

Sharmeen brings Oscar glory to Pakistan



Muhammad Talha Qureshi
 BS 35 3032

NEW YORK, February 27: Pakistani filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy won the first ever Oscar award for Pakistan for her documentary 'Saving Face' at the 84th Academy Awards gala on Sunday.

Accepting the world's prestigious award, Ms Chinoy observed: "I want to dedicate this award to all the heroes working on the ground in Pakistan and to all the women in the country who are working for a change. Do not give up as this is your dream."

Oscar winner Sandra Bullock was seen weeping with joy during Ms Chinoy's acceptance speech.

'Saving Face' is a 52-minute documentary which talks about the plight of women subjected to acid attacks, and a doctor who comes to Pakistan to treat them and give them hope.

Due largely to its heart-wrenching subject



as well as the facts that its producer is not from a country known for making many quality films, 'Saving Face' has been one of the more talked about nominations at the event.

The Daniel Junge and Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy documentary follows British plastic surgeon Dr Mohammad Jawad, who returns to Pakistan to help victims of acid burns. The documentary follows one woman as she fights to see that the perpetrators of the crime are imprisoned for life.

Courtesy: Dawn

Karachi Literature Festival concludes



Kumail Soomro
 BS33 2808

The two-day Karachi Literature Festival came to an end on a highly vibrant and encouraging note on Sunday with, according to the organisers, around 15,000 people of all age groups and diverse social and cultural backgrounds, visiting the function.

Visitors were seen streaming in round the clock. In fact it became a real dilemma for the organisers as the rooms and the halls just did not have the capacity to accommodate so many visitors and many, who came with high hopes of listening to

Contd. on P.g 7



After Oscar, Gilani to award Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy high Civil Award



Muhammad Ali Asif
 BS29 2316

Islamabad: Following her Oscar win, Prime Minister

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has announced a high Civil Award for Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy.

The Prime Minister, in his congratulatory message, said that Chinoy had made all Pakistanis proud by producing the documentary "Saving Face", which is a perfect work of art



representing creativity, objectivity and reality, with a touch of passion and devotion.

He said this outstanding success of Sharmeen Chinoy at the international level would surely lead to enhancing the soft image of Pakistan.

Contd. on P.g 7

Pakistani claims world record for most kicks in one hour

Kumail Soomro
 BS33 2808

Lahore: Pakistani Ahmad Amin Bodla on Thursday claimed to have broken the world record for the most number of martial arts kicks in one hour.

Bodla, who attempted the record at Children Library Complex in Lahore, managed 6,370 kicks in one hour. He broke the previous record of 2,982 kicks held by Indian Jayanth Reddy in 21 minutes and 46 seconds.

He had invited Guinness Book

of World Records officials, but they had asked for 4,600 pounds to officiate the record attempt. He then asked local officials to look over it.

Bodla will now send the attempt video to Guinness Book of World Records, which can take up to six to seven months to verify.

Courtesy: The News



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Pakistan to showcase textile and jewellery at India fair

Kumail Soomro
BS33 2808

KARACHI: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) will showcase the potential of textile, clothing and jewellery industry at Life Style Pakistan, a four-day exhibition to be held in New Delhi in April, which will provide a chance to the fashion industry to make inroads into the Indian market.

TDAP expects Pakistani producers to get an
Contd. on P.g 6



Neelum-jhelam project to complete before time



Soha Malik
BS332767

Islamabad: The Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project is most probably to be completed two years before time not that the Tunnel Boring Machines have reached the site.

The project will contribute about 5.15 billion units of electricity annually to the national grid. Annual benefits of the project have been estimated at Rs45 billion.

Contd on P.g 6

Iran to give \$250m for gas pipeline project

Muhammad Ali Asif
BS29 2316

ISLAMABAD: Iran has agreed to export 80,000 barrels of crude oil per year to Pakistan and has also agreed to provide \$250 million for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, revealed Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain on Tuesday.

In a special parliamentary committee meeting, Hussain told the committee members that Pakistan had asked for \$500 million but Iran agreed to only \$250 million.

He added that a Pakistani delegation will visit Iran in mid-March in connection with the project. The delegation will finalise the deal.

Contd. on P.g 6

Banking industry to double its market share Islamic in next five years

Kinza Paracha
BS22 22814

Islamabad - Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Yaseen Anwar on Tuesday said Islamic banking in Pakistan is all set to double its market share in the next five years and the Islamic banks need to offer agriculture financing to tap the huge productive potential of the sector. Speaking as the chief guest at the 2nd International Conference on Islamic Business organised by the Riphah International University at National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), Governor SBP noted that the Islamic banking industry is growing at a fast pace and maintaining an average growth rate of 30 per cent over the past six years.

He said the Islamic banking industry's asset base has reached Rs641 billion which constitutes almost 8 per cent of the overall banking industry, while deposits represent 8.5 per cent of the banking system's deposits. Islamic banking network is also spread across the country at a significant pace with the total number of branches reaching 886, he said, adding the industry is still facing challenges and constraints that need to be addressed to sustain the growth momentum.

However, he observed the Islamic banks have not been able to come out of the conventional

Contd on P.g 6

EDITOR'S NOTE

Nothing works like Positive thinking and positive attitude in every sphere of life. With the intention to have more and more positive stories on Positive face of Pakistan. So far we have been very successful, but there is always room for betterment. We want fresh ideas and your suggestion to improve the standard of Positive Post. We will appreciate your suggestions, in this issue you will find the historic achievement about winning first Oscar by Pakistan Director Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy on her documentary "Saving face". It's a great achievement we salute Sharmeen effort which has brought laurels to the country. The management of Greenwich University congratulates, Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy for the great work she has done. Definitely the winning of Oscar by Pakistani director will give a Positive image about Pakistan globally.

Naval chief lauds marines for selfless devotion during floods

Yasir Ansari
BS33 2759



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Asif

Sandila on Tuesday visited forward bases of marines on the Pakistan-India border to oversee the operational preparedness of troops.

Accompanied by Commander Coast Rear Admiral Zafar Mehmood Abbasi, the naval chief gave a briefing on the strategic significance of the Sir Creek area. On the occasion, Sandila lauded the "selfless devotion" of the marines' troops to safeguarding the crit-



ical frontiers of the country. He also lauded them for providing a safe means of sustenance to the fishermen by digging a canal in the creek.

The naval chief commended the rescue and relief efforts of the troops during last year's

Contd. on P.g 5

Free blood screening, diagnostic camps at Expo Centre

Soha Malik
BS33 2767

Karachi: The Pakistan Islamic Medical Association will organise free blood screening and diagnostic camps on March 2, the first day of its 22nd biennial international convention, at the Expo Centre.

Chief coordinator of the PIMA convention Dr Sohail Akhtar told reporters on Tuesday that elaborate arrangements had been made to increase public awareness of non-communicable diseases and provide short duration investigations and screening of blood to the public during the convention.

He said a public awareness session titled 'Take control of your own health' would be held from 3pm to 5pm on March 2, when Prof S.M. Rab, Prof A. Gaffar Billoo, Prof Ejaz Vohra, Prof Javaid A. Khan, Prof Iqbal Afridi and Prof Huma Qureshi would speak on diabetes, diseases of children, heart diseases, tobacco and health, mental illness and hepatitis, respectively.

After the lectures people would be welcome to have free investigations and checkups for hepatitis, blood sugar, body mass index, bone mineral density, antenatal screening, breast cancer examinations and memory tests, he added. Dr Shahid Noor, the organising secretary of the convention, said the three-day convention would be



formally inaugurated by Prof Dr Ataur Rahman on March 3.

The convention, which would include a number of foreign experts, would be a mix of science, education, ethics, and religion and health advocacy. A session would also be dedicated to health policies and doctors issues, Dr Noor said, adding that in addition to 12 scientific sessions on mental health, immunisation, chest diseases, bone and joint diseases, dentistry, gynaecological oncology, urology, dermatology, diabetes mellitus, quality health care, various plenary lectures and six workshops would be held on March 4th.

Dr Ahmad Salman Ghauri, PIMA Karachi president, said the theme chosen for the convention reflected the need for all organisations working for the betterment of society to work in harmony.

Experts from Jordan, Malaysia, the United States, the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia were included among the 174 experts taking part in the convention, he added

Courtesy: Dawn News

Flower show in Karachi attracts large visitors



Omar Farooq
BS27 2139

Dawood Public School (DPS) bagged the first prize in the category of kitchen garden during the annual flower show recently organised by the Horticultural Society of Pakistan, a DPS spokesperson said on Tuesday.

The event was organised in the Sea View area from February 23 to 27 in which the school displayed innovative ways of growing vegetables, or-

ganic gardening, and planting in recycled material at its stall, he said.

Exotic vegetables and flower plant pots planted by students as part of the gardening classes were displayed and put up for sale during the exhibition, he added. Principal DPS Viqar Afza said, "Such flower shows should be a regular feature of our city so that the younger generation could learn about the importance of the plants and environment and enjoy the beauty of nature."

Courtesy: The News

Election Commission launches mobile service fore voters

Soha Malik
BS33 2767



ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan

announced on Wednesday that it has started a mobile text messaging service for confirming names of voters in the electoral rolls.

The voters can confirm their enrollment in the rolls by sending a message containing their Computerised National Identity Card number to 8300.

Secretary Election Commission Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan told

the media that several recommendations were under consideration to make the election process more transparent.

Khan said that the commission was also considering making 10-15 per cent turnout rate of the women voters mandatory.

He said amendments would be introduced to curb the incidents of aerial firing in elections as well as trimming down election campaigning expenses by the candidates. Khan said that the electoral rolls would be published on May 25.

Courtesy: Dawn News

PAF victorious in national skiing event



Sana Farooq
BS34 2880

KARACHI: PAF were crowned champions at the 28th Men's National Skiing Championship in Naltar, while the Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts (GBS) came second at the event and Pakistan Army finished third.

PAF's Sher Afzal was victorious in the super giant slalom event, while teammate Mohammad Kareem took the silver medal and Pakistan Army's Mohammad came third. Meanwhile, GBS' Mir Nawaz stood first in the giant slalom category, while Ishaq Khan came second and



PAF's Liaqat Ali finished third.

The two-day championship featured 56 athletes from 12 teams. The women's national championship will begin on March 2 in Naltar.

Courtesy: Express, Tribune

Positive Pakistani: Oasis for the underprivileged



Kinza Peracha
BS33 2814

The foundation of The Garage School (TGS) was laid in 1999 when Shabina's maid convinced her to teach her daughter, cleaning out the garage for the purpose, as it was the only place in her house which could be dedicated to giving lessons to the little girl. But Somia wasn't Shabina's only student — news that she would be giving lessons for free had spread quickly in the neighbourhood and on the first day of 'school' 14 bright faces eagerly turned towards Shabina as she stepped into that single-room school, ready to teach.

Those were the humble beginnings of The Garage School, as it came to be called, and from that point on there was no looking back. Children who could not gain admission in a regular school and students from the nearby slums of Neelum Colony and Shah Rasool Colony flocked in droves to Shabina's home, keen to learn. In fact, the number of enthusiastic learners who would turn up outside

Contd. on P.g 7

Tree Plantation Commenced in Kashmir



Soha Malik
BS33 2767

MIRPUR: The spring tree plantation commenced across Azad Jammu Kashmir on Saturday during which at least ten million trees are said to be planted throughout the territory according to the state forest department spokesman on the eve of the tree plantation drive in Mirpur.

Sources said that the target of planting 10 million saplings across Azad Jammu Kashmir during the campaign has been fixed. Over a million saplings will be planted in Mirpur division comprising Mirpur, Kotli and Bhimbher districts. Efforts will be made to ensure that the maximum number of people participate in the tree plantation drive to make it a complete success and to protect the plants in future.

The AJK government has directed the forest department to ensure the availability of saplings of various species free of cost in all government nurseries and sale points during the forthcoming spring tree plantation drive.

Source: Express Tribune

Pakistan views Khar-Clinton meet as 'positive, constructive'

Kinza Peracha
BS33 2814

Islamabad, Feb 24 (IANS) Pakistan Friday described the meeting between Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in London as "positive and constructive".

The Khar-Clinton's meeting Thursday came as relations between the two allies are strained on a variety of issues, especially since last year's killing of Al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden at his hideout deep inside Pakistan and NATO strikes at two border checkpoints killing 24 Pakistani soldiers.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of an international conference on Somalia, convened by British Prime Minister David Cameron, Xinhua reported.

Addressing a weekly press briefing, Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Basit Friday said: "You will agree with me that Pakistan-US relations are important and we are trying to make these relations transparent and predictable."

"We are waiting for the completion of our parliamentary process. We will proceed further in the light of parliamentary guidelines," the spokesman said, referring to the review of future relationship with the US.

Asked about reports that Clinton informed Khar about commencement of drone

strikes in Pakistan, Basit said Pakistan believes that the US drone strikes were unlawful and unacceptable and "these strikes hamper counter-terrorism efforts and realisation of shared objectives".

"We have been raising this issue with the US bilaterally. We have not yet taken a decision in this regard," the spokesman said.

Courtesy: DAWN

Contd. Iran to give

The tender for the Pak-Iran gas pipeline will be issued on Monday or Tuesday, he further added.

The United States has been pressurising Pakistan to not go ahead with the deal because of its sanctions of Iran, however, Pakistan insisted on continuing with it. Russia has also asked Pakistan to award a \$1.2 billion pipeline-laying contract to its energy giant Gazprom without going into bidding process.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

ENTERTAINMENT



NAPA festival: Save the drama...

Sana Farooq
BS34 2880

Karachi: National Academy of Performing Arts (Napa) has finally announced its own festival, and the organisation committee looks more than excited to capitalise on its brigade of homegrown artists. Napa's Young Director's Festival is expected to be a burst of theatrical and artistic prowess and viewers have high expectations from the shows, since this is the first widely advertised creative fiesta hosted by Napa.

"The purpose of this festival is to give our graduates a platform to experiment and present their ideas on stage," said the special projects manager at Napa, Zain Ahmed at a press conference organised to unveil the festival. "This festival also has four original plays, which will hopefully defy the preconceived notion that



Napa always performs adaptations and translations," he added.

The 10 day festival, which is said to kick-start on March 1, will go on till the March 11. The tickets cost Rs300, and in an effort to attract young audience, a 50 per cent discount has been allotted for students.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Festival to attract tourists to the snowy peaks of Malam Jabba



Aamina Suleman
BS29 2367

SWAT: To draw tourists to Malam Jabba, the biggest and most popular ski resort in the country, the Pakistan Army has organized a week-long Swat Show Festival. This, the snow festival "Ski and Smile in Swat" will include other snow-related activities like paragliding and a competition for children for a wider appeal.

"The sole objective of the festival is to attract tourists for winter sports, revive tourism in Swat and boost incomes of people connected with tourism," said

Contd. on P.g 6

London, Paris, New York: Ali Zafar rocks the industry



Aamina Suleman
BS29 2367

Karachi: Even before its release, Ali Zafar's film London, Paris, New York (LPNY), is doing wonders for the Pakistani musician-cum-actor as his songs are ranking on top of radio channel Air Check India.

Zafar, who has written six songs for this film and has also sung and composed them, is the first lead actor in a Bollywood production to take over the role of a music director. The songs that have left a mark on Indian listenership include, "Voh Dekhnay Mein", "Ting Rang" and the title track "London, Paris, New York.

An excited Zafar said about this achievement, "I am humbled by the response. Making music for films is not an easy job. You have to compose a song within the parameters of the situation which has been decided by the writer and the director. I consider myself lucky that whatever I sent to the producers and director was liked by them. I didn't have to remake any song."



On the terrific response he got from his fans, he said, "What a singer awaits the most is the response of his fans. And up till now, this venture has been very encouraging. I have been performing live with co-star Aditi Rao in different cities for film promotions and the response we have gotten from the crowd has kept me going."

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Naval chief

floods in Sindh. He also praised their endeavors for empowering women in the area through industrial homes. Later, Sandila visited the Battalion Headquarters at Sujawal and Chor Jamali.

Courtesy: The Nation

Pakistani companies attract customers at Dubai food show



Aamina Suleman
BS29 2367

Karachi, February 29, 2012: Pakistani firms have received keen response from buyers at the world's largest hospitality trade show Gulfood 2012, recently concluded in Dubai, a statement said on Monday.

According to Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), 23 leading Pakistani companies participated in the exhibition held from February 19-22, showcasing their full range of products under Pakistan Pavilion, covering an area of 184sqm in Shaikh Saeed Hall of the exhibition centre, it said-APP

Pakistani bowlers get positive spin in rankings

Muhammad Ali Asif
BS29 2316

The Pakistani spin duo of Saeed Ajmal and Abdul Rehman were rewarded for their matchwinning efforts against the world's number one-ranked test outfit England by moving up in the world bowling rankings released on Sunday.

Ajmal and Rehman destroyed the England batting on Saturday in the second Test here taking nine wickets between them as the English were all out for 72 in their second innings, their lowest total ever in tests against the Pakistanis.

It gave Pakistan an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three test series as they won by 72 runs.

Ajmal took 3-22 while Rehman recorded career best figures of 6-25 which saw the former rise one place to number two in the ICC (International Cricket Council) bowlers' rankings, while Rehman is in



ninth place after moving up five places and is in the top ten for the first time.

Ajmal - who also reached the landmark of 100 test wickets in only his 19th match - trails number-one ranked Dale Steyn of South Africa by 84 points.

This is the first time in 23 years that two Pakistan spinners figure inside the top 10 of the Test player rankings. In September 1988, Abdul Qadir was ranked fifth and Iqbal Qasim 10th, the ICC said.

Courtesy: www.cricbuzz.com

Rs137b TFCs to have positive impact for energy

Muhammad Ali Asif
BS29 2316

KARACHI - The federal government has decided to issue Terms Finance Certificates (TFCs) worth Rs137 billion in, what the analysts believe, another attempt to ease liquidity problems of the energy sector. However, the industry grapevine is suggesting that the transaction is likely to be exhausted within couple of days. The transaction would clean the balance sheet and reduce short-term borrowing of the energy sector companies by Rs109 billion, while another Rs28 billion would be fresh injection in the system. For the banks, it would slightly reduce the non-performing loans in short-term and may lead to one time positive impact on earnings. Overall, the transaction aims to revitalise the lending capability of the banking sector to the energy chain.

Contd. Pakistan to showcase textile

exceptional response from India - a market of over a billion people where Pakistani fashion products have generated a lot of interest in the middle and upper middle classes.

"Top Pakistani fashion designers will exhibit their products at the event," a TDAP official told *The Express Tribune*. Organisers have also planned catwalk shows for two days. According to TDAP officials, the programme was initially planned to be held in the Pakistani High Commission in Delhi, but owing to the overwhelming response, it will now be organised at Pragati Maidan.

This will be Pakistan's first-ever official-culture exhibition in India. The last exhibition was held in New Delhi in 1996 under the banner of Saarc.

Top Pakistani government officials will also accompany the exhibitors and meet Indian officials to discuss the on-going trade between the two countries. Booking of stalls has already started and a large number of fashion designers and exporters are taking interest. The exhibition will cover textiles, designer dresses, readymade garments, leather garments and leather goods, furniture, jewellery, rice, carpets, spices, fruits and vegetables, marble and onyx and traditional ceramic tiles;

Courtesy: The News

Contd. Neelum-Jhelum project

Official sources in Wapda said that the TBMs were imported from Germany and would expedite the excavation of 32-kilometre long water tunnels.

Pakistan would join the club of hi-tech countries which use the machinery for excavating tunnels. The sources said construction work was under process on the project round the clock to ensure completion of the project by June 2016. The 969MW Neelum-Jhelum Hy-

dropower Project is part of Wapda's low cost generation programme, being implemented on a priority basis. The project is being constructed over Rivers Neelum and Jhelum in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The project will contribute about 5.15 billion units of electricity annually to the national grid. Annual benefits of the project have been estimated at Rs45 billion.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Festival to attract

Brig. Sajjad Ahmed, in a briefing for journalists.

The snow festival will be inaugurated by the Norwegian ambassador on March 3 and will continue till March 10. Thousands of tourists, however, have already come to Swat and are waiting for the festival to begin.

"We have come from Lahore to watch people ski. It's thrilling for us and this promises to be a memorable trip for the whole family," said Shayan Ali, who was enjoying the snow on the slopes in Malam Jabba with his family.

Courtesy: the Express Tribune

Contd. Hina Khar

were bad years but in 2011 and 2012 a lot of normalcy has come back. I don't think there is as much of a security risk as is perceived.

Khar went on to mention that cricket being a high profile event needs more security. "Polo international players come to Pakistan and they go unnoticed and that is why they can afford to come.

The high profile of cricket obviously makes the difference. For cricketers we can provide the type of security that is required. Cricket plays a huge role in bringing people of both the countries together," she said.

Courtesy: The Nation

Contd. After Oscar

The singular success of Chinoy is the tangible manifestation of the talent the Pakistani youth is gifted with, the Prime Minister added.

Altaf Hussain announces gold medal for Chinoy Mutahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) chief Altaf Hussain has announced a gold medal for Sharmeen Chinoy.

He made this announcement while talking to the members of Rabita Committee of his party at its head quarters "Nine Zero" via telephone, said a statement issued by MQM on Monday.

He said the Oscar Award given to her for the documentary film would be a source of honour not only for Chinoy but also for the entire country.

Altaf Hussain instructed the party's Rabita Committee to hold a befitting reception for Ms Chinoy when she returns to Pakistan.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Banking Industry

shadow and lack better risk management and due diligence.

He said the agriculture sector and SMEs are of paramount importance for the growth, but these were highly ignored, urging the Islamic banks to tap the huge opportunities available in the agriculture sector. Given its relatively short history, the industry has over one trillion dollar assets with presence in over 75 countries across the globe. The widespread growth has not only been a result of activities of pure Islamic financial institutions, but also has contributions of conventional institutions that eyed Islamic finance as a profitable economic opportunity. Moreover, resilience of Islamic financial institutions during the financial crisis has lent them more credence than their interest-based conventional counterparts, he added.

Courtesy : Pakistan today

Contd. Karachi Literature Festival concludes

speakers and discussions of their choice, had to either return disappointed or just stand outside the rooms.

On Sunday, the second day of the festival, the organisers, to some extent solved the problem by fixing a giant video screen outside the biggest venue, the Ballroom, and a large number for whom there was no room left in the room, were seen crowding around the video screen and monitoring the proceedings inside. The hotel lobby was jam-packed.

There were dozens of authors from the Pakistani diaspora who have made a mark for themselves in the field of authorship and literature in their adopted countries, most notable among them being Ayesha Jalal, an internationally-acclaimed historian and author, presently teaching at Tufts University, Boston, USA; and Hanif Kureishi, the Pakistan-origin London-based writer and playwright whose plays have been hits the world over.

Sunday, the closing day of the festival featured some highly intellectually invigorating and socially productive panel discussions. Among these, there was a discussion titled, "The emergence of Bangladesh: a military failure or the collapse of civil society", based on Sarmila Bose's book on the subject. It was a soul-searching expose of the circumstances that led to the December 1971 tragedy. Brigadier (retd) AR Siddiqui, came up with an objective analysis highlighting the political events in the period intervening from the general elections of December 1970 and the fall of Dhaka. So did noted journalist Khalid Ahmed, even though their views were divergent. The session saw some emotional exchanges when the discussion was thrown open to the gathering for questions and answers with some vehemently defending the Pakistani position in the conflict and others highlighting the blunders by the then government of Pakistan.

Then there was a discussion on literary criticism and Urdu clas-

sics. These were just some of the many discussions held on various literary subjects and social issues.

The festival finally came to an end with an interactive dialogue between Susan Nicklin, Director, Literature, of British Council, London, and Hanif Kureishi. Kureishi, in reply to Nicklin's question, said that his visit to Karachi and to the festival was a source of pleasure as he had seen for himself the desire and the urgency among the people of Pakistan, especially the young folk, to speak out unfettered about their country and other countries vis-à-vis Pakistan.

"We all know that politicians are a dishonest lot of people", he said, adding, "So one place where people can speak their minds out and vent their grievances against politicians are stories, and it is so nice to know that Pakistan is teeming with young highly promising writers. He said the effects of writing may not manifest themselves immediately and quoted the example of Charles Dickens, about whom he said, people just didn't bother because they weren't even aware of what he was trying to put forth, but it was generations later that Dickens' writings brought about revolutionary changes in society. Writers, he said, tell you of what's going on in your neighbourhood.

"No writer exists on his own. He has to bank on what others say and feel. That is how culture develops", he said.

Martin Fryer, Director, Programmes, of British Council, said that these two days had turned out to be highly fruitful and lauded the work done by the OUP and his team at the British Council in organising such a successful event.

Ameena Saiyid, Managing Director of the Oxford University Press (Pakistan), thanked the British Council for their cooperation without which, she said holding such a mega event could not have been possible. She said that the festival was meant to showcase the tremendous store of talent in the coun-

try. She said that entry to the festival would continue to be free and announced that next year onwards, it would be a three-day festival. She also thanked her team immensely for their hard work in making the event a success and had special words of praise for Zehra Naseem and Raheela Baqai of the Oxford University Press.

Dr Asif Aslam Farrukhi, lauded the work done by the OUP and the British Council and said that the event, by all accounts was a resounding success. The closing speeches were followed by a musical programme by Salman Ahmed and his ensemble, Junoon.

The proceedings of the closing ceremony were conducted by Mahshud Rizvi, Director British Council in Sindh and Balochistan.

Courtesy: The News International

Contd. Oasis for the

Shabina's door simply kept increasing by the day.

While multiplication tables and match-the-word exercises were very much a part of daily school lessons, it was more than just book knowledge that TGS aimed to impart. It had a more holistic view to education: making these children competitive, responsible, healthy, well behaved and successful. Shabina often reminds her students of the 4 T's on which her system is based: Taleem (education), Tarbiat (upbringing), Taur (manners), Tariqay (behaviour) — which, she believes, lead to the fifth T, that is Taraqqi (success).

This is our motto. I always tell my students that I can only help them in obtaining the first four tools, but achieving success depends upon their hard work and determination," says Shabina.

At the same time, Shabina also feels she has the responsibility of grooming and coaching these children so that they can be accommodated in mainstream institutions. In 2002, she approached Nasra School and prepared the students for its entrance exam. "I want them to progress to a respectable career. It makes me feel really proud that 22 of my students were accepted at Nasra School and 16 by St Patrick's Technical College," she says.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

SPORTS



Six Nation Snooker Tournament to start in Karachi



Yasir Ansari
BS332759

Karachi: Current world amateur champion Hossein Vafaei Ayouri of Iran is among top 20 players from seven nations who will appear in the six-day Jubilee Insurance sponsored international snooker championship that cue off here on March 4. PBSA president Alamgir Shaikh Tuesday said previously the event was to be a six-nation contest but with the inclusion of Bahrain the competition has been

made seven-nation championship.

Now the participating nations are Pakistan, India, Iran, Thailand, UAE, Egypt and Bahrain, he added. He said efforts were being made to get visa for the two-member Indian team and hoped that they would arrive here in time.

He said Rs. 3.5 million is the total sponsorship while the total expenses are expected to be around Rs. 3.2 million. The winner will receive \$2000 and the runners-up \$1000. There will be special prize of \$100 for highest break, he added. He said all the participants have been placed in four groups of five players. There would be change in the formation of Pakistan team in case Indian players could not arrive here in time. In that case Sharjeel Mahmood and Vishin Gir of Pakistan would be dropped.

Courtesy: The Nation

Hina Khar toes Singh's 'cricket diplomacy' line



Yasir Ansari
BS332759

Abu Dhabi - Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar wants India-Pakistan cricket series to be held at the earliest. She even revealed that India is very enthusiastic to play this series.

Khar, who strongly believes that cricket, can bring peace and friendship between the two countries is on a mission to ensure that this series happens at the earliest through talks with the Indian government. "We have been talking about cricket's return to Pakistan especially with India. Our prime minister has always talked about the resumption and

India is also very enthusiastic." Hina Khar, who was at the Zayed Cricket Stadium for the third Twenty20 match between Pakistan and England on Monday, said: "We have been talking about cricket's return to Pakistan especially with India. Our prime minister has always talked about the resumption and India is also very enthusiastic. The only problem is scheduling and that is why there have been problems. We have always believed in cricket diplomacy and there is a harmony in cultures of both the countries. We both are good at cricket and people on both sides love the game. Pakistan and India are bonded by cricket and we need that unity at the moment."

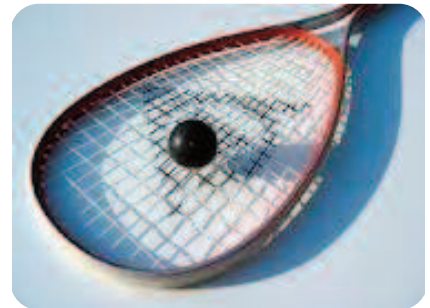
When asked whether conditions are conducive for return of international team to play in Pakistan, Khar said: "I think the conditions are as conducive as anywhere else. You must have seen that the situation in Pakistan has improved considerably in the last few months. It is a fact that 2009 and 2008

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Ali, Tayyab in final of Junior Squash

Muhammad Talha Qureshi
BS 353032

KARACHI - Top seed and favourite Ali Bokhari raced through to straight three games win over Ahmed Amin 11-6, 11-2, 11-8 in the first semi-final to reach the final of boys under 19 of the Roshan Khan Junior Squash Championships here on Tuesday at Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan-Jahangir Khan Complex.



His opponent in the final will be Tayyab Aslam who had to struggle for over 67 minutes to suppress an energetic challenge from Ammad in the second semi-final which he won 11-7, 11-7, 13-15 and 11-4.

Top seed Aillee Nayeri of Iran moved into the girls under 15 final defeating Nimra Shahid 11-4, 11-6, 11-3. In the final she faces Madina Zafar who beat Mayral Sheikh 11-2, 11-1, 11-3 in second semi-final. In girls under 19 event, Saadia Gul and Samar Anjaum will vie for the top honours. In boys under 17 category, Asim Khan will face Safiullah Kakar for title.

Rishwan and Ahsan Ayaz are in boys under 15 final while in boys under 13 category final, Kashif Asif will face Sumaid Rashid and in boys under 11, Ali Karamat and Mujtaba Raza will vie for the honour.

Courtesy: The Nation

"The positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible"