



## Press Release

# **Tennis court in Nishtar Park Sports Complex in final stages of completion: DG SBP Zulfiqar Ghumman SBP's 8th and women's 3rd cricket academy inaugurated at LCWU**

## **Cricket academies network will be spread across the Punjab: Sports Minister Jahangir Khanzada**

LAHORE (Oct 5, 2017): Punjab Minister for Sports Jahangir Khanzada and Head of Cricket Coaching Academies Sports Board Punjab Zaheer Abbas inaugurated the women's third cricket coaching academy at Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) on Thursday.

The Lahore College for Women University Vice-Chancellor Prof-Dr Uzma Qureshi was also present on this occasion. It may be noted here that five cricket academies of boys have already been established in several cities of the province as per the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Punjab Sports Minister Jahangir Khanzada said it's good sign that Pakistan women are taking part in sports activities. "The network of cricket coaching academies will be spread across the Punjab province".

The Minister said Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif took special interest in sports activities and the girls academy at LCWU has been launched under the supervision of legendary cricketer Zaheer Abbas as per the vision of Chief Minister Punjab. "It's quite heartening that our women are inclining towards sports activities and now featuring in international sports competitions," he added.

Punjab Sports Minister Jahangir Khanzada vowed to establish cricket academies in all parts of Punjab province. "We will also build cricket coaching academies in Layyah, Bahawalpur and DG Khan," he asserted. "Legendary cricketer Zaheer Abbas has produced excellent results by launching eight cricket academies in a short period of just 9 months. The players from these academies are now taking part in bigger competitions".

Jahangir Khanzada further said Punjab govt is taking effective measures to build modern sports infrastructure in the province. "Several gymnasiums and grounds are being upgraded in various cities. Sports activities are being restarted in schools. Talent Hunt Programmes will also be launched across the province to discover new potential. As many as 360 coaches have been appointed in all cities of the province to locate fresh talent," he elaborated.

Head of Cricket Coaching Academies Sports Board Punjab Zaheer Abbas, in his address said the female cricket academies have been established for the promotion of cricket among

the women of the country. "The national women cricket team will also be strengthened through these academies. Best cricket coaches have been hired at Sports Board Punjab's academies to train the young players," he added.

The Lahore College for Women University Vice-Chancellor Prof-Dr Uzma Qureshi thanked Sports Board Punjab for establishing girls academy at LCWU. She also presented souvenirs to Punjab Minister for Sports Jahangir Khazada and Head of Cricket Coaching Academies Sports Board Punjab Zaheer Abbas. The female cricket players also had photographs with guests of honour on this occasion.