

Government of Pakistan

Prime Minister's office

Youth affairs wing

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## **Prime Minister's Youth Programme and Higher Education Commission Launch Football and Volleyball Talent Hunt**

Islamabad February 22, 2023: Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) along with Higher Education Commission, Pakistan (HEC) officially launch Football and Volleyball Talent Hunt today in COMSATS University Islamabad in which National Football and Volleyball Women Players also participated.

Federal Minister for Power, Mr. Khurram Dastgir was Chief Guest at the Ceremony whereas Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, Dr. Shaista Sohail, Executive Director, HEC and Prof. Dr. Tabassum Afzal, Rector COMSATS University Islamabad were Guest of Honour at the Ceremony. Also, Mr. Javed Ali Memon, Director/ In-charge Sports and Co-curricular Division, HEC, officials of the Pakistan Football Federation, Pakistan Volleyball Federation, Women National Team Players of Football and Volleyball also joined the event.

The ceremony was part of weeklong activities to celebrate 10 years of PMYP and to mark this hallmark initiative, Government of Pakistan declares the year 2023 as the year of Youth.

In the ceremony Pakistan Volleyball Federation, It is pertinent to mention here that HEC in collaboration with selected universities is executing the first of its kind project to hunt talented young players from 25 locations across the country.

The Football and Volleyball trials of male and female players of age 15 to 25 years would be held in five phases in each of the five regions including Federal Capital, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to the vision of the Government of Pakistan provision of Education, Employment and Engagement opportunities to the youth of the country, HEC has been entrusted to conduct talent hunt activities to engage youth in productive activities of sports.

On this occasion, Mr. Khurram Dastgir while addressing the youngsters advised them by sharing lessons from the poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, to be their own leaders and take hold of their own lives. He maintained that despite maligning the performance of state institutions, it is our utmost responsibility to do our part wholeheartedly for the development of our country. He gave credit for conducting Football and Volleyball Talent Hunt in a systematic way to Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs.

He critically opined that everyone among us particularly youth are glued to their cell phones and social media; involving them in Sports is really an excellent job done. In the end, he encouraged youngsters to actively participate in trials to play their role in reviving Pakistan's glorious past in sports.

Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja informed the participants that despite curtailed resources and financial constraints Government of Pakistan is committed to continuing investing on youth-centric initiatives. She also announced that throughout the year, PMYP will continue to conduct various events to involve youth in productive activities. Encouraging youth, she said that we understand 68% of our population is of youth, which is why our emphasis is on youth development in every aspect including sports.

Today, we all are gathered on this gracious occasion to formally Launch Football and Volleyball Talent Hunt, said Executive Director, HEC. She informed that HEC has been entrusted by the Government of Pakistan to execute Talent Hunt Sports League, which is first of its kind project. She further said that HEC has conducted 100 trials of weightlifting, wrestling and hockey (men & women); conducted 5 provincial leagues of wrestling and weightlifting each and two national leagues as well. Football and Volleyball Talent Hunt activities are part of this project, she added.

Prof. Dr. Tabassum Afzal said that it is indeed an honour for COMSATS University to host dignitaries and young students from various universities of twin cities in the ceremony of Football & Volleyball Talent Hunt Launch. He also thanked Government of Pakistan and HEC for engaging universities in the initiative of national interest.