

# HEC to enhance sports facilities at universities

**ISLAMABAD:** The Higher Education Commission (HEC) will enhance sports facilities in universities under the umbrella of 'Kamyab Jawan Programme'.

It was decided during the first steering committee meeting of the project entitled, "Kamyab Jawan Sports Academies (High-Performance Sports Academies and Resource Centres) National Youth Games" held at the Higher Education Commission Secretariat chaired by the Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail.

During the meeting, the Executive Director HEC briefed the participants on the projects planned under the umbrella of Kamyab Jawan programme.

She underlined that the project is aimed to develop facilities and infrastructure of Sports Academies, including a separate lecture/meeting hall and hostel/dormitory facility for at least 50 to 60 players and six members of the coaching/support staff.

These facilities, she added, will into full-time modern training and resource centres. She emphasised that the long-term objective is to develop HEC's team to compete at national and international competitions. Dr. Shaista Sohail said that the project will produce

professional players in particular sports and help initiate youth sports movement and develop a sports culture. The sports academies to be established in the higher education institutions across the country will provide scientific support and modern skills to players for developing sports in Pakistan, simultaneously promoting sound health, safety, and physical fitness. She informed the meeting that the capital cost of the project was Rs. 1,937.429 million with FEC Rs. 103.851 million, while the execution period of the scheme is 36 months. She said that the Sports Academies will provide opportunities for youth to get involved in physical activities as a participant and as a professional player, coaches, leaders, and volunteer. She maintained that the academies will provide cutting-edge expertise to champion players to further improve their skills scientifically.

She asserted that the Sports Academies will play a key role in player development considering fitness, psychological and biomechanical parameters, including coaching and training. The meeting participants deliberated a project implementation strategy and reflected upon development of Governance & Business Model for

Sports Academies. The Committee endorsed the meeting agenda item pertaining to holding an International Conference on Sports Tourism by Karakoram International University, Gilgit-Baltistan in June 2022. It is pertinent to mention here that the HEC and higher education institutions, where the Sports Academies are to be established, will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Academies.

HEC expects the higher education institutions to designate a proper land for the establishment of Sports Academies, develop robust governance and business plan for the self-sustainable model, and create the sports fund designated for sports activities. The universities will also be expected to carry out proper marketing by formulating branding strategies for revenue generation. The designated HEIs will hire/allocate professional human resources for management to run the sports academies. Another important segment of the project is the National Youth Games with Youth Rally. In this regard, organizing sub-committees will be constituted to be responsible for all operational matters of games for the timely and orderly arrangement of all events in the region. —APP



**KHAPLU:** A beautiful view of Manthoka Waterfall attracts visitors in district Kharmand.

# Work on buildings for special students to start soon

**MULTAN:** The Punjab government will construct two state of the art buildings, especially designed for special students, in Vehari and Lodhran.

District Officer Special Education Department Mian Majid talking to APP on Sunday stated that special students would avail all possible facilities in these two buildings including special toilets, stairs with supports, ramps, filtration plants and many other necessary articles. In Vehari, the building will be completed with cost of Rs 145 millions. Similarly, Rs 80 million will be spent on building in Lodhran. The tender process for the both buildings have already been initiated. He hoped that the construction would begin in next few days.

Majid remarked that the Vehari campus would be constructed near COMSAT university. Similarly, the building for special students in Lodhran will be constructed near Katchehry.

Responding to a question about facilities for special students, Mian

Majid stated that vast toilets would be constructed to facilitate wheelchair users. Similarly, the special students would have some other supporting facilities in toilets. To another question, the DO Spe-

cial Education Mian Majid stated that administration of the special institutes had been tasked to ensure atleast 10 students in a month. Majid also remarked that institutes for special students were estab-



cial Education stated that over 4,000 special students were acquiring education in 32 institutes in Multan division. The Special Education Department provides pick and drop facilities by 71 buses, said Majid. About enrolment, the DO

lished at tehsil level. The two new buildings will be entirely different from the existing buildings of the special institutes as every possible requirement would be addressed in these two buildings, Majid concluded. —APP

# PAL holds webinar on female writers

**ISLAMABAD:** The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Sunday organised an online seminar on the role of Pakistani women writers in fiction in connection to the Academy's diamond jubilee celebrations.

The aim of the webinar was to celebrate the overwhelming response of female writers towards fiction writing which was earlier male dominated.

The webinar was presided by Urdu Fictionist Noorul Huda Shah from Karachi, whereas renowned writer Neelam Ahmed Bashir from Lahore was the chief guest. The speakers expressed their views on

diverse and multifaceted issues pertaining to fiction writing and highlighted the core issues focused by the modern writers in their pieces of writing.

Novel writer Shaista Mufti shed light on the topic of "Do women's fiction meet the demands of the present age". Afshan Abbasi presented her views on "Is Urdu Fiction Declining", Najam Shamsi (USA) deliberated on "Why is the number of women novelists so low as compared to female poets". While Shamim Fazal Haq from Peshawar expressed her views on the topic of "Why is the canvas of

women's fiction not so wide", where Tahira Iqbal (Faisalabad) on "What are the common values in the myths of women from different regions" and Dr. Shamim Ansari (Karachi) presented articles on "What has changed in the writings of women fiction writers after independence and why". Moreover, a literary debate (Muzakira) was also held participated by Aqila Haq (Karachi), Saima Nafees (Peshawar), Hijab Abbasi (Karachi), Gul Arbab (Peshawar) and Farheen Jamal (Belgium) where Farheen Chaudhry was the moderator. —APP

# Boris sticks to economic strategy despite supply crisis

**MANCHESTER:** Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday refused to return Britain to its "broken" pre-Brexit economy even as the country confronts a supply chain crisis made worse by its EU departure.

Speaking on the opening day of his Conservative party's first in-person annual conference since 2019, Johnson also insisted that the public could "trust" the police despite the shocking murder of a London woman by a serving officer.

In a bullish conference message to the Tory faithful, Johnson vowed to forge ahead with his post-Covid recovery plan to "build back better" in areas from infrastructure to climate change. The government has sought to blame the global health crisis for an exodus of foreign lorry drivers, adding to departures since Brexit took full effect and free movement of people ended in January. Deliveries to supermarkets have been hit, making empty shelves an increasingly common sight, while a lack of tanker drivers has triggered panic-buying at petrol stations, forcing Johnson to call in the army to deliver stocks. The government now faces warnings from the farming industry that tens of thousands of pigs could be incinerated in the coming days without an urgent influx of foreign abattoir workers and butchers. But interviewed by the BBC at the conference in Manchester, northwest England, Johnson said the economy was "broken" before Brexit and was now undergoing necessary changes.

Panic-buying has drained many UK petrol stations Adrian DENNIS AFP "What we can't do in all these sectors is simply go back to the tired, failed, old model and reach for the lever marked uncontrolled immigration, with people at low wages," he said.

"So yes, there will be a period of adjustment." - 'Charlatans' - Johnson can point to a successful Covid vaccination roll-out, which was quick out of the blocks after vaccines were approved, and which has so far



Deliveries to supermarkets have been hit, making empty shelves an increasingly common sight

seen more than 82 percent of all over-16s double-jabbed. But anger persists in some quarters at his handling of the pandemic and a high death toll of more than 136,000, as well as claims of cronyism for Covid contracts. Government data show that 82 percent of over-16s have now been double-jabbed

Government data show that 82 percent of over-16s have now been double-jabbed Paul ELLIS AFP He has also risked the wrath of Tory colleagues for breaking an election pledge not to raise taxes, by announcing hefty new funding to fix a crisis in health and social care. On Brexit, he has angered Brussels by threatening to shelve problematic new trading arrangements for Northern Ireland, and tensions are high with France over fishing rights. On Saturday, protesters, some holding EU flags, gathered near the Conservative conference venue. "Corrupt Tory government. Liars, cheats, charlatans. Get them out now," a banner read. Last week, opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer attacked Johnson as a Brexit-obsessed one-trick showman without a plan, even if his popularity remains relatively high with the public. —AFP



# Ex-PCB CEO Wasim Khan responds to reports he enjoyed hefty perks

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) former chief executive Wasim Khan categorically rejected a report published in the Daily Jang about his hefty perks and high salary.

In a statement, Wasim Khan said, "An article was published in the Daily Jang very recently stating that I received \$900 in daily allowances on England tours and \$600 on other tours." Reacting to the report, the former PCB CEO said, "The figures quoted are frankly ridiculous." "This is grossly exaggerated and inflated and has been put out there to malign me," he added.

Clearing his position, Wasim Khan said that during his first two years as PCB CEO, even did not even claim \$40,000 of expenses that he could have claimed, which was in line with the PCB's policy. "This was my choice not to accept it," he said.

"Spent sleepless nights to bring international cricket to Pakistan" A day earlier, Wasim Khan had written a note after stepping down from his post, saying he came to the country with a commitment to improve the global image of Pakistan and worked hard to bring international cricket. In a post on LinkedIn, Wasim Khan had said, "Unfortunately my time at the Pakistan Cricket Board has come to an end." "As a British Pakistani and a former professional cricketer, I committed to moving to Pakistan just under 3 years ago, so that I could contribute to improving the global image of the PCB and the country. My aim was to contribute to the betterment of the game under the spotlight of a cricket crazed nation of 220 million people," he had written. Highlighting the challenges he faced during his tenure at the PCB, Wasim Khan said that bringing international cricket back, mixed in with sleepless nights dealing with crisis management, or averting a potential crisis, and navigating through highly politically charged situations were just part and parcel of the exhilaration that came with the role. The former PCB boss had said he made real-time judgement calls and got some decisions wrong but being at peace with himself during intense media scrutiny following decisions allowed him to deal with what he didn't get right in an honest way. "I am grateful that my experiences taught me the art of peripheral vision and helped me to develop political intelligence," he had said. "In a couple of weeks' time when I fly out of Lahore, heading back to England, I know that I will feel nothing but gratitude and love for the fans of Pakistan who embraced and supported me throughout my time," he added. "To a beautiful country full of generous and loving people, thank you for the memories. It has been an honour to have served you," the PCB former CEO concluded. Wasim Khan reportedly receiving Rs2.6 million as monthly salary. The report, however, claimed that Khan had reportedly been drawing a monthly salary of Rs2.6 million and enjoying hefty perks during his stint with the PCB. According to the report, Khan was brought to the PCB with an attractive salary package and full powers. —APP

# Thousands of paedophiles active in French Catholic Church since 1950: Report

**PARIS:** Thousands of paedophiles have operated inside the French Catholic Church since 1950, the head of an independent commission investigating the scandal told AFP, days ahead of the release of its report.

The commission's research had uncovered between 2,900 and 3,200 paedophile priests or other members of the church, said Jean-Marc Sauve, adding that it was "a minimum estimate". The commission's report is due to be released on Tuesday after two and a half years of research based on church, court and police archives, as well as interviews with witnesses. The report, which Sauve said runs to 2,500 pages, will attempt to quantify both the number of offenders and the number of victims.

It will also look into "the mechanisms, notably institutional and cultural ones" within the Church which allowed paedophiles to remain, and will offer 45 proposals. The independent commission was set up in 2018 by the French Catholic Church in response to a number of scandals that shook the Church in France and worldwide. Its formation also came after Pope Francis passed a landmark measure obliging those who know about sex abuse in the Catholic Church to report it to their superiors. Made up of 22 legal professionals, doctors, historians, sociologists and theologians, its brief was to investigate allegations of child sex abuse by clerics dating back to the 1950s. When it began its work it called for witness statements and set up a telephone hotline, then reported receiving thousands of messages in the months that followed. —AFP

# Children dying of malnutrition in Afghanistan: Officials

**KABUL:** Children are dying of starvation in Afghanistan, local and international sources said Saturday, following warnings that a million youngsters there could face life-threatening malnutrition by the end of the year. In Ghor, one of the affected provinces, at least 17 children among those who made it to hospital have died from malnutrition in the last six months, the province's public health director Mullah Mohammad Ahmadi told AFP. Almost 300 have been treated for the effects of hunger. Hundreds of children are at risk of starvation in central parts of the country, he said. A spokesman for the United Nations children's agency in Afghanistan said he could not confirm the number of deaths in Ghor but feared "a lot of children are paying the ultimate price". UNICEF's Salam Al-Janabi said the agency's monitoring network had been disrupted and was relying on anecdotal reports, but "we are very painfully aware that this is something we are on the brink of, or in the middle of". Since the Taliban swept to power in mid-August, Afghanistan has plunged deeper into an already dire humanitarian crisis. The effects of drought, soaring food prices and job losses have been compounded by international aid and financing all but grinding to a halt. —AFP



**WASHINGTON:** Pakistani Medical Students appear for NUMS Entry Test for MBBS/BDS conducted first time by the National University of Medical Sciences at Pakistan Chancery.