



Positive Post



Greenwich University
www.greenwichuniversity.edu.pk

Monthly publication to create a soft and positive image of Pakistan

2012 Silver Jubilee Year



FORMATION OF NATIONAL FLAG



Sheikh Saaid Khalid
VS41 3654

More than 24,000 Pakistanis on October 22, formed the world's largest "human national flag" in Lahore, smashing a five-year-old record set in Hong Kong, officials said.

A total of 24,200 people stood up in the national hockey stadium to make the green and white Pakistani standard,

smashing the 2007 record set by 21,726 people in Hong Kong.

"It's amazing, amazing display of unity of 24,200 people here in Lahore tonight," Guinness World Records adjudicator Gareth Deaves told a cheering crowd.

"Every single one of you holds this record," he said, handing over the certificate to Punjab provincial government representative Hamza Shahbaz Sharif.

Courtesy:Dawn.com



Youth Festival 2012 participants secure eight entries



Amal Iqbal
BS39 3382

Youngsters at the Youth Festival 2012 secured another eight entries in the Guinness World Records (GWR) book here at the Expo Centre on Sunday.

In all, the youth of Punjab made a dozen attempts and in eight of them they were successful in either setting new records or breaking those already established. Ahmed Hussain and Ahmed Amin Bodla attempted maximum martial arts kicks. Bodla kicked into the GWR Book with 616 kicks in three minutes, beating the previous best of 612 also set by a Pakistani. But Ahmed Hussain could kick the punchbag for only 312 times in the given time.

In the attempt of the fastest time to wire a household plug, Mian Muhammad Nauman completed the assembling in a dazzling 35.93 seconds to set a new world record.

Muhammad Mansha, an employee of Punjab Sports Board, went flat out to

Contd Pg .7

Mass singing of the Anthem



Saddam Mushtaq
BS39 3466

The enthusiastic youth of the Punjab broke the mass singing of the national anthem record here at the National Hockey Stadium when Adjudicators of Guinness World Records (GWR) announced the attempt officially successful.

It was a remarkable moment when GRW adjudicators Gareth Daeves and Imran Javed gave thumb up to the Punjab youth's attempt, boosting their fervour and making them to raise slogans 'Pakistan Zindaabad'.



Contd Pg .6

EDITOR'S NOTE

A new look has been given to Positive Post. The flag mast is with different designing. Your suggestions were of immense valuable in bringing the changes. Great positive stories are in the latest issue, including Pakistani Nation creating new world record in different spheres of life. It is a matter of pride for all of us that how positive we are in our acts. The Positive Post will keep on publishing the achievements of the nation. Give your suggestions regarding the new look of Positive Post.

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

Patron

Seema Mughal
Vice Chancellor

Editor

Ayla Hassan
Assistant Professor

Editorial Advisory Board

Iqbal Jamil
Head, Department of
Mass Communication and Media
Studies

Abid Ali Syed
Lecturer

Department of
Mass Communication and
Media Studies

Graphics & Layout

Shazia Anwar

Mailing Address

Greenwich House: DK-10, 38th, Street, Darakshan,
Phase VI, DHA, Karachi.
Tel: 009221-35840397/98,
Fax: 009221-35851910
email: gu@greenwichuniversity.edu.pk
website:www.greenwichuniversity.edu.pk

Acknowledgement

Positive Post is grateful to the newspapers/agencies from which the news have been gleaned by students.

2,627 Scholarships in 7 years: HEC

The Higher Education Commission has awarded 2,627 overseas scholarships from the year 2000 to 2007 in various undergraduate, postgraduate, PhDs and post-doctorate schemes of the commission.

Out of these, 60% overseas scholarships were awarded to fresh graduates. By adopting this policy of awarding scholarships to fresh graduates and employees of different organizations, the country will have a well developed human resource and educated people for socio-economic development in Pakistan.

Out of 2,627 overseas scholarships, 1,589 were awarded to students and employees belonging to Punjab, 413 to those of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), 364 to Sindh, 56 to Balochistan, 66 to Azad Jammu & Kashmir, 122 to Islamabad, 9 to FATA and 8 scholarships to students and employees of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

MoU on defence with Serbia



Ameer Hamza Asif
VS41 3646



Pursuing the policy of diversifying its weapons purchases, Pakistan this week started negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with Serbia on defence cooperation.

The MoU is likely to be signed next month during a high-level visit to Pakistan by either Serbian president or the prime minister.

Contd Pg. 7

Peshawar boy makes it to Guinness



Junaid Quadri
BS 36 3102

Ahmed Bodla set a new world record on Sunday for kicking 617 times in three minutes.

Hailing from Peshawar, 19-year-old Bodla kicked a punching bag 617 times and was observed by the Guinness World Record team which declared him successful.

The victorious record breaker, while speaking to the media, revealed that his knee was injured and bandaged but despite the injury, he wanted to compete for the title.

"India keeps challenging us on social media websites like Facebook and it's a good thing that we are competing with them," said Bodla. He dedicated his victory to all Pakistanis.

He said, "I guarantee that the next time



Ahmed Bodla receiving certificate from GWC official

I will make a better record."

Athletes and participants from different cities gathered at Lahore's Expo Centre on Sunday to attempt breaking 13 records, followed by Saturday's triumph of setting a world record of singing the national anthem by 44,200 Pakistanis at the National Hockey Stadium.

Courtesy: INP

Treasures from pre-historic Mehrgarh

Sheikh Saaid Khalid
VS41 3654

A life-size model of the Baluchitherium, the largest land-based mammal to have ever walked the Earth, has been put up at the Pakistan Natural History Museum (PNHM) at Shakarparian, Islamabad.

The sheer size of the creature, which lived over 20 million years ago, is breathtaking, standing 18 feet high at the shoulder. The fibre-glass model has been carefully recreated using the original bones. These were first uncovered in the 1900s by a British explorer but the actual significance of the bones unearthed in 2000 in Dera Bugti was discovered by a French paleontologist, whose discovery of massive bones revealed the true size of the animal.

Further drama followed, with fears that the bones may have been lost or destroyed in the military operation that took place in the area but fortunately, they had been safely stored by the late Nawab Akbar Bugti, who was killed in 2006.



The display of the giant model is good news. But the attention evoked by the event also draws attention to the need for better museums in our country. The recently renovated PNHM is a good ef-

fort, with some attractive reconstructions. So is the folk museum at the same location and the reconstructed Saidpur village a short distance away.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Baloch girls break a taboo

Ameer Hamza Asif
VS41 3646

For Shazia Bugti, her conservative background will not become a hindrance to achieving her goal — to become a CSS officer.

“It is my dream to become an officer and serve my people to get them out of deprivation and extreme poverty,” said the Grade 10 student while talking to Dawn at Heavy Industries Taxila Education City (Hitec).

It was hard to believe that the young girl with bright eyes and confident look belonged to remote and far-flung area of Balochistan where for a woman getting education is considered a sin.

Shazia Bugti is among 187 students who are getting education at this prestigious institution under federal government development programme for Balochistan and Fata.

Shazia said that most of the schools in her area were closed due to lack of staff and other facilities, besides uncertainty in the area. As a result of which doors of education have been closed, especially on girls.

Sila Khan, another girl belonging to Loralai area of Balochistan, is the youngest among the Baloch students studying at Hitec



and is living in the hostel.

She said she felt sad when she left her parents but the motivation of becoming an educated and well-groomed youth of Balochistan overcame her sadness.

She said that she was lucky to have been selected to study at Hitec, adding that it would change the fate of not only her community but the whole tribe.

Sumreen, a girl from far-flung and remote area of Barkhan district located in the north-east of Balochistan, said that it was the first time that she had left her district.

Courtesy: Dawn

Punjab University turns 130



S.M.Sohaib Roomi
BS24 1860

Punjab University completed its 130 years of continued academic excellence this October.

Punjab University has produced as many as 600 PhDs in the past decade. Currently, 30,000 students are studying at the university.

Established in 1882, the varsity has campuses in Gujranwala, Khanspur and Jhelum besides the Allama Iqbal and the Quaid-i-Azam campuses in Lahore, popularly known as the Old and the New Campus, respectively.

Two Nobel laureates- Dr Abdus Salam and Har Gobind Khorana- were PU graduates.

In 2012, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan ranked PU as the 5th best university in the country.

With 10 constituent colleges, including Hailey College of Commerce, Hailey College of Banking and Finance, University Oriental College and College of Statistics and Actuarial Sciences, the university offers 30 bachelors programmes and 90

post-graduate programmes. "Private sector is no doubt very competitive but the public sector has for more reach," Isar Rana, director of public relations at PU, said. He said that private institutes could not replace the public sector educational institutes that were more affordable.

Rana said the university which was notorious for its violent student politics in the

The university administration claims that it has promoted culture of research over the years with the university having inducted almost 300 PhDs in its faculty so far. The university website claims that almost 200 members of its faculty have earned their doctorates and another 177 are in process.

It also states that the varsity aims to achieve a target of 70 per cent PhDs in



past decade had now transformed and offered a good academic environment. He claimed that the university administration had brought back focus on academics.

"The dilemma we face is that the commitment of public sector educational institutes is often doubted," he said.

its faculty in the next five years. The percentage currently stands at 32.

Rana says the university has enhanced its research budget and hopes to encourage culture of learning. He said more than Rs9 billion has been allocated by the varsity for research.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Free electricity for leprosy centre



Quratulain Jaffar
BS40 3547

The Karachi Electric Supply Company, under its Social

Investment Plan (SIP), will provide free electricity to the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre, which is providing specialised free medical care to the people.

The KESC has pledged to pay 00 per cent electricity bill of the MALC.

The centre provides free medical aid to a large number of leprosy, eye and tuberculosis patients all over the country.

By the end of the last year, the MALC had treated over 800 leprosy patients, operated upon 4,575 eye patients and had registered over 10,000 tuberculosis patients.

In this connection, a memorandum of understanding was signed by KESC chief executive officer Tabish Gauhar and Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre founder member and board of governors' vice president Dr Ruth Pfau.

The MALC is one of the largest NGO in the country running leprosy elimination, TB and blindness control programme with its headquarters in Karachi.



Dr Ruth Pfau, MALC chief, greeting KESC officials

It serves as a secondary referral facility for leprosy patients from all over Pakistan who are treated here for free.

Dr Pfau joined the small set-up of the MALC in 1960 as a young doctor from Germany.

She gradually developed it into the national leprosy control programme providing comprehensive care and rehabilitation facilities to patients at 157 sub-centres spread across the country.

Courtesy: Dawn.com



Indian artists provide their perspective on art

Amal Iqbal
BS39 3382

Art lovers gained insight into contemporary art trends in India by virtue of two interesting presentations given by visiting Indian artists, Manisha Parekh and Ashok Ahuja, at T2F on Saturday evening. Manisha Parekh was the first



one to give a visual presentation to introduce her work to the audience. She began by her on-foot journey to Pakistan from the Wagah border. She said being a Gujarati she was not directly affected by partition, therefore her cross-

ing the border was without any (psychological) baggage. She termed the travel 'bizarre' because it was easy, so close and yet so far.

Manisha Parekh then showed slides of her work taken from different exhibitions.

She said she was fascinated more by the process of coming up with artworks in which the texture of material, such as paper, was used. She experimented with the material she used and got excited to see what form and shape they assumed, she said. The media of the works that the artist talked about included graphite paintings, gouache paintings and reliefs made from jute ropes.

Answering a question asked by a member of the audience, Manisha Parekh said while working, she some

Contd Pg. 7

Pakistani film shines at Mumbai festival

Ameer Hamza Asif
VS41 3646

In the backdrop of the passing away of Bollywood's ace filmmaker Yash Chopra, the Pakistani film Josh managed to receive a positive response at its screening during the prestigious Mumbai Film Festival.

Filmmaker Iram Parveen Bilal, who was in Mumbai with actress Aaminah Sheikh, was visibly excited that the film had managed to get popular attention despite concerns of low attendance due to the death of Chopra.

"Playing my film in Bombay had always been a dream, because it was through Bollywood that I was inspired to become a filmmaker. It's really a dream come true," said Bilal speaking to The Express Tribune by telephone following the film's



screening.

The film festival suffered a severe blow at the demise of Yash Chopra, who is seen as the godfather of modern-day Bollywood.

Bilal said there had been worries that many would not show up for the screening but despite the gloom in the air there had been a relatively good turnout.

"A lot of people were there and they all stayed till the end, I was very pleased. I suppose people really embraced what Yash Chopra would always tell us: The show must go on.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Shyam Benegal talks film

Anna Zaman
BS 38 3244



Although he is one of India's most distinguished parallel cinema directors, there is nothing alternative about Shyam Benegal; no long hair or quirky habit — nothing out of the ordinary.



Benegal is a legendary and prolific screenwriter and director. During the late '70s and '80s, he changed the parameters of Indian cinema with his groundbreaking work which seemed to focus on the common man. Recently, he was in Lahore for a four-day film festival which was held by the Faiz Foundation Trust.

"Films are cultural products," Benegal tells The Express Tribune, while seated at the house of Faiz Ahmed Faiz's daughter, Moneeza Hashmi. "They are a product of your own culture, so it's always interesting to get reactions from different kinds of audiences and cultures," he says, commenting on his participation in the festival.

Today, the almost 77-year-old has developed immense wisdom about film as an art. He remains active and is currently working on a 10-hour long story on the making of the Indian Constitution. Two of his feature film projects have been delayed for this project. "It is important for our people to recognise the principles and laws that we live by, and what defines us as a nation. It is all crystallised into the constitution," says Benegal.

Contd Pg. 7

Pakistan bag 10 medals at Asian Championship

Amal Iqbal
BS39 3382

Pakistan secured a total of 10 medals at the fourth Asian Championship for Ju-Jitsu and Belt Wrestling Sports to cap off an impressive campaign in Iran as the three-day event ended.

Sundus Islam, the only female athlete among the four sent by the Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation, bagged two silver medals after her two fights. She won a silver medal in the -49 category event, while the second one was claimed in the -48 kg belt wrestling event.

Meanwhile, the duo of Mohammad Ammar and Abu Huraira also won individual medals after clinching a gold medal in the men's team event on the first day of the tournament.



Huraira secured a silver medal in the 62-kg category, a bronze medal in the belt wrestling free style and another bronze medal in the classic fighting style.

His partner Ammar also won three bronze medals in the -69 kg fighting event and the belt wrestling classic style and the belt wrestling free style competitions.

While Ammar and Huraira won seven medals in total, Mohammad Irfan secured a silver medal in the 77-kg fighting event. He won the silver medal as he picked up an injury in the final fight and quit the bout midway.

The championship featured 150 players in the event including players from Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, India, Iraq and Vietnam.

The PJJF had originally planned to send 12 players for the Asian Championship but managed to send only four after the Pakistan Sports Board failed to issue NOCs to the remaining players.

According to the PJJF official, all the players managed the expenses on their own.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

Contd. Mass singing of Anthem

With this attempt, Pakistan broke the Indian record of maximum masses singing national anthem which the Indians had set with a gathering of around 15,000 people. Now Pakistan's name will be written in the 2013 Guinness Book of World Record – a great achievement of Pakistani youth and a great honour for its inhabitants.

The record breaking attempt was closely watched and observed by the representatives GWR as they witnessed over 42,813 participants singing the national anthem of Pakistan. As many as 15 cameras were installed at various places to see the record attempt closely.

Sahir Lodhi and Naeem Hanif were the two persons on the stage who boosted the zeal of jam-packed crowd and readied them to sing the national anthem with their heart and soul to get it registered in the Guinness Book of World Record.

Earlier, the participants of the Punjab Youth Festival 2012 gave an awesome performance during the opening ceremony to mark the start of the provincial level gala. Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif was the chief guest at the opening ceremony who declared it open.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat. Then a documentary of the festival was shown to the

audience. Torch Rally was carried out afterwards and Rabia Nawaz, M Asif, Sahib Asra, Adil Haseeb, Frawa Babar, Waqas Akbar, Zeeshan Abid, M Babar and M Akram took the torch to the cauldron and national hockey star Rehan Butt lit it. Then came the folk dance, gymnastic show and march past of nine divisions of Punjab.

At the anthem record was set, CM Shabaz Sharif told the gathering that he had never seen such moments in his entire life. "The people of Punjab despite several odds, including the loadshedding, have shown great strength and they enjoyed the evening with zeal and zest."

He said he hoped the youngsters of his province would make 'Ali Baba and Chalis Chor' run away from the country and they would play their active role in not only making it a developed and prosperous country but also earning it a good name and fame," the CM said.

Looking to be in a good mood, the CM also sang popular Urdu song 'Akalay na jana hamay chor kar tum...', which was appreciated a lot by the zealous audience. Deputy Speaker Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan and Haroon Ahmed Khan were also present to see the enthusiasm of the youth. Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Usman Anwar was the one who utilising all his energies inspired his

team to fulfil this Youth Festival dream of Punjab chief minister and his teammates said he was still striving hard to make it a success and the best productive event to help in hunting talented and brilliant youth eager to do something good for their country.

Punjab has done a superb job by making the country's name written in the Guinness World Record Book. Now the festival will move towards individual events of GWR today (Sunday) at the Expo Centre and tomorrow (Monday), the attempt of the largest mosaic and the biggest human flag will be made by the youth.

Later, talking to the media, Guinness World Records Adjudicator Gareth Daeves officially announced Pakistan as Guinness World Record holder with 42,813 participants recorded singing national anthem of the country.

Talking to media at the National Hockey Stadium, Gareth felicitated the entire nation for this great achievement. "Pakistan has broken the Indian record of 15,243 masses singing the national anthem of India and now Pakistan with the participation 42,813 people singing national anthem of the country registered a new record for which I would like to congratulate the entire Pakistani nation."

Courtesy: The Nation

Contd. Indian artist provide their perspective on art

times developed a relationship with the material. On occasions it happened otherwise and the material drew her to itself. Responding to a query about her inspirations, she said she had initially learned from Nasreen Mohammedi and was also impressed with Zarina Hashmi. Ashok Ahuja started his presentation with an excerpt from a film that he made in the early 1980s titled 'Aadharshila' (The Foundation Stone). He reasoned that he wanted to know whether the content of the movie still had elements of truth in it.

The film pivots around a budding filmmaker who is about to start his career but confronts difficulties as he goes along in his endeavor to achieve his goal. The clip shown by the artist had the celebrated Indian actor Naseeruddin Shah as the protagonist in it. After that Ashok Ahuja talked about an exhibition of his work held in 2003. He said it was a result of him getting his hands on a digital camera in 1998 when digital cameras were first introduced.

He took pictures with it. Some of the images on display in the 2003 exhibition were digitally created and some were prints. He followed it up with a piece of animation, which impressed the audience.

Another set of slides that Ashok Ahuja ran was to with digital prints based on images related to medical science. The exhibition from which they were taken was titled Translucence. He talked about the use of light and his fascination with architecture. Replying to a question, Ashok Ahuja said he was always interested in seeing art as being universal.

He also touched on his research on the growth of a language (Urdu) and its relation with identity with reference to its (language's) origin and territory. He argued it was an ongoing process and coming to Pakistan, meeting with a variety of people, had helped him in that regard.

Courtesy: dawn.com

Contd. MoU on defence with Serbia

But even before that a team of defence officials from Serbia would visit Pakistan to follow up on discussions Defence Minister Naveed Qamar had in Belgrade.

Once signed, defence officials said, the MoU would serve as a legal framework for cooperation with the fast growing defence industry of Serbia.

Pakistan's shopping list for Serbia includes armoured vehicles, large calibre ammunition, night-vision devices and the use of wind tunnels.

Serbian defence sales are not only growing fast, with big spenders like Nato and

Arab countries inking big contracts, but the industry is also enhancing the sophistication of the arms it produces.

Defence officials insist that more than just looking to buy weapons from Serbia, Pakistan intended to have broader defence cooperation encompassing military education, training and exercises.

Pakistan and Serbia established bilateral relations in July 2001. Subsequently, political consultations were held in 2007 and a joint committee on economic cooperation was agreed upon.

Courtesy: goodnews.pk

Contd. Youngsters at the Youth festival

set a new record for making Danial Gil and Qamar Rizwan kept the ball in the air with their heads for around 4.46 minutes and during that course of time, they headed the ball 335 times, breaking the previous record of 170 head hits.

In another attempt, Jalilul Hassan going for the fastest time to assemble a full cricket kit recorded one minute and 8.21 second to get a place for Pakistan in the GWR.

While 12-year-old Mehak Gul took just 45 seconds to arrange the pieces on a chessboard using only one hand. Mahak, who recently took part in Chess Olympiad, broke the previous record set for one minute.

Saadi Muhammad pulled a coaster van for 63.8 metres with his moustache to secure his place in the Guinness Book.

Lt Nauman and Sheroz leapfrogged into GWR with 34 jumps in 30 seconds beating the previous best of 30 jumps. In the football headers,

One failed attempt required wearing maximum number of T-shirts in shortest time. Abdul Majeed in his first attempt wore 27 T-shirts in one minute and in his second attempt, he managed 18 while the GWR is of 31 T-shirts. He was partnered by Ahmed Shaukat.

In the table tennis knock, Hafiz Zeeshan and Faheen Raza failed to break GWR record of 180 knocks as they could manage just 162 knocks.

Meanwhile, the record of highest number of push ups in an hour was also attempted by M Munir after the adjudicator Gareth Deaves will observe the video recording.

Courtesy: The Nation

Contd. Shayam Benegal talks film

He touched upon the partition of India, saying: "It has been 65 years. I think that it is time to look at what guides our lives, socially, economically and politically — the process through which we want to conduct our lives and more importantly, answer questions whether this democracy that we have created on the basis of the constitution has worked effectively or not."

Benegal says that the story will be based on the meetings that took place in constituent assemblies in 1946. He has chosen several actors who will play the role of people and leaders of that time.

"The kind of films I make do not necessarily warrant a bigger budget, because then I would have to earn more money," he says. "You have

to make a film based on the needs of the audience," says Benegal.

His major break after his first feature film Ankur in 1974, also showcased the birth of a clique of actors such as Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi. Benegal remains modest about introducing such fine actors to the industry.

Benegal explains that mainstream film-making has now broadened to accommodate different genres. "Today, you don't talk about alternative or parallel cinema. It's all part of the same cinema; some are good films and some are not so good films; some have purely commercial intent others have greater artistic intent," says Benegal.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune



Team Sri Lanka Tour to play in Pakistan soon

Syedah Quratulain Jaffar
BS40 3547

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa showed his support to Pakistan. In his recent statement, that Team Sri Lanka will definitely visit Pakistan in upcoming days. He further said that security situation of Pakistan is improving day by day.

Mahinda also clarified that Sri Lankan cricket team's tour will be finalized as we will feel that Pakistan's security situation is OK. It's looking that Sri Lanka will visit Pakistan within six months.

After this positive statement from Sri



Lanka, boards of both countries may also meet in upcoming days to find out feasible dates for ODI or T20 Series. It's a very joyous moment for Pakistani Lovers who are willing to watch cricket in national rounds.

Courtesy: goodnews.pk

Pakistan to host players from 26 countries

Ju-Jitsu masters from 25 nations to compete in Sports Festival.

Pakistan will play host to players from 26 countries in a ju-jitsu event at the Punjab Sports Festival in Lahore.

Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation (PJF) tournament director Shabina Saeed said the original plan was to host the event in June. However, the Punjab government refused to provide security and accommodation to the foreign players which caused the delay in the PJF Asian Championship.

She added that players from India, Iran, Iraq and Sri Lanka will take part in six categories at the event, while other countries will be sending at least four players to compete in three men and three female events.

Pakistan will have 52 players who will take on international athletes in the traditional kodokan judo discipline and belt wrestling sports from November 6 till 11. The event is set to start on November 6, following the National Ju-Jitsu Championship.

"It's a huge step for the sport," Saeed told the Express Tribune. "We've never hosted an international event before so the players will get a lot of encouragement and exposure at home. The event itself will help us improve our image and instill confidence in our athletes."

'Security not an issue'

According to an official from the All India Ju-Jitsu Federation, the team's participation in the championship will open the door for Indian athletes to compete with Pakistan on a bilateral basis.

The official said that while the Indian players are awaiting their visas, confirmation has been made.

"Security is not an issue for us," said an official. "If they are holding an event in connection with the Punjab government I am sure it will be safe. We are sending 16 players to Pakistan who are now waiting for their visas."

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Cricket series: India welcomes Pakistan

Anum Parvez
BS36 3111



tour later this year.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has invited Pakistan to play three one-dayers and two Twenty20 matches in December-January, the first bilateral contests between the arch-rivals in five years.

"We have discussed all security aspects (and) the tour is on," board spokesman Rajiv Shukla told reporters after a meeting between its officials and Indian Home Secretary RK Singh in New Delhi.

A report by the Press Trust of India said the venues for the ODI games would most likely be Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi while the Twenty20 matches would take place in Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

The rivals have not played a series since Pakistan's tour of India in 2007, after cricket ties were snapped following the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai.

The Indian and Pakistani cricket teams have only met in international tournaments since 2007.

They clashed in the ODI World Cup semi-final in the northern Indian town of Mohali last year, a match that was attended by both countries' prime ministers.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

