of the province in three broad areas a) social b) economic and c) political. The current Punjab youth festival held in Lahore (also a part of the youth policy) has also been a success as everyday records are being made every day. Jalilul Hasan assembled a full cricket kit in one minute and 8.21 seconds, 12 year old Mehek Gul took just 45 seconds to arrange the pieces on a chessboard using only one hand. Other records that have been created by the youth are forming of the world's largest human flag and thousands of people singing the national anthem, which is no doubt a great achievement.



Following are the salient features of the Punjab youth policy which the provincial government aims to achieve:

Salient features of Punjab Youth policy 2012:

- Launching of a 'Punjab Youth Volunteers Movement (PYVM)' that will start from the school level to encourage community service among youth
- Allocation of 5 percent quota to youth under the local government law to include them in decision making and increase leadership opportunities for youth in the Punjab
- Initiating National and international job market analysis
- Model Danish Schools at the divisional level

will be established

- Skills development through IT will be facilitated by providing laptops on merit to students
- Provision of stipends for technical education especially in the South Punjab
- Scholarships to high achievers will be provided
- Extra-curricular competitions among students will be promoted
- Technical education to unemployed educated youth and provision of micro-credits
- Update curriculum of Technical education and prepare a phased expansion programme of such training facilities
- Local crafts based youth enterprises for income-generation at village and urban neighbourhood level will be established and encouraged and professional assistance for marketing of such enterprise products will be provided
- Sectoral initiatives in livestock and dairy development i.e. Rehabilitation of Mustahqueeni- Zakat (eligible to receive alms money) by promotion of livestock keeping, training of unemployed youth as veterinary workers, replication of Idara-e-Kissan model, provision of milk cooling tanks and promotion of livestock under the Barani Village Development Project
- Institute a programme of certification of informally acquired skills by technicians and workers
- Arrange entrepreneurship and training programme and guide and train youth to do business, to innovate and expand business
- Encourage large organizations, companies and enterprises to provide internship opportunities equal to at least 5% of their sanctioned/approved strength of officers to young people/graduates
- Uniform basic and secondary education to

promote integration and social cohesion

- The government will reserve 15 % quota for girls in employment
- The government would establish a "Youth Helpline" for counseling of adolescents on their health and reproductive issues
- The government will initiate life-skill programmes for children and youth in schools
- Strict measures for implementing laws against forced and early marriages
- Undertake education and communication activities in reproduction rights at the school level with cultural sensitivities of the regions in view;
- Portrayal of equality of boys and girls through all public messages and curricula
- Develop and promote Punjab Internship programme through public-private partnership.
- Re-activation of Boys Scout and Girls Guides at school level and mentoring of youth on disaster management
- Researches on the regional scale and depths of youth bulge in the Punjab.
- Province-wide sports activities and festivals will be organized.
- Inter-provincial youth exchange programmes hosted by local colleges and universities.
- Building of new youth hostels and encouraging private sector for affordable hotel business
- Promote local languages, arts and music through institutions like PILAAC
- Youth exposure trips will be organized to important government institutions like the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab

¹Punjab youth Policy 2012 Accessed from:

<http://www.punjabyouthpolicy.pk/> accessed on: 5th September 2012.

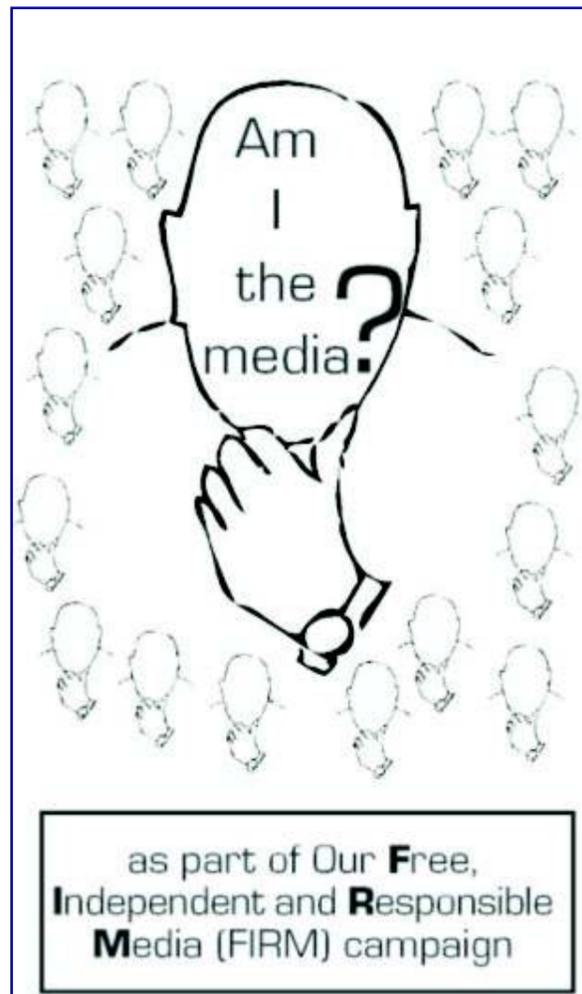
- The government will engage youth in mass campaigns and emergencies i.e. Anti-Dengue, floods, etc.

Different features of the Punjab Youth Policy which have been mentioned above i.e. fifteen percent quota in employment for girls etc will be beneficial for women as it will provide them with means to sustain themselves. Not only this, but it will also contribute towards gender equity and equality in the country. Similarly, youth exposure trips organized to institutions like the Provincial Assembly of Punjab will provide youth with the opportunity to learn more about governance, and how the parliamentary system is run and how the opposition and the government debate on issues and policies.

The government of Sind is also working on a similar policy to target youth in the province. The vision of Sind youth policy is "to create an enabling environment for the youth by providing them equitable opportunities to realize their potential in a safe, secure and conducive environment working for the developed and prosperous Pakistan being the present potential of the nation which will unfold its human resource capital with proper systems, structures and processes for youth empowerment."

Youth in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are still not fortunate enough to have a policy exclusively made for them. This lag, either due to the inefficiency of their respective governments or due to other reasons such as terrorism and conflicts, will further put the youth to risk. It is high time that the respective governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan should start working on similar policies and should offer youth with concrete solutions to their problems, so that they alternatives for better growth and development.

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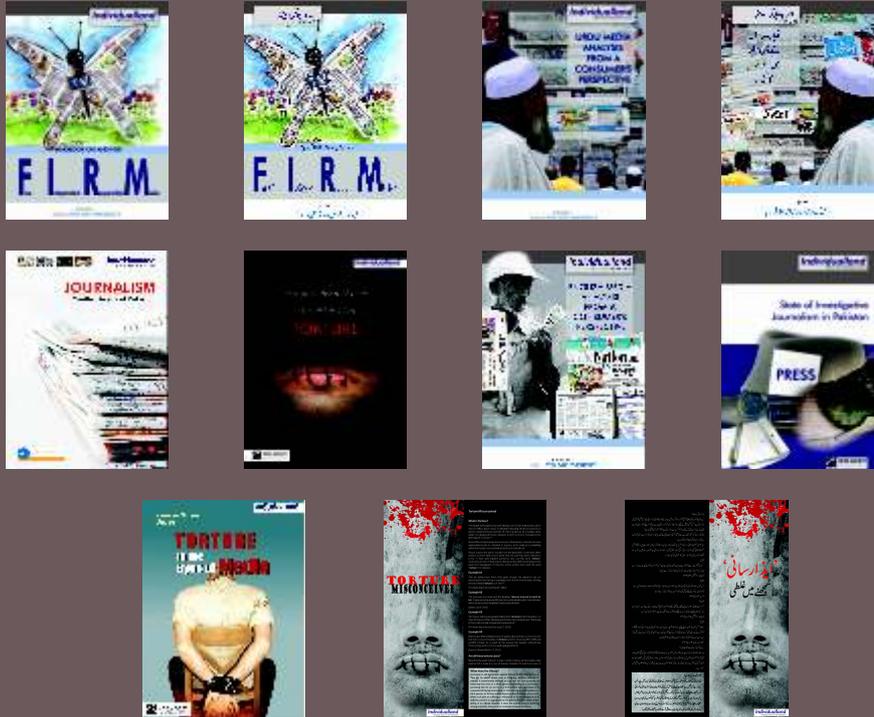
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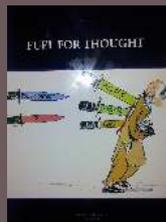
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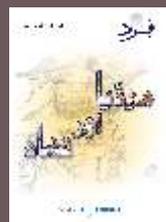
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