

THE LARGEST SELLING ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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DECEMBER 2019

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THE LARGEST SELLING ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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ABUSE OF MINORS AND WOMEN CONTINUES UNABATED

A ten-year old girl stoned to death, allegedly as a result of the jirga head's 'decision' in Khirthar region in Sindh, has been denied by the girl's parents, claiming the cause of their daughter's death being a landslide accident. Just days prior to this incident, a two-year old girl was pulled out of a well in Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but died before reaching the hospital. Both cases are undergoing investigation.

Previously, a gang of child sex abusers was uncovered in the Kasur district, Punjab. Three years later, following the publicised case of Zainab Ansari, who was among several victims of child abuse in the same district in 2018, the government passed the 'Zainab Alert' bill, establishing the 'Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA)' cell, through which the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) became responsible for issuance of Zainab Alerts via SMS, and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) ensured announcements related to crimes against women and minors were made on all available media. Pakistan is also signatory to several international agreements related to ending violence against women and girls as early as the 1979 Cedaw Convention, the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and the 2013 Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2016, the government of Pakistan passed bills against honour killings and rape, with mandatory imprisonment for up to 25 years for the offenders. Activists however, continued to demand stricter punishment and implementation of laws. A leading media house reported rape conviction rates as close to zero per cent, largely due to the law's reliance on circumstantial evidence and a lack of forensic testing. Yet, Pakistan has the highest record of honour killings in the world, with approximately 1,000 cases reported annually, according to Honour Based Violence Awareness (HBVA) Network. Sahil, the not-for-profit organisation working for the welfare and protection of children, reports an average of eleven cases of child abuse reported daily, across Pakistan.

All this is an unfortunate reminder. A decade has passed since we published an article on child abuse and it appears that such inhuman crimes have not only increased in number, they span the entire nation, both in rural and urban areas. Most disturbingly, the thought there are several repeat offenders roaming the streets freely, stronger measures must be taken and implemented strictly. It is also high time for every person living in this country to become responsible for protecting women and children, by ensuring their safety.





ABDUL JABBAR GULL



KARACHI'S BEAUTIFICATION AT NATURE'S COST



RM NAEEM

FOUNDED IN 2016, THE KARACHI BIENNALE* TRUST IS A DYNAMIC PLATFORM TO PROMOTE CREATIVITY, INNOVATION AND THE VISUAL ARTS. KB19 HELD ITS SECOND SEVENTEEN- DAY EVENT, ATTENDED BY THOUSANDS OF VISITORS FROM ACROSS KARACHI, INCLUDING OVER 2,000 STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS.



MOHSEN KEIANY

Entry to the event was free of cost and open to all, displaying the works of a total 98 artists, that included 36 artists from international countries: Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. Curated by Muhammad Zeeshan, the globally acclaimed artists included Alice Kettle, Amin Gulgee, Hamra Abbas, Imran Qureshi, Rashid Rana, Sven John, and Victorine Muller.

The artwork was displayed in seven renowned venues of Karachi, namely Bagh Ibne Qasim, NED University, Karachi Zoo, Frere Hall, Alliance Française de Karachi, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture and VM gallery located at the Rangoonwala Community Centre. Students from Karachi School

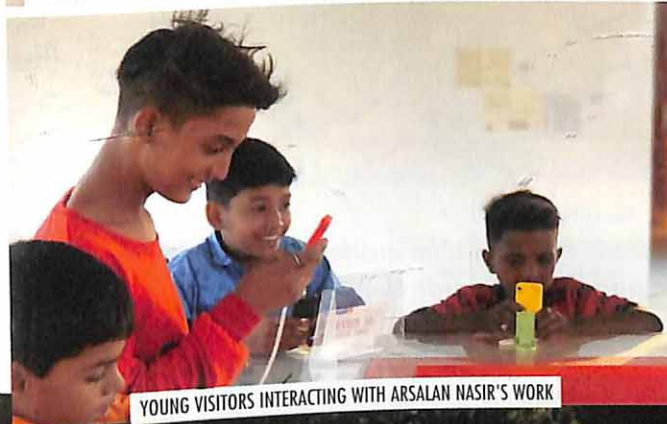
**A large-scale art exhibit, occurring every two years*



ANNOUNCEMENT OF KB19 LANGDON- MALIK PERFORMANCE ART PRIZE. LEFT TO RIGHT - AMIN GULGEE, BUSHRA HUSSAIN, INAM MALIK, NILOFUR FARRUKH



ANNOUNCEMENT OF KB19 SHAHNEELA AND FARHAN FARUQUI 'POPULAR CHOICE' ART PRIZE. LEFT TO RIGHT - SHAHNEELA FARUQUI, MUHAMMAD ZEESHAN AND FARHAN FARUQUI



YOUNG VISITORS INTERACTING WITH ARSALAN NASIR'S WORK

of Art, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture and Karachi University's Visual Studies Department, displayed some interesting pieces of work, as sensory visuals.

The theme, 'Flight Interrupted: Eco-Leaks from the Invasion Desk', focussed on depletion of the number of low-flying birds, due to Karachi's expansion of infrastructural growth. Artists, critics, poets, writers, thinkers and educators explored environmental, ecological and urban issues, during their discourse. The Managing Trustee of Karachi Biennale Trust, Nilofur Farrukh, praised the event, saying, "It has been a delight to see the diversity of the audiences, with people of all ages and backgrounds, enjoying the art exhibits. This has created a wonderful art legacy for the city that will last many years and on which, we can build future platforms."

Four international thinkers also discussed art, sustainability and history. These were German author and researcher Dr Sacha Kagan, Canadian based curator and researcher Asma Mehmood, researcher, artist and curator based in Colombo/London Mariah Lookman and Karachi architect and researcher Zain Mustafa.

Artworks featured in KB19 by Abdul Jabbar Gul, Sohail Zuberi, Hamra Abbas at Bagh Ibne Qasim, Qinza Najm, Saks Afridi, Nabahat Lotia and Munawar Ali Syed at Karachi Zoo, have been donated by the Karachi Biennale Trust to Karachi city. The art collection will be permanently installed at these locations.

Four prominent artists who have contributed to the uplifting of the visual arts in Pakistan, invited as special guests – Mehr Afroz, Riffat Alvi, Nahid Raza and Aftab Zafar, were honoured at the closing ceremony.

IRFAN GUL DAHRI



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FOR
XMAS

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DO YOU LISTEN
TO YOUR TEEN?

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IDEAS
FOR THE
HOLIDAY
SEASON

SUBTLE
SPLENDOUR
by ROSE BEAUTY PARLOUR