

ENGLAND SNATCH BACK ASHES

Stuart Broad and Ben Stokes set the seal on a crushing innings and 78-run victory over Australia at Trent Bridge on Saturday as England regained the Ashes in style. Australia started the match but runs shy of making England bat again.

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MAGAZINE SUNDAY PLUS

This week we are in conversation with singer and music director Shiraz Uppal and fashion designer Rizwan Ahmed. Learn 15 things that you never knew about model Dania Sheikh. Read interesting facts about Sehwan Sharif and meet Aamina Mahmood who runs a centre for special children.

The Nation

SHAWAL 23, 1436

SUNDAY,
AUGUST 9, 2015

Govt committed to develop agri sector of Balochistan: Bosan

| Abdul Malik seeks centre's help for betterment of province's farmers

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ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan Saturday said that the federal government had initiated several development projects in the province of Balochistan to uplift agriculture sector and raise income of farmers.

He said the government was aware of the problems of farmers in the province and was formulating programmes and projects to address their issues.

Bosan said this while addressing a two-day "Balochistan Kisan Mela" which was organized by Food and Agriculture Organization in collaboration with government of Balochistan and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). The mela (festival) featured several other programmes including a conference on Agriculture Development of Balochistan.

The minister also announced that the federal government would provide agriculture training to 1,000 farmers from Balochistan at the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC), Islamabad.

He informed the participants that government had approved the Seed Act and now it was responsibility of the provincial governments to implement the Act at provincial level.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Abdul Malik, speaking on the occasion, urged the federal government to help exploit agricultural resources of the province for betterment of the farmers.

He said that the provincial government would extend support for all the projects launched for the development of the province.

On the occasion, the FAO country representative, Patrick T Evans

said that his organization was currently implementing two programmes in 14 districts of Balochistan to help increase incomes of the poor in rural areas through building capacities of farmers to benefit from increased crop and livestock production and improved marketing and organization.

He said FAO was supporting the provincial government in the formulating the Balochistan Agriculture Policy and Strategy, adding that it would also be providing support for implementation of this policy.

Meanwhile, Chairman PARC, Dr Iftikhar Ahmed, in his message to the participants of the mela, said that his organization had been working for the development of agriculture sector in Balochistan.

He assured the participants that PARC would keep on working and developing new technologies and crop varieties to facilitate Balochistan's farmers.

Besides farmers of various districts of the Balochistan, the mela was attended by Chief Minister Balochistan Dr Abdul Malik and Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikandar Hayat Bosan, the Balochistan Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Sardar Muhammad Aslam Bizenjo and FAO Country Representative, Patrick T. Evans.

Govt urged to stop banks from deducting 0.3pc WHT from filers

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LAHORE

Progressive Group in the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has urged the Finance Ministry and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to take notice of the Banks deducting 0.3 per cent withholding tax from even the filers despite clear instructions issued by the government and the FBR many a times.

Progressive Group's President Khalid Usman and Deputy Secretary Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer, in a statement, said that they were receiving complaints from different traders that the banks were even deducting the withholding tax from the filers. Especially those traders and businessmen are becoming subject to this injustice those have NTN number in their name but not against their company but are regular in filing their income tax return mentioning all their income.

They said that the banks were advising such persons on protest that they should apply for refunds at the end of the financial year. However, everybody in Pakistan know the fact that its almost next to impossible to get refunds from the FBR. Stuck up refunds also create liquidity problem for the businessmen especially small businessmen.

Progressive Group leaders said that nobody was against paying the taxes but the FBR instead of relying on indirect taxes should broaden the tax net. Constitution of committees by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in the name of facilitating the traders will not work.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikandar Hayat Bosan addressing the conference on 'Agriculture Development in Balochistan'.—INP