

NEWSLETTER

March 2020



Lahore Literary Festival 2020

The eighth edition of Lahore Literary Festival was held at Lahore Arts Council. The festival featured various book launches, panel discussions, poetry, performances from across the world. The most prominent guests included 2006 Nobel Prize Winner Orhan Pamuk as guest speaker at the launch ceremony, Novel "Suncatcher" of Srilankan writer & Man Booker prize listee Romesh Gunsekera, Qawali performance at the podium of Admin Block which included some notable qawalis like "Ali Mola", "Tajdar-e-Haram" and such others gained the attention of the audience.



Celebrating First Anniversary of Operation Swift Retort

Lahore Arts Council in collaboration with Central Air Command, Pakistan Air Force organized an array of events in order to celebrate the First Anniversary of 2019 Operation "Swift Retort". The events included an Art Exhibition in which some photographs/paintings of Operation Swift Retort were on display along with a theatre performance, "Hum Sey Na Takrana" and a celebration walk. The exhibition was inaugurated by Air Vice Marshal, Tariq Zia along with Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council, Ather Ali Khan. Air Commodore, Omer Naeem and Squadron Leader, Khawaja Ahmed Faraz were also present. PAFWA Home store has also exhibited their hand made and unique home decor products during the event.



Photographic Exhibition "Iran Highlights"

Lahore Arts Council in collaboration with Khana-e-Farhang, "The Cultural Centre Islamic Republic of Iran, Lahore organized an exhibition on Iran's Culture & Tourism titled "Iran Highlights". A total of 100 photos of some 16 Pakistani Bikers visiting Iran with Fine Iranian Handicrafts, Tourism & Cultural books were on display. The exhibition was inaugurated by Consul General Iran, Muhammad Raza Nazri along with Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council, Ather Ali Khan and Principal National College of Arts Murtaza Jaffri. A calligraphy workshop was also conducted that day at Alhamra Art Gallery. Speaking on the occasion, Raza Nazri said the Lahore Arts Council has been playing an important role in the promotion of art and culture of Pakistan & other foreign allies.



Tribute to Indu Mitha on 90th Birthday

Lahore Arts Council paid a rich tribute to the legendary Guru Indu Mitha on the eve of her 90th Birth Anniversary. Internationally acclaimed dancers from USA and Pakistan including Tehreema Mitha, Amna Mawaz, Iftikhar Masih, Maheyyar Mitha Barron performed at the event. The event was attended by a large segment of students of Mrs.Mitha.



Tree Plantation Campaign

Honoring Prime Minister's clean and green Pakistan drive, Lahore Arts Council inaugurated a tree plantation campaign under Prime Minister's tree plantation programme. Provincial Minister for Information and Colonies, Punjab, Fayaz-ul-Hassan along with Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council, Mr. Ather Ali Khan planted saplings at Alhamra Burney garden.



Baloch Cultural Day 2020

Lahore Arts Council, Lahore in collaboration with Punjab Council of the Arts organized Baloch Cultural Day 2020 in which various guests from across the Pakistan including Chief Minister of Punjab, Ms. Usman Ahmad Khan Buzdar along with Secretary (Information & Culture) graced the event. The event was divided into various segments which included; Dance Performances, Musical Performances by the students of Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts, Talvar Dance “NurSur”, Photographic Exhibition & a Book Stall. The photographic exhibition featured different photographs depicting Baloch Culture all over the world and this was inaugurated by the chief guest of the event, Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr. Usman Ahmad Khan Buzdar, who while speaking on the occasion said that Lahore Arts Council has been playing an important role in the promotion of cultures of different regions of Pakistan as well as of other countries.



Women Festival 2020

Lahore Arts Council, Lahore in collaboration with Black Box Sounds organized first a Women Festival 2020 that was based on the slogan of “Woman: Ambassador of Peace” that gathered the brought many professional women in the panel discussions. The festival had talks and discussions on various topics related to women such as politics/media/promoting religious harmony/sports etc. A photographic exhibition featuring the journey of the women of Pakistan was on display in the gallery. A food court and other stalls were set up in Burney Gardens which attracted many visitors. An open mic singing facility for students of different colleges & universities brought new talent to Alhamra.. Begum Parveen Sarwar, First Lady of Punjab, was the chief guest at the inaugural event. While speaking on the occasion she said that “Islam gives a lot of respect to women. Further speaking on the occasion, she said that women have to perform a lot of multi –tasking and no society is complete without them. Dr.Arfa Syeda delivered the Key note address and highlighted the need for women to be recognized as Ambassadors of Peace. The closing sessions was addressed by Begum Samina Alvi, First Lady of Pakistan who appreciated the efforts of holding this first Women Festival and also spoke about the contributions women make to the economy and development of any country.



Tribute to Ms. Farida Khanum

Lahore Arts Council organized a musical evening "Aik Shaam" for paying tribute to renowned singer Ms. Farida Khanum. Two renowned music performers Hadiqa Kiani & Ali Sethi were part of the event. The event was attended by Provincial Minister for Irrigation Punjab, Mohammad Mohsin Leghari, Former Governor Punjab Lieutenant General (Retd) Khalid Maqbool US Consul General, Lahore, Catherine Rodriguez, Chairperson Lahore Arts Council, Ms. Moneeza Hashmi and Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council, Lahore, Mr. Ather Ali Khan. The hall was completely full with highly appreciative audience.



Condolence Reference of Amanullah Khan

Lahore Arts Council, Lahore organized a condolence reference to pay rich tribute to renowned actor/comedian, Amanullah Khan at Alhamra Hall II of Lahore Arts Council, Lahore. Provincial Minister for Information and Colonies, Punjab, Fayaz-ul-Hassan Chohan, Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council, Ather Ali Khan, Pakistani Comedian/ TV Actor, Sohail Ahmed and a large number of writers, TV artists, poets and representatives from different walks of life attending the reference who praised the legendary comedian for his many services to the comedy industry for more than 40 years.



Seminar on Corona Virus

Lahore Arts Council, Lahore organized an awareness seminar on Corona virus (COVID-19) in the Alhamra Adabi Baithak. Member Punjab Assembly/Media Advisor, Information Department Punjab, Musarrat Jamshed Cheema was the chief guest of the event who gave a short lecture on early symptoms, precautionary measures and the treatment of the Virus. Executive Director Lahore Arts Council, Ather Ali Khan while speaking on the occasion said that the Corona Virus has been spreading around the world with a fast speed, hence, awareness of the said virus to the public is necessary for safety.



MOU Signing b/w UE & LAC

Lahore Arts Council has taken the initiative already to ensure maximum involvement of youth in the promotion of art & culture and has signed MOUs with various Universities. The latest to be signed was with University of Education, Lahore at a graceful ceremony organized by University of Education. While speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, University of Education, Lahore, Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha (Sitara-e-Imtiaz) said the main purpose of this MOU is to build cultural ties that will promote a positive and a softer image of Pakistan. Officers of Lahore Arts Council along with Executive Director, Lahore Arts Council & Chairperson, Board of Governors, Ms. Moneeza Hashmi participated in the MOU signing ceremony. Honorary shields were presented at the end of ceremony by VC UE.



Alhamra Live

Lahore Arts Council’s tradition of promoting emerging talent could be seen at the second session of Alhamra Live at the Cultural Complex, Qaddafi Stadium, in which a large number of people with a variety of singing talent participated and entertained the audience with their melodious voices. The series of “Alhamra Live” is a great platform for emerging voices of Pakistan.



Instrumental Fusion

Lahore Arts Council, Lahore organized an instrumental music concert titled "Instrumental Fusion". The instrumental fusion featured renowned musicians Zayn Mohammad (Guitarist), Ustad Shehbaz Hussain (Tabla player) and Baqir Abbas (flute player).



Kuch Yaadein, Kuch Baatein

The sixth session of monthly series of talks on literature & culture “Kuch Yaadein, Kuch Baatein” was held in hall 3 of Lahore Arts Council. Simi Raheel was the guest speaker of these dialogues, who while speaking on the occasion shared her acting journey and some memorable incidents with the audience. Speaking on the occasion, she added that young actors currently working in the field of acting are very capable. She also said she had performed only gender positive roles throughout her entire acting career. Furthermore, she appreciated the initiative taken by Lahore Arts Council for the promotion of art & artists through the conduct of such sittings and events.

