

School dance, anyone? Pakistan lawmakers in Punjab seek ban

By Zaheer Babar and Munir Ahmed
The Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan — Pakistani lawmakers in a provincial assembly voted in favor of a recommendation to ban dance parties at schools and other educational institutions, saying they promote western culture, according to officials. The move drew criticism from students and activists, who vowed to oppose the decision.

Proposed by Shaikh Ijaz, a lawmaker from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party in Punjab, the non-binding resolution was quickly adopted.

“This resolution was passed to stop vulgarity and the promotion of western culture among youths,” he said.

Ijaz said the resolution passed the Punjab Assembly with no opposition from secular, moderate, or Islamic parties.

The resolution is considered a recommendation to the government, which is being asked to “stop the vulgarity” in the province. Ijaz said the motion followed



NO DANCE PARTIES. A Pakistani dancer performs during a ceremony arranged by the Pakistan National Council of Arts in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, and National Heritage to mark International Dance Day, in Lahore, Pakistan, in this April 29, 2017 file photo. (AP Photo/K.M. Chaudary, File)

children, sexual abuse, and quality of education rather than kids having some function or dancing once or twice a year,” she asked.

Sahir Ali Bagga, a Pakistani singer, said the best response to violence at campuses was to promote performing art.

It was not the first time that a provincial legislature recommended a ban on school dance.

A similar attempt was made in the southern Sindh province in 2016, but it was rejected by a majority of the lawmakers.

Pakistan’s English-language newspaper *The Dawn* opposed the ban, saying it should be resisted.

In an editorial, the paper said “over the decades, similar attempts to narrowly redefine our identity have been made. None have fully succeeded because, inevitably, we show our true stripes: diverse, tolerant, and defiantly joyous. This is reflected in our shared kinetic energy, whether through the boisterous bhangra, the elegant Kathak, or the transcendental Sufi raqs.”

Ahmed reported from Islamabad.

Vietnamese recruited two months before Kim Jong Nam’s murder

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to Mr. Y at the Hay Bar, which belonged to Thuy and her husband, and asked for a salary of \$1,000 a month.

Huong said she participated in her first prank outside Hanoi’s Opera House, where she was told to kiss a stranger on the cheek. She said in the police statement that it was unsuccessful because the person shied away.

Teh told the court that Thuy had declined to come to Malaysia to testify but was questioned by Vietnamese police in March last year and made sworn statements that supported Huong’s claims to police.

The lawyer said Thuy told Vietnamese police that Mr. Y, who speaks fluent Vietnamese, had initially wanted to recruit her but she declined due to family commitments. She said she then remembered Huong loved to act and introduced her.

The youngest of five siblings, Huong, 29, said in her police statement that her parents were farmers and that she studied accounting at Hanoi Business and Technology University and later worked for three years as a waitress in Hanoi.

Teh was cross-examining chief police investigator Wan Azirul Nizam Che Wan Aziz, who acknowledged that he hadn’t investigated Huong’s claims or contacted Vietnamese police to get details from Thuy. The lawyer said his law firm had written to Malaysia’s attorney general to seek Vietnam’s approval for Malaysian police to probe the case there but was refused.

Cambodian genocide documented in victims’ preserved clothes

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same pattern as your mother’s, then that’s going to bring these memories that are so palpable, and this is so powerful,” she said.

Less is more in conservation, according to Brennan, “because we want to keep the associated dirt and stains and particles as part of the context and information of the artifact.”

So for Tuol Sleng’s artifacts, she said she has been teaching half a dozen Cambodian colleagues to photograph a piece to identify it for inventory, “then just to surface clean carefully with a vacuum or a soft brush, and then the dirt can be saved as part of the record and some of the surface soiling will be loosened.”

Treatment doesn’t end there. In tropical places like Cambodia, there’s a lot of mildew and mold as well as live insects to deal with. To try to protect the material for the long term, it is put into “micro climates” in which the relative humidity can be reduced. Brennan said she

parents’ complaints that some schools organized mix-gender gatherings, which are prohibited in Islam.

Angered over the motion, students said they would resist.



MURDERERS RECRUITED. Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong is escorted by police while leaving a court hearing at Shah Alam High Court in Shah Alam, Malaysia. Huong and Siti Aisyah of Indonesia have pleaded not guilty to killing Kim Jong Nam last year at a crowded Kuala Lumpur airport terminal. (AP Photo/Sadiq Asyraf)

Teh also accused Wan Azirul of being “a biased investigator, not independent, and not interested in the truth.”

“We are terribly disadvantaged as the investigation didn’t focus on this area,” Teh told reporters later.

The two women face the death penalty if convicted, but not if they lacked intent to kill. Prosecutors contend the women knew they were handling poison.

Kim, the eldest son in the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, had been living abroad for years after falling out of favor. It is thought he could have been seen as a threat to the rule of his half brother, Kim Jong Un.

Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea of involvement in Kim’s death and have made it clear they don’t want the trial politicized.

developed this system during her work in Rwanda, putting the items in dry storage boxes with desiccants, pellets normally used in the agriculture industry.

Kho Chenda, a 28-year-old staff member at Tuol Sleng, has taken Brennan’s preservation lessons to heart. She said what she’s learned is vital because of the museum’s mission to teach the horrific legacy of the Khmer Rouge.

“If that clothing gets too old and worn out, then the evidence it offers will be gone, and when you talk to the younger generation, they will not believe you,” she said.

Kong Kuntheary, another of Brennan’s students, echoed the sentiment.

“This clothing is really important evidence, so we have to preserve it to make sure that even in 100 or 200 years, it will not have disappeared,” said the 52-year-old employee of the National Museum in Phnom Penh.

Peck reported from Bangkok.

Aman Batool, 22, a university student said they had the right to dance and sing at campuses.

Mahwash Ajaz, a Dubai-based Pakistani psychologist, opposed the motion, saying it was not only ridiculous, but also a violation of civil liberties of individuals.

“It is up to parents to decide what their underage children can and cannot do in schools. It is not the business of politicians or state to interfere in such matters,” she told The Associated Press from Dubai.

“Don’t we have more pressing concerns to consider such as physical abuse of

Kobe Steel chief steps down over fake data scandal

TOKYO (AP) — The chief executive of major Japanese steelmaker Kobe Steel is stepping down over a scandal that surfaced last year involving massive falsification of inspection data of the company’s products.

Hiroya Kawasaki, who is also chairman and president, said he is stepping down from all three positions. He’s staying on as a director but only until the annual shareholder meeting in June.

His successor has not yet been

named.

Kobe Steel has pointed to a zealous pursuit of profit, unrealistic targets, and an insular corporate culture as behind the scandal.

There have been no accidents or injuries related to the fake data. The systematic misconduct spanned years, affecting products sent to more than 680 companies, including aluminum castings and copper tubes for autos, aircraft, appliances, and trains.

2017 Exemplary Community Volunteer Award Recipient: Lac Hong Vietnamese School



The Lac Hong Vietnamese School was formed in 2004 to promote and preserve Vietnamese culture, to mentor youth, and to facilitate cooperation among Vietnamese Americans. The language school, which started with 88 students at its inception, has grown to an enrollment of more than 200 students from Pre-K to level seven, who take classes in the Vietnamese language, culture, dance, LEGO robotics, lion dance, and art. The classes, taught by 58 active volunteer teachers, meet at Portland Community College’s Rock Creek Campus on Saturday afternoons. Students at Lac Hong Vietnamese School have performed cultural dances at community events, including Culture Days at Washington Square mall and the Vietnamese Community of Oregon’s Lunar New Year celebration. The organization also supports Tieng Hoai Huong, a music group promoting and teaching Asian traditional instruments; True Connection; the Portland State University Vietnamese Student Association; the Asian American Youth Leadership Club at David Douglas High School; Vietnamese Scouts; and the Vietnamese Community of Oregon. In addition, the school also holds a Volunteer Day to support the local Oregon Food Bank. To learn more, visit <www.vscso.org>.

The Asian Reporter Foundation is accepting nominations for its 2018 “Exemplary Community Volunteer” awards.

The recognition banquet will be held Thursday, April 26, 2018 at southeast Portland’s Wong’s King Seafood Restaurant.

Nomination forms and award guidelines are available for download at <www.ARFoundation.net>.

The nomination deadline is Thursday, April 4, 2018 at 5:00pm.

The Asian Reporter Foundation’s 20th Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet features:

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| Most Honored Elder Awards | Cultural entertainment |
| Exemplary Community Volunteer Awards | Ethnic dinner |
| College Scholarship Awards | Silent auction |