

Positive Post

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Pakistani doctor given UN award on child health



Sehara Nadeem
BS41 3607

The World Health Assembly has rewarded a Pakistani physician, Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta, for his global work on child health and newborn survival.

World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Dr Margaret Chan announced the 'Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize' for Dr Bhutta at a session of the assembly in Geneva on Thursday.

Dr Bhutta is the founding director of the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health at Aga Khan University



Karachi and Robert Harding Inaugural Chair in Global Child Health at the Hospital for Sick Children Toronto.

He is also one of the seven members of Independent Expert Review Group, appointed by the UN secretary-general for monitoring global progress on maternal and child health millennium development goals.

Contd... on Pg.7

Pakistan, Iran to go ahead with gas project



Laraib Rajput
BS38 3345

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani agreed on Sunday to continue with the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

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Ziarat Residency may reopen on August 14, 2014



Adeel Qureshi
BS41 3635

The reconstructed Quaid-i-Azam Residency is likely to be inaugurated on August 14.

This was stated by the Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Balochistan, Ali Zaheer Hazara, during a media briefing.

He said 40 per cent work on the damaged residency had been completed and it would be ready in its original shape for inauguration by August 14. President Mamnoon Hussain or Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would inaugurate it, he added.



Ali Zaheer said after destruction of the residency in a bomb attack by militants on June 15 last year, the federal government and several donors offered to reconstruct it, but the Balochistan government decided to do the job from its own resources.

"Ziarat residency is our national asset and monument," he said.

The project will be completed at a cost of Rs140 million.

Contd... on Pg.6

\$90m for Balochistan highway



Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

The United States has pledged to provide \$90 million for the construction of Kalat-Quetta-Chaman Highway (N-25), according to an agreement here signed.



Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, National Highways Authority (NHA) Chairman Shahid Ashraf Tarrar and US Ambassador to Pakistan

Richard Olson signed the agreement.

The US government will initially provide \$64m and later \$26m for the completion of the project expected to boost regional trade.

Mr Iqbal said the government was paying attention to the uplift of communications and transport sectors. "Balochistan is on our top priority in this regard."

While highlighting the development vision of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, he said upgrading and repairing highways was important for regional progress. The N-25, he said, would facilitate access to Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asian States.

Contd... on Pg.6

EDITOR'S NOTE

*"Keep your face always toward the sunshine
- and shadows will fall behind you."*

-Walt Whitman

We should cultivate an optimistic mind and use our imagination to consider alternatives because every cloud has a silver lining. Hard work can help us over come all obstacles. Through a positive approach you can make possible what others think is impossible.

This month has many examples of hard work paying off, from a Pakistani doctor receiving a UN award on child health, to massive infrastructural development in Pakistan- new metro busses, gas pipelines, F-16's and construction of Kalat-Quetta-Chaman Highway.

A compilation of news made by students of Mass Communication and Media Studies of Greenwich University to highlight the positive aspects of Pakistan

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Malala's portrait fetches \$102,500



Naz Aleem
BS39 3430

The painting of Malala Yousafzai by Jonathan Yeo, was sold at Christie's auction house in New York for \$102,500, including the buyer's premium.

A press release by Christie's said Yeo painted Yousafzai in 2013 after she started attending a school in Birmingham, England, where she now lives.

The sale proceeds will go to the Malala Fund charity. The fund said the money would in turn be given to Nigerian non-profits that focus on education for women and girls in the wake of the kidnapping of



more than 300 schoolgirls in that country. The painting hung in the National Portrait Gallery in London last year for an exhibition of Yeo's portraits of well-known figures.

Courtesy: Dawn

Marble exports shine



Raafe Hassan
BS41 3697

Marble exports increased by 45 per cent in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year compared to the year-ago period.

Sanaullah Khan, the chairman of All Pakistan Marble Mining Processing Industry and Exporters Association, said the country fetched around \$70 million in July-April 2013-2014 compared to \$48 million in the same period of last fiscal year.



He said the major export destinations were China, Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Senegal, UAE, UK, Vietnam, US and Angola.

Contd... on Pg.6

BISP releases Rs 84m for education initiative

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has released Rs84.11 million to more than 18,000 beneficiaries of Waseela-i-Taleem (WIT) initiative. This is the first payment after the launch of the scheme in 2012.



The project's two objectives are to assist poor students and increase their enrolment in schools.

There had been an 'unfortunate delay' in the release of payments in five districts on account of technical reasons and verifications to ascertain the transparency, a BISP official said. The payment now being released includes arrears since the start of the initiative. The BISP is committed to releasing all future payments on time, he added.

Around 32,983 children were verified for enrolment in schools in Mirpur, Skardu, Malakand protected area, Noshki and Karachi South district and payment to beneficiaries is being released accordingly.

Courtesy: Dawn

US, Pakistan unveil action plan for trade, investment

Raaf Hassan
BS41 3697

The United States and Pakistan unveiled a joint action plan to expand trade and investment over the next five years.



At a meeting in Washington, Federal Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastgir Khan and US Trade Representative Michael Froman also signed a memorandum of understanding on women's economic empowerment.

The commerce minister came to Washington on Monday with a high-level delegation to attend the two-day meeting of the US-Pakistan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council, established in

2003 to facilitate discussions on bilateral issues.

"Trade with Pakistan supports good-paying jobs in the United States and is a key part of our effort to unlock opportunity for American workers, businesses, farmers, and ranchers," said Mr Froman while welcoming the Pakistani delegation.

Mr Khan said that with the joint action plan, the two countries were "turning a new leaf" in their trade and economic relations.

He hoped that the plan would provide a "permanent foundation" for promoting trade and investment between the two allies.

The minister noted that people expected a democratic government to deliver a better standard of living and create more jobs for them and an improvement in trade and economic ties with the United States could help the government deliver these facilities.

Mr Khan also said that since
Contd... on Pg.7

Interest-free loan scheme approved

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

The federal government will disburse Rs3.5 billion under an interest-free loan scheme.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif approved the scheme during a meeting.

One million applicants 50 per cent of them women from across the country will be able to get loans under the scheme.

"I am convinced that if our youth are given proper guidance and financial support through micro credit schemes and better access to innovative technology, they can play their positive role in development of the country," an official press statement quoted the prime minister said.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Chairperson of Prime Minister Youth Scheme (PMYS) Maryam Nawaz, Secretary Finance Dr Waqar Masood and other senior government officials attended the meeting.

The prime minister said micro finance schemes were the catalysts for political and economic development while micro credit was an instrument of change for the poor segment of the society, especially women.



Spokesperson for Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Dr Shireen Mazari, on the other hand, has termed the government's decision as a gimmick. The scheme, according to her, is not going to solve the real problems of poor people, such as inflation, loadshedding of electricity and unemployment. "This is the time the government should stop gimmickry and seriously tackle basic issues confronting the country," she added.

Contd.... on Pg.7

Good quality coal deposits found in Badin



Laraib Khan
BS43 3822

The Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) revealed on

Thursday discovery of good quality coal in Badin district of Sindh.

GSP Director General Dr Imran Khan informed the National Assembly's standing committee on petroleum and natural resources that the new coal deposits were estimated to be over one billion tonnes. The Badin coal is of very good quality and high heating value.

He said there were substan-



tial deposits of gold and copper and more than 200 million tonnes of iron ore but these could not be exploited or utilised because of lack of infrastructure and technology.

He said the exploratory rigs being used by the GSP for survey of natural deposits had been purchased in the 1950s and since then no addition was made.

Courtesy: Dawn

Analysis: Quest for F-16 jets takes PAF to Mideast

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

With the inclusion of a new squadron of F-16s in the fleet, the Pakistan Air Force continues its quest for sought-after fighter aircraft.



The PAF recently purchased over a dozen American-built F-16s from Jordan to boost its strength. Eleven of these aircraft joined the PAF squad at the Mushaf airbase in Sargodha on Wednesday. With this, the total number of F-16 aircraft in the PAF is said to

have reached around 80, thought to be more than sufficient to lead an aerial offence or defence tactic.

Though earlier it enjoyed supremacy in South Asia, the PAF was hit with financial constraints during the 1990s, and hardware restrictions were imposed on it by the US and its Western allies due to Pakistan's nuclear programme. Specifically, the refusal by the US to deliver 28 F-16s despite receiving a hefty price of \$685 million hit the steady development of the PAF. This prompted Pakistan to evolve an alternative strategy: this is the first time the PAF has purchased F-16

Contd... on Pg.7

3.35m broadband users

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

ISLAMABAD: The number of broadband users in the country has reached 3.35 million, an increase of around 10 per cent from the previously reported figure of 3.02m.

According to latest figures issued by Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, PTCL is still leading the market as it added 317,481 subscribers in



the last three months. Main contributors remained the EvDO technology, which acquired 256,543 new subscribers — or 80pc of new broadband customers. Courtesy Dawn

Courtesy: Dawn

Dutch minister proposes joint trade committee

Naz Aleem
BS39 3430

The Netherlands has offered Pakistan to become an active partner of the global partnership in the post-2015 development agenda driven by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Netherlands' minister for Trade and Development Cooperation, Lilianne Ploumen, during a meeting with Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Friday proposed to set up a Pak-Netherlands Joint Economic Committee to work on identifying the possibilities of strengthening cooperation in various fields.

The Netherlands would cooperate more with Pakistan in different sectors, said Ms Ploumen, and informed Mr Iqbal that the Dutch government would help Pakistan establish a horticulture institute. She added that a Dutch Risk Reduction team will visit Pakistan soon to assist institutions here in facing the challenges of impact of climate change, using water in agriculture efficiently, reducing silt and in other relevant fields.

Pakistan's textile sector is well organised and capable



to take tremendous advantage from the GSP+ status, she said, and added that several Dutch-based multinationals working here were showing great confidence. She said her country was also planning to send trade delegations.

Responding to the Dutch offer relating to post-2015 agenda, Iqbal said Pakistan is looking forward to work in collaboration with international organisations to share experiences with each other to tackle economic and social issues.

He said the PC has already initiated 'Development Communication Strategy' to highlight healthcare, education, malnutrition and other social sectors challenges, their future prospects and negative impacts and how the country can cope with them.

Courtesy: Dawn

\$1.6bn Lahore metro train deal signed with China

Laraib Khan
BS43 3822

Pakistan and China signed on Thursday a \$1.6 billion agreement for a metro train project in Punjab, the first of its kind in the country.

Financed by China, the Orange Line Metro Train Project will be completed within three years and Chinese companies will design, construct and monitor the project. The Punjab government will provide all facilities for speedy completion of the project.



The work on the project will start this year and will be completed within 27 months.

The signing ceremony of the agreement, witnessed by President Mamnoon Hussain and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, was held in Shanghai.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, Xu-Shaoshi, signed the agreement.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Shahbaz said the project would help an estimated

250,000 passengers a day and the number would go up to 500,000 by 2025.

He said the project would be completed within the stipulated period and after completion it would be extended to other cities of the province.

He said the PML-N leadership had promised to the masses provision of modern travelling facilities and this agreement with China was meant to fulfil that promise. He thanked China for helping Pakistan in this and several other development projects in the country.

The metro train project route will be from Thokar Niaz Baig, Multan Road, Chauburji, The Mall, Laxmi Chowk, Railway Station, Garhi Shahu Bridge, GT Road, Pakistan Mint up to Dera Gujran.

The total length of the project is 27.1km and its 25.4km track will be elevated.

Earlier, addressing a meeting held under the chairmanship of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Mr Shahbaz Sharif said that eradication of poverty was essential to eliminate extremism from Pakistan and the country could defeat terrorism and extremism only by acquiring modern education and emulating the example set by China for fast progress and prosperity.

Courtesy: Dawn

Student praised by COAS

Raafe Hassan
BS41 3697

Chief of Army Staff Gen Raheel Sharif on Thursday congratulated nine-year-old Rai Haris Manzoor for achieving record result in the O-Level examination.

The army chief praised the world record holder and upon



his request, allowed him to spend a day with the Pakistan Army in the field.

Courtesy: Dawn



Unilever shines at PAS Awards 2014

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

Five of Unilever's brands Vaseline, Vim, Sunsilk, Wall's Carte D'or and Lifebuoy won awards at this year's Pakistan Advertisers Society (PAS) Awards, a press release said.

The awards acknowledge effective communications advertising campaigns by various brands. PAS Awards 2014 included 200 entries spanning 34 categories.

"We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our



marketing teams and partners towards adding innovation and creativity into Unilever's advertising across Pakistan," said Unilever Pakistan's VP Marketing Asanga Ranasinghe.

Courtesy: Dawn

2nd award ceremony of 8th annual TDCAC held

Laraib Rajput
BS38 3345

The second award ceremony of the 8th annual Toyota Dream Car Art Contest (TDCAC) for schoolchildren worldwide was held on in the end of April. The TDCAC is a global Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) initiative being held every year. The purpose behind this initiative is to promote art and to create opportunities for children to express their creative imagination through art by drawing a 'Fu-



ture Dream Car'. The event hosted 3,257 entries from schools in the southern region of Pakistan. Besides a large number of schools, special children from vocational schools also participated in the contest. The TDCAC comprises a series of three

regional events with the first held in Islamabad second in Karachi and the third to be held in Lahore. The artwork of the participating children was displayed at the event, showcasing the immense talent and imagination of the participating children. The chief guests at the award ceremony including Akira Ouchi the Counsel General of Japan in Karachi, Rahat Kazmi renowned actor, professionals, academician and senior management of IMC were also present on the occasion. Perevaiz Ghias CEO IMC said, "Encouraging young children towards creativity and innovation is of paramount importance as they are the future of this country. Hence, the TDCAC initiative has been successfully running in 80 countries, since 2004 with Pakistan being one of the major participants with more than 12,000 entries annually". It is indeed heartening to see through the art contest we are projecting

Contd... on Pg.6

Sadequain school of fine arts opens at Malir prison

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

"I was caught under Section 23A for possession of an illegal weapon," said Khizr Rahim, one of the 24 students at the English Language Centre, which along with the Sadequain School of Fine Arts and Computer Lab opened in District Prison Malir on Sunday, while writing carefully in his four-lined exercise book.

"Attending classes here I hope to do something worthwhile with my time in jail. Learning English seems like a very good option as I too will be considered a respectable person and hold my head up in society after being released one day," he added.

Rehan Ali, also attending the same class, said that he wanted to be able to go to school like a normal child while growing up, but instead he had to work as an apprentice in a tailoring shop. "I learned the craft of embroidery but I always wished I had some educational qualification. It looks like my wish is coming true," he smiled.

Also there was Daya Bhai, an Indian fisherman, who has been in the prison for eight months now. "I could write a little Hindi and Gujarati but now I can write English, too," he said while showing how he had written his name in English on the front page of his notebook.

Next door in the computer lab, 27 students went about retyping news stories from various English newspapers in MS Word. Waqas Sherwani, their teacher, who is imprisoned for a white collar crime, says he would be leaving on bail soon but helping others learn about



computers was a good way of spending his time behind bars. "It is also a good way for the inmates to spend their time. It helps keep their minds off their problems," he said while introducing his deputy instructor Wasi Ahmed Khan doing time under Section 69B, who will be taking over the teaching bit after him.

"This is a prison after all. One man comes in and another is released. I, too, will be released soon and then someone else will take over from me. It might even be someone from these very students," he said pointing towards the class.

There was also a Fine Arts class under way outside on the lush green lawn with 15 students working on still life with their pencils. An open door led one to the Sadequain School of Fine Arts gallery, where the walls were decorated by beautiful and brilliant artwork by the inmates. The work was all for sale and no one, unless they are told of course, would believe that it was all done by prisoners and not professional artists.

A painting of Nelson Mandela behind bars with a quotation by George Foreman, 'Just look at the great Nelson Mandela. He came out of prison and saved his entire country. Some of the best people in the world have spent time in prison' caught the eye. The artist, Ahsan Khairi, is an inmate at Karachi Central

Contd... on Pg.7

Cont... from pg 1: Pakistan, Iran to go ahead with gas project

During a meeting with the Iranian president at Saadabad Palace, Mr Sharif said he had come to Tehran with his team to resolve all issues which were obstructing the project.

Both the leaders reiterated their commitment to increasing bilateral trade.

The prime minister said there was a lot of scope to increase the trade volume to \$5 billion, adding that relations between the two countries were bound by historical and religious factors.

"I am here to open a new chapter in Pakistan-Iran relationship," he said, adding: "As a prime minister, I first visited Iran in 1999 and have always found the Iranians more affectionate on every visit to the country."

President Rouhani said Iran-Pakistan relations had historical connections. Apart from being neighbours, the two countries have common traditions and relations based on the Holy Quran and the traditions of Holy Prophet (PBUH). Mr Sharif's visit, he added, would further boost brotherly relations.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Balochistan Governor Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Prime Minister's Special Assistant Tariq Fatimi attended the meeting.

Mr Sharif told the Iranian president that some elements were trying to sabotage Pakistan-Iran relations, but they would be dealt with firmly and their designs would be thwarted.

President Rouhani said peace in the region was their common goal. Iran will support Pakistan in development and becoming more secure.

The two leaders also discussed border security and agreed that better management and improved security measures would increase trade and strengthen relationship and cooperation.

Prime Minister Sharif invited President Rouhani to visit Pakistan which the latter accepted.

Earlier upon arrival, the prime minister was given a warm welcome at the Mehrabad International Airport. He was received by Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance Ali Tayyabnia.

The prime minister also held a meeting with First Vice-President Eshaq Jehangiri.

Prime Minister Sharif is visiting Iran on the invitation of President Rouhani.

During the two-day visit, a number of memoranda of understanding and agreements on cooperation in various fields would be signed.

President Rouhani said Iran was ready to develop "road and railway networks between the two countries... as well as electric grids" in order to bolster economic ties, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The visit comes amid tensions between the neighbours following the kidnapping in February of five Iranian soldiers by Sunni extremists. Tehran says the soldiers — four of whom returned home after being held for two months — were taken across the border into Pakistan, a claim Islamabad denies.

Relations have also been strained following an announcement in February by the Nawaz Sharif government that Pakistan was suspending work on the \$7.5 billion gas pipeline project.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 1: \$ 90m for Balochistan highway

The American ambassador reiterated his government's resolve to continue to provide aid to Pakistan for rebuilding essential infrastructure.

He said funding this highway was one element of a comprehensive US programme in Pakistan to help restore essential public infrastructures in remote communities.

To date, the US had funded construction and rehabilitation of nearly 900 kilometres of roads, including four major trade routes between Pakistan and Afghanistan and the construction of 474 kilometres

of roads in Fata, he added.

It is to recall that a former federal minister for communication, Dr Arbab Alamgir Khan, had told the then National Assembly that containers carrying supplies to US-led forces in Afghanistan had caused damages amounting to Rs100 billion to roads infrastructure in Pakistan.

He had demanded compensation for the damages. General Manager of Kalat-Quetta-Chaman Highway Imran Khan Yousafzai gave a briefing on the project.
Courtesy Dawn

Cont... from pg 1: Ziarat Residency may reopen August...

Abdul Jabbar Khan, Technical Adviser of Communications and Works Department and Member, Execution Committee on Quaid-i-Azam Residency, said that wooden structure of the residency was gutted completely in the explosion, but some material, including stones used in the walls and metals tubs and others articles were useable.

"We want to restore the residency to its original shape and construction work is going on in full swing," he said.

He said wood work would cover 7,000 square feet area of 8,000 square feet building. Diaal, Teak and some other precious wood was being used. Renowned architect Nayyar Ali Dada had redesigned the residency and carried out decoding of the damaged building, he added. Mr Khan said the execution committee faced some problems because masons and labourers did not know the art and techniques used in the original building.

Courtesy: The Nation

Cont... from pg 2: Marble export shine

Khan said the main market remained China, which bought semi-finished products, with a share of 50pc of total exports. The rest of the countries usually imported finished marble from Pakistan.

More than 90pc of total exports are made from Balochistan and Karachi. Due to rising demand in world

markets, the number of marble exporters in Pakistan has grown substantially.

He said if industries got uninterrupted electricity, the exports could increase manifold. He added that industries in Karachi were facing six-hour announced and six-hour unannounced load-shedding.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 5: 2nd award ceremony of 8th annual....

the rich talent that these children have. Kazmi said, this was a wonderful initiative, promoting art, creativity and innovative thinking in the children. A platform like TDCAC provides opportunity to children to showcase their talent on a global scale,

which is commendable job being done by the Company. Akira Ouchi congratulated all winners at the contest and reiterated the long-term commitment of Japan to assisting Pakistan through various ventures, including intellectual development.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Cont... from pg 3: US, Pakistan unveil action plan for trade...

May last year, when the Pakistanis elected a new government, there has been 13 per cent improvement in sentiments towards the United States. "The suspension in drone strikes is also helping to create a positive atmosphere," he added.

The government, he said, was focused on improving the national economy and was working to remove the obstacles, particularly extremism, that prevented foreign investors from investing in Pakistan.

Ambassador Froman said the joint action plan and the MOU signed on Tuesday would help improve economic ties and could bring "monumental progress for Pakistani women".

The Joint Action Plan calls for diversifying agricultural production, promoting intellectual property protection and implementing the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement.

It also seeks Pakistan's accession to the WTO Govern-

ment Procurement Agreement. Other goals include conducting outreach to US state and local governments; enhancing entrepreneurship; and increasing dialogue between the US and Pakistani private sectors.

On the margins of the TIFA Council Meeting, private sector representatives from the United States and Pakistan met to discuss opportunities and challenges in the textile, apparel, and information and communication sectors.

According to the US Trade Representative's office, Pakistan is America's 62nd largest goods trading partner with \$5.3 billion trade in 2013. This includes \$3.7bn of exports to the US and \$1.6bn of imports. With a large share of \$1.3bn, textile goods continue to dominate Pakistan's exports to the US.

US foreign direct investments in Pakistan amounted to \$218 million in 2012 (data for 2013 are not available), down by 14.2 per cent from 2011.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 1: Pakistani doctor given UN award on.....

He represents academic and research organisations on Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations Board and co-chairs the Maternal and Child Health Oversight Committee of WHO Emro and Global Countdown for 2015 Steering Group.

Dr Bhutta told Dawn that it was the first time that a Pakistani had been rewarded at the global forum. Ironically, there was no representation of the government at the award ceremony.

Dr Bhutta's research interests include newborn and child survival, maternal and child under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

He leads a large group based in Pakistan with special inter-

est in research synthesis.

Besides, Sasakawa Health Prize was awarded to Dr Hubert Bogaert Diaz of Leprosy Control Foundation Dominican Institution of Dermatology and Skin Surgery for expanding services for children affected by skin diseases, other than leprosy.

The UAE Health Foundation Prize was given to the Institution for Research in Health in Costa Rica for its work on gastric cancer and occupational exposure to pesticides. The Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health was given jointly to Prof Sinata Koulla-Shiro of Cameroon and the Czech Society of Cardiology.

Courtesy: Pakistan Today

Cont... from pg 5: Sadequain

Prison, but was temporarily shifted to District Prison Malir with two other artists from there — Kazim Raza and Hasnain Raza — to invoke interest in art in other prisoners of the jail.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 3: Interest

Maryam Nawaz, during the meeting, said that the money would be distributed through Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund. Under the scheme each beneficiary would receive up to Rs50,000. To facilitate applicants, adequate loan and business support centres would be formed, she added.

She briefed the meeting on progress of other programmes of the PMYS.

She said training of selected youth in the PM youth skill development programme was initiated on May 12. In total 25,000 youth, of the lesser developed areas from all over the country, would be imparted training in 100 disciplines under the programme at a cost of Rs800 million. The allocation of seats is according to the population in the federating units, based on the National Finance Commission (NFC) award.

The basic aim of the scheme is to train youth in different vocation in order to make them self sufficient.

Courtesy: Dawn

Cont... from pg 3: Analysis: Quest for F-16 jets takes PAF to Mideast

fighting falcons from a Middle Eastern country.

Pakistan not only acquired the maximum number of Mirage aircraft to build the world's largest fleet of the 40-year-old warplane but also upgraded available F-16s with the new technology of Block 52 from Turkey. It also equipped its frontline squads with the latest avionics system, Beyond Vision Range missiles and air-to-air refuelling systems. The Mirages were upgraded at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra, and after overhauling, these planes are now said to be serving to the maximum required standards.

The PAF also manufactured its own JF-17 Thunders with the help of China and inducted about 50 planes in the fleet. The plan now is to induct

up to 200-250 in the squad over a couple of years as production has been doubled. Previously, Pakistan was producing around 10 JF-17 Thunder planes in a year; now, annual production stands at 20.

"Our fleet has a modest number of fighting falcons now. This includes old but overhauled and very effective Mirages, new F-16s with Block 52 technology, JF-17 Thunders, and the latest missile and avionics systems," said PAF spokesperson Air Commodore Tariq Mahmood.

"The recently inducted F-16 squadron from Jordan has been purchased at a nominal price. Similarly the cost of co-produced JF-17 Thunder is almost one-third in comparison with any modern aircraft of its

category."

But former vice chief of air staff Air Marshal Shahid Latteef says the F-16 squadron from the Royal Jordan Air Force was available at a low price because its technology was getting old.

"The A&B version of F-16 aircraft, which we have just bought from Jordan, was available to us at a low price because Jordan was also upgrading their fleet to the C&D version of F-16. The A&B version of F-16s is now an old technology."

Despite the PAF's strategic expansion or upgrade, it remains far behind the Indian Air Force as far as numbers are concerned.

Courtesy: Express Tribune



Punjab boys, girls crowned athletics champions

Raafe Hassan
BS41 3697

Punjab boys and girls came out victorious in the Inter-provincial Youth Athletics Championships, which concluded in Karachi.

Punjab U-14 boys topped the table with 81 points followed by second-place Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (38 points) and third-place Fata (21).

Islamabad, Balochistan and Sindh were next in the list with 19, 12 and eight points, respectively.

Punjab also led the U-16 girls table with 70 points. Second-placed Sindh girls fought well in the competition, and managed to annex 54 points.

The girls from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finished with 43 points while Islamabad athletes failed to open their account.

Punjab boys in all bagged six gold medals, five silver and a bronze during the three-day



event while the girls from the province ended the competition with two gold, eight silver and three bronze medals to their credit. On the last day, the 100m races of boys and girls were decided.

Mohammad Hassaan Qamar (two gold, one silver) of Punjab and Hiba Khursheed (two gold) were adjudged the best male and female athletes of the championship.

Zahid Rizvi and Shahid, president and secretary of the Sindh Athletics Association, were the guests of honour on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Usman Anwar, Sports Board Punjab (SBP) director general, congratulated the victorious athletes from the province for their dominating performance in the event.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan-made balls to be used in Blind Cricket World Cup

Sehar Nadeem
BS411 3607

Pakistan will now be importing blind cricket balls for the upcoming Blind Cricket World Cup scheduled to be staged from Nov 25 in Cape Town.

Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) chairman Syed Sultan Shah said on Thursday the deci-



sion to use Pakistani blind cricket balls in the extravaganza was made in the Annual General Council Meeting of the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC) held last year.

Sultan, who is also the chairman of the WBCC, said it was an honour for the nation that Pakistani balls would be used.

Speaking of the national blind team preparations for the World Cup, Sultan said a training camp will be held at Lahore in September to which 30 probables will be invited out of whom 16 will be selected.

Courtesy: Pakistan Today

Brazilian envoy hails street children team

Sehar Nadeem
BS41 3607

Amid the high expectations from the FIFA World Cup starting next month, Brazilian Ambassador Alfredo Leoni here on Monday hosted a reception to honour the Pakistan squad who claimed third spot at the Street Child Football World Cup in Brazil last month.



Football-crazy Brazil will host the sport's biggest extravaganza from June 12 to July 13.

Alongside members of Pakistan street child squad, their

coach Abdul Rashid, the representatives of the three Pakistani institutions Naveed Hasan Khan (Azad Foundation chairman), Amjad Rasool (director of Muslim Hands) and John Wroe (CEO of Street Child World Cup) — who support the team were also present.

Students of the Portuguese language course and the Capoeira (traditional Brazilian wrestling) Course of the Embassy, Dan Dohrmann (country Representative of UNICEF), Marc Saba (country representative of UNAIDS), David Skinner (country representative of Save the Children) and Nageen Hyatt (director of Nomad Culture Centre) were also present.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan's football maker to fulfil World Cup dream

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

It was when he felt the roar of the crowd at the 2006 World Cup in Germany that Pakistani factory owner Khawaja Akhtar first dreamt up a goal of his own: to manufacture the ball for the biggest football tournament on the planet.



"The people were chanting all around me. I just thought, 'This is the real thing'," Akhtar said. "I was part of the crowd. I never had that kind of feeling before." His factory in eastern Pakistan had made balls for the German

Bundesliga, French league and Champions League, but he had never snagged a World Cup contract.

Last year, he finally got his chance — but only 33 days to make it happen.

When Akhtar heard last autumn that Adidas' Chinese supplier for the World Cup couldn't keep up with demand, he immediately invited executives to his plant in Sialkot, a wealthy Pakistani manufacturing town with a long history of leatherwork.

In the past 40 years, Akhtar's own family business, called Forward, has grown from 50 men to 1,400 employees. Unusually for Pakistan, nearly a quarter of them are women.

Courtesy: Dawn