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Positive Post

Monthly publication to create a soft and positive image of Pakistan



2012 Silver Jubilee Year

Government reduces petrol prices twice in a month



Andleeb Ahmed
MS35 2988

Islamabad: Petrol prices have been reduced by Rs10.46 per litre, Express News reported on Friday.

While diesel prices have been reduced by Rs 6.08 per litre.

During a press conference, Federal Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the government made these reductions keeping in mind the current situation.

He also said that the provincial governments and relevant authorities should make sure that transport fares are adjusted accordingly.

“The reductions made are substantial and the benefits should reach the common man,” he stressed.

As reported earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani had

issued directives for reduction in prices of petroleum products and compressed natural gas (CNG).

Ministry of Petroleum and the All Pakistan CNG Association also reached a consensus on pricing and gas outages which helped bring a week long strike by the station owners across Pakistan to an end.

The announcement for second reduction was made on June 30, 2012. The Petrol prices was further reduced by Rs. 5.01 per litre.

Courtesy: Express Tribune



Pakistani prodigy sets world record



Faria Ali
BS40 3505

Lahore, June 3: Pakistani student, Shayan Anique

Akhtar, has set a world record in Microsoft Professional Certificate programme by achieving 998 marks out of a total of 1000, Geo News reported.

His name has been entered
Contd. Pg .6



Wagah ceremony to feature women soldiers



Syed Muhammad Ahsan Khan
BS39 3430

June 24: The ceremonial beating retreat held every evening at the Attari-Wagah border between Pakistan and India will soon be performed by women soldiers, Times of India reported on Tuesday.

India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers have agreed to have women platoon commanders take part in the daily flag-lowering cere-



mony, a tradition that has taken place between the two countries since 1959 and features a perfectly coordinated lowering of the two nations' flags, preceded by a brazen parade performed by infantrymen of both countries. Initially,
Contd. Pg .7

Economic uplift: Pakistan to open more trading points in Balochistan

Andleeb Ahmed
MS35 2988

Islamabad: Suffering from militancy, sectarian violence and a separatist insurgency – the country's top political and military leadership is betting on trade to uplift Balochistan.

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A new hope for liver patients



Mehr Kassim
MS36 3107

Islamabad: Thanks to the new liver transplant centre at Shifa International Hospital, Muhammad Yaseen, 11, the only brother of eight sisters, can now live life to the fullest. He can go to
Contd. Pg .7



Positive Post

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Employ green economy to protect G-B's eco system, say speakers

Hina Madni
MS35 2990



Gilgit: Proper disposal of solid waste, better utilisation of water resources, and minimising the use of smoke-emitting vehicles will help save the ecosystem of the region. This was said at a workshop on "Green Economy" held at a local hotel here on Thursday.



Environmentalists stressed on individual contributions to protect the fragile ecosystem of Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B). They zeroed in on the concept of green economy, which helps in improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

Haider Raza, Head of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in G-B, said that Environment Impact Assessment and Strategic Environment Assessment are the basic tools used to preempt environmental, social, archaeological and cultural hazards during implementation of development projects.

A representative of the Building and Sanitation Improvement Programme underlined environment considerations with respect to construction and using energy saving methods that

Contd. Pg .7

VIP status: Pakistan added to EU trade preference list

Andleeb Ahmed
MS35 2988

The European Parliament's plan of doing more "for poorer countries" has opened trade gates for three new countries including Pakistan.

The new rules will enable Pakistan, Philippines and Ukraine to apply for zero duty access on their exports to the EU under the "GSP+"

Contd. Pg .6



Seventeen year-old Ghalib Khalil's parents always knew that their son was a bit of a philanthropist



Hina Madni
MS35 2990

Always mindful of the plight of others, 17-year-old Ghalib Khalil decided to wade right through to the ones who needed to be rescued during the 2010 floods and has won international recognition for it. Always mindful of the plight of others, 17-year-old Ghalib Khalil decided to wade right through to the ones who needed to

Contd. Pg .4

EDITOR'S NOTE

This Positive Post in your hand contains stories about reduction in petrol prices, sports activities in FATA, achievement of Pakistani student in Microsoft professional certificate programme, etc. Our endeavour is to present with grace the Positive image of Pakistan.

How far we are successful; it is for you to decide. We only believe in effort.

Interview with a tourist: Rediscovering the land of the hospitable

Mehr Kassim
MS36 3107

"When I couldn't afford to rent a car, some locals lifted my luggage on their shoulders, guiding me to the destination free-of-cost," Estonian Photographer Eeva Kaun.

GILGIT: On a trip to explore the country which has made headlines for all the wrong reasons, a foreigner says she is startled by the hospitality of its people.

"I met various people and found them to be extremely humble, hospitable and cooperative," said Eeva Kaun, an Estonian photographer, in an interview with The Express Tribune. She said that media reports and commentary about terrorist activities are overshadowing the positives of the country, which has "so much to offer to nature lovers".

Earlier, Kaun spent some time in India where she heard a lot about the propaganda against Pakistan and its people. "I was

warned that I would be either killed or kidnapped for ransom if I visited Pakistan," she said, adding that in Europe too, she was advised not to venture into the country for security reasons.



However, she now plans to share her pleasant experience of Pakistan with her family and friends who had warned against the visit. "It was mainly these anti-Pakistan and Islam sentiments that tempted me to visit the region just to satiate my inquisitive nature," she said.

As part of her tour, she landed in Karachi and then travelled

Contd. Pg. 7

TCF student wins USA Art Competition

Faria Ali
BS40 3505

Karachi, June 7: The TCF Family is proud of young Shahid Wajid Ali who is among the winners of 2012 Space Foundation Student Art Contest. TCF Student Shahid is one of the 36 winners (in different categories) out of more than 1,500 global entries! Because the winners are from all over the world, instead of having a ceremony, the space foundation made a video featuring astronauts who announced names of the young winners.

Based in USA, The Space Foundation, sponsor of the 2012 Space Foundation Student Art Contest, is a global, nonprofit leader in space awareness, educational programs that bring space into the classroom and major industry events, including the National Space Symposium.

The winning entries of this-competition were displayed in the Ball Aerospace Exhibit



Center Pavilion at the Space Foundation's 28th National Space Symposium at The Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs (April 16-19). Furthermore, all the winning entries were also displayed on www.artsonia.com/space, an online museum of exceptional student artwork.

To financially support his family, he has been working at a small embroidery setup in his street. Since the tender age of nine he has been working there learning the art of threadwork (zari ka kaam) his tender fingers have been bruised hundreds of times in the process of learning this art but Shahid has never given up.

Courtesy: goodnews.pk

Aman Foundation enhances beach-rescue services

Naz Aleem
BS39 3430



Karachi, June 17: A ceremony was held to inaugurate lifeguard services with an aim to provide safety to the 2 million annual beach goers of Karachi. "Aman-PALS" lifeguard services are a much needed public service made possible by Aman Foundation and Pakistan Life Saving ("PALS").

Taking note of the massive impact of lifeguard services, which brought drowning rates to nil on the beaches of Karachi, AMAN Foundation has decided to become one of the primary organizations to sustain the invaluable lifeguard services for the next 5 years.

The lifeguards are selected by PALS and then trained by the best in the field, cour



tesy of "Surf Life Saving"-New Zealand and "Surf Life Saving"-Australia, to turn them into contributing members of their communities and their households. Aman-PALS will not only ensure safety at Karachi beaches but will also sustain and build a thriving social enterprise. This is a prime example of the grass roots approach that AMAN Foundation takes to transform lives.

The lifeguard services were first revived by Aman Foundation in early 2011 through

disbursement of a capacity building grant to PALS. During the period June to December 2011, the lifeguards successfully rescued over 300 lives and administered first aid to over 400 beach visitors. The launch of Aman-PALS lifeguard services comes at an important time when thousands flock every month due to the summer season and the rough sea necessitates such free public safety.

Courtesy: The Nation



Safari Park to get Bengal tiger, African lion

Syed Muhammad Ahsan Khan
BS39 3430

Karachi, June 15: Four new animals — a hippopotamus, an African lion, a Bengal tiger and a white lion — will be arriving at the zoo within the next few months, but most of them will be moved to Safari Park once their enclosures are completed.

"We will be getting a white lion from France, a tiger and a hippopotamus from South Africa," said Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Administrator Mohammad Hussain Syed while talking to the newsmen at the Karachi Zoological Garden. "Every few months you will be seeing an increase in animals in Karachi's zoos."

Half the year has already passed by. In March, the KMC had claimed that they will be getting 17 new species, making the total number of animals 48 by the end of this year. Two Pumas (Puma Concolor) from Canada are the latest acquisitions by the zoo. The pair of 4.5-year-old pumas cost Rs2.1 million. They were unveiled at a

ceremony held at the zoo today. A competition will be held in schools across the city for naming the animals.

The former director of the zoological garden, Bashir Khan Saddozai, who is now the director of Safari Park, said that the park will get five animals this year for sure. "Except for the white lion, all of the animals, including the hippopotamus, Bengal tiger, the pair of pumas and the African lion, will be moved to 'cages' in Safari Park."

Generally "safari" denotes an area where animals can be observed in their natural habitat, or are at least free to roam about and visitors drive through. But Karachi's Safari Park may stray from this definition.

"These animals are going to be in cages and the actual safari is a separate matter," Saddozai said, when asked why the pumas, lions and tigers will all be in cages.

The KMC also said that an aviary will also be ready in Safari Park within three months.



In that aviary "the birds will have enough space to fly freely".

The initial proposal for animals required at the zoo included golden tabby tiger, white Bengal tiger, Bengal tiger, white lion, African lion, cheetah, black leopards, jaguars, white rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, giraffes, greater kudu, eland, gemsbok oryx, Asian black bears, zebras, ring-tailed lemurs, De Brazza's monkeys and black crested mangabey at an estimated cost of Rs120 million.

But not all of them will be brought in this year. "It is hard to get so many animals because the cash flow and the budget is limited," explained Saddozai.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Diya star trounce TC in football

loss, TC Women also qualified for the national championship.

Meanwhile, the match between Young Islamia Women FC and Islamia Sports Science Women FC ended in a barren draw at Higher Secondary School Ground in Bahawalpur.

Courtesy: The News

Pakistani student honoured in Germany



With the prize of the German Academic, the Universität Ulm has this year honoured Hasan Iqbal (middle) from Pakistan. He studies in the masters programme of Communications Technology and had together with his fellow countryman and colleague, Muhammad Tariq Afridi, in the autumn of last year 2011, started a fund for the flood victims in Pakistan. They managed to collect a respectable sum of 1800 euros, which were transferred to Pakistan through the German Red Cross (DRK). A criteria for the selection of the candidate, was also the academic performance of the student.

My study program is communications technology, basically electrical engineering with specialisation in micro-electronics. I am doing my thesis right now, which is titled, "Design of X-Band SPDT GaN Switches". I have to design (in software first) a transistor switch which can be used to switch between signals of 8-12 GHz and also the power handling capacity of the switch should be quite high. Which is why I am using GaN. GaN is a pretty new technology and not much work has been done in this area, so in a way I will be doing something new, which hasn't been done a lot before.

Courtesy: German University magazine, UNIULM Intern

Contd.: Seventeen-year-old Ghalib Khalil's

be rescued during the 2010 floods and has won international recognition for it.

Seventeen-year-old Ghalib Khalil's parents always knew that their son was a bit of a philanthropist. "Every time we saw a beggar on the street, he would force us to give something," says his mother, recalling Ghalib's childhood. "He was always curious about why people were weak, sick and poor."

It didn't then come as a surprise to them that when the 2010 floods devastating Pakistan, Ghalib was filled with the desire to help those thousands of people whose lives and livelihoods had been swept away by the surging waters.

Not one to simply switch the channel and move on, Ghalib instead decided to roll up his sleeves and pitch in with the relief efforts. Thus, with the help of school friends

and one of his teachers, the Rescue Pakistan Youth Foundation was born and the real work of collecting funds for the flood victims began.

But good intentions are rarely enough in this world, and despite his enthusiasm, Ghalib wasn't too optimistic about receiving enough donations to make a difference. "I had thought that only Rs25,000 would be collected in the first flood drive, but two days later when I checked my bank account, it showed a balance of Rs200,000," said Ghalib in an interview with the BBC. "I was amazed at our people's generosity." It was an impressive beginning, but the best was yet to come: by the end of the campaign, which included a fundraising festival in Lahore that he had organised himself, he had collected 10 million rupees under the aegis of his newly formed NGO.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

ENTERTAINMENT



NAPA announces two plays for July

Syed Muhammad Ahsan Khan
BS39 3430

June 27: After gaining huge success for their director's festival in April, the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) is planning a comeback in July with two more plays: "Mantorama", a tribute to Saadat Hasan Manto as part of his centenary celebrations, and "Kamla", an unconventional social drama. This was announced at a press conference organised by Napa on Monday.

"We always try to provide a platform to young actors and directors. That is why both the plays are being directed and acted out by our own graduates," said Zain Ahmed, who heads the special programmes at Napa. Written by Khurram Shafique and directed by Sunil Shankar, "Mantorama" is a biography of Manto's life. "It is not a very conventional piece at all. More than Manto's life, we are trying to portray his imagination," said Shankar.

The second play, "Kamla", is written by Indian director Vijay Tendulkar and directed by Mesum Naqvi. "It addresses issues such as journalistic practices and



the state of human rights," said Naqvi. "Unfortunately, the play leaves the audience with more questions than answers."

Ashan Iqbal Bari, a Napa graduate, said the incorporation of live music in the plays will be something the audience should look forward to. "I am a classically-trained musician with a number of Western influences... what will come out will be an interesting amalgamation of both. We can call it a contemporary rendition of classical music," said Bari.

"Mantorama" will be performed from July 5 to July 9 whereas "Kamla" will run from July 12 to July 15. Both plays will take place at the Karachi Arts Council.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Gulgee's Buzkashi sells for record £61000 at Bonhams

Naz Aleem
BS39 34226

June 21, 2012: A stunning image by one of Pakistan's foremost modern artists Ismail Gulgee led a strong selection of works by major South Asian artists at Bonhams Annual Summer Sale of Modern and Contemporary South Asian art in New Bond Street, London.

The sale included works by well-known Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan artists such as MF Husain, Sadequain, Jamil Naqsh and AR Chughtai, sourced from private collections in Europe and the US.

The auction presented the largest group of works by Pakistani masters to ever come under the hammer at an international auction. Gulgee's 1965 work titled Buzkashi – given a reserve price of



£15,000 - £25,000 – which depicts Afghanistan's national sport, was one of the highlights of this section, more than doubling its upper estimate to finally go for £61,250. The sale price is a record for an oil-on-canvas work by Pakistani artist and follows the success of previous watercolours by Gulgee that have also sold for record amounts through Bonhams.

Courtesy: goodnews.pk

Pakistani chef spices up American cooking show

Faria Ali
BS40 3505

While friends were applying to Ivy Leagues and Oxbridge, up to five or six universities at a time, Ali applied to just one; a culinary institute in upstate New York.

While her mother supported her decision, her father, a well-known barrister in Lahore, initially urged her to apply to law schools instead, finally coming around after much persuasion. For 16-year-old Ali, there was no two ways about it – she started cooking at five and this would be her future.



Single-minded in her goal, her stubbornness combined with passion eventually helped her win an episode of the reality cooking show 'Chopped' which aired on June 12 on The Food Network in the United States.

The 22-year-old, who is a sous chef at Café Centro in mid-town Manhattan, remembers watching food television religiously. BBC Food while she was in Karachi and then The Food Network when she moved to the US. "My sister would beg me to change the channel, especially during Ramazan, but I would be like 'no, no, no', eventually my entire family was addicted."

When Chopped first aired on US television, Ali, who was then a student at the Culinary Institute of America, was hooked to it. "I convinced myself I would do it one day," recalls Ali.

Courtesy: Dawn.com

Contd. FATA players eye greener pastures

Almar Afridi, a first-class player in the Khyber Green squad, recounts how he stayed motivated for a three-hour walk, four days a week in order to reach the local stadium for the last three years. Despite his residence in a curfew-enforced area, which resulted in deterioration of basic infrastructure and restriction of public mobility, Almar never lost his enthusiasm. It was easy to walk away from it all but for Almar, nothing has been more important than realising his dream — not even the risk of losing his life.

“The operation in Bara has demolished everything,” Almar told The Express Tribune. “There are no roads and I had to walk for three hours to get to the bus stop. The landscape is very rugged and it damaged my shoes. There were times when I would be walking alone in an open area and firing

would start. I had to either return home or take shelter in some nearby residences. “Through thick and thin, Almar only sees greener pastures. His aim is to don the national colours.

“There was a blast near Jamroth Stadium in January which killed nearly 50 people but the players survived the attack. At that point many of us thought whether it was safe to play but we moved on.”

Another player who has certainly made a mark as a leg-spinner is Aslam Khan. With Danish Kaneria out of the reckoning, Aslam is confident of booking a spot in the playing-eleven.

“The televised matches have helped us gain recognition and now several people are telling me that I’ll become a star in the

future,” he said. “But I want to keep my head down and focus on my game. I opted out of a lucrative contract in a Bangladesh domestic league to become a part of the PCL and my decision was right because now several departments are offering me a job.”

Khyber Green captain Taimur Afridi also sounded confident and has set his sights on the national title.

“I request the cricket board to grant us a place in the national T20 tournaments and I am sure we have the quality to beat teams like Karachi Dolphins and Sialkot Stallions,” claimed Taimur who credited Rashid Latif for building an academy in Khyber Agency and said the development will go a long way in unearthing talent in the region.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Qureshi/Rojer Capture Halle Trophy

June 23, 2012: In Halle, top seeds Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi and Jean-Julien Rojer captured the Gerry Weber Open title on Sunday, beating Treat Conrad Huey and Scott Lipsky 6-3, 6-4.

The Roland Garros semi-finalists won 80 per cent of their service points and broke Huey and Lipsky once in each set to wrap up the final victory in just under one hour.

“I knew it was going to be a tough final. I played Huey three times this year and Lipsky twice, so we had a little bit of an idea on what to do. Because they had lost to us, we knew they would come in pumped, so we expected them to play really well,” Qureshi told ATPWorld-Tour.com.

“The whole tournament, the key for us has been to stay positive and use our



Contd. VIP Status: Pakistan added to EU trade preference list

incentive scheme, according to a Parliament statement.

“The new EU trade scheme is more predictable and more generous to countries that deserve it,” said British Conservative MEP and Legal Affairs spokesperson, Sajjad Karim. Pakistan will be allowed to apply for zero duty access if they agree to abide by the 27 international conventions in the field of human rights.

The new rules will reduce the number of countries that enjoy preferential access to EU markets from 176 to around 75. It will also reduce the total value of imports that qualify for EU preferences from 60 billion euros in 2009 to about 37.7 billion euros in 2014.

The updated generalised system of preferences (GSP), the Parliament informed, removes tariff preferences, such as reduced or zero duties, for EU imports from countries where per capita income has exceeded US 4,000 for four years. This rule ousted Russia, Brazil and Saudi Arabia from the beneficiaries list and will now have compete on an equal footing with the EU in world markets. Latin American

countries Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay remained out of the benefitting list.

The GSP plus scheme will contribute to the promotion of human rights, democracy and freedom of speech in the developing world, added Karim who is also Chairman of the European Parliament Friends of Pakistan Group.

“The European Parliament Friends of Pakistan group has been campaigning to increase the threshold of the GSP+ scheme to allow Pakistan to enjoy more trade with the EU.”

He also dismissed the few MEPs who called for Pakistan not to be included in the trade scheme in a European Parliament debate on Monday.

“The clear long-term strategy is for the EU and Pakistan to cooperate on a wide range of issues including trade, security and policy. The EU-Pakistan Five Year Engagement Plan and the recent successful launch of the first Strategic Dialogue in Islamabad this month with Baroness Ashton is clear evidence of that,” he added.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

momentum from Roland Garros. We ended up doing it and I’m really happy with how we played during the week, dealing with the different situations we were in. Last year, it was very special to win here. But defending a title for the first time in my career is definitely very sweet and I’d like to thank my partner Jules for making it happen.

Courtesy:dawn.com

Contd. Pakistani prodigy sets world record

in the Guinness Book of World Records for this accomplishment.

Shayan is also scheduled to meet Bill Gates in July this year on a special invitation of the Microsoft founder.

He is also a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP), Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS) and Microsoft Professional Developer (MPD).

Courtesy: The news.com

Contd. Economic uplift: Pakistan to open more trading point in Balochistan

The decision to open at least two more border crossing points with Iran and Afghanistan in Balochistan appears to be the first step towards a plan to create 'vital links' to transform the province into a transit route between South and Central Asia — a proposal given the green light by the United States, but one that may affect Islamabad's relationship with one of its closest ally, China.

According to officials familiar with the development, the top political and military leaders met in Islamabad last month to tame what some participants called an 'active insurgency' in the province.

The huddle to address the breakdown of law and order and missing persons in Balochistan was presided over by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani and attended by Chief of Army Staff

Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen Zaheerul Islam.

The meeting that came on the heels of calls by top political leaders to curtail the role of the military in Balochistan also decided to form a six-member committee to spearhead dialogue with rebel Baloch chieftains.

At least three top officials, including a federal minister, told The Express Tribune that the top leadership was unanimous on addressing the Balochistan imbroglio with a mix of political means and economic measures.

"One thing that we all agreed was that the youth in Balochistan don't have many opportunities to earn. There is no industry in the province, no agriculture. So we decided to give them a chance to have cross-border

trade," said the federal minister, who attended the meeting.

Currently, there are only two active international crossing points between the two countries — one at Taftan with Iran and one at Chaman with Afghanistan. However, these facilities are being used as transit points for smuggling.

Another official, requesting anonymity, told The Express Tribune, that a decision had not been taken yet as to where the crossing points would be established, adding that they could be located anywhere between Jeevani and Lasbella.

The official went on to add that another crossing point may be established in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, while at least two would be set up in Balochistan.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Wagha ceremony

Indian women platoon commanders would conduct the drill and Pakistan Rangers would follow.

The female platoon commanders are expected to begin taking part in the ceremony only after they are trained to be perfectly synchronised with each other, the mirroring being an integral part of the entire performance.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Employ green

would ultimately decrease pressure on natural resources.

The workshop was organised by IUCN in collaboration with the Planning Commission, the embassy of Netherlands and the G-B Environmental Protection Agency.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. A new hope for liver patients

school and play like his peers and look forward to a fulfilling life.

Yaseen formerly inaugurated the centre, on Saturday, opening its doors to all Pakistanis. The transplant centre has been functioning for the past six weeks and has given four recipients a fighting chance.

"We formally inaugurated the centre so patients are aware of the facility," said Liver Specialist Dr Faisal Dar. A smiling Yaseen who was suffering from a congenital liver disorder that resulted in complete liver failure shared his jubilation at being able to live life like ordinary boys.

"I want to be a liver transplant surgeon when I grow up," said Yaseen with conviction. Three other recipients also shared their happiness and new zest for life, while donors said giving a part of your body for the survival of a loved one is a small price to pay.

Dr Dar said all four patients Muhammad Yaseen, Asad Mir, Safia Begam and Rehana

Babar and their donors Humaira Sadaf, Waqas, Muhammad Irfan and Umar Zahid respectively, are in good health and recovering rapidly. He urged people not to hesitate in donating part of their liver to save precious lives as donors also recover very rapidly after donating a piece of their liver.

Though the transplant centre has been functional for six weeks, liver transplants and procedures have been carried out at Shifa International Hospital since 2009. Dr Dar said, "Liver transplant surgery is not new to Pakistan, but since many previous efforts have failed despite the availability of resources and infrastructure, the challenge was to develop a sustained liver transplant programme by studying and addressing existing deficiencies."

A liver transplant costs between Rs3 to 4 million which is attractive for foreign patients as well, while Pakistanis will save a lot of money, effort and time as they won't have to travel abroad for treatment, added another specialist.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Interview with a Tourist

to Gilgit by road. Along the way, she visited the Fairy Meadows, a tourist spot in Diamer valley. When she tried to hire a vehicle to traverse the valley, a driver demanded Rs6,000 rent, which she said was too much as she did not have extra money to spend on luxuries.

"After I ruled out the option, some locals turned up and lifted my luggage on their shoulders, guiding me to the destination free-of-cost," she recalled.

In the Khaplu town of Skardu, a local doctor introduced her to some villagers. "One of the unforgettable things I witnessed in Khaplu was the extreme shyness of the women. They ran away the moment they saw me," she said.

Kaun said that she was

awestruck by the natural beauty of this mountainous region that hosts some of worlds' highest peaks, including the second highest peak K2. Amidst all of that, she wondered why tourists were reluctant to visit this part of the world. "I was expecting various foreigners to be here but was shocked to see only a few," she added.

An official in the tourism department said the region has witnessed a sharp decline in tourism this year after Gilgit-Baltistan suffered one of the worst sectarian clashes some two months back. Kaun voiced that these clashes are an internal matter of two parties and expects it has nothing to do with the foreigners and tourists.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. From ball-boy to tennis champion

with being a handy-man, worked as a ball-boy, picking up tennis balls on the courts. Little did he know that all the time he spent on the court, intently watching the players plying their trade would help and inspire him to become a champion. According to the secretary of the Sindh Tennis

Association (STA), Khalid Rehmani, who is also the organiser of the Maroof Trophy Tennis Championship where Asheesh won the title, the boy caught everyone's eye. He ended up outplaying 20 other children who were professionally trained by coaches.

Courtesy: goodnews.pk

SPORTS



FATA players eye greener pastures

Mehr Kassim
MS36 3107

Fata players may lack facilities at their disposal but make up for it with their determination, talent and desire to represent Pakistan. PHOTO: PCL

Khyber Green Fata cricket club has come a long way in making a name for itself.

In an event that boasted participants of in-

ternational and first-class levels, Khyber Green Fata reached the final before their dream run in the 2nd Pakistan Champions League was ended by Al Noor Gymkhana. The journey, however, was a bumpy ride. Back home, the players struggled to make it to training and despite limited facilities – barring the Jamroth Cricket Stadium – they have shown what willingness and talent can do.

Contd. Pg .6



Diya Star trounce TC in football championship

Hina Madni
MS35 2990

Karachi, June 18: Diya Star Women FC recorded a formidable 7-0 triumph against TC Women FC in the 5th National Inter-Club Women Football Championship at KPT Football Stadium here on Friday.

With the win, Diya Star have earned a place in the eighth edition of National Women Football Championship from Group A.



Kiran Ali scored a hat-trick while Afshan Altaf struck a brace.

Rukhsar Rashid and Hajra Khan managed one goal each. Despite the

Contd. Pg .4

Squash: Muqadas stuns top-seed for Peshawar title

Mehr Kassim
MS36 3107

Peshawar: Wapda's Muqadas Ashraf shocked top-seed Saima Shaukat 3-0 to lift the National Women's Squash Tournament at the Hasham Khan Squash Complex in Peshawar. In the final, Ashraf, despite being seeded 10th at the event, outclassed her opponent 11-6, 11-6, and 11-7 to emerge victorious and also grab the Rs75,000 winner's prize-money.

"To be honest, I wasn't expecting to win the title as I hadn't trained for the event," Muqadas told The Express Tribune. "Even in



the third game, I wanted to pull out as I was very tired but my coach had warned me not to do anything stupid prior to the game. But it's a huge honour for me to beat someone seeded higher than me in the final."

Nadia Aziz, Muqadas' coach, said that the winner had drifted away from the sport in the last two years but she managed to convince her to take part in the event and travel from Iran where she is currently based. The title, according to Nadia, will also help Muqadas improve her national ranking.

While Saima got Rs50,000 as the losing finalist, The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Director Sports Khan Zab Khan, who was also the chief guest at the event, confirmed that the prize-money will be doubled for next year's event in order to encourage more female players to take part. The provincial squash federation's general secretary Qamar Zama added that a month long talent-hunt camp will be organised for the under-nine, U-11 and U-13 age groups in order to dig out new players.

Courtesy: Express Tribune



From ball-boy to tennis champion

Syed Muhammad Ahsan Khan
BS39 3430

Karachi: Asheesh, who at first glance would seem like any other less-fortunate 9-year-old boy from Karachi, is far from it. He is not just a breadwinner for his family by being a handy-man to the gardener at the Defence Authority (DA) Club, he is also a young tennis prodigy, who recently became the under-9 Sindh tennis champion.

Barely two weeks ago, Asheesh, along

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