

PAKISTAN SPORTS BOARD

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad; 4th May, 2020; Dr. Fehmida Mirza Federal Minister for IPC distributed cheques among the members of Pakistan Weightlifting and Tennis Teams, who won medals during 13th South Asian Games held in Nepal from 1-10 December, 2019. Weightlifting team won 5 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals. Weightlifters Mr.Talha Talib, Mr.Haider Ali, Mr.Usman Amjad Rathore, Mr.Hanzla Dastgir Butt and Mr.Muhammad Nooh Dastgir Butt won gold medals, Mr.Abu Sufyan and Ms.Rabbia Razzaq won silver medals while Ms.Saima Shahzad won bronze medals. Similarly, Tennis players M/s Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Aqeel Khan, Muzammil Murtaza, Muhammad Abid won silver in men's team event, Ms.Sara Mansoor, Ms.Ushna Sohail, Ms.Mahin Aftaz Qureshi and Ms.Sarah Mehboob Khan won Bronze medals in women team event. Aisam and Wushna Sohail won Bronze in Mixed Double, Muhammad Abid and Sara Mansoor also won Bronze in mixed double event. Men's double event M/s Aisam and Aqeel Khan won bronze medal. Similarly, in men's double event M/s Muzammil Murtaza and Muhammad Abid won bronze medal. Mr.Aqeel Khan won bronze in men's singles. Mr. Muzammil Murtaza won bronze in men's singles as well. In line with approved cash award policy, gold medalists were given Rs.1.000 million each, silver medalists got Rs.500, 000/- while bronze medalists received cheques of Rs.250, 000/- each. Total Rs.6.250 million and Rs.5.500 million were distributed to the Weightlifters and tennis players respectively. Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of IPC Ms.Saima Nadeem, Col. Gul Rehman Secretary General Pakistan Tennis Federation, Mr.Azam Dar Deputy DG PSB and parents of few athletes were present on the occasion.

2. Talking to the players, Dr. Fehmida Mirza Minister for IPC/President PSB congratulated the medal winners and informed that half of the population of Pakistan is comprised of women. Their participation in the social life especially in the sports is commendable. She also appreciated the role of their parents who encouraged to their daughters to excel in the field of sports. Minister was of the view that these shining players are the ambassadors of Pakistan who portray the soft image of Pakistan while representing their country abroad. Despite the fact that sports is a devolved subject and provinces should take lead to allocate appropriate resources to encourage players training, provision of coaches, talent hunt, make enabling environment for the masses to take participation in healthy activities etc that Federal Government would continue to support the talented players to replace the stalwarts, she assured to the participations. Ministry of IPC and PSB is taking lead to resolve the issues of the players being faced in the current Covid-19 Pandemic. In this regard, a video conference with the provincial sports ministers will be arranged.

3. Mr.Muhammad Nooh Dastgir Butt, Gold Medalist, 12th and 13th SA Games, Bronze Medals Commonwealth Games 2018 and other players appreciated the role

being played by Dr.Fehmida Mirza at this critical time. This is for the first time that players are receiving their reward in the form of cash prize money well in time which would definitely boost the morale of the players. This would definitely held their families and also facilitate for future endeavors. The medal winners emphasized that besides the federal government support provinces must play their due role to support the talented players so that youth, a major portion of the country, may utilize their energies in healthier sports activities and it can also make enabling environment for the youngsters to choose sports as their profession.