

SPECTRUM

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A Look Into The Life Of Emily Dickinson

"To travel far, there is no better ship than a book."

Few names in the enormous field of literature are as prominent as Emily Dickinson. Dickinson, well-known for her mysterious poetry and solitary way of life, made a lasting impression on the literary community.

Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, on December 10, 1830. Her life was as fascinating as her poetry. She was raised in a well-known and educated family and was exposed to books and ideas at a young age. But even with all the intellectual treasure around her, Dickinson's life began to feel quite solitary, and as the years passed, she grew more and more withdrawn.

Dickinson's decision to leave the busy world behind did not stifle her imagination; on the contrary, it encouraged her poetic investigation. One of her more notable lines: "That it will never come again is what makes life so sweet," gives us an idea of how she viewed life and its complexities. Her poetry, distinguished by its profound depth and conciseness, frequently explores topics of love, death, nature, and the human mind. Just a small number of the almost 1,800 poems she penned were published during her lifetime, and those were published behind pseudonyms.



Dickinson's poetry is primarily an investigation of the human condition. Her poetry captures the intricacies of life and emotion like tiny yet potent pearls. Consider her well-known poem "Because I could not stop for Death," in which the speaker is tenderly guided towards the hereafter by a carriage driver, personifying death. This exquisitely melancholic examination of mortality exemplifies Dickinson's singular capacity to elegantly and simply communicate difficult concepts. "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul – and sings the tunes without the words – and never stops at all," is a line from another one of her famous works, "Hope is the thing with feathers," capturing her nuanced exploration of hope.

While some of her peers have regarded Dickinson's writing as unusual, her poetry has subsequently grown to be a mainstay of American literature. She has an award named after her that is given once a year to a member of the Poetry Society of America. Her impact resonates with readers of all ages and transcends the boundaries of her own era. Her timeless and topical remarks never cease to enthrall and inspire.

Beyond her literary accomplishments, little is known about Emily Dickinson's life. Numerous theories regarding her motivations for withdrawing from society have been generated by her decision. Some people think she chose seclusion so she could concentrate on her art..

The letters and poetry Emily Dickinson left behind are among the most fascinating parts of her legacy. Emily Dickinson's enigmatic language and metaphors in her correspondence add still more depth to her mystery. Academics and hobbyists alike keep deciphering the mysteries concealed in her words, enhancing the attraction of her character.

Coming Up

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Interview With Muhammad Nausherwan Pattal

Head Boy Aitchison College

1. Please introduce yourself.

Assalam-u-Alaikum. It is my pleasure to be interviewed for this revered college publication. I am Muhammad Nausherwan Pattal, the current Head Boy of Aitchison College. I belong to the region of South Punjab, with familial roots in the small town of Kot Addu - a 30 minutes drive from the major city of Multan. My primary education has been a mixture of flavours. I initially studied at my local village school for a couple of years and then moved out of the country with my family and stayed in Dubai for 5 years. At the age of 12, I took the pivotal step of becoming an international boarder at Aitchison College. This marked the beginning of a new chapter for me, where I embraced the culture of the institution and its commitment to holistic education. I believe that this vast variety of experiences and interactions has allowed me to explore new passions and interests and grow as a person.

2. People often say boarding is like a family, is this true and if so, to what extent.

As boarders, we often refer to our residential houses as a home away from home. Most attending students travel hundreds of miles from across Pakistan, all leaving behind their own families to come to Aitchison College, only to discover that a new family awaits them. I personally went through a similar transition phase when I initially entered boarding. Coming in as a young international boarder in M1, the walk of life I was accustomed to was very different to what I had to adjust to at Aitchison. The most obvious change was the shift of scenery, as all of the skyscrapers of Dubai seemed to have been flattened down as I landed in Lahore. As I entered this magnificent 200-acre campus with my family, I was left speechless - a high school community in the heart of Lahore, nestled between century old trees and massive sports grounds, Aitchison was everything a young boy like me could wish for.

I can still recall my first day at the Prep School boarding house, Saigol. Setting up my cupboard with my family to bidding them farewell, I felt my initial excitement changed to anxiety as I was left all alone among a community of strangers to manage everything for myself. Gradually, as I opened up to my peers, I realised that every one of them was extremely supportive and compassionate, with many of them being eager to show me around the campus. I even discovered my passion for track and field while casually running the cross country track with my friends. The boarding staff such as our housemaster, who went to sleep after seeing us off to our dorms and woke us up before breakfast, helped fill in the void that we faced in the absence of our parents.

The transition from Prep School to senior boarding was another great experience. Competing in the inter-house matches and cheering for my housemates gave me a sense of belonging as I became a part of a strong brotherhood. Wearing the sky blue and white shirt of Godley while stepping into the sports field allowed me to play for more than just myself. Just like a family, each of us contributed to the one common goal of improving our boarding community. I have gone from sharing a room with a native of the beautiful Chitral region (and finding joy in

familiarising myself with his native tongue Khowar), to hearing the tales of a senior who had been forced to abandon his home in North-Waziristan due to terrorism and the subsequent military operations by the Pakistan army. Living among such a resilient group of boys, all of whom brought with themselves stories of their unique cultures and traditions, I have learned to craft a family out of complete strangers.

3. Throughout your time in Aitchison, who have you looked up to as role models?

Since my Aitchison experience has been very diverse and consisted of countless interactions, I have come to learn from many individuals during my time in the college. From the start of my boarding journey, I have been under the guidance of three different housemasters, all of whom have supported and helped me immensely. I have seen them working selflessly day and night to ensure that all of the boys were growing not only as students, but also as young adults who understood their responsibilities and could uphold the traditional Aitchisonian values. From the extra rounds by Sir Sajid in the night to usher all of my batchmates into beds, the morning runs with Sir Ahmed Ozaif and racing each other on the cross-country route to the long but very touching moral lessons learned in Sir Zubair's office, all of us were able to find individuals that filled in the space of our parents and went out of their way to help us thrive. I will forever be indebted to my housemasters and look up to them as my role models, who were able to perfectly execute the role of being a guiding light for young boys. Were it not for them, I could never have been the person I am today.

4. Would you define yourself as a reader and if so, what genre do you typically read?

I have a keen interest in mythology, so I believe my tastes will fall under the "Mythic Fiction Genre". For example, in Stephen Fry's "Troy", the mythic Trojan War comes to life through a narrative that fuses history with drama. The legendary figures, such as Achilles, stand as complex characters wrestling with their destinies. Achilles, a formidable leader, embodies both strength and vulnerability. His internal conflicts, particularly his struggle with pride and mortality, add layers to his character.

The Mythic Fiction genre, as portrayed in "Troy," transcends mere storytelling; it becomes a reflection on the enduring aspects of the human condition - for me - immortalised through the lens of mythology. Fry's interpretation breathes new life into the ancient story, making it a captivating journey for readers drawn to the intersection of history and myth.

5. This is your last year in Aitchison - what have been some of your fondest memories?

Honestly, I don't know where to start. Whether it was the bus ride to Ghorra Gali for an unexpected experience that is now embedded in my heart or running in the ACOBA field before Fajr prayers, all my memories are incomplete without my peers who have always

accompanied me.

The echo of "Shaba Godley!" is more than a cheer; it's a testament to the bonds forged at Aitchison. As this chapter closes, carry these moments forward. Cherish the friendships, the challenges, and the spirit of Aitchison that now resides within you. The journey doesn't end here; it transforms into a reservoir of stories and connections shaping your future. So, embrace the memories, for they are the threads weaving your Aitchison narrative.

6. Aitchison emphasises the importance of sports, why do you think it's an integral part of the Aitchison experience?

The College is spread well over 200 acres, and the majority of the land is used for sports. Zoom out, in Pakistan, how many first-class sports facilities do the schools offer? That's just a comparative analysis I'm making for you to acknowledge the facilities you have - utilize

Interview With Ahmed Mujtaba Yassar

Deputy Head Boy Aitchison College

1. Give us a brief introduction about yourself.

I am Ahmed Mujtaba Yassar and I was born in the humble town of Langrial - Gujrat. My journey at Aitchison began at the age of six as I stepped into K2.

2. For some of us, there are authors whose works challenge, inspire and completely change us. Has there been any such influence on your life?

In my case, exposure to philosophical and religious excerpts has given me the realization that our understanding of history often stems from the narratives passed down. The picture of Socrates in our minds, for example, is painted by Plato's Dialogue. Similarly, Bertrand Russel fuels my curiosity, Rudyard Kipling's 'If' inspires me and Keith Kahn Harris's book 'Judaism: All that matters' provides insight into the politicisation of religions. These books underscore a crucial insight and I often feel as Rumi once said, "The closer I get, the more I realise how far away I am."

3. You are an individual with a lot of varying posts, how do you manage your time between all of your endeavours or projects?

Managing time becomes much easier when you have a clear sense of direction. Prioritisation is my compass in this scenario. When you know what matters most to you, the rest falls in place. Especially in Aitchison, participation in diverse societies and sports facilities demands effective time management. Throughout my time in Aitchison, I have actively embraced various avenues, be it the Entrepreneurial Society or track and field. Guided by determination and rationale, I've strategically allocated time to each pursuit. While perspectives may vary, I firmly believe that a jack of all trades may be a master of none, but oftentimes is better than a master of one.

4. Throughout your time in Aitchison, what has motivated you to achieve what you have accomplished?

To remain in a constant pursuit of betterment. I acknowledge that as human beings we are not infallible but we do have the capability to improve - everyday. Through the simple act of setting objectives, I discovered stepping stones that directed me towards whatever little I have achieved today.

them. One of the reasons why I have been able to declare myself as an all-rounder is because of sports and the discipline it instilled in me. My confidence stems from it. My Aitchison experience would never have been complete without Athletics for it made me question myself, "Why am I running?" Or more importantly, what am I running towards? I'm still searching for answers.

7. Do you have any advice for the readers?

Persevere. When you set your mind to achieve something, do not halt in the process of getting it. When faced with challenges or ambitious goals, keep moving forward. The journey may have hurdles, but each step builds resilience and character. Strive for excellence not just in academics, but also in cultivating holistic growth. Remember, setbacks are stepping stones to success. Your determination today paves the way for a promising tomorrow.

Secondly, a crucial facet of this journey includes acknowledging the privilege I've been fortunate to have - and for which I am sincerely grateful for. I realised how much more I can do. Studying in an institution where only a select few are granted the opportunity to study has instilled in me a profound motivation to strive for improvement. This awareness amplifies the realisation that there's always more I can contribute and achieve.

5. In your opinion, what qualities define and make an 'Aitchisonian'?

Give respect. You're all well aware of how respect is a two-way street. Reiterating this quality should signify its importance. Respect everyone - more importantly, respect your teachers. They have moulded us into the person we are today - whatever we achieve is dedicated to them. Respect those who, at a glance, wouldn't seem to have anything to teach you - not textbook knowledge at least. Some of the people who have had the greatest impact in my life include the College Bus Driver, Azeem bhai; the PT Coach, Javed Sahab and the Guard, Kamran Sahab. It's surprising how greatly the most unexpected people and interactions can influence you. By respecting all, you ensure that their share of knowledge contributes to your growth.

6. Is there any piece of advice you would like to share with our readers?

As Aitchisonians, it's essential to acknowledge the privilege we have. Among the three thousand students of Pakistan who are getting the best high-school experience in South Asia, we carry the label of 'natural leaders'. However, true leadership involves having the heart of a leader. It's not about always seeking the spotlight but about empowering others. Once you've climbed the ladder to your goals, pass it on to someone else. Secondly, teach. Lack of education is the root of many problems in our country. Aspire to peek out of the 'Aitchisonian bubble' and contribute to the society as a whole. Teach, even if it's only one student at a time. The feeling of self-fulfilment will justify the hours you put in. Lastly, regardless of what you achieve and when you temporarily fail, whether in Aitchison or beyond the confines of these walls, keep moving forward. Time never stops so keep going. As Faiz Ahmed Faiz says, "Chale Chalo ke wo manzil abhi nahi aai."

Aitchison College Language And Literary Festival

Aitchison College held the second edition of its Literary and Languages Festival. The Festival encompassed attributes from Urdu, French, German, and English. From guessing book covers, participating in fun riddles, and having some fun while playing badminton, the event had it all. From the opening to the closing ceremony, the enthusiasm of delegates cheered on despite some almost having lost it due to the long travel distances. However, a refreshing drink from our vendors proved useful in dismissing that dilemma.

Although the event itself was only for a day, its memories would last for years. Hosting schools beyond the city boundaries, the event sent a shockwave through the literature realm, serving as a competitive gathering for reading enthusiasts or literature fanatics to test themselves against one another. Through healthy debates, discussions over crosswords, and speeding to analyze and predict the book titles, the event tested each and every skill of the delegates.



Fret not, the languages wing did not get any easier. From having a talent show where students expressed their multitude of abilities to filming a video and being challenged against a certain faculty member while playing badminton, the German and French Teams did not have it easy. Ding! Or shall we say Dingue! Was the noise we could hear as players rushed to guess the correct answer in the quiz category.

Nazms, Ghazals & Interpretive Reading. All categories carried immense weightage in the Urdu wing. Students showcasing their eloquence and rhythmic recitation style put the judges as well as the audience in awe. Through the use of humorous techniques, the reading category was quite an enjoyable sight. With chuckles and giggles scattering throughout the pack of spectators, the Bazm-e-Tasmeel society really outdid itself, providing delegates with an engaging and entertaining experience.

Overall, the event transcended the bounds of literature, knowledge, and creative abilities. Teachers and students alike shared their knowledge as well as experience, leading to a plethora of ideas being shared. It is safe to consider Aitchison College Literary and Language Festival a huge success.

Aitchison College Science and Engineering Concept

Aitchison College Science Society held its ACSEC (Aitchison College Science and Engineering Concept), a three-day science competition that surpassed all expectations, drawing in hundreds of enthusiastic delegates. The event, held from October 26th to 28th, showcased a diverse range of activities catering to various scientific interests.



The competition featured engaging categories, including Fandom quizzes that tested participants' knowledge of popular science fiction and fantasy. Frog dissections provided a hands-on experience, while charades injected an element of fun into scientific concepts. The challenging escape room and riveting trivia competitions kept the participants on their toes, fostering teamwork and quick thinking.

One standout aspect of the competition was the inclusion of unique study review sessions, allowing participants to share their insights and learning methods. This not only encouraged collaborative learning but also highlighted the importance of diverse study approaches.

The atmosphere throughout the event was electric, with students showcasing their passion for science in creative and unexpected ways. The organizers ensured seamless execution, from well-prepared materials for dissections to intricately designed escape room challenges.

In conclusion, ACSEC was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on participants and spectators alike. The event not only celebrated the spirit of scientific inquiry but also promoted camaraderie and shared learning experiences. The event transcended the field of science and engineering, encompassing a wider range of aspects as well as touching on areas of general knowledge and other distributions of Science.

poem of the
month

A Bird, came down the Walk -
He did not know I saw -
He bit an Angle Worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw,

And then, he drank a Dew
From a convenient Grass -
And then hopped sidewise to the Wall
To let a Beetle pass -

He glanced with rapid eyes,
That hurried all abroad -
They looked like frightened Beads, I thought,
He stirred his Velvet Head. -

Like one in danger, Cautious,
I offered him a Crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers,
And rowed him softer Home -

Than Oars divide the Ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon,
Leap, plashless as they swim.

A Bird, came down the Walk
Emily Dickinson

Walter Robinson Cross Country Race

The most awaited sports event at Aitchison, the Walter Robinson Cross Country race, took place on the 14th of October, bringing back many old and familiar faces. Enthusiastic participants gathered anxiously in their kits and were set to navigate through various Aitchison landmarks spread across campus.

Participants eagerly lined up before the starting line, and, least to say, tensions were high. A contagious excitement could be felt by all the participants and spectators alike. When the gun was sounded, the runners took off with just one goal in mind: to finish first. The cross country consists of 3 rounds, and each round is approximately 3.3km long.

Throughout the race, the competitors were neck to neck, but eventually, the race ended with Haroon Ahmed Khan of H2-M coming in first place with a time of 40 minutes and 44 seconds. Waleed Qasim Bashir of H2-M came in second, being only 15 seconds behind with a time of 40 minutes and 59 seconds. Ali Tanveer of H2-H secured third place with a time of 41 minutes and 24 seconds.



Inter-House Football - Juniors

The inter-house junior football tournament took place from the 12th to the 30th of October, showcasing Aitchison's sporting prowess and providing an outlet for Aitchisonians who enjoy playing football. Eleven representatives from each C1 and C2 were selected to represent individual houses and competed against each other in thrilling matches. In this year's inter-house football league, all houses performed exceptionally well; their dedication was evident in their on-field performance. After tough rounds of qualifiers, semis, and quarter-finals, the two houses that made it to the finals were Kelly House and Jubilee House.

During the finals, Jubilee scored the first goal. However, Kelly did not lose faith and played fiercely until the very last second, scoring two goals in rapid succession. Kelly took home the well-deserved win. Jubilee House came in second, but they played well.

The tournament not only showcased the talent and dedication of Aitchison's young football enthusiasts but also fostered a sense of healthy competition and camaraderie among the houses.



Inter House Art For Good

Aitchison College recently witnessed a spectacular showcase of artistic talent and compassion through the Interhouse Art for Good Competition. The competition brought together creativity and philanthropy, uniting the school community for a common cause.

Participants, two from each house, showcased their artistic prowess by creating impactful digital and physical artwork, with each piece centered around a charitable cause. The diverse range of subjects and mediums highlighted the depth of talent within our school.

The digital art segment saw students employing advanced graphic design tools to convey powerful messages. Simultaneously, the physical art category exhibited traditional artistry with paintings, sculptures, and mixed-media pieces that evoked emotions and communicated the essence of various social issues.

Beyond the artistic merit, the competition achieved its goal of raising awareness and funds for charitable causes. The entire school was engaged, appreciating the intersection of creativity and social responsibility.

In the spirit of healthy competition and collaboration, the Interhouse Art for Good Competition exemplified the potential of art to drive positive change. The event left an indelible mark on both participants and spectators, fostering a sense of community and a commitment to using artistic expression as a force for good.



Heroic Chemistry Teachers Save Lab Assistant's Life with Swift CPR

We must acknowledge the remarkable courage and initiative showed by the two chemistry teachers, Mrs. Seema Khan and Mr. Shahbaz Yasin, who saved a Lab Assistant after a heart attack. Their speed and resolve in administering CPR played a critical role in saving his life. Thanks to their efforts, the Lab Assistant's life was saved, and he is currently on the mend.



The Principal recently paid tribute to the teacher's courage, and we ourselves must commend this stunning display of level-headedness in a difficult situation. Indeed, we are very grateful to the teachers for their admirable efforts, and applaud their quick-thinking and resolve in the heat of the moment.

poem of the month

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat.
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp.
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?
The Tyger William Blake



Did You Know?

- 1: The flag of Nepal is the only non-rectangular flag in the world
- 2: The word “flag” most probably came from the verb “to flag”, which means to droop
- 3: The study of flags is called vexillology, after the Latin vexillum, or banner
- 4: The oldest known flag is made of bronze and is at least 4000 years old
- 5: The tallest free-standing flag-pole in the world is 200 metres high and can be found in Cairo, Egypt
- 6: The largest flag flown measures more than 2500 square metres, and was also made in Egypt
- 7: The smallest flag in the world is less than 2 micrometres high, and was created by Canadian scientists
- 8: The star and crescent from the Pakistani flag is a widely found iconographic symbol in the Muslim world, appearing on the Turkish, Algerian, Mauritanian and Libyan flags among others
- 9: The record for the largest human flag was set in Pakistan in 2014 by nearly 30,000 people acting in concert

Don Quixote

Book Of The Month

"Don Quixote," written by Miguel de Cervantes in the early 17th century, remains a timeless literary masterpiece that explores the blurred lines between reality and imagination. The novel follows the adventures of an aging gentleman named Alonso Quixano who becomes obsessed with chivalric romances. Convinced that he is a knight named Don Quixote, he sets out on a series of comical and often absurd adventures with his loyal squire, Sancho Panza.

Cervantes' work is a satire that critiques the romantic ideals prevalent in the literature of his time. Don Quixote's misguided perception of the world reflects a deeper commentary on the power of literature to shape one's understanding of reality. The novel's exploration of identity and self-delusion also holds relevance in the modern era. In a world where people curate and project idealized versions of themselves on social media, the concept of constructing a persona divorced from reality remains pertinent.

The dynamic between Don Quixote and Sancho Panza serves as a poignant commentary on the complexities of leadership and followership. This dynamic mirrors contemporary societal discussions on leadership styles and the challenges of balancing idealistic goals with the practicalities of governance.

"Don Quixote" endures as a relevant and thought-provoking work that transcends its time. Its exploration of the interplay between fiction and reality, the construction of identity, and the dynamics of leadership continue to offer insights into the human condition.



Long Day's Journey Into Night

Play Of The Month

"Long Day's Journey into Night," a gripping drama, that spans across a single day in the Tyrone family home, that explores the intricacies of family relationships and the eerie effects of unspoken secrets.

The Tyrone family's battle with addiction, disease, and ghosts of the past lies at the heart of the play. the characters in the play each face a struggle of their own the once-promising actor James Tyrone is stuck with regrets and money worries, His spouse, grapples with a morphine dependency, and their boys, Jamie and Edmund, face personal struggles.

The theatrical masterpiece "Long Day's Journey into Night" highlights the brittleness of familial ties. Subtle characterizations and deft language by O'Neill illuminate the complexity that lies behind the surface of domestic tranquillity. The spectator is pulled into an emotional whirlwind as the individuals grapple with their personal issues, capturing the unadulterated and unvarnished core of human suffering. The structure of the play reflects the emotional upheaval, with encounters and disclosures becoming more intense as the day goes on.

The play was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama posthumously in 1957. This recognition speaks to the profound impact and high regard the play holds within the realm of American theatre. "Long Day's Journey into Night" is frequently cited as one of the greatest American plays. Critics and scholars alike praise its deep exploration of complex family dynamics, the eloquence of its language, and its unflinching portrayal of personal struggles.

Love, regret, and the unstoppable march of time are just a few of the universal themes explored in this month's drama of the week. "Long Day's Journey into Night" is proof of the theatre's continuing ability to shed light on the darker sides of human existence and drive spectators to contemplation.

Securing Transparency

Sindh Government's Commitment to Repatriation and Security Initiatives

In a pivotal move, the Sindh government has greenlit funds for the repatriation of undocumented Afghan immigrants through the Chaman border crossing. The caretaker Home Minister, retired Brigadier Haris Nawaz, spearheaded a meeting on Friday to assess the law and order situation, with a specific focus on the deportation of illegal immigrants.

The Sindh finance department's release of estimated funds, although undisclosed in the press release, aligns with the Sindh cabinet's prior approval of a substantial Rs4.5 billion for the comprehensive repatriation process.

Minister Haris Nawaz underscored the imperative of transparent expenditure in the repatriation plan, urging strict adherence to regulations. He lauded the efforts of departments and institutions, including the Rangers, police, and district administration, in facilitating the return of immigrants. The Minister directed an expedited deportation process, announcing regular Tuesday meetings to assess progress.

During the meeting, Karachi police chief Khadim Rind briefed attendees on overall law and order challenges, focusing on street crime. The Home Minister emphasized the government's core responsibility to protect lives, property, and maintain peace, directing comprehensive security measures in coordination with police and Rangers.



Addressing drug-related challenges in the city, especially within educational institutions, the Home Minister reviewed a progress report on police actions against drug trafficking. He called for intensified operations against individuals engaged in drug activities.

A security briefing on Chinese nationals working on projects related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) highlighted the government's commitment to their safety. The Minister stressed the need for foolproof security, deeming it a top priority for all development projects.

The meeting, attended by key officials including Home Secretary, Karachi Commissioner, and representatives from Police, Rangers, Intelligence Agencies, and the National Database and Registration Authority, showcased the government's dedication to transparency and security. The allocated funds and intensified efforts reflect a concerted commitment to safeguard the well-being of citizens and international partners.

Courageous Steps

Pakistan's Fearless Campaign for a Polio-Free Tomorrow

In a steadfast endeavor to counter the resurgence of polio infections, Pakistan initiated its first nationwide anti-polio campaign of the year, aiming to immunize children under five against the highly infectious wild poliovirus. Despite no reported cases this year, the virus paralyzed 20 children in 2022, a notable increase from just one case in 2021, with the majority concentrated in the violence-stricken North Waziristan district on the Afghan border within the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

To confront these challenges head-on, the national eradication program efficiently mobilized over 360,000 health workers, delivering polio drops to an estimated 44.2 million children across 156 districts during the intensive five-day campaign. Children also received a vitamin A supplement, fortifying their immunity against infectious diseases.

The Prime Minister expressed unwavering concern over the resurgence, confidently acknowledging the anxieties of global partners, including the World Health Organization. Pakistan's determination to eradicate polio faces challenges such as misinformation in conservative rural areas, combating rumors of vaccine-induced sterility in children. The nation also addresses and overcomes barriers posed by deadly militant attacks on vaccinators, showcasing its unwavering commitment to progress.



Still grappling with polio Pakistan's commitment to overcoming challenges is unwavering. Pakistan, armed with confidence and determination, confronts these complex challenges head-on.

As Pakistan courageously embarks on this vital nationwide campaign, the international community watches with anticipation, confident in the collective mission to eradicate polio and secure the health and future of generations to come.

Punjab Mulling Artificial Rain

In response to the escalating air pollution crisis enveloping Lahore, the provincial government of Punjab is actively contemplating the implementation of an unconventional measure later this month: the induction of "artificial rain." This technique, scientifically recognized as cloud seeding, seeks to modify weather patterns by dispersing substances, typically silver or potassium iodide, into the atmosphere. The objective is to create nuclei for water vapor to coalesce around, leading to heightened condensation and the formation of larger water droplets that precipitate as rain.

The contemplation of this innovative approach materialized during a convened meeting chaired by Punjab's interim Environment Minister. The gravity of the situation unfolded against the disheartening backdrop of Lahore reclaiming its unenviable position atop the global pollution index on Thursday. The inhabitants of this bustling metropolis grappled with an entire day of compromised air quality, marking a distressing continuation of the persistent smog predicament.

In the meeting, officials and experts delved into the intricacies of this proposed atmospheric intervention, seeking a nuanced understanding of its potential implications and efficacy. The discourse unfolded as a response to the palpable urgency presented by Lahore's recent ascent to the summit of global pollution rankings, underscoring the imperative

to explore innovative solutions in the face of a mounting environmental crisis. The shared concern for the well-being of



Lahore's residents permeated the discussion, prompting a collective exploration of unconventional strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of the persistent smog, casting a humanistic lens on the quest for solutions amid environmental challenges.

Pakistan's Educational Trailblazer: Sister Zeph's Inspiring Journey

Pakistan secures another proud victory on the international stage, in the form of an International Teacher of the Year Prize for the Year 2023, awarded by the Varkey Foundation, a UK non-profit, in collaboration with UNESCO and a UAE-based philanthropic organization, Dubai Cares. On November 12th, the prize was accepted by Sister Zeph, a teacher with a wide variety of contributions to education in her local community, setting an example for educators across the globe.

Sister Zeph began her teaching journey incredibly early, at the age of 13! After finding herself dissatisfied with the quality of the only available school, which she herself went to, she decided to start tutoring children in her community using her own knowledge and by trying to educate herself with the basics she had been taught. Keeping her goal of giving it forward in mind over the years, she took her efforts to the next level. By working 12 hours a day, schooling children for 4, and teaching herself during countless hours more, she established her school and was able to expand its capabilities, bringing in other educated women to the project.

An initiative that began in her own home's courtyard moved to a proper building once the funds were in place, leading to the current state where the facility now provides for 215 students from underprivileged backgrounds. Owing to her commitment to ensuring education is delivered to all those who could deserve it, she does not

charge any fees to attend the school and admits on a purely merit and need basis. Along with this, a program is in place to ensure financial assistance to struggling families of pupils.

The journey was not without struggles, for instance, attitudes about women's and girls' education, especially in rural areas. Boys in a family are often prioritized over girls, or girls are totally ignored in matters of schooling, as the expectation is often that they will help around the house or in domestic tasks, both in their current and future married homes. This meant that many people strongly opposed her endeavors, and in fact, she narrowly survived a 2006 attack by gunmen, which forced her and her family to leave her village for a whole half year. However, this steadied her will even further in her quest to ensure that this situation changes eventually, via efforts such as hers. In fact, she even consequently introduced self-defense classes to her institution.

All this struggle brings results too, as evidenced by the fact that a large part of her students have gone on to complete higher education and emerge as qualified men and women in society, a dream their parents could have hardly imagined without Sister Zeph's project. All this undoubtedly renders her deserving of the prize, which comes with a money prize of 1 million dollars. Sister Zeph stated her intentions to invest these funds into further expanding her team and the range of subjects offered. She also has a range of other plans, from building an orphanage to starting a food bank for pupils.

Iceland Faces Quakes and Eruption Threat

Starting from the morning of November 11th, intense earthquakes rocked the western half of the country of Iceland, plunging it into a chaotic state of emergency. Iceland, lying on a fault line where tectonic plates meet, is naturally geologically susceptible to various natural disasters, such as seismic activity and volcanic eruptions. Yet, this is also the reason for their ability to provide much of their national electricity consumption via geothermal power.

Such volcanic activity is not unprecedented; for example, an entire 32-kilometer-wide island, Surtsey, emerged from the waves as a result of such phenomena not more than 60 years ago. Along with this, quakes occurred in 1973, 2006, 2011, and 2021, which gives an idea of their frequency. The Reykjanes Peninsula, in particular, is known for having periods of magma flow and volcanic activity several times a year. However, the latest activity directly impacts areas of the main island itself on a massive scale. Over the past month, officials monitoring the activity were aware that the flow of magma (molten rock) under the surface was building, thus anticipating such a disaster and being prepared for the possibility.

Enormous cracks, appearing in pavement and soil alike, were reported at sites sprawled across the nation. People uploaded recordings of their

buildings shaking violently over the course of the week, and several road routes had to be shut down. A major local geothermal power plant, Svartsengi, which supplies upwards of 30,000 people's electricity and water, is now also under threat. Aside from the drastic effects on that region, with the country's only international airport situated a mere 20 km away from the eruption risk areas, travel has been heavily restricted into and out of the country.

The consequences have been most severe for the residents of the village of Grindavik, home to about 4,000 people, located on the Reykjanes Peninsula where the eruption is predicted to occur. They were forced to evacuate their homes by the police. Many fear not being able to return to their family homes if an eruption does occur. On Sunday the 12th, many were allowed to return to retrieve their belongings, left behind during the hasty emptying of the town, but under controlled police supervision.

Most of the evacuees decided to move in with family members for the time being, around the country, with only a handful taking refuge in government shelters. With a timely response by officials, hope persists to overcome the disaster and return to normal life in the region.

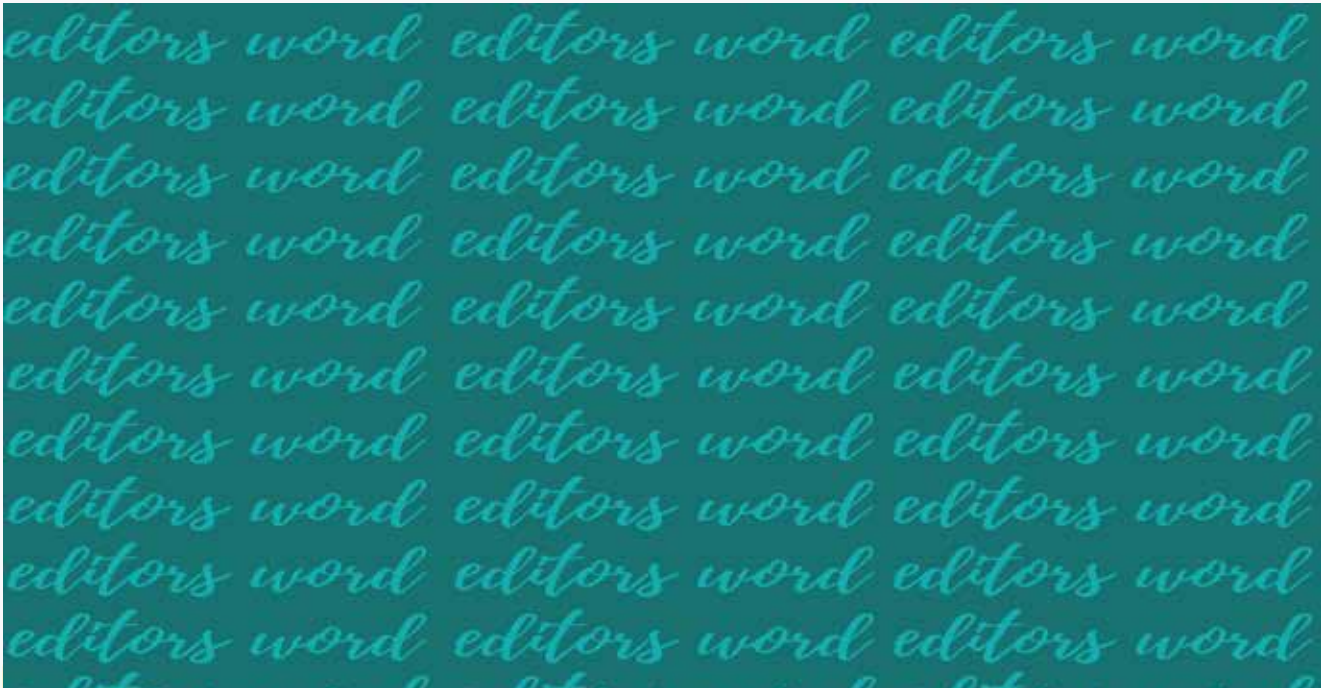


About Spectrum

Spectrum is a monthly literary newspaper that was started by the Literary Society of Aitchison College and was introduced to give an outlet to all the writers and creative souls at Aitchison. Spectrum aims to spread knowledge and awareness and help the students develop opinions on different subjects.

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Editor's Word

I hope the readers enjoyed this edition of Spectrum, finding it informative and amusing and that this paper sparks a passion for literature and news among my fellow students, offering an outlet for the creative souls of our school.

I'd like to thank my team for working tirelessly on this edition with me. Their creativity has breathed life into Spectrum and I couldn't be more proud of the collaborative effort that went into crafting these pages.

To my fellow aspiring writers and passionate readers at Aitchison, Spectrum is a shared space to learn and showcase the students' work. As you navigate through these pages, I invite you to discover not only news but also a deeper understanding of life and literature.