

Six-member team selected for World Youth Scrabble C'ship

LAHORE: A six-member team has been selected to feature in the WESPA Youth Cup (formerly known as World Youth Scrabble Championship) to be played from August 7 to 22 and hosted by the Pakistan Scrabble Association.

"The team includes Hasham Hadi Khan, Ali Salman, Usman Shaukat, Syed Imaad Ali, Affan Salman and Ahmed Salman," Tariq Pervez, Director, Pakistan Scrabble Association told APP. He said Hasham won the qualifying tournament held in Karachi for the selection of team Pakistan at the WESPA Youth Cup scrabble championship. "The tournament was held in two stages with over 60 top youth players participating. In the first leg 50 players fought it out for a place in the grand finale. Top ten players from the first leg qualified for the final round where they were joined by ten players that have previously participated in international tournaments.

"The final qualifying round was a grueling 19 game tournament on round robin league basis played over two days. The 16 year old "veteran" Hasham Hadi emerged as the only player that remained unbeaten throughout the tournament. Hasham won all his 19 games with an impressive spread of 2288. —APP



LAHORE: A couple enjoy Sunday holiday during pleasant weather at Tomb of Jahangir. —Online

PNCA, Lok Virsa start preparations for Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) have started preparations to celebrate Independence Day in a befitting manner.

An official of PNCA Masroor Shah told APP that the Arts Council would organize various cultural events to mark the Independence Day. He said that various activities including tableau, skits, national songs and folk dances would be presented by children in the cultural show while the National Puppet Theatre of PNCA will colour the show on the theme of the Independence Day.

He said that puppet show will portray the history of the Pakistan Movement in the form of stories to grab the attention of the children and educate them about their history. "The week-long programmes would focus on the freedom movement, heroes of the Pakistan Movement and the rich culture and traditions of Pakistan through performing art," he added. Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said that Lok Virsa was preparing a plan to mark Independence Day in befitting manner.

He said that a glowing tribute would be paid to the national heroes and founder of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. —APP

Int'l Day of Worlds Indigenous people to be marked on 9th

LAHORE: International Day of the World's Indigenous People will be marked on August 9 across the globe including Pakistan to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

The day also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. Indigenous cultures across the planet are recognized on International Day of the World's Indigenous People. On December 23, 1994, the UN General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People should be observed on August 9 annually during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. —APP

Second online film production course of PNCA starts today

LAHORE: The second online film production course by Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) would start from today (today).

An official of PNCA's Film Section Asmara told APP that a total of 18 students had been shortlisted for the online classes. She said that students from all four provinces were registered for the second course adding. —APP

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that the Punjab government is taking all possible steps to protect the citizens from the fourth wave of Corona adding that guidelines have been issued in this regard. The Chief Minister said that following the corona SOPs is in the best interest of the citizens. Citizens cannot only protect themselves by observing corona SOPs but also save others from this pandemic.

Usman Buzdar said that vaccination against corona is the most effective way to prevent this outbreak. Due to the fourth wave of corona pandemic, the number of cases is increasing. If the rate of

positive cases will continue to increase, the government may impose a smart lockdown once again. He appealed to the people to wear masks and maintain social distance. The citizens have to adopt preventive measures in the wake of the current corona situation. He said that the citizens should support the government in the Corona vaccination campaign and everyone has to act responsibly.

The government will take every necessary step to protect the lives of the people, he assured.

Riaz Fatyana, Ashifa

Riaz call on CM

MNA Riaz Fatyana and Provincial Minister for Women Development Ashifa Riaz called on the Punjab Chief Minister Sar-

dar Usman Buzdar at CM's Office and congratulated him on the success of PTI in the by-election of PP-38 Sialkot.

They also lauded the Chief Minister's vision of a composite development package for each district. Riaz Fatyana and Ashifa Riaz apprised the Chief Minister about the problems of their constituencies. Usman Buzdar issued instructions on the spot for the redressal of their complaints. They thanked the Chief Minister for giving immediate instructions to resolve their issues. Usman Buzdar termed the success in the PP-38 by-election, a victory of politics of public service. Usman Buzdar said that he believes in delivering rather than lip service. The government will continue to

answer those with public service, who criticized the government for the sake of criticism. Opponents cannot compare their 30 years with our three years of public service. Usman Buzdar said that public service is his mission which will remain continue.

Directs to ensure strict implementation on SOPs

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed to ensure strict implementation on Corona SOPs across the province including Lahore and said that all monitoring teams should check bazaars, markets and other places on regular basis. Usman Buzdar said that legal actions should be taken against any violation. He said that the government had taken all necessary measures be-

fore and will continue to take in the future as well for safeguarding the lives of the citizens.

He said that due to not observing corona SOPs, the number of corona cases is increasing day by day in hospitals.

He appealed to the citizens to follow the government's guidelines. Citizens' co-operation is utmost necessary to deal with the fourth wave of the corona, he added.

Takes notice of incident death of a labourer

The Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has taken notice of the incident death of a labourer by falling into the iron furnace in Manawan and sought a report from the Commissioner Lahore Division.

All possible steps being taken to protect citizens from fourth wave of corona: CM

Lahore I am Coming: An echo from the past

Muhammad Karim Akhtar

Poetry, perhaps one of the oldest genres of literature, transcends history and philosophy. As Sir Philip Sidney in his Defence of Poesy illustrates that it must be revered for its antiquity.



The poet being an emotional custodian of the art and culture reinvents history through his language. Lahore, I am Coming is Rizwan Akhtar's first collection of poems, and most of the poems reverberate the past civilization of the subcontinent, the Moghul art and architecture, culture and geography. It also echoes the ravages of colonialism on culture and traditions of the sub-continent.

The inclusion of the images of various places of Lahore particularly Moghul art and architecture reflects his belongings and association with Lahore. As the title suggests, it seems that the poet being an exotic addresses the city about his coming. In his poems, history like language is everywhere. Akhtar's poetry encapsulates the sense of rich Moghul art. He makes a lot of allusions of Moghul art and architecture in his poetry, like The Royal Mosque and behind it The Dancing Girls' Bazar, Kamran's Bara Dari, Moghul's prisons inside the Fort, and most of the significant places of the city like mentioning of Mall Road, Zamzama, Oriental College, Lawrence Gardens and The Lahore Fort, and also an allusion of Waris Shah's Heer. The poet uses these allusions to revitalize the history as the past burst in suddenly in the present, seems that something is really there by not creating the feelings

Book Review

of hallucination. The poet enters the courtyard of the Badshahi Mosque and what he sees, the past reveals before his eyes: I entered the courtyard of the Badshahi Mosque See Moghuls sleeping on pillows made of Ghazals

The city becomes the epiphany for the poet who seeks an inspiration for writing poetry. Everything from the Moghul architecture sprouts language, rhythm, so germinate poetry. Poetry is in the bone marrow of the city. The city becomes poet's beloved, for everything becomes music, language and history either it is a raqasa or ajars, or the fallen leaves of the trees, as "leaves fall slowly as alphabets struggle on a plate growing distant stories". His language expresses rich and subtle meanings. The rhythmic structure of the Dancing Bazar produces a musicality in the environment composing a ghazal. The ghazal, language, emerges from the rhythm of dancer's feet – a wavy motion. The raqasa's dance is a reminiscence of long forgotten lustre of the Moghul court delighting the beholder. The representation of art through various images has an aesthetic effect which is the beauty of works of art.

The sense of longing and belonging, and sense of loss are the common themes along with other subject matters. Here, the poet feels a sense of loss of this kotha (residence of courtesans during Moghul Empire) culture that is permanently taken from us by the colonizers, a harsh consequence of colonialism in destroying subcontinent's culture. As poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world, so Akhtar feels this sense of loss with sensitivity. There is an originality of metaphors and similes in Akhtar's po-

etry like "Lahore is absolutely unaware of the germs of poems, so many of them like sluggish sperm waste inside ovaries of suspicion". There is a sharp comparison between 'the germs of poems' and 'the sluggish sperms'. Both are the genesis of creation. It illustrates Lahore as a custodian – a city that is holding language and culture. The use of Urduized-English words (transliteration) such as "verandah, raqasa, Molvi, milky lasi, Mohalla, tasbih, Kurta, chai wala, gaachi, desi, etc." depicts the rich language and rich culture. Akhtar, a distinctive emerging poet in English language, introduces words from Urdu, Persian and Arabic, in his poems establishing his own identity, as the word raqasa has a complete history of Moghul era in it. The purpose of inclusion of words from Urdu, Persian, and Arabic in his poems is to rediscover the cultural past lost in colonial era. The remembrance of past and bringing it into his poetry is considered an act of resistance against the colonizers. Language sprouts from each and everything of this city, such is the connection between the text and the language that is very subtle in Akhtar's poetry like "dark flooding roads like pages", "last time we met the sea boiled over your sweltering tongue, monosyllabic", "languages floating on seas".

The poet uses his words in such a way as a farmer scatter seeds in the field and plants grow from those seedlings, similarly, the poet's use of diction creates a new language – an idiom of his own, as.

The writer is a lecturer in English at Riphah Institute of Language & Literature (RILL), Riphah International University, Lahore.

PAL announces plan for I-Day celebrations

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has announced to organize 75 special literary events including seminars, conferences, dialogues, festivals and Mushairas from August 13 in connection with Pakistan Independence Day celebrations.

Talking to APP, Chairman PAL Dr Yousaf Khushk said literary events would continue throughout the year until August 14, 2022.

He said that PAL has finalized all its preparations to celebrate Independence Day in befitting manner.

He said that eminent scholars and writers will participate in the literary events.

Chairman PAL said that this is first time in the history of the PAL that a series of Independence Day celebrations will continue throughout the year.

The main theme of these events is the role of writers in Tehreek-e-Pakistan and their aim is to highlight the role of writers in Tehreek-e-Pakistan.

He said that writers and scholars would pay a glowing tribute to the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and all other leaders for their great struggle and

Corona vaccination of police officers underway across province: IGP

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Punjab, Inam Ghani has said that Punjab Police is performing its duties as a front line worker for the protection of lives and property of the people during the Corona epidemic and several officers of the police force and many officers and officials have been martyred by the Corona epidemic.

He further said that the fourth wave of corona is very dangerous so the ongoing process of corona vaccination should be completed in all the districts of the province as soon as possible so that the police force would remain safe from this contagious epidemic and serve and protect the people. He further said that the supervisory of-

ficers should complete the vaccination of the subordinate force under personal supervision and reports in this regard should be sent to the Central Police Office regularly.

According to the report submitted to IG Punjab, so far 21,812 officers and personnel between the ages of 50 and 60 have been vaccinated while 30,491 officers and personnel between the ages of 40 and 50 have been vaccinated against corona. He further said that the process of corona vaccination of officers and personnel in the age group of 30 to 40 years is also in full swing and so far 65,645 officers and personnel in the age group of 30 to 40 years have been vaccinated against corona while a total of 117,948 officers over 30

years of age have been vaccinated. The remaining force and staff are being vaccinated without interruption. He further said that besides district police in all the districts, corona vaccination is also being carried out in Punjab Constabulary, Investigation Punjab, Special Branch, CTD, Traffic, SPU, PHP and other field formations. The IG Punjab stressed that all officers and personnel should ensure implementation of SOPs in all cases while on duty. He further said that the health and life of the police officers and their families is of utmost importance to the police department as only by staying healthy they can better fulfill their responsibility of serving and protecting the people. —APP

Dolphin squad, PRU respond to all 184 calls last week

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Dolphin Squad and Police Response Unit (PRU) immediately responded to all 184 calls received on helpline-15 during the last week. SP Dolphins Squad Rashid Hadayat, while giving details of the weekly performance of the both wings informed that Lahore Police in their crackdown against criminals and recovered 14 pistols, 6 rifles, 17 bottles of liquor, 21 magazines and 117 bullets from the criminals. As many as 35 bikes, nine mobile phones were recovered from the criminals during the action.

Steps under way to digitalize Punjab Transport Department

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Following the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government to bring about transparency in the public departments and to provide maximum facilities to people, the Punjab Transport Department is heading towards digitalization.

The steps being taken would also help minimise the corrupt practices and to bring ease in doing businesses. Talking to APP, Director Information Technology at the Transport Department Asim Iqbal said that the department was taking revolutionary measures to enter the digital era, which would ensure ease

of doing business and bring transparency. He said that the first-ever website of the department was launched during the PTI government in 2019, where all updated information regarding services provided by the department was available. Now, the route permit fee and fitness certificate fee payment are also linked through bank challan instead of adhesive stamps, he said adding that the applicants could deposit the route permit fee through any branch of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), over the counter (OTC) at GoPb Biller or by alternative delivery channel (ADC) through all banks. From Jan 1, 2020, he said that the payment of 32-A challan is also digitalized through banks to fa-

cilitate the users, he added.

The director said that the department had also developed an application to be used by the enforcement teams of the department who work in the field, as it is helping them check status of the commercial vehicles about its route permit, challan payments or other pending dues on-the-spot. He said the application is now enabling the personnel of the enforcement teams to check the status of the vehicle on-the-spot as there was no mechanism earlier to verify the status and initiate action accordingly. He said the PTI government is committed to bringing about digital revolution to eliminate corrupt practices and get rid of the agent mafia.

Women in science to showcase artistic works on pandemic

ISLAMABAD: UNESCO has invited applications from women of all ages who are contributing in the field of science from around the world to showcase their artistic works on the reaction to and fight against the pandemic of COVID-19 in an international exhibition.

The virtual exhibition on the theme "Transformation" will take place on the occasion of UNESCO's 41st General Conference in November 2021, in which representatives of 193 countries will participate.

According to the UNESCO, the women in science including scientists, researchers, doctors, nurses,

pharmacists, engineers, architects or in any other STEM areas (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) can apply for the exhibition. The artworks may capture both pain and hope and provide a new reading of societies that are slowly emerging from the pandemic as art has the power to provoke, motivate, inspire, illuminate and bring about change and when art meets science, it enters into new realms of realization and purpose.

The exhibition is open to all kinds of artwork related to the pandemic, whether digital or physical, such as paintings or other artistic images,

photographs, sculptures, posters or any other diverse, innovative and original artworks. If the art is of a non-digital format, photographs of the artwork can be submitted as part of the application. The last date for submission of application is August 09 and the intending applicants can access more information through the web link: <https://www.creativere-silience-unesco.org/>. The UNESCO's data has revealed that only one of three scientific researchers is women, even though they represent between 45-55 percent of the university students and 44% of those enrolled in PhD. —APP