

## Sustainable Tourism through Hostelling – Celebrate 2017 with us!



We celebrate the UN Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development...because it's our mission (since 1932)! The UN has declared 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. We were not going to miss the opportunity to show the world how youth hostelling drives sustainable tourism to foster development globally, this year and beyond.

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, open your mind, consume in a different way, forget about borders when making friends, and this is what we want to foster.

The #IY2017 will promote tourism's role in the following five key areas, which we support:

1. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
2. Social inclusiveness, employment and poverty reduction
3. Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change.
4. Cultural values, diversity and heritage.
5. Mutual understanding, peace and security.

What will we be doing? We will for sure keep ourselves busy, in the hopes of embarking with you on a journey of sustainable travels. To communicate all we are

doing and how you can take part in this fantastic year of celebrations, we defined the 10 areas of sustainable hostelling: There are amazing things happening in our hostels every day and we are taking the opportunity of 2017 to give them visibility, but also to improve, share about and replicate them where possible, for an effect beyond the



year. To find out more about the 10 Areas and projects going on at the HI Hostels, check out our blog posts for each month: February: Consuming Sustainably – Equipment, food & beverage  
March: Our Nature – Managing waste & water  
April: Our Hostels – Achieving carbon neutrality  
May: Mobility – Inclusive travel

& stay  
June: Our People – Caring for staff & volunteers.  
July: Our Communities – Giving back & building bridges  
August: Our Friends – Engaging guests  
September: Financial Sustainability – Creating fair profit & network development  
October: Protecting Destinations – Culture & biodiversity  
November: Continuous Impro-

vement – Sustainable Management System. Being an affiliate member of the UNWTO, HI will also attend some of the UN official events in relation with the year, to take part in important discussions and give travellers a voice in the debate and change: Launch of the year at FITUR, 18 Jan 2017  
World Tourism Day celebra-

tions in Qatar, 27 Sept. 2017  
UNWTO General Assembly in China, Sept. 2017  
Closing ceremony in Geneva, Dec. 2017

**How can you get involved?**  
We will celebrate through a 10-month programme showcasing projects and practices in our hostels. From February to November 2017, we will address one area per month through a programme of events, best practices and network initiatives. Visit our social media pages as well as the ones from your favourite National Association to see which project they decided to put forward for you to get involved in.

When travelling in our hostels, check out for the sustainability features, ask the reception staff for sustainability activities, get in



July, 2017

Newsletter

# Voice of Youth

Pakistan Youth Hostels Association

## PYHA celebrates International Sports Day Youth should have perennial love for sports, says Ambassador Humayun

Pakistan Youth Hostels Association (PYHA) has been proactively creating awareness International Day for Sports such awareness activity was organized at the PYHA Islamabad tournament among various categories (kids, girls, boys, special children and university



A group photo of the participants of a ceremony related to International Sports Day organized by the PYHA at the PYHA Islamabad chapter on April 6, 2017. Secretary PYHA Ambassador (R) Qazi Humayun, Alpine Club's Vice President Saad Tariq Siddiqui, President of Rowing Federation Rizwan Ul Haq and QAU's Director Sports Malik Safdar Ali along with winners of a badminton tournament held on the occasion can be seen in the picture.

among the young generation for adventurism and sports in their lives. On April 6, 2017 which also happens to be

office. This was the first ever ceremony related to International Sports Day in Pakistan. A badminton

students) was organized in which a large number of students from Beaconhouse School System, Quaid-e-Azam



University, IMCB G-10/4 and other educational institutions of the city participated. Meeting the renowned sports figures was another highlight of the event. Addressing seminar titled "International Day of Sport for Peace and Development" the sporting figures and former players called upon the youth to actively participate in sporting activities and learn the qualities of struggle, steadfastness, unity and teamwork. They were unanimous in their view that only those nations are considered strong and progressing, which keep their

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**Book your summer holidays**  
Bhurban, Khanaspur, Naran and Gilgit



**Where will your holidays take you?**

You must compare the rate and settle less. PYHA offers you perfect accommodation, great transport and affordable deals. Of our three hostels in hilly areas namely, Bhurban (Murree),



## Col (R) Bhatti becomes 4th Pakistani, first ex-army officer to climb Mount Everest

Pakistan Army's retired colonel Abdul Jabbar Bhatti, has become the fourth Pakistani climber and the first ex-army man to scale the world's highest mountain peak the Mount Everest successfully. Col (R) Jabbar achieved the milestone on May 21, 2017 after an expedition of 90 days. The other three Pakistani adventurers who have scaled the Mount Everest before the ex-army officer, belong to Gilgit-Baltistan region. They are: Nazir Sabir, Hassan Sadpara and Samina Baig. Nazir Sabir climbed Mount Everest in 2000, becoming the first in the line. Hassan Sadpara was the second mountaineer who scaled the world's highest peak in 2011. He passed away in 2016. Samina Baig is the third in the list and the first Pakistani woman climber to have scaled the mountain peak in 2013. Abdul Jabbar is an accomplished mountaineer and a past recipient of the President's Pride of Per-

formance award and the Tamgha-i-Basalat (Medal of Good Conduct) by the government of Pakistan. He, earlier, climbed several highest mountains in Pakistan including Broad Peak (8,051 metres high) in 1985; Gasherbrum 2 (8,035m) in 1986 and Spantik



Peak (7,027m) in 2012. Mount Everest, the 8,848 metres (29,030 feet high) mountain is the world's highest mountain peak in Nepal. Three climbers have so far died on the Everest while one went missing. Another legendary Swiss climber, Ueli Steck died in late April while on an acclimatiza-

tion climb, and 85-year-old Min Bahadur Sherchan also perished attempting to reclaim his title as the world's oldest person to summit Everest. According to Abdul Jabbar Bhatti, he had the idea in mind for years and wanted to achieve the milestone, but

due to a number of reasons it could not materialize and was delayed on one count or the other. However, "last year the idea just got stuck in my mind and I decided to go for it. Hence, I started preparation and finally after one year preparation, it was realized with the support of my family and friends and of course the Pak Army," he said.

### Book your summer holidays

Khanaspur and Naran, Bhurban being adjacent to the Hotel Pearl Continental is the most sought after.

The hostel provides lodges for single as well as married couples and families. Stay at the 'Touch the Mountain Lodge' and talk to a mountain. It will be a unique holiday experience.

Likewise, PYHA Naran's youth hostel is also unique since it is situated at an ideal location, on a hilltop. Mountain climbers and hill walkers, hiking lovers will explore memorable experiences of life by staying at this hostel.

Khanaspur Hostel too provides an opportunity to go back to Nature's comfort. Since these hostels are crowded in the summer season, it has been decided to open their bookings on the principle of "First come first get." A tour package is also offered for mountain lovers.

Note: Interested mountain lovers may contact GM PYHA, head office Islamabad.

## Guliafshan Tariq breaks the record of cycling to the highest border

There is no dearth of talent in Pakistan. Women along with men are making their mark in almost every field of life. Guliafshan Tariq is one such proud Pakistani who has made the world record by cycling over 4693 meters, and covering 1000km in 9 days, Khunjerab (Pak-China Border) on a bicycle. The fact that she is suffering from a knee ligament injury and could not walk normally and was left by all due to this handicap, makes her achievement all the more unique and singular. She is a trained fighter and a member of Pakistan's National Youth Assembly as well. Guliafshan is a brand ambassador of 'Ladies of Pakistan'

and Tedx Speaker 2016. Her mission is to promote a positive message 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. She continues to say: "There was a time when my own family

me, because I couldn't walk due to a ligament injury in my knee. I would go to the classroom alone with crutches in my hands, 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." Her passion and determination fuelled her to set out to achieve most of the things she set her mind to, the top on the list being able to provide for her mom and siblings. She got a job shortly before she completed her engineering degree in one of the top multinational companies in the country.

members, my classmates, and my friends left

☆☆☆

## Wonderful man of Hunza, owner of Café De Hunza passes away

Messages of condolence take rounds of social media. For many tourists and visitors, local and foreign both, visit to the scenic paradise of Hunza valley is incomplete without making a brief stopover at the



quaint Café De Hunza and taking a sip of hot fuming tea or coffee there. The place is popular with the tourists, local and foreign and the owner of the café Shafqat Ali who has died recently was considered a friend and family member to all visiting the valley.

Shafqat Ali had set up the café in 1998 – 1999 and one could see posts on social media regarding fond memories of the café and the café owner. The social media users—

tourists and the visitors who had a chance to visit Café De Hunza are deeply saddened to hear about his passing away early in June 2017. He will always be remembered as a polite and helpful gentle-

man who shared some interesting stories about Hunza, himself and of course the famous Walnut Cake. Shafqat Ali's original recipe for his famous walnut cake was derived from the Swiss menu and he added it on the menu in 2002.

He had also introduced international coffee brands to the region, bringing in the regular coffee by Lavazza in 1999 and later Nespresso in 2007.

Other items on the menu included pancakes, brownies,

sandwiches, dry fruit, and honey. He used to mention that a Japanese lady who passed away last year had spent some time in the valley and trained some of the women to make apricot kernel soap, pure apricot oil and also extracted various types of honey which were packaged under the café de Hunza brand. These products could be ordered online and delivered across Pakistan via courier.

All those who visited the Café, remember the owner fondly. His first clients were the students of LUMS followed by NCA and more recently an increasing number of visitors from Karachi. Here are some tweets of condolence remembering and condoling the death of the wonderful man of Hunza:

**Talia@taliimirza** #Cafe-DeHunza #shafqatali passed away, truly sad. 1 of those spectacularly ordinary men

who r extraordinary b/c of it. God bless him

**#CafeDeHunza** #shafqat ali passed away, truly sad. 1 of those spectacularly ordinary men who r extraordinary b/c of it. God bless him.

**Sherzaman Gulzaman @Sherzaman88** Shafqat Ali, owner of # Café DeHunza & member of AKYSB Cycling club passed away due to cardiac arrest. He was a very kind, caring & humble person **@Titaaniumm** So sad to hear about the demise of ever famous Shafqat sb, owner of #CafeDeHunza! Met him last month! Such a learned person he was! #RIP!

**All Things Hunza @hunza\_co** Mr. Shafqat Ali, the man behind #CafeDeHunza and co-creator of the famous #HunzaWalnutCake, has passed away due to a cardiac arrest.

**Nawaz Bajwa @ Nawaz Bajwa** One of the most genuine human beings I met in Hunza last year. Shafqat, Owner of Cafe De Hamza! Rest in Peace #Hunza #Shafqat #Café De Hunza

### PYHA Celebrates.....

parks and playgrounds full and hospitals deserted.

Secretary PYHA and former Ambassador Qazi Humayun



National Secretary PYHA is giving away the winner's trophy to Iqra Nawab

while welcoming the guests highlighted the importance of sports in one's life. We've been hearing since childhood that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," said the. Ambassador Humayun

was of the view that a sportsman or a sportswoman can better learn meanings of qualities like 'teamwork', 'struggle' and 'tenacity' in life. It may be one or the other sport or healthy activity, its advantages are far reaching, he said and played their role in nation building.

Alpine Club's senior official Mr Saad Tariq Siddiqui highlighted the importance of the sports by giving his own example. Though in his eighties, yet he was actively participating in various sports activities. Saad Tariq informed the audience that Alpine Club has set up a climbing wall in the Jinnah Sports Complex for youths and in a couple of days it will be open for general public. He also gave a very moving account of the positive effect sports had on his life and that of his collea-



Abdullah Rizwan receiving his winning Trophy from National Secretary PYHA

gues. He told that since 1966 he was engaged in mountaineering and this was his lifelong romance. Rizwan Ul Haq, President Pakistan Rowing Federation was of the view that most of Pakistan's ills would end automatically on the day when we brought our youth to playgrounds and sports activities. Our nation is gifted with immense potential and unique talent and we

only need to exploit it through sports and healthy activities, he said. Director Sports of the Quaid-e-Azam University, Safdar Ali complimented Mr Qazi Humayun for giving a thought to such an important international day. PYHA has recently been arranging such youth-oriented activities, which is a matter of great pride, he said. He said it is a well known fact that a good player proves to be a good student. He called for sports passion in all the youths of Pakistan so that the country could make progress with a positive mind. Later, prizes were distributed among the participants of a badminton tournament held earlier in the day. Among the recipients of the prizes includes Abdullah Rizwan, Aown Muhammad, Iqra Nawab, Abdullah, Katreen, Sameer, Umar and Mikael.