



# Newsletter

## JUNE 2021



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with  
**Sateah Afridi**

The Lahore Arts Council held another episode of Roshan Sitaray and invited “Ms. Sateah Afridi,” a lawyer by profession and author of the Book “We are all Sinners in the End.” Afridi said that my home environment was so good & encouraging from the start, and I have opened my eyes between the books. During the session, Afridi told moderator Sumera Khalil that being a lawyer how she managed poetry, practically I am into writing. I am the 3rd generation in my family who is writing books & poetry, and this journey dates back to my grandmother —answering a question why you chose to write in English instead of writing in the Urdu Language? Afridi said that I am the first one in my family who have started writing in English because I could not express my feelings in the Urdu language. My emotions always emerged in English. Afridi shared that as any poetic line or phrase came to my mind, I wrote them on any rough notebook because if I tried to write down later, I often forgot those prose. Further speaking, she said that I have never placed my book for critique by someone else



because if they point out any correction, it will not remain my but other's poetry. Afridi also read out her favorite poem that she has written in the loving memory of her grandmother.



with  
**Ludmila Vassilyeva**

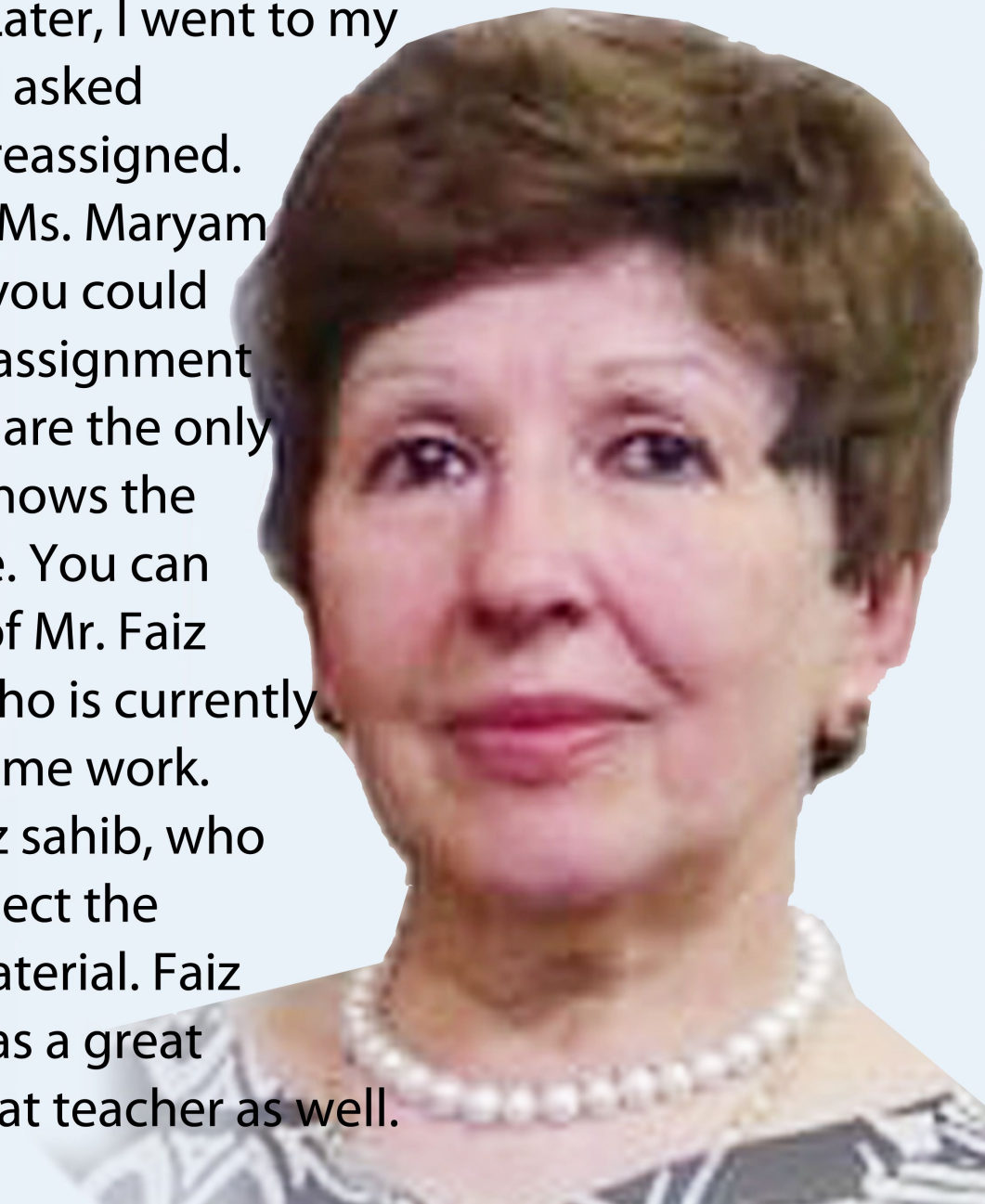


**ONLINE**

Alhamra invited a famous personality, Dr. Ludmila Vassilyeva, in the episode of “Kuch Yaadein, Kuch Baatein” Vassilyeva is currently serving as an Expert of Urdu Literature & Poetry in the Institute of Oriental Studies of Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia. While responding to how your childhood in Russia was, Dr. Vassilyeva answered that it is an entire book, or you can say there is another era. It was a different country with a variety of people, but people hearts were same as it is around the globe. She further said that the environment in which I was brought up differed in which belongingness to our culture & traditions was there. The Soviet era was different; we were considered arrogant & un-civilized and treated as good today while the whole world represented a culture. Moreover, about the journey of learning the Urdu language, she said that I wanted to learn the language of the sub-continent when I was in school because I knew it is the bridge between nations. I was in love with the Hindi Language at First and used to study various Hindi language authors. I was in the first group of 4 people who went on scholarship to ICCR to learn the Hindi language from Lucknow, India. Our teacher’s name was Shabih-ul-Hassan, and on meeting him, we asked



why the Urdu language is not here along with languages like Sanskrit, Awadhi. In response, he said; currently, I am teaching a ghazal of Mirza Ghalib & you are welcome to attend the class and learn it if you like it, and believe me, when I came out of the class, I was in love with the Urdu language. Dr. Ludmila Vassilyeva, while sharing her experience of meeting the great poet of Urdu Language, said that in 1969 Mirza Ghalib's 100th death anniversary was being observed all over the world in this regard program was being arranged in Russia as well. I was thrilled when I got the assignment of gathering two thousand poetic lines of Mirza Ghalib. Later, I couldn't dig anymore. Later, I went to my supervisor and asked her to get me reassigned. My supervisor Ms. Maryam said that only you could complete this assignment in Urdu as you are the only Russian who knows the Urdu language. You can take the help of Mr. Faiz Ahmad Faiz, who is currently in Russia for some work. Then I met Faiz sahib, who helped me collect the assignment material. Faiz Ahmed Faiz was a great poet and a great teacher as well.



Alhamra celebrated

# 70th Anniversary

OF



## PAKISTAN CHINA Friendship

In its bid to promote Art & Culture through the borders of Pakistan, the Lahore Arts Council organized an exhibition titled “Pak China Friendship through Art” to celebrate the 70th year of the establishment of Diplomatic Ties between China & Pakistan. The Show was inaugurated by the Minister for Culture & Colonies, Punjab, Khayal Ahmad Kastro, and Du Yue, Director (Political Section of the Consulate General of China). Chairperson, Board of Governors, Moneeza Hashmi, Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council, Farhat Jabeen & Director (Art & Culture), Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi was also present. Minister appreciated the efforts of the Lahore Arts Council in the promotion of diplomatic ties through the medium of Art. A cake-cutting ceremony was also organized with instrumental performances.







# 67<sup>th</sup> BOG Meeting

The 67th Meeting of the Board of Governors of Lahore Arts Council was held at Alhamra Art Gallery of Lahore Arts Council under the chairmanship of Chairperson Moneeza Hashmi. The meeting started with the recitation of the Holy Quran. The newly appointed Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council, Ms. Farhat Jabeen, was welcomed & introduced by the Chair to the Board Members. The meeting agenda items included various organizational matters that were discussed.





# Financing Agreement Between Lahore Arts Council and Giz

## رسائی

### معلومات تک رسائی - خدمات تک رسائی

The Lahore Arts Council (Alhamra) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) recently signed a Financing Agreement to support the implementation of the Punjab Information Commission's campaign titled "RASAI" on "Right to Information" and "Right to Services" in Punjab. It reaches out to over 700,000 citizens in Lahore, Sheikhpura, Khanewal, and Toba Tek Singh to raise awareness to improve service delivery. The project's overall objective is to improve citizens' knowledge and understanding through proactive and action-oriented engagement, focusing on women and youth. The GIZ is working under the German Federal Ministry for Economic Corporation and Development through the Economic Affairs Division of Pakistan. The project, titled "Support to Local Governance (LoGo II)" by GIZ, is implemented in two Pakistan regions, i.e., Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. The role of Alhamra is to

provide Technical Assistance as implementing partner of the project due to having sufficient expertise to educate the public through entertainment. The program would include 68 information seminars, street theaters, live shows, social media campaigns, radio, TV shows, and other activities.





# The Balochistan Sphinx

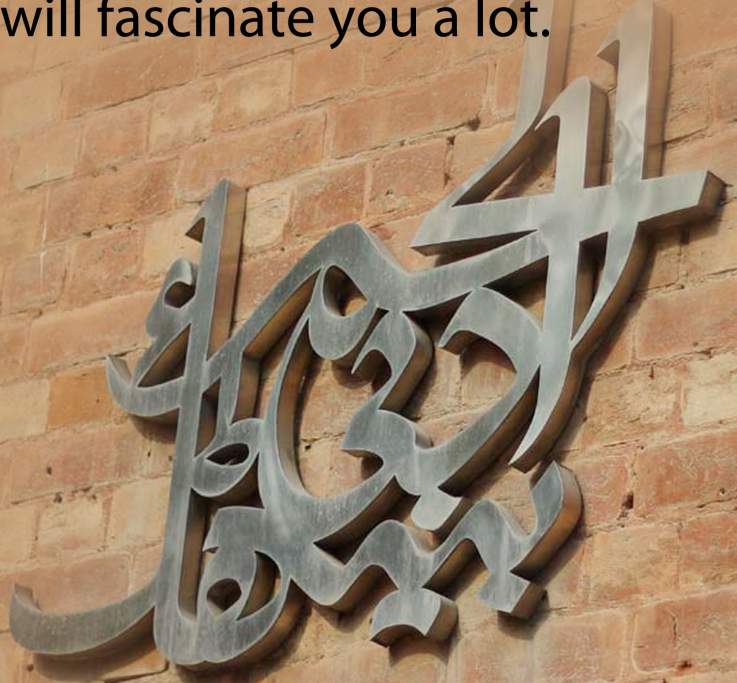
The six-day-long exhibition titled "The Balochistan Sphinx" Miniature Sculpture by famous Ayesha Arshad Shahnawaz concluded at Alhamra Museum, Gaddafi Stadium Lahore. The exhibition was inaugurated by Federal Minister for Education and Training Shafqat Mehmood. The Show continued for six days. On the 2nd day, Minister for Management and Professional Development, Malik Nauman Ahmad Langrial, 3rd-day Provincial Minister for Wildlife and Fisheries Syed Sumsam Ali Bukhari, 4th day Minister for Sports Taimoor Ahmed Khan, 5th-day Provincial Minister for Prisons Fayyaz Ul Hassan Chohan, and 6th and last Provincial Minister for culture Khayal Ahmed Kastro attended the ceremony as chief guests. Mr. JAFAR RONAS, Cultural Attaché Consulate General Islamic Republic of Iran-Lahore, was also present on occasion and admired the work done by the whole team.





# Alhamra Adabi Bethak

Alhamra Adabi Bethak is a key facility for writers, poets, scholars, intellectuals, and students to enhance their learning capacity. The idea was generated during the closure of Pak Tea House, and this Facility was formulated. Besides the sitting and interactive space, Adabi Bethak also hosted several literary gatherings of little groups throughout the year. The Board of Governors, Lahore Arts Council, expressed their special attention to this unique Facility's improvement. Moneeza Hashmi, Chairperson, Board of Governors, presented the idea to make the Bethak more attractive and according to the latest requirements. M/S Nayyar Ali Dada & Associates chalked out a comprehensive revamping plan for Adabi Bethak after the approval by a competent forum. As a result, the space will feature a reading corner, coffee shop, sitting space, outdoor smoking corner, and much more. We believe, new look of your Adabi Bethak will fascinate you a lot.





# REOPENING OUR CLASSES OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS



The Lahore Arts Council has reopened its educational institution for education and training for its students; the classes were closed in mid-March this year on the instructions of the Punjab government. Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts provides education and training in various fields of fine arts, and well-known teachers are rendering their services in Painting, Acting, Vocal, Sitar, Guitar, Harmonium, Flute, Tabla, Fiddle, Keyboard, and 12 other disciplines.







المتحف

Art Museum



# NASEEM. H. QAZI

Naseem H. Qazi (1928 - 1995) was a painter and educationist. She has studied from Punjab University and La Escuela Royal de Bellas Arts de San Fumondo, Madrid, Spain in 1945 and 1957 respectively. She was retired as a head of department from Lahore College for Women University in 1990. Initially her work is exited on the scapes of old city Lahore. Later she approached toward the figurative work and painted the common people in her surroundings in oils. Her work is in private and public collections around a country.







'Woman in Burqa'  
Oil on Board  
46 x 60 cm

'Fallen Letter'  
Oil on Board  
90 x 123 cm  
1978



'Window Still'  
Oil on Board  
90 x 60 cm



# ناول: چاند کو گل کریں تو ہم جانیں

مصنف: اُسامہ صدیق

مترجم: عاصم بخشی

مصنف کے تاثرات

”ہم ایک ایسے خطے میں رہتے ہیں جہاں مٹی کی ہر تہہ کے نیچے ایک تہذیب دفن ہے۔ اُن میں سے کچھ تو وہ ہیں جنہیں ہم نام دے چکے ہیں۔ اور شاید ان سے کہیں زیادہ وہ ہوں جن کے ہونے کی گواہی فقط تین سکے، چار اینٹیں، ایک مورتی، ایک آدھ کھلونا اور چند ہڈیاں ہیں۔ اور اُن سے بھی زیادہ وہ جن کی باقیات اتنی بھی نہیں۔ اتنی زرخیز دھرتی میں رہنے والے لکھاری کے لئے ہمیشہ صرف اپنے زمانہ و مکان میں مقید ہو کر کہانی لکھنا ناشکری سی لگتی ہے۔ یہ تو کہانی در کہانی اور کہانی اندر کہانی کا دیس ہے۔ بیتال بچپسی۔ سنگھاسن بتیسی۔ کئی راتیں بیت جاتی ہیں ایک کہانی کو لپیٹنے میں۔ الف لیلہ کی طرح۔ کئی دنیا میں آباد ہیں ان کہانیوں میں۔ طلسم ہوش ربا کی طرح۔ گزشتہ سے پیوستہ۔ آنے والے سے منسلک۔ گنجلک۔ پُر پیچ۔ زندگی کی گتھی کی طرح پیچیدہ۔ کم از کم مجھ جیسا لکھنے والا تو کہانیوں کی اس عظیم روایت کے سحر میں پوری طرح جکڑا ہوا ہے۔ اس کی بھول بھلیوں میں نہ صرف گما ہوا ہے بلکہ بخوشی روپوش ہے۔ سو جو بھی میں نے لکھا ہے اس کے پیچھے یہ تمام روایتیں اور تہذیبی عناصر کار فرما ہیں۔

میری شروع ہی سے یہ خواہش تھی کہ میرا انگریزی ناول Snuffing Out the Moon اردو میں بھی دستیاب ہو جو اس خطے کی ایک مرکزی زبان ہے جس سے متعلق یہ کہانی ہے اور جہاں یہ لکھی گئی ہے۔ اور یہ بھی کہ اس طرح یہ زیادہ سے زیادہ قارئین تک پہنچ پائے۔ میرے اپنے لوگوں تک۔“

کتاب کا تعارف

کئی ادوار پر محیط اور کئی تہذیبوں کے حالات و واقعات سے سیراب، ”چاند کو گل کریں تو ہم جانیں“ بہت سے ایسے لوگوں کی بھرپور زندگیوں کی کہانیاں بیان کرتا ہے جو مذہب اور اختیار کے نام پر تسلط پہ سوال اٹھاتے ہیں۔ اور اختلاف رائے کے حق کی ارتقا کے علمبردار ہیں۔ یہ ناول ایک نعرہ آزادی بھی ہے اور جبر کے خلاف جدوجہد کی دعوت بھی۔

۲۸۰۲ قبل از مسیح

دریائے سندھ کے کنارے موہنجودارو کے عظیم شہر میں پرکانا می ایک نوجوان پروہتوں کے تیزی سے بڑھتے ہوئے اثر و رسوخ پر سخت فکر مند ہے۔ اور اپنی محبوب ستھوئی کی بے اعتنائی پر بھی۔

۵۵۴ بعد از مسیح

لکشا سیلا کی مشہور زمانہ درس گاہ میں بدھ مترانامی بھکشو سخت آزرده ہے کہ اس کے ساتھی گوتم بدھ کے پیغامِ رحم دلی کو بھول چکے ہیں۔ اسی دوران ایک بھیا نک خطرہ تیزی سے ان کی طرف گامزن ہے



۰۲۶۱ بعد از مسیح

مغل شہنشاہ جہانگیر کے دور میں دواؤ وارہ گرد قسمت کے دھنی اس کوشش میں ہیں کہ طبقہ امرا کو دھوکہ دہی کے ذریعے لوٹیں کھسویں۔ لیکن بات بن ہی نہیں رہی۔ معاملہ تو بگڑتا ہی چلا جا رہا ہے

۷۵۸۱ بعد از مسیح

میر صاحب داستان گوانسانی فریب کاری کا قریبی مشاہدہ کرنے کا بعد اپنے ہم وطنوں کو خبردار کرنے کی مہم پہ نکلے ہیں۔ اسی دوران ہندوستان میں برطانوی راج کے خلاف جدوجہد قوت پکڑ رہی ہے

۹۰۰۲ بعد از مسیح

دور حاضر کے لاہور میں ایک غریب بیوہ رفیعہ بیگم انصاف کے حصول کی تلاش میں قانونی بھول بھلیوں اور مکاروں سے بازو سے بچتی پھر رہی ہے۔ ادھر پولیس سے مفروضہ اشتہاری بلاسنٹی اپنی حیران کن زندگی پہ نظر دوڑاتا ہے

۲۸۰۲ بعد از مسیح

ایک زیر عتاب دانشور اس تحقیق میں غرق ہے کہ وہ کیا قیامت خیز واقعات تھے جن کی بدولت دنیا اب پانی کے ذخائر پہ مسلسل جنگیں لڑ رہی ہے۔ اور انسانیت دو بالکل مختلف گروہوں میں بٹ چکی ہے

