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Positive Post

Monthly publication to create a soft and positive image of Pakistan

Balochistan makes school education free and compulsory



Muzammil Arif
BS40 3519

The governor of Balochistan issued an ordinance under which primary and secondary school education has been declared compulsory and free.

The ordinance will be implemented with immediate effect, according to a press release.

The move has come against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's directive to implement Article-25A of the Constitution.

The article says it is the responsibility of the state to provide free and compulsory



education up to matriculation to children. It was inserted in the Constitution through the 18th Amendment. The court had issued the directive while hearing a petition regarding deteriorating condition of schools.

Education was among the subjects devolved to the provinces under the amendment.

Courtesy: Dawn News

"Malala, 258 others nominated for Nobel peace prize"

Sidra Syed
BS41 3696

Pakistani schoolgirl-turned-icon of Taliban resistance Malala Yousafzai, ex-Eastern bloc activists and former US president Bill Clinton are in the running for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, as the Nobel Institute announced a record 259 nominations.

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Decision to hand over Gawadar to China lauded



Sidra Syed
BS41 3696

Business community has appreciated the decision of Pakistan government to hand over Gwadar Port to China Overseas Port Holding Company and termed it the biggest ever decision to promote economic activities in the region. The operation of Gwadar Deep Seaport was handed over to



Chinese company at a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr this afternoon which was also witnessed by President Asif Ali Zardari, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Liu Jian, Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, parliamentarians and high officials.

Chairman AKD Securities Aqeel Karim Dhedhi, who had 20 per cent share in Gwadar Port while talking to APP after the ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr said the transfer of Gwadar Port to China is the biggest ever good news for the business community.

Contd Pg .7

Consumer-led growth



Shahzeb Afzal
BS 231702

With changing consumption patterns, 2012 was another good year for leading multi-national FMCGs (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) operating in Pakistan, said a report prepared by the Topline Research issued.

The consumer driven growth has changed economic growth pattern as household consumption constitutes 75 per cent of gross domestic product, the report said. In spite of energy shortages,



economic slowdown, security issues and declining investment in Pakistan, consumer-driven growth story continued as 2012 witnessed 19 per cent sales and 16 per cent profitability increase for the listed FMCGs, like Unilever, Unilever Foods, Nestle and Colgate, said the report. As a result, these listed companies generated a return of 65 per cent (53pc in \$) for their share

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Website bans are nothing new in Pakistan. We all remember how Pakistan lost access to Blogspot in March 2006, and Facebook in May 2010. More recently, YouTube was again banned in September 2012, and has still not been unbanned. This is apart from the sporadic attempts to filter Pakistani cyberspace and ban websites perceived as antagonists to national interests.

While religious reasons were given to ban YouTube, many now claim that the government has ulterior motives, especially near the elections. Many opine that the government does not want other more technically-savvy parties to take advantage of social media. We are a country plagued by terrorist attacks, inflation, lawlessness and loads of other problems. Do we really need to add censorship, and the lack of freedom of expression, to our litany of chaos? As journalists, and more importantly citizens, it is our duty to protest and fight for our rights.

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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Iran-Pakistan pipeline Islamabad to complete project 'despite US pressure'

Muhammad Shahzeb Afzal
BS 231702

Pakistan will complete the \$7.5 billion gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan despite pressure from the United States, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Moazzam Ahmad Khan said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad.



"President Zardari will visit Iran for the ground breaking ceremony and it will take place on March 11," Khan told reporters.

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Pakistan-Egypt ink 5 MoUs for cooperation in different fields



Aqsa Jabbar
BS41 3624

Pakistan and Egypt on Monday inked five memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and an executive programme for cooperation in scientific cooperation, investment and shipping. The signing of agreements was witnessed by Egyptian President Mohammad Morsi and President Asif Ali Zardari here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The MoU for Cooperation in the field of Money Orders and International Postal Service was signed by Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan Saeed Handam and Secretary Ports and Shipping Jawaid Iqbal Awan.

Courtesy: Good News



Pakistani enters ranks of Young Global Leaders



Maheen Farid
MS42 3785

Dr Ibrahim is one of the 12 successful professionals selected from the Middle East and North

Africa region for the Young Global Leaders Class of 2013 by the World Economic Forum.

It is his passion to fight poverty, the unique perspective and insight he brings forth, that makes believers out of us – and out of the YGL selection committee.



Dr Ibrahim is a senior executive at one of the largest Islamic banks in Bahrain, specialising in economic development, finance and Islamic banking. Seemingly,
Contd Pg .6

ECP removes ban on government job appointments

Maheen Farid
MS42 3785

The Election commission of Pakistan (ECP) removed the restriction on job appointments by the government.



According to ECP Additional Secretary Afzal Khan, the restriction was now removed because the ECP had "full faith" in the new caretaker government, adding that the commission believed that all appointments would be made on merit.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Textile sector's profits multiply 12-fold



Junaid Quadri
BS 36 3102

Profits of textile companies multiplied 12 times in the first half of fiscal year 2012-13, reaching Rs13.2 billion compared to Rs1.1 billion in the same period of previous fiscal year, says a research paper of Topline Securities.

In FY13 to date, the listed textile sector has given 70 percent price return, outperforming the 30 percent return of the Karachi Stock Exchange 100-share index.

The brokerage house assessed the financial results of a sample of 70 listed textile companies (excluding Azgard Nine) that represented 97% of the sector's stock market

capitalisation, estimated at more than Rs100 million each.



"We continue to see the sector under a favourable light with our conviction coming from consistent regional textile demand (especially for yarn) and downward sticky cotton prices. Further support to profitability is likely to come from the rupee depreciation, lower finance cost and improved gas supply beyond winter," it said

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Pakistan's 1st Island City

Anum Parvez
BS 363111

American real-estate tycoon Thomas Kramer and Bahria Town CEO Ahmed Ali Riaz Malik signed a \$20 billion agreement for Pakistan's first-ever Island City, Bungal & Buddo Islands, Karachi. A joint consortium of interna-



tional investors will join hands to develop this project and the deal with Kramer is the first level of this agreement. Announcement of other

global investors from the Middle East and around the globe will be made soon.

Covering 12,000 acres of land, this project will be developed in a span of 5-10 years but the residential communities will start being handed over to people in 2016. The global attractions of the project comprise world's tallest building, world's largest shopping mall, sports city, educational & medical city, international city and a media city – all having the most modern facilities and amenities and the most advanced infrastructure.

Island City will be connected to the DHA Karachi via a six-lane modern bridge. The entire city will be a 'high security

Contd Pg .6

Pakistani Exports

Rs 26 billion to promote exports

Junaid Quadri
BS36 3102

Government to spend Rs 26b to promote trade Ministry of Trade and Commerce's Director General Trade Policy Dr Safdar A Sohail said on Wednesday that a sum of Rs 26 billion would be spent on initiatives to promote the country's exports under the new trade policy 2012-15.

Dr Sohail told APP on Wednesday that Rs5 billion of this amount would be spent during the ongoing fiscal year. He attributed the country's trade deficit to heavy imports of petroleum products and raw material for fertilisers and other products.

He said a new development plan was under consideration for the auto industry which had enjoyed protection for many years without passing the benefit on to the people. He added that the government had allocated Rs20 million for the promotion of women entrepreneurs, adding that all possible steps would be taken to strengthen women entrepreneurs and chambers.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

100% Health allowance: Special education staff get good news

Maheen Farid
MS42 3785

The Ministry of Capital Administration and Development on Wednesday acceded to jack up 100 percent health allowance of special education employees

The employees of the Directorate General of Special Education and its allied special education centres and institutions had been on protest outside Prime Minister Secretariat for the last many days

Finally, the good news for the employees came after Ministry of Capital Administration and Development Secretary Riffat Shaheen Qazi held a meeting with the delegation of the protesters.

"If 24 of our employees are getting the same allowance, then it is our right to raise voice against this discrimination," said Masood, one of the protesters. Other demands of the protesting employees included 20 per cent increase

Contd Pg .6

Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline: China offers \$500m loan

Anum Parvez
BS36 3111

The United States has made clear its strong stand against the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline – but the first world power will perhaps be further irritated to hear that China is backing it with a \$500 million loan to Pakistan.



"In a major development, China has offered [the] loan," an official at the Pakistan Embassy in Iran told The Express Tribune. The remaining \$500 million would be generated through the Gas Infrastructure Development Cess from gas consumers. Pakistan had earlier planned to generate the billion dollars through the tax and Iran will be putting in \$500 million.

Contd Pg .6

Pakistani women journalists recognized



Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

The first Women in Media Awards ceremony took place at the Beach Luxury Hotel on Wednesday and celebrated the works of female Pakistani journalists.

The journalists won awards in the print, television, radio and online categories. Each of the women spoke on what their story was and how they went about covering it.

For the winner of the online journalism award, Sadia Haider, the award was vali-

dated for the work she had put in the last few years. After accepting her award Haider explained that her husband, who worked for the News Agency Reuters, was killed in Afghanistan. Since then she has been exploring the concept of violence in society, especially towards women, through different reporting mediums. "I am glad I'm standing here as a journalist for my work and not just a camera person or photographer" said Haider.

Similar to Haider, the rest of the recipients of the media awards were thankful for

Contd Pg .6

Colorful postures

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

An exhibition of senior artist Khalid Saeed Butt's latest body of work titled 'Ragniyani' is under way at the Art Scene Gallery. The viewer might find the setting a bit yesteryear, but the protagonists in the artist's work are not hard to recognise. Despite the fact that they appear as having inalienable historicity to their characters (and there's no harm in that), their faces have an air of timelessness about them.

The most noteworthy aspect of the women (and some

men) painted by Khalid Saeed Butt is their postures.

Almost every gouache-on-canvas exhibit has a woman or women looking elegant and moving towards something or the other, either reacting to a situation or causing a situation to develop. This makes the artworks pretty catchy.

Courtesy: Dawn



FLOWER SHOW



Rabiya Alavi
BS40 3524

The 62nd Pakistan Flower Show 2013 opened at the DHA Sea View Public Park

With the venue neighboring the Sea View Beach, 'The Flower Show' seems to be the ideal place for a family on a weekend. With numerous plants and flowers on display



the flower show also had an elaborate garden accessories section along with a fully fledged food court at one's disposal.

This year, the show held sessions and discussions based on horticulture and additional foliage. Prizes were awarded to the best participants and

Contd. Pg. 6

KVTC holds pioneering "Right to Work" Conference

Aqsa Jabbar
BS41 3624

For Mumtaz Rafiq, enrolling at the Karachi Vocational Training Centre (KVTC) 14 years ago was a life-changing decision. After two years of culinary training, he got a job at a fast-food chain and now earns Rs14,000 a month.



The centre, located in Phase IV, DHA, focuses on providing vocational training to people with cognitive disabilities. "It started off with a promise – to aim for something greater than the simple rehabilitation of totally neglected members of society. Slowly, people with similar goals started joining the initiative," said Imran Sohail, who is a speech therapy specialist at the centre and develops the

Contd Pg .7

Pakistan's biggest walk-in Bird Aviary

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf inaugurated Pakistan's biggest walk-in Bird Aviary at Lakeview Park.

As many as 1,500 birds have been released in the Aviary which has 80 feet height and has been spread over 3.8 acres of land.

The Prime Minister was informed that it had been completed at a cost of Rs74 million and birds of 65 varieties had been kept in the aviary.

Member Environment CDA Dr Kazim Niaz said that Aviary was a close place in which natural environment was given to birds.

"There is walk in way in the Aviary and precious and rare species of parrots, peacocks, water fowls, pheasants and other birds have been kept in it.



"People will be allowed to buy birds from Aviary because that is how we can create awareness and interest for the birds in residents. For that purpose special bird's nursery will be established in it," he said.

There are six main categories of birds in the Aviary and ponds are also made for water fowls. Besides, a dispensary for the birds and a tuck-shop will be established in the Aviary, he said.

"A hanging bridge has been constructed in the middle of the Aviary and watching towers are also fixed so that people would watch birds easily, Dr Kazim said.

Courtesy: Dawn News



A carnival for a good cause



M. Ahmed Aslam
BS423736

‘Let us join hands to value our rich natural heritage by supporting conservation initiatives, was the bottom line of the presentations made by students to the visitors to their stalls at World Wide Fund for Nature Pakistan’s 14th annual Travelling Nature Carnival at Gulshan-i-Iqbal.

While the older children and their parents were interested in knowing more about critical environmental issues, the younger lot was eager to get cartoon characters of choice painted on their faces, spend maximum time in the jumping castle and sliding tube.

Environment puppet and magic shows, live musical performance, games and quiz, nature art exhibition, theatre and environment debate competition also at-

tracted hundreds of children.

More than 45 volunteers from premier colleges and schools of the city not only helped organise the carnival but also remained busy in collecting the empty covers of potato chips, candies and polythene bags thrown by the visitors on the ground. Gift bags were also given to some 50 or so children for collecting solid waste from the venue.

Class V to matriculation or O` Level students from more than 30 educational institutions from across Lahore and Sheikhpura would confidently explain to the visitors to their stalls the impact of forest degradation, ways and means for water resources management and maintaining its quality, importance of endangered wildlife and the need to switch over to alternative energy resources.

Courtesy: Dawn News

Art exhibition: Showcase of our country Talent

M. Ahmed Aslam
BS42 3736

As many as 17 art pieces by Ufaq Ehsan went on display at the Colours Art Gallery.

Ehsan, who works as an art therapist at the International American School, has made use of colours to reflect emotions. The work on display is a collection of paintings [in mix media and oil] depicting motherhood and childhood.

“My work is symbolic simply because I do not want to stir controversy,” said Ehsan, who also runs an inspirational art club at her home.

“During my art career, spanning over 20 years, I have often depicted motherhood differently. Vow in a piece titled Motherhood symbolises a womb. Baby is often in a vowing position when inside the mother,” said Ehsan, who is a single mother to a 16-year-old.

Contd Pg .7

Sounds of jazz come to town represent Pakistan on international forum

Nimra Arshad
BS40 3541

At Kuch Khaas on Monday, a group of three artists brought the sounds of jazz to Islamabad where an audience including expatriates, Pakistanis, men and women tapped their feet to the music.

The group’s visit to Pakistan has been arranged by the Dutch embassy.

The ambassador of the Netherlands in Pakistan, Gajus Scheltema, opened the concert by introducing the group, the International Jazz Trio.

The group’s name derives from their biography, as each member represents a different continent: Joris Teepe, the bassist, is from the Netherlands; Shigo Okudaira, the drummer, is from Japan; and Tim Armacost, the saxophonist, is from North America.



The International Jazz Trio began playing together in 1995, in New York City, where each had relocated to immerse himself in jazz music. Their debut CD, ‘Live at the Birmhuis’, was recorded in the Netherlands during one of their first tours.

‘While jazz is a quintessentially American art form,’ the ambassador said, ‘the diversity of the trio makes their music particularly interesting.

He thanked the Embassy of the United States for co-sponsoring the event.

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Punjab youth festival sets new world record

Junaid Quadri
BS 36 3102

The Punjab Youth Festival saw four new world records set on Wednesday, adding to the existing 20 world records Pakistan holds.



Cricketer Rana Naveed hit 45 balls in one minute, breaking a record previously set by English cricketer Andrew Flint off, who had played 19 strokes in a minute. During the record breaking at

Contd Pg .7

Contd. Pakistani women

being recognised.

Many spoke about what story they had won their awards for and why they chose to produce them in a certain way.

Courtesy: Dawn News

Contd. Art Exhibition

"It also represents the Sufi idea of mother earth and re-birth after death," she added.

A series of her paintings, titled Red or Rose, marks heavy use of the colour red. Her latest works, however, make more use of violets, magenta and indigo, which she says reflect peace and spirituality.

Ehsan said that red indicates inspiration, blood, activity and energy. She said her work reflected rising with determination.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Flower Show

organizers pertaining to various categories.

Majority of the exhibit consisted of plants rather than flowers. The display variety revolved around cactus and bonsai and only a small amount of flowers were imported from Thailand.

The place was jam-packed with public and surrounded by security officials, leaving the environment filled to capacity and congested. This made it fairly complex for a sightseer to navigate their way around the entire exhibition.

Courtesy: Dawn News

Contd. NBP awarded...

in salaries, which is yet to be settled. Meanwhile, on the sixth day, non-teaching staff of schools and colleges of Islamabad continued their protest and sit-in at D-Chowk.

Courtesy: Dawn News

Contd. Pakistan's 1st Island City: Bahria Town sign \$200...

zone', having its own drinking water (converting seawater into drinking water) and power generation plants to enable it to be self-sufficient in electricity.

The project will have mosques, cinemas, spas, golf clubs, school, hospital and other global standard amenities to furnish a modern lifestyle.

Speaking on the occasion, Thomas Kramer said, "I have full confidence in the people and economy of Pakistan. In 1970 when I started my project in Germany it was the worst era of their history. Likewise when Miami Beach

project was started, the area was in full control of Cuban criminals, different mafias and gangsters. Dead bodies used to be scattered on the beaches. I completed my projects successfully. Today they are the world's most secure and advanced regions.

"Current situation in Pakistan is much better than those areas. I am confident that this project along with boosting the economy will also eradicate terrorism from Pakistan. This is a once in a lifetime chance to bring Pakistan back on the map to the leading nations in the world."

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Pakistani enters ranks of young global leaders

each step to get there required unrelenting determination. He completed his initial law degree, focused on Shariah and Pakistan law, from the International Islamic University in Islamabad, and then went on to top law schools in the United States, supported by the Fulbright program as the first Pakistani to win the prestigious scholarship for law.

During his studies, Dr Ibrahim

was invited to design and teach a course in Islamic finance law at Georgetown University's law school, where he continues to be an adjunct professor of law. Since then, as a transactional lawyer in global law firms, Dr Ibrahim worked on several multibillion dollar projects, paying close attention to structuring large Islamic finance transactions.

Courtesy: Dawn

Contd. Consumer-led growth

holders in 2012 compared to 49pc gain (38pc in \$) by benchmark index. Consumer spending not only remained immune from the downfall but also served as an engine for economic growth, thanks to rising share of informal economy in the last few years. The trend is also evident from the higher import of consumer goods, opening of new malls and restaurant and influx of several global brands into the economy. The report said that in the last five years, collective sales of these foreign MNCs grew at 22 per cent or Rs164bn (\$1.8bn) compared to Rs75.4bn (\$1.1bn) in 2008.

Courtesy: Dawn News

Contd. Decision to hand

He said China, which is a leading country in trade in the world has the capacity to run this most important project which will have a positive contribution in the development of Pakistan and the region.

Aqeel Karim Dhedhi, who also handed over 20 per cent share of his company to Chinese Company, said Singapore Port Authority could not make the port functional as it has no business interest in the region.

Chinese Company has also promised to invest dollar 750 million initially and establish seven industrial zones in the area so that the true potential of the port could be utilized.

Courtesy: The Nation

Contd. Iran Pakistan pipeline

He did not give further details but a senior Pakistani official told AFP that the ceremony will be held on the Iran-Pakistan border.

It will be Zardari's second visit to Iran since February 27 and comes after officials said a consortium will start work on the pipeline on Pakistani territory on March 11 despite American warnings of possible sanctions.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Pakistan' to host

would go ahead without any problems.

"We expect around 20-25 countries to take part in the championship with India, Iran and Afghanistan having already sent their participation," Shaikh told reporters.

"A one-to-one series was difficult," he added, referring to the cancellation earlier this month of a series between India and Pakistan which was due to be the first featuring the two countries since 2005.

"When you talk of the Asian event, it's a matter of a prestigious title and that matters for all the countries," he said.

Pakistan was forced to put off the bilateral snooker series with India after Indians raised security fears following a blast in Karachi which killed 48 people.

Next month's championship will be the fourth time Pakistan has hosted the event. The first was in 1991, followed by 1998 and 2007.

Pakistan is considered to be a major force in international snooker with two players from the country having won the world amateur title since 1994.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Punjab Youth Festival

tempt, five seconds were wasted by emotional spectators who barged onto the ground before the time was up.

Another record was set by a youth who broke 68 wooden blocks with his elbow. The previous record of 43 blocks was set in the United States in 2008.

A record was made when 1,450 boys and girls arm wrestled in Punjab Stadium simultaneously, breaking a previously existing record of 1,018 people on March 2012 in the United Kingdom.

A day earlier, Pakistan's talented youth created six records in different entertainment events.

The 11-member hockey team set a world mark of 43 passes in one minute. The team set

the record in their third attempt.

Mohammad Rashid of Karachi set another record by opening 40 bottles caps with his head in one minute.

Mohammad Salim Amin clinched the largest sequins mosaic record by creating a picture of Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, measuring 6.2 square metres and using 325,000 sequins.

In the most number of continuous badminton passes in one minute, Mohammad Wajid and Atique completed 123 continuous passes while the target set by GWR was of 30 passes.

Mohammad Rashid created his second and the day's sixth world record by kicking 50 coconuts down from the heads of people standing in a row.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Foot ball competition

Government teams dominate the Pakistan Premier League (PPL), snapping up the best talent with generous sports budgets and leaving private clubs to struggle. Unsurprisingly, neither fans nor sponsors have much appetite for supporting the likes of current PPL champions Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), or the evocatively named four-time winners, the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA).

Television coverage is non-existent and crowds for most matches number in the hundreds. Naveed Haider Khan, marketing consultant at the PFF, said the new competition would give football a much-needed shot of razzmatazz.

"We're going to be giving cash incentives, we'll look after their transportation, their accommodation, we'll be trying to project it very heavily on television so people get the insight of what is happening in football," he said. Balochistan

is the heartland of the game, the only place where crowds of thousands regularly turn up to watch matches, but it is also one of the country's most dangerous regions. "We want to glamourise this game in Pakistan, we want to run it like the IPL in India with cricket," he told AFP.

The competition is dependent on sponsors coming forward, but the PFF hopes to run it in May or September, Khan said, and if all goes well there are plans to expand the competition next year – and even try to lure foreign players. A similar venture in neighbouring Afghanistan last year proved hugely successful, attracting sell-out crowds and big television audiences. There is little doubt reform is needed. The PFF has set an ambitious goal of qualifying for the World Cup by 2022, but the national team has made little progress since the launch of the premier league in 2004.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Anti -corruption steps yielding good results

This year's list of candidates is made up of 209 individuals and 50 organisations, the Nobel Institute said, without disclosing any of the names in line with its rules. The list of nominees is kept secret for 50 years.

But thousands of people are eligible to nominate candidates -- including former laureates, members of parliament and government around the world, some university professors and members of certain international organisations -- and they can reveal the names they have

put forward.

Fifteen year old Malala Yousafzai, who was promoting girls' education in Pakistan, is known to be on the list and is seen by some experts as a favourite.

But her young age could work against her, others suggested.

"It would be too much of a burden for her," said Atle Sveen, a historian who specialises in the Nobel Peace Prize.

Courtesy: The News

Contd. Sounds of Jazz to come to town represent....

Peter Brennan, a representative of the American embassy, spoke briefly on the long-standing relationship between the US and the Netherlands, beginning when, in the 18th century, the Dutch were the first to recognise the US as an independent nation. Brennan also spoke briefly on the history of jazz, emphasising the universality of music, which, because it lacks linguistic bar-

riers, can appeal to a much broader audience. His comments were echoed by the Dutch bassist, Joris Teepe.

'The roots of jazz are in New Orleans and New York,' he said, 'but it is spreading all over the world. Jazz combines structure and innovation, making it a unique form of music.'

Courtesy: Dawn News

Contd. "Right to Work"

curriculum for children with cognitive disabilities. "We shattered the myth that children with cognitive disabilities

cannot learn, hold jobs, earn livelihoods and live independently."

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Contd. Iran-Pakistan

The geopolitical sands appear to be shifting on more than one front as this development comes days after Pakistan handed over to China control of its key Gwadar port in Balochistan. In one of the boldest snubs of consistent US pressure and warnings, Islamabad and Tehran formally launched the project on Monday in an elaborate groundbreaking ceremony held at the Pakistan-Iran border.

Petroleum ministry officials confirmed that Pakistan is in the middle of procuring compressors and pipelines from a

Chinese company and Iranian company Tadbir will do the construction. Pakistani companies such as Sui Northern Pipeline Limited, Sui Southern Gas Company Limited and Frontier Works Organisation would be involved.

The 1,600-kilometre pipeline, projected to cost a whopping \$1.5 billion would enable the export of 21.5 million cubic meters of Iranian natural gas to Pakistan daily. The country hopes to overcome its energy crisis with the 4,000 Megawatts capacity of this project.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

SPORTS



Proteas Gul-dozed as Hafeez performs Pakistan win T20 series

M.Ahmed Aslam
BS423736

Fast bowler Umar Gul took five wickets for only six runs and captain Mohammad Hafeez smashed a career best 86 off 51 balls as Pakistan annihilated South Africa by 95 runs in the decisive second Twenty20 International.

Hafeez put a poor Test series behind him as he thrashed four sixes and nine boundaries to inspire Pakistan to 195-7 at the Super Sport Park.

South Africa, in reply, collapsed to 100 all out in what was a series decider after the first match in Durban on Friday night was washed out. When Hafeez was on 73 he became the first Pakistani to reach 1,000 runs in Twenty20 Internationals. His innings was in dramatic contrast to his struggles in a three-match Test series

which ended last week in which he could score only 43 runs in six innings at an average of 7.16.



'I knew I was playing well in the nets but just getting good balls in the Tests,' he said. 'It was disappointing but the coach [Day Whatmore] has been working hard with me in the nets.'

Hafeez said he felt criticism of the team after they were beaten 3-0 in the Test series had been premature.

Courtesy: Dawn News

Pakistan to host Asian snooker championship

Junaid Quadri
BS 36 3102

Pakistan will host the Asian Amateur Snooker Championship next month, officials announced on Wednesday, despite security concerns which forced a recent event with arch-rivals India to be cancelled.

The tournament will take place in Karachi between April 27 and May 3, Pakistan Billiards and Snooker Association (PBSA) president Alamgeer Shaikh said, insisting the multi-country event

Contd Pg .6



Pakistan Defeated India In Junior Squash Championship 2013

Sidra Syed
BS41 3696

Pakistan and India faced each other in the final of Junior Squash championship 2013. Pakistan earlier defeated Malaysia by 2-0 and qualified for Finals of Junior Squash championship 2013. India met Pakistan in the final by beating Hong Kong by 2-1 in the second semi-final.

The game between Pakistan and India remained one sided as Pakistani young lads defeated India with ease. Pakistan snatched the game by 2-0, no points were made from Indian side. The coach said the game was easy to win and was joyful. The coach said the boys are very hard working and played really well. It seemed that 2-0 proved lucky for Pakistan, they won most of



the matches by 2-0. The boys defeated Korea, the hosts, by 2-0.

Pakistani girls also participated in the event and represented Pakistan pretty decently. The girls won against Sri Lanka one out of three matches. However, the girls team participating for the first time in the event gave a decent performance.

We really need to appreciate these young guns. Our team congratulates Pakistan junior squash team for their excellent performance in the event and defeating our biggest rival India in the final.

Courtesy: voiceofpak

Football competition

Rabiya Alavi
BS40 3524

Pakistan is planning a major new football competition modelled on cricket's hugely successful Indian Premier League in a bid to revitalise a sport which has long stagnated. The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) is in talks with potential sponsors for the proposed league, which would feature six city-based teams playing each other in Lahore, officials told AFP. Pakistan has had a "premier league" for the past nine years, but coaches and fans complain of poor standards, awful pitches and walkovers.

Contd Pg .6

