

Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation presents

BARD'S BEACON THE BULLETIN



An initiative started by Aisam ul Haq to teach world class tennis to the masses of Pakistan. The academy is running in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Islamabad. Thus far Aisam has succeeded in discovering and training some hidden gems. Let's meet some of them.

Hamza Roman, a rising star and just at 12-years of age, clinched the most coveted International Tennis Federation (ITF) Asia U14 Single Tennis title this year. Hamza, who is hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and son of Tennis coach of the Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa says, "Thanks to Almighty Allah, prayers of my countrymen and parents, I won two gold medals, one in the singles and the other in the doubles". He is definitely the one to watch.



Hamza Roman

MEET THE PEOPLE



ACE ACADEMY

Abu Bakar Talha

In just one year Abu Bakar Talha has managed to leave his mark both in national and international junior circuit. This brilliant duo of Abubakar Talha and Hamza Roman created history by thumping Australia in World Junior Tennis (WJT) Team Championship finals after 27 years. Abubakar Talha and Zohaib Afzal Malik (another star from Ace Academy) emerged as the champions in both singles and doubles events at the 1st Qatar Asian Junior 14&U Tennis Championship held in Doha, Qatar. In the 14&U singles final, Abubakar Talha, a student at FG Abid Majeed School, exhibited exceptional prowess against Kazakhstan's Dias Tulepbergenov, securing the title with a score of 6-3, 7-5.

Abdul Razak Dawood, founder of Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation went to visit Ace Masterclass led by International Fitness Coach, Lalo Vicencio who flew down from USA to train Ace Tennis young athletes. Razak Dawood was impressed to see the focus and zeal of the young athletes.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Bushra Zulfiqar, a young girl of Mian Channu, has recently been selected as a beneficiary of The Descon Endowment Fund set up by Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation at Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, for her pursuit of bachelor's degree in Artificial Intelligence. She is recognized to be the most deserving and promising candidate for this scholarship. Bushra's academic journey has been marked by excellence. Her exceptional matriculation results, scoring 1096 out of 1100, and Intermediate results scoring 987 / 1100 showcased her dedication and proficiency. Throughout her educational endeavors, Bushra has consistently demonstrated her merit, earning various scholarships in recognition of her competitive performance. As she embarks on her academic journey in Artificial Intelligence, we are enthusiastic about her potential impact on the industry and eagerly anticipate her continued development.



Bushra Zulfiqar

Noor Hassan hails from Jaffarabad, Baluchistan. Although academically accomplished he faced many challenges because of financial constraints. However with high ambitions he enrolled in BS Civil Engineering at NUST Baluchistan Campus Quetta, where he was allocated the highly competitive Descon scholarship. He is thankful to Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation for facilitating him in his pursuit of excellence.



Easha Mehmood

Easha Mehmood belonging to Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also a recipient of the Descon Scholarship. She is a student of BS Electrical Engineering, College of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering, NUST. With an impressive CGPA, she does Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation, proud.



Noor Hassan

MOUNTAINEERING

Shehroze Kashif etched his name in history by summiting 13 of the world's highest peaks. He is one step away from realizing his dream of becoming the youngest mountaineer to conquer all 14 of the world's tallest mountains. "The mere thought of it fills me with immense excitement as I work towards becoming the youngest mountaineer to summit all 14 of the world's tallest mountains. It is true that before each expedition, there's a sense of apprehension about the unknown, but the excitement of potential success keeps me moving forward, and this is all that matters." This monumental accomplishment is poised to make history for Pakistan and serves as an inspiration for all. It is a testament to the power of dedication and determination. Shehroze's journey resonates with those who appreciate hard work and persistence, positioning him as a true hero. These achievements will undoubtedly enhance Pakistan's global reputation and create opportunities for young individuals to pursue their dreams and passions in the field of mountaineering.



Prime Minister of Pakistan has bestowed the civil award, Sitara-i-Imtiaz on renowned mountaineer Naila Kiani in recognition of her achievement to successfully summiting the world's highest peak Mount Everest. Naila, with the sponsorship of Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation, has managed to bring in a lot of laurels to Pakistan through her achievements. She has successfully summited 11 of the highest mountains of the world. She dreams to become the first woman in Pakistan to have climbed all 14 peaks.

"My kids are very young. I wouldn't have been able to leave them at home, if I didn't have support from my family, mainly from my husband. I do this so my daughters can look up to me and know that nothing is unachievable for a woman. I want my daughters and all the youth to dream big and go for the impossible, go for what people say is impossible and make it possible."

Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation has been sponsoring two of our nation's heroes, Naila Kiani and Shehroze Kashif. In order to encapsulate the essence of a mountaineers spirit and to set them up as role models for the aspiring youth of Pakistan, the foundation has made a documentary on Shehroze Kashif, which is all set to be launched soon.



RIGHT TO PLAY

PART I

Reyhan - Township

“At the age of 7, I lost my parents, and now I live with my grandfather. It was a tough time emotionally, but I found solace in sports, especially football. I worked hard on my skills and eventually became the captain of my school’s football team. Right to Play noticed my talent and passion for the sport and offered me a chance to train with their experienced coach and participate in inter-school tournaments. Excitedly, I accepted the offer, marking the beginning of my journey of growth and development. With the unwavering support and guidance from Right to Play, my skills improved even further. Engaging in inter-school tournaments expanded my horizons and gave me the opportunity to meet talented young athletes from different schools. Through this journey I underwent significant personal growth. The support I received from RTP, sponsored by Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation, helped me overcome emotional challenges and become a source of inspiration for my community.”



Munahil – Buddoki Sani

Munahil is a 9th-grade student, residing in the village named "Mill." In Munahil’s family, no one is literate, and despite belonging to a non-literary background, she faces continuous discouragement from her family regarding her education. However, Munahil harbors a deep passion for learning and aspires to become a part of the Pakistan Army.

Munahil was a reserved and shy girl, speaking very little, even with her classmates and teachers. She did not ask questions to her teachers. Munahil was introduced to sports by Right To Play’s sports coach, hoping to engage her in physical activities. Initially, she only observed and did not actively participate.

Through daily sports sessions conducted in school, the coach instilled self-confidence and trust in Munahil. Slowly, she started participating in sports, and her interest grew. The coach focused on inculcating good communication skills through sports using the games focused on life skills she needed to progress. Practical exercises were conducted, and Munahil began to actively engage in discussions.

As Munahil started playing, her confidence soared. She became actively involved in games and eventually participated in competitive sports. She even became the captain of the school’s girls’ basketball team. According to teachers, sports have given Munahil confidence and a voice.

Munahil, now a skilled player, interacts with all her class fellows, peers, and teachers, asking questions during lessons and engaging in conversations. The transformative power of sports not only turned her into an excellent player but also opened the doors for her to communicate and inquire, which she hesitated to do before. Munahil is grateful to Right To Play’s coach and intervention for providing her the opportunity to express and prove herself.

RIGHT TO PLAY

PART II



Wafa Zahra – GGMS Amer Sidhu

“My name is Wafa Zahra, and I am in the 8th grade. My parents live in Kasur, and I reside in Lahore with my grandmother. I used to be a very quiet girl, and I did not have many friends because I stayed sad, knowing that my parents had given me to my grandmother and did not keep me with them.

Then, our school had the Right To Play sports period, where we played different games. During the games, I formed a team with other girls, leading to conversations and friendships with them. We started sharing many things and became quite close. I feel very happy during our sports sessions, forgetting all my sadness while playing and gaining enthusiasm.

Playing sports gives me a lot of confidence and motivation. Thanks to Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation, games were introduced to us through which I developed this confidence and started enjoying playing. Now, I play basketball, volleyball, and football very well. I consider myself fortunate to be with my grandmother, and besides playing, I also can build the morale of others.”

Eman Shehzadi – GGHS Wassanpura

“I am a 9th grade student at Government Girls High School, Wassan Pura, Scheme No. 2. I used to live in a small village, where our family owns a house. However, there is not much education or facilities for both children and adults in the village. Due to these limitations, my family decided to move from the village to Lahore. Our entire family shifted to Lahore, and we worked hard. Initially, I used to work at home with my mother, and my father also works as a laborer. Later, my mother started working as a cleaner at the school I got admitted to. I have a keen interest in studying, I also enjoy playing and engaging in various activities. Our school started the Right To Play program, and through my interest, I learned a lot. Many play days and playing events, which had never happened in our school before, were conducted. Then, a basketball tournament was conducted through Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation’s support and I participated in it with a hope to perform to my best. Seeing myself progress brought me and my parents a great joy.”

Emaan – GGHS Wassanpura

“My name is Emaan, and I am currently an 8th grade student. My educational journey began in a small private school where the absence of sports and creative activities left much to be desired. However, my passion for sports and creative endeavors burned bright. Upon transitioning to a government school, I found a welcoming environment that I truly cherish. This school offers a myriad of creative activities and a vibrant sports culture. Since my enrollment, I’ve experienced a significant boost in confidence. I actively participate in various creative projects, and I proudly hold the title of a basketball player.

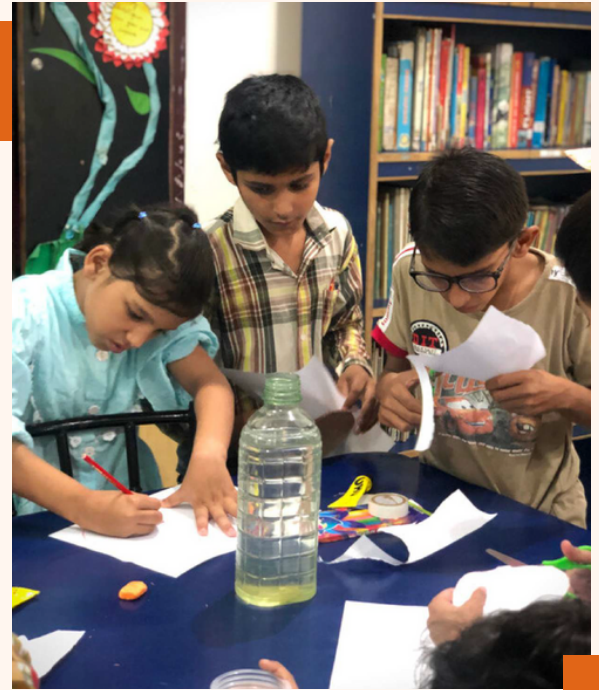
The transformative journey took a pivotal turn when our school became part of the Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation’s Right to Play program. This initiative not only introduced a basketball tournament but also played a crucial role in reshaping my life and vision. The experience of participating in the tournament, thanks to Right to Play’s intervention, triggered positive changes in my personality. Today, I stand as a testament to the profound impact that sports and creative activities can have on an individual’s life. The newfound confidence and positive changes are a direct result of embracing these opportunities, making my journey a true success.”

ROSHNI HOMES TRUST

Despite various government and non-governmental efforts to sustain the education sector in the country, millions of young children still lack easy access to quality education; a major obstacle that prevents millions of young ones from experiencing their true potential as future leaders, especially in science and math education.

To better respond to the needs of our future children, RHT launched a fifteen-month-long-pilot project in collaboration with Science Fuse to address the issue of stunted development of science and STEM education in Pakistan.

The prime objective of this program was to make world-class science education available to children from low-income, persistently marginalized and underserved communities. Collectively we aspired to create a hands-on, research-driven scientific environment for the kids and the teachers at the RHT at the Palms Enclave Gujranwala.



Key Achievements

- 1. Enhanced Science Capital:** The project significantly bolstered the science capital of the participants. Through hands-on experiments, interactive lessons, and engaging activities, children and caregivers developed a deeper understanding of scientific concepts. Pre- and post-assessments showed a remarkable increase in science knowledge and enthusiasm.
- 2. STEM Skills Development:** The STEM-focused curriculum allowed participants to develop essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork. By working on science projects and experiments, children gained practical experience, which will serve as a strong foundation for future STEM pursuits.
- 3. Increased Confidence:** The project had a profound impact on the self-esteem and confidence of both children and caregivers. They not only demonstrated improved academic performance but also became more self-assured in their abilities to engage with STEM subjects.
- 4. Family Engagement:** The project's inclusion of caregivers in science learning activities fostered a culture of family involvement in education. Caregivers reported feeling better equipped to support their children's STEM interests and homework, leading to improved guardian-child relationships.
- 5. Long-Term Impact:** Science Fuse's project had a lasting influence on participants' educational aspirations. Many expressed a desire to pursue careers in STEM fields, illustrating the project's effectiveness in inspiring the next generation of scientists and innovators.
- 6. Community Outreach:** The project also positively impacted the local community by raising awareness of the importance of STEM education. Community members and local organizations have shown interest in supporting future science education initiatives.

80% of our Girls aspire to become future Scientists!