

Pakistan's domestic season begins with National T20 Cup

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan's best T20 cricketers will be back in action as the much-awaited National T20 Cup First XI tournament kicks off tomorrow, Wednesday at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

The 33-match tournament, which will be broadcast live in its entirety in High Definition on PTV Sports, marks the beginning of competitive cricket in the country after more than six months and, as such, serves as the curtain-raiser for the 2020-21 domestic season.

The Pakistan Cricket Board is the first cricket board to announce and organise a complete domestic season in these unprecedented and difficult Covid-19 times. The PCB has made comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming season to protect the wellbeing and livelihood of the domestic cricketers. Due to the ongoing pandemic and to ensure health and safety of all competitors, the tournament will be played behind closed doors under strict Covid-19 protocols.

The tournament will be played in two phases: the first one running from 30 September to 6 October in Multan and the second phase to be staged from 9-18 October in Rawalpindi.

With two ACC Asia Cups and ICC Men's T20 World Cups scheduled for the next two years, this year's National T20 Cup First XI tournament will be played on double-league basis to provide adequate preparation to the players who are likely to represent the Pakistan men's national team in these events.

SU extends online admission date till Oct 13

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The University of Sargodha (SU) has extended its online admission date from September 29 to October 13, for Fall-2020 admission process.

The online admissions are announced in above 150 programmes in graduate and post-graduate levels of the seven faculties.

The decision was taken in a meeting of admission committee chaired by Dr Muhammad Afzal while other officials were also present.

The first, second and third merit lists for admissions to regular undergraduate and graduate programmes will be displayed on October 19, October 21 and October 23, respectively.

Merit lists of evening/self-support programme will be displayed on October 26, October 28 and October 30.

Classes for the regular and self-support programs would start from October 26 and November 2, respectively.



LAHORE: Students take keen interest in merit list displayed by the officials of Shalimar College. —Online

Yasmin orders timely completion of PM health initiative projects

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid reviewed the performance of the Punjab Health Facilities Management at the PHFMC office with special focus on upgradation under the Prime Minister's Health Initiative here on Tuesday.

The PHFMC team including Hassan Mustafa, Salim Sheikh and senior officials attended the meeting. The Minister reviewed the performance of the PHFMC and the pace of work at ongoing development projects in the meeting. The PHFMC gave a presentation about the status of projects. The Minister enquired about the Human Resource and the hirings in the PHFMC.

The Minister said that services through Mobile Health Units must be scaled up.

Punjab Health Minister said, "The Upgradation of Public Sector Health facilities under the Prime Minister's Health Initiative must be completed within deadlines.

All resources must be utilized to provide health facilities to the common man.

The work on upgradation of Basic Health Units and Rural Health Centers must be completed in time. After the necessary upgradation, patients visiting government hospitals may receive international standard services. After the success of the Filter Clinics, more Filter Clinics will be set up at different locations. After a fortnight, the PHFMC progress will be reviewed again. There is no place for work shirkers in the Department."

Upgradation project for many primary healthcare facilities underway: Yasmin

Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid met a delegation of the UK's Department for International Development at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department here on Tuesday.

Present in the meeting were Development Director DFID Annabelle Gerry, Amna Khan and Health Advisor Dr. Sara Shahzad. Punjab's Minister Health discussed with the DFID team the upgradation of public sector hospital, capacity enhancement initiatives for Nursing schools, Sustainable Development Goals, Mother and Child Indicators and Family

Planning Program.

The DFID team congratulated Dr. Yasmin Rashid for successfully combating the Corona Pandemic.

Punjab Health Minister said that under the Prime Minister Health Initiative the upgradation Project for many primary healthcare facilities is underway.

She said, "Punjab is taking all-out measures to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Population growth is affecting the pace of progress. A number of new Mother and Child Hospitals are being built on a fast pace to improve Mother and Child health indicators. We are scaling up the capacity and services at the Nursing schools.

We are also providing Sehat Insaf Cards to people living below the poverty line. We are working hard to improve healthcare service delivery for the people of Pakistan."

Development Director Annabelle Gerry said the DFID would fully support the Punjab government in development initiatives. She expressed appreciation for the services of Dr. Yasmin Rashid in reforming the health landscape of Punjab.

All issues of constituencies to be resolved: CM

PML-N lawmakers meet Punjab CM Buzdar

BSOR

LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) provincial lawmaker has met Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and expressed their support to him for resolving public issues.

The delegation of PML-N Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) includes Chaudhry Ashraf Ali, Muhammad Ghiyas Uddin, Muhammad Faisal Khan Niazi and Mian Jaleel Ahmed Sharaquri.

The lawmakers apprised CM Usman Buzdar regarding the issues of their respective constituencies.

They also expressed full confidence over the leadership of Usman Buzdar. The chief minister assured them resolving issues of their constituencies on a priority basis.

During the meeting, CM Buzdar said that all issues of the constituencies will be resolved at earliest and lawmakers will be given respect and honour. He said that the past rulers had seized all powers into their hands and no tolerance will be shown anymore over corruption.

He vowed that the journey of serving masses will be continued despite criticism. The lawmakers expressed their confidence in the policies and leadership of the chief minister.

In July, as many as 15 lawmakers of the Punjab Assembly hailing from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had decided to go against the party directives to refrain from meeting Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar and announced to improve relations with government functionaries in the province

"We are only accountable to the people of our constituency," said the 15 provincial lawmakers who had announced to defy the party directives during a meeting in Lahore after they were issued show-cause notices over meeting the chief minister.

"Meeting chief minister of the province is not a crime that show-cause notices were issued to us," they had said and announced that they should not be held accountable for the crimes committed by the party leadership.

We will not hesitate to go to anyone for the betterment of our constituencies, they said and urged the party leadership to refrain from imposing restrictions that are against the public interest. The lawmakers who had met at a farmhouse in the provincial capital included Mian Jaleel Ahmed, Nishat Khan Daha, Muhammad Ghiyas-ud-Din and others.



LAHORE: People stand in queue without maintaining social distance outside State Bank of Pakistan. —Online

Body annoyed over delay in payment of land acquired for Kaghan to Babusar road

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Communications, Senator Hidayat Ullah Tuesday in a meeting showed grave displeasure regarding delay in payment to the owner who provided land for the construction of a road from Kaghan to Babusar.

The meeting was held at Parliament Lodges.

Taking up the issue of payment to land owners whose land had been acquired for the construction of a road from Kaghan to Babusar, the chairman asserted that the rates for the land determined in 1999 could not be applied today.

This would be a gross violation of rights, he added.

Senator Hidayat Ullah said that if compliance report was not submitted in the next meeting constitutional action would be taken against the ministry.

The meeting also discussed the number of Toll Plazas established on the Motorway and the mode of awarding contracts. The members asserted the need for transparency while awarding contracts and stressed the need for a detailed briefing on the tendering process.

Expanding the playing field for new players and generating competition was stressed as well.

The committee decided to club

this agenda item with that pertaining to the M8 Motorway and summon the Pakistan Engineering Council for a detailed briefing regarding various aspects of the Motorway and the criteria according for which technical bids were vetted, in the next meeting.

While discussing the Chakdarra-Dir Motorway, the committee was informed that the Khyber Pakhtukhwa Government was planning to construct Chakdarra-Dir Motorway from Chakdarra to Rabat (54 Km) on PPP Mode of financing, PC-II for appointment of consultant to conduct commercial and financial feasibility study on PPP Mode of financing had been prepared and had been approved for the cost of Rs 25.00 million. Bids received in response to the RFP floated on 30th August, 2020. Bid evaluation is in the process and expectedly the consultancy will be awarded in the first week of October, 2020.

PKHA has worked out a tentative cost of the project including land acquisition and resettlement to the tune of PKR 13.5 billion. The construction of the motorway will provide better communication facility while bypassing the stated bottle-necks and will shorten the distance to 28 km.

Chairman committee, Senator Hidayat Ullah was of the view that this project was a public-private partnership and keeping in view the traffic congestion on the route it could be safely deemed commercially viable. The committee was informed that a traffic count would be conducted.

The committee showed concern regarding the standards of KPK Highway Authority and enquired whether or not it was in line with NHA. The committee was assured that the only difference lay between the two was tariff rates.

Chairman Committee, Senator Hidayat Ullah was of the view that constructing this highway was imperative for road safety. Chief Engineer Chakdarra Project Director has been summoned in the next meeting. Regarding Swat Expressway, the committee objected to the quality of work on the project and directed that work on the project must be according to NHA standards.

Deliberating over the issue of the attack on personal vehicle of Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi near Behra Service Area on Motorway and Security situation on Sialkot - Lahore Motorway; the committee asserted that workability of cameras needed to be assured on mo-

Atlassian signs Abacus as first solution partner in Pakistan

LAHORE: Abacus, a global consulting, technology and outsourcing firm with proven expertise in DevOps, Agile and ITSM — today announced a partnership with Atlassian, an Australian enterprise software firm and a leading provider of collaboration, development, and issue tracking software for teams. With over 138,000 global customers (including 85 of the Fortune 100) advancing the power of collaboration with products including Jira, Jira Service Desk, Jira Ops, Confluence, Bitbucket, Trello, and more.

The partnership will allow the firm to meet the growing demand for issue tracking and team collaboration by implementing Atlassian products across Pakistan and EMEA region. As a Solution Partner, Abacus would help its customers across Pakistan and EMEA to acquire licenses of all Atlassian products and various add-ons, customized products training, Professional Services for Implementation and Managed Services.

Emirates further expands network to Muscat

LAHORE: Emirates on Tuesday has announced it will restart services to Entebbe, Uganda (1 October) and Muscat, Oman (2 October), bringing the total number of cities served by the airline to 94. Emirates is gradually resuming operations and rebuilding its network to provide more opportunities for travel, sparing no effort to ensure the highest standards of health and safety for its customers and employees at every travel touch point.

Emirates will operate Entebbe with three weekly flights on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The addition of Entebbe expands Emirates' African network to 20 destinations, enabling customers to safely and easily connect to destinations across Europe, the Far East, the Americas, the Middle East and West Asia with one convenient stop in Dubai.

Emirates flight EK 729



will depart Dubai at 1030hrs, arriving in Entebbe at 1500hrs. The return flight, EK 730, will depart Entebbe at 1700hrs, arriving in Dubai at 2325hrs.

Flights from Dubai to Muscat will operate twice a week on Sundays and Fridays. Emirates flight EK 866 will depart Dubai at 0215hrs, arriving in Muscat at 0330hrs. The return flight, EK 867, will depart Muscat at 0440hrs, arriving in Dubai at 0555hrs.

Services to both cities will be operated by the Boeing 777-300ER. Tick-

ets can be booked on emirates.com, the Emirates App, Emirates sales offices, via travel agents as well as online travel agents.

Customers can stop over or travel to Dubai as the city has re-opened for international business and leisure visitors. Ensuring the safety of travelers, visitors, and the community, COVID-19 PCR tests are mandatory for all inbound and transit passengers arriving to Dubai (and the UAE), including UAE citizens, residents and tourists, irrespective of the country they are coming

CarFirst expands its operations to Multan

LAHORE: Member of the National Assembly, Makhdoom Zain Qureshi, and Raja Murad Khan's, CEO of CarFirst inaugurated the launch of CarFirst operations in Multan. Zain Qureshi and Mr. Murad Khan talked about the importance of creating sustainable jobs in Multan.

The CEO of CarFirst shared the company's vision, services, and products with the members of the Multan Press.

Makhdoom Zain Qureshi, Member of the National Assembly said: "The biggest challenge facing the used car industry in Multan was reliable sources and quick payment, CarFirst directly solves these problems eliminating any elements of fraud with their instant inspection and payment system. The contemporary world requires digitalization and innovative solutions to our problems, for all these reasons and more we welcome CarFirst to Mul-



tan and pray for their prosperity."

While speaking to the members of the Multan press, Raja Murad Khan, CEO and Co-Founder CarFirst, said "CarFirst, has a progressive vision of growth and expansion throughout Pakistan, with Sialkot, Gujranwala, and Gujrat on the cards. We have come to Multan, in response to the overwhelming demand for CarFirst's trusted services. The people in Multan will be able to have their cars inspected,

priced, and sold under one roof within an hour

CarFirst is geared towards simplifying the lives of our customers and continuously driving Pakistan's used car industry forward through innovation, and playing our role as Pakistan's most trusted used car trading platform. We are proud to be the drivers of change by bringing forth transparency, regulation, instant payment, secure transfers, and hassle-free trading for Multan."