

## **The Adventure Club - Pakistan**

**Thrill – Adventure – Fun – Education**



### **IMD – 2008 Under 19 Rock Climbing Competition**

On a very pleasant evening in Margalla Hills, it was extremely thrilling and exciting experience to watch the final round of IMD-2008, Under 19 Rock Climbing Competition, organized by The Adventure Club – Pakistan. International Mountain Day (IMD) is observed globally on 11 December and various organizations arrange activities as per the theme of the year. In Pakistan, The Adventure Club organized a rock climbing competition on 4-5 December, considering Eid holidays and examinations schedule of various institutions.

The Adventure Club – Pakistan is keen to promote adventure activities in Pakistan, particularly Rock Climbing and in recent past, the Club has organized 3 rock-climbing competitions with two exclusively for females, making a history in women's sports. The 1<sup>st</sup>. Women Rock Climbing Competition – 2007 was one of the most interesting and successful programs of the Calendar of Events of “ Destination Pakistan – 2007 ” The program was patronized by the Ministry of Tourism and Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, the then Federal Minister for Tourism graced the Award Distribution Ceremony, while 2<sup>nd</sup>. Women Rock Climbing Competition – 2008 was organized in collaboration with Capital Development Authority. Both competitions were organized on International Women Day, while observing International Youth Day; a competition for male climbers was organized in Shahdarra, a scenic spot in the suburbs of Islamabad.

The Club organized several training sessions and introductory lectures in various institutions and completed initial training of about 1000 boys and girls in last 18 months. Finding some extremely talented boys and girls, the Club is geared up to arrange overseas training for its players and later on to participate in International Competitions.

IMD-2008 Under 19, Rock Climbing Competition started successfully as there were about 250 youth, who participated in training sessions, while 55 climbers were selected to participate in the competition. First round of the competition started on Thursday' 4<sup>th</sup> December and competitions for under 14, under 16 and under 19 was completed separately for boys and girls and top position holders were selected for finals. The finals started at 10 am on Friday and under 19 and under 14 category for girls was completed in first session.

The second session started at 3pm. For the final session of the competition and for the distribution of awards, Mr. Ali Arif, Federal Secretary, Tourism was the Chief Guest. The Joint Secretary and Deputy Chief from Ministry of Tourism and General Manager and Media Manager from PTDC also watched the finals besides several guests and family members of the participants. The Chief Guest for the evening was welcomed by Mr. Tahir Imran Khan, President, The Adventure Club while Ms. Amna and Nosheen, two brilliant climbers of the Club and members of the technical committee for the

## **The Adventure Club - Pakistan**

**Thrill – Adventure – Fun – Education**

competition, presented bouquets to the honorable Secretary and Joint Secretary. The selected venue for the competition was Jasmine Corner, which is as scenic and beautiful as the given name is. The venue was decorated with exclusively designed event banners, however keeping the natural beauty of the place in consideration.

Mr. Tahir Imran Khan said thanks to all guests and participants and introduced the event. Later on he requested the Chief Guest for formal start of the final matches. With permission of the Chair, the competition of boys in under 19 category started. All spectators and the Chief Guest enjoyed the courageous and thrilling performance of boys, watching them climbing a 10 meters long vertical rock face with four points climbing. The winner of the competition, Mr. Bisrat Wolde of Roots School completed his climb in 40 seconds, which was the best time of the competition as well. In Under 14 Category Waqas Mani got the first position. The last competition was among the girls of under 16 category, which was won by Ms. Rida Abid of City School. Rida made her climb in 58 seconds, again making the best time of the competition in girl's category.

The final results for all categories were announced and the Chief Guest was requested to present the Shields among position holders. The moment was thrilling as the joyous players supported their team and schoolmates on winning positions in various categories. After the award distribution ceremony, the Chief Guest, Mr. Ali Arif, the Federal Secretary for Tourism made a very interesting and encouraging address. He expressed his views about the performance of the youth climbers and appreciated them to participate and perform in healthy activities. His speech was very interesting and was a combination of talking about adventure activities supported with Urdu and English literary and poetic quotations.

Mr. Tahir Imran Khan, President, The Adventure Club exclusively said thanks to the Chief Guest for his time to grace the occasion with his presence and to encourage youth and to appreciate the efforts of The Adventure Club. He presented a commemorative shield to the Chief Guest on behalf of the Club. He also introduced the technical and organizing team of the Club, which made the competition colorful and successful. The organizing team was awarded by the certificates for Time Keeping to Ms. Amna, for Belaying to Ms. Nosheen and Mr. Usman Tariq, for operational works to Mirza Siddique Ahmed, for Award Ceremony arrangements to Mr. Kashif Saeed and Mr. Hammad Saeed and to the head of Technical Jury, Mr. Saad Tariq Siddique. Mr. Tahir also said a special thanks to PTV and PTDC for their media coverage.

Mr. Tahir Imran Khan requested Ministry of Tourism to help support the Club to request CDA and other concerned authorities to develop some Rock Climbing areas in Margallas and to include the information in PTDC's maps and other publications of PTDC and Ministry of Tourism. He also requested the concerned authorities for erection of an artificial climbing wall, which could be indoor or outdoor. With an artificial wall in the city, it is expected that a good lot of male and female climbers will be produced.





DAWN Islamabad, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

# Children show their talent in climbing

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD, Dec 6: Climbing is more than just pure fun for children. For some, climbing becomes an important part of their lives as it helps them learn discipline, build character and gain confidence to excel in all aspects of life.

On a pleasant Saturday evening in the Margalla Hills their courageous instincts were put to test in a thrilling and exciting rock climbing competition.

The final round of International Mountain Day 2008 under-19 Rock Climbing Competition, organised by The Adventure Club Pakistan, was no easy game.

The final day of the competition successfully concluded with boys and girls walking away with their heads held high. There were about 250 youth, who participated in the training sessions. About 55 climbers were selected to participate in the competition.

The first round of the competition tested the under-14s, under-16s and under-19s that was completed separately for boys and girls and top position holders were selected for the finals.

The final round started in the evening and the guests enjoyed the thrilling and daring performances of boys, watching them climb a 10-metre long vertical rock face rugged.

Bisrat Wolde of Roots School

beat his competitors in the under-19 category by completing his climb in 40 seconds, which was also the best time of the competition.

The last competition was among the under-16 category for girls, which was won by Rida Abid of City School. Rida Abid made her climb in 58 seconds, again making the best time of the competition in girls category.

Palwasha Ishtiaq, Sara Sajjad and Umama Ijaz all from the City School secured first, second and third places in a tough competition.

In the girls under-19 category, Ayesha Ali came first while Tayyaba Jadoon and Zara Naveed came in second and third places.

The final results for all categories were announced and the chief guest, Federal Tourism Secretary Arif Ali was requested to present the shields among position-holders. The moment was thrilling as the joyous students supported their team and school-mates on winning positions in various categories.

International Mountain Day (IMD) is observed globally on December 11 and various organisations arranged and celebrated activities as per the theme of the year. In Pakistan, The Adventure Club took the lead and organised a rock climbing competition a week earlier.

**18 METROPOLITAN**



A girl takes rock climbing training on Margallas in Islamabad on Saturday.—Dawn







