

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Monday, June, 03, 2024

dquettavoice@gmail.com



Oxford University to Offer Scholarships to Balochistan Students Under Benazir Scholarship Program

News Desk:

In a landmark agreement, the University of Oxford has partnered with the Government of Balochistan to offer scholarships to students from the Pakistani province under the Benazir Scholarship Program. This initiative aims to provide exceptional educational opportunities to talented youth from Balochistan, empowering them to pursue higher education at one of the world's most prestigious institutions.

Malala Yousafzai Also Present On The Occasion
The agreement was formally signed during a ceremony attended by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai, a global ambassa-

dor for girls' education. This collaboration signifies a major step forward in promoting access to quality education for underrepresented regions.

Under the Benazir Scholarship Program, students from Balochistan will receive full scholarships to study at Oxford University. This initiative not only facilitates access to world-class education but also aims to nurture the intellectual and leadership potential of Balochistan's youth.

"Now Our Students Will Study At Oxford", Bugti

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister Mir

Sarfaraz Bugti expressed his pride in this achievement. "We are proud to provide our students with the opportunity to study at Oxford University, where Benazir Bhutto and other great leaders have studied. Education is key to unlocking the potential of our youth, and we are committed to providing them with the best opportunities," he said.

The initiative is a significant accomplishment for the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government, led by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. CM Bugti highlighted the government's dedication to education, noting, "It is yet another milestone achieved by the incumbent PPP government,

striving hard under the supervision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari." Malala Yousafzai lauded the initiative, stating, "I am thrilled to see the Government of Balochistan taking steps towards promoting education and empowering the youth of the province."

The signing ceremony was attended by 150 delegates, including notable figures such as Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar, Anamir Ibrahim, Muhammad Kheshti, Farooq Sheikh, and Professor Kamal Munir.

This historic agreement marks a significant milestone in the journey towards quality education and empowerment for the youth of Balochistan.

Mashkail Protesters in Quetta Demand Reopening of Mazah Sar Crossing

Syed Ali Shah:



QUETTA: A long march that began in Mashkail, a small town on Pakistan's border with Iran, has arrived in Quetta. The protesters are demanding the reopening of the Mazah Sar Crossing Point with Iran and the issuance of special permits for local residents living near the border.

Led by former National Assembly member Mir Ehsanullah Reki and activist Mujeeb ur Rehman Muhammad Hassani, the demonstrators have set up a camp outside the Quetta Press Club. Their presence in Quetta aims to draw attention to the challenges faced by border communities.

On Sunday, Balochistan ministers Mir Shoaib Nowsherwani and Mir Saleem Khoso engaged in negotiations with the protesters. The ministers assured the demonstrators that their concerns would be addressed and promised to escalate issues related to the federal government to Islamabad.

"We understand the critical importance of the Mazah Sar Crossing Point for the local economy and the livelihoods of border residents," said Mir Shoaib Nowsherwani. "We are committed to resolving these issues and will work diligently with the federal authorities to find a solution."

The protesters emphasized that the closure

of the crossing point has severely impacted trade and daily life for those living in Mashkail and surrounding areas.

They argue that reopening the crossing and providing special permits are essential steps to alleviate the economic hardships faced by the local population.

The long march and subsequent camp in Quetta highlight the persistent issues in border regions and the urgent need for governmental intervention to restore vital crossings and support local communities. The protesters remain steadfast in their demands, hoping for swift action from both provincial and federal authorities.

Anti-Polio Campaign to Launch in 14 Districts of Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: An extensive anti-polio campaign will commence across 14 districts of Balochistan, aiming to immunize over 1.88 million children. The Coordinator of the Emergency Operation Center, Zahid Shah, announced that this seven-day drive will target Quetta, Pashin, Qila Abdullah, Chaman, Daki, Lasbela, and Khuzdar, among others.

Zahid Shah detailed that the campaign will also cover Hub, Chagai, Zhoib, Nushki, Qila Saifullah, Loralai, and Mastung. He emphasized the scale of the operation, which will involve over 7,000 dedicated teams working to administer the polio

vaccine to children under the age of five. However, the campaign's start in six districts—Naseerabad, Sibi, Jafarabad, Aosta Muhammad, Dera Bugti, and Sahalpur—has been postponed due to a forecasted heatwave.

These districts will commence their polio vaccination efforts on June 8.

Balochistan Reported 3 Cases This Year: Zahid Shah

"This campaign is critical," said Zahid Shah. "We have reported three polio cases this year in Balochistan, specifically from Qila Abdullah, Chaman, and Dera Bugti. The presence of the polio virus in the environment necessitates

this urgent response to protect our children."

The anti-polio drive underscores the ongoing efforts of health authorities to eradicate polio in the region and prevent further outbreaks.

The involvement of numerous teams and extensive planning highlights the commitment to public health and the protection of future generations.

China probe successfully lands on far side of Moon

NEWS DESK: China's Chang'e-6 lunar probe successfully landed on Sunday on the far side of the Moon to collect samples, state news agency Xinhua said, citing the China National Space Administration.

The Chang'e-6 set down in the immense South Pole-Aitken Basin, one of the largest known impact craters in the solar system, state news agency Xinhua said, citing the China National Space Administration. It marks the first time that samples will be collected from the rarely explored area of the Moon, according to the agency.

The Chang'e-6 is on a technically complex 53-day mis-



sion that began on May 3. On Sunday, it descended from its orbit about 200 kilometres (124 miles) above the Moon to scour the surface for a landing site, Huang Wu, an official at the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, told state broadcaster CCTV.

"The (descent to a lower) orbit carried a few risks, so we needed precise control procedures to put (the probe) onto its preset trajectory," Huang said. After that, "we had to

rapidly reduce the probe's relative speed to the Moon to zero within 15 minutes, requiring a huge amount of propellant, basically half the probe's entire weight," he said. Now that the probe has landed, it will attempt to scoop up lunar soil and rocks and carry out other experiments in the landing zone.

That process should be complete within two days, Xinhua said. The probe will use two methods of collection: a drill to collect samples under the surface and a robotic arm to grab specimens from the surface.

Then it must attempt an unprecedented launch from the side of the Moon that always faces away from Earth.

Scientists say the Moon's dark side — so-called because it is invisible from Earth, not because it never catches the sun's rays — holds great promise for research because its craters are less covered by ancient lava flows than the near side. Material collected from the dark side may better shed light on how the Moon formed in the first place. Plans for China's "space dream" have been put into overdrive under President Xi Jinping.

Beijing has poured huge resources into its space programme over the past decade, targeting a string of ambitious undertakings in an effort to close the gap with the two traditional space powers — the United States and Russia.

WHEAT VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Needs Action, Not Another Failed Polio Campaign

Editorial: The news of a children in Chaman and Dera Bugti contracting polio, in Balochistan after three years, is a damning indictment of the provincial health department and donor agencies entrusted with this critical public health mission.

Imported Solutions Don't Work For far too long, a top-down approach relying on imported solutions has dominated our fight against polio. We, the people of Balochistan, have the indigenous knowledge and cultural understanding necessary to effectively combat this disease.

The presence of poliovirus in environmental samples since last August is a glaring failure of our health department. This isn't just a recent oversight; it exposes a systemic weakness in surveillance and outreach programs.

Donor agencies must also shoulder some of the blame Have they critically evaluated the effectiveness of their funding, or have they simply perpetuated a cycle of dependence on external solutions? We urge them to invest in building the capacity of our local healthcare system and empower Balochistans to take charge of their health outcomes.

The upcoming vaccination campaign is crucial, but it cannot be a one-off effort. We need a sustained, multi-pronged approach that integrates local knowledge, strengthens healthcare infrastructure, and prioritizes community engagement. Only then can we truly eradicate polio from Balochistan and safeguard the health of future generations.

This is a wake-up call. Let Balochistan not be known for this resurgence of a preventable disease. Let's work together, with our own solutions at the forefront, to banish polio for good.

Economic revival

By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry:

In 1992, Bill Clinton ran his campaign for US president on three slogans, one of which was 'It's the economy, stupid'. In the backdrop of the economic downturn of the early 1990s, Clinton's focus on economic revival resonated well with his voters, and within three years, economic growth picked up.

Ever since, the phrase 'It's the economy, stupid' has been used extensively to emphasise the pivotal role of economic management in a nation's prosperity.

In Pakistan today, the imperative of economic revival can hardly be overemphasised. For decades, we have been living beyond our means, collecting a mountain of debt along the way. Interest payments consume the bulk of our revenues, and perpetual loans are sought to run the government. Effectively, that means much of what the government does is with borrowed money.

This is unsustainable; either we increase our revenues, or reduce our expenditures — preferably both. Pursuant to the agreement with the IMF, the government plans to tax the retail sector as part of its efforts to document the informal economy. This would certainly

help broaden the tax base. Opposite my house is a supermarket frequented by so many customers that it has rarely seen the cashier desk without a queue before it. Yet, when it comes to paying taxes, this shop, like many retailers, is reluctant to enter the tax net.

Our people need to realise that the roads we travel on, the public services we avail of, and the higher quality of life we desire can only be available if we pay taxes. An argument often used in response to the topic of increasing the tax net is that the revenue collected from the common man's taxes is used by high officials of the government to finance their over-extended lifestyles. It is, therefore, important that while broadening the tax base, the government make an equally robust and visible effort to cut wasteful public expense.

Let us, however, we have yet to see any concrete step being taken to give credence to the government's claims of belt-tightening.

For instance, when the government announced cost cuts on international travel, one saw a long list of the categories of public office holders who would be entitled to travel business class.

Ghulam Ali Baloch:

In the landscape of Balochistan's higher education, several challenges have emerged, casting shadows over the educational prospects of its youth. These challenges, if not addressed promptly, could impede the region's progress and development.

1. Imbalance in Staffing Ratios: Investigations into the staffing for sponsoring higher education initiatives in Balochistan. Major investors and entities have made negligible contributions towards the advancement of higher education, posing a significant hurdle to educational progress.

2. Disbalance in Budget Allocation: The proliferation of new departments and the consequent

sequential construction of buildings have led to a disbalance in budget allocation within the higher education sector. Funds earmarked for teaching and infrastructure development are not proportionately allocated, leading to inefficiencies.

3. Lack of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Funds: Contrary to global best practices, there is a notable absence of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund management for sponsoring higher education initiatives in Balochistan.

4. Inadequate Research Management: Despite possessing substantial business potential, universities in the region

are struggling to target Chinese nationals

By Muhammad Amir Rana:

The Shingla terrorist attack on the Chinese engineers' vehicle is having consequences. Chinese companies have suspended work on at least three critical hydro projects: the Diamer dam, the Diamer-Basha dam, and the Tarbela 5th Extension.

The attack has caused significant alarm. Apart from disrupting these vital infrastructure projects, it has shaken the confidence of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. Reports indicate some are considering leaving the country due to safety concerns.

The Pakistani government has repeatedly pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice. However, the recent incident has eroded trust. Chinese social media reflects growing anxiety, with calls for stricter security measures to protect Chinese lives.

Whenever a major terrorist incident occurs in the country, the media, security experts, and even state institutions start to make sweeping generalisations about the event, the culprits, their motives, and the terrorist groups that could have been involved in such incidents.

The first and most well-known excuse cited is foreign involvement in the attacks, especially those targeting Chinese nationals or CPEC-related projects. Three names of terrorist groups spring to mind: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Balochistan Liberation Army, and the Islamic State-Khorasan. They guess a specific group's involvement de-

pend on the region; these three groups have specific operational bases. The same is the case for the recent Shingla attack. The names of all three groups are circulating in the media after the attack. The TTP has been projected as the prime suspect, as the oneday ultimatum for the release of these religious organisations, giving them financial and human resources to return to the region.

5. Absence of Internal Consultation: Lack of internal consultation exacerbates the mismanagement of resources, leading to wasteful expenditures and the illogical establishment of new campuses and departments. Internal dialogue and collaboration are essential for optimizing resource allocation and decision-making processes.

6. Irrational Construction Projects: The Higher Education Department's inclination towards constructing

large buildings for Research Centers (BRCs) and Cadet Colleges at exorbitant costs further strains the funds allocated for higher education. These expenditures compete with essential agricultural lands under-sold, hindering the sector's overall progress.

7. Need for Institutional Re-alignment: Several institutions under the Higher Education umbrella require realignment to improve the quality of both school and college education. Outdated practices, such as the establishment of Intermediate Colleges, need to be re-evaluated in favor of modern educational structures that align with contemporary needs.

8. Modernization of Curriculum and Institutions: Many colleges struggle to adapt to the new curriculum introduced under the BS program, leading to redun-

dundancy and inefficiency. Transforming these colleges into centers for skill development or upgrading them to universities could better serve the educational needs of Balochistan's youth.

In conclusion, Balochistan's higher education sector faces multifaceted challenges that demand immediate attention and reform. By addressing staffing imbalances, reallocating budgets effectively, fostering corporate partnerships, enhancing resource management skills, promoting internal collaboration, rationalizing construction projects, realigning institutions, and modernizing curriculum and institutions, Balochistan can pave the way for a brighter educational future for its youth.

The author is a senior bureaucrat in the government of Balochistan

Targeting Chinese nationals

By Muhammad Amir Rana:

The Deobandi school is dominant in the region and blends with conservative social traditions — and an end to the honour code. The resultant insularity has led to frequent interactions between the locals and Deobandi madrassahs, as well as sectarian and militant outfits in the region.

Extremist tendencies in the region are stronger than those in the neighbouring areas. Anti-Shia sentiment, blood feuds in the community, and ethnic superiority are ingrained.

The region has always been difficult to govern. Security institutions, bureaucracy, and the area's political leadership have tried to run the administration — while compromising on laws and rules. Even in the case of major disputes, the administration tries to resolve them through local jirgas and by involving religious scholars. This can result in leniency towards criminals, with many extremists taking the law into their own hands.

The Mujahideen Gilgit-Balistan and Kohistan (MGB) are a prime example. The group claimed responsibility for several killings, including those of police officers and Diامر districts.

In October 2022, it held a GB minister hostage. They demanded the release of terrorists — some of them had been involved in the 2013 terrorist attack on the Nanga Parbat base camp targeting foreign climbers — and an end to the women's sporting activities in GB for the minister's release. They demanded they blocked the road because the state failed to honour a 2019 agreement, and issued a demand that the government to meet their demands.

Although a prominent resource, it is not the only one in the region. The MGB and other local militant groups reportedly maintain close links with the TTP and sectarian outfits based in Punjab. These external groups appear to support local militants, as evidenced by the TTP's involvement in perceptions about the Pass blockade. The state's history of compromise with militant groups has emboldened them. For instance, in the kidnapping incident, the administration agreed to ban girls' sports in the region. Similarly, a 2019 agreement had reportedly allowed for implementation of some Islamic laws that the militants had demanded. The state's intransigence on religious scholars for mediation in crises can be problematic. Local accounts suggest that some scholars may be sympathetic to the militants' demands, leading to partial concessions that create a perception of a 'win-win' scenario for militants and religious figures. But the question is why are an increasing number of Chinese nationals being targeted in these areas, which are seemingly benefiting from the development

involved in the 2013 terrorist attack on the Nanga Parbat base camp targeting foreign climbers — and an end to the women's sporting activities in GB for the minister's release. They demanded they blocked the road because the state failed to honour a 2019 agreement, and issued a demand that the government to meet their demands.

While anti-development sentiments are not that high in the area, and wider roads will trigger urbanisation, women's emancipation, and modernisation, which they perceive as threats to their religion and culture. The dominant group suggests that most people are happy with the compensation money and employment prospects.

However, this doesn't diminish the level of religious extremism present. Some residents may sympathise with the Uighur community in Xinjiang, and others may dislike the presence of foreigners on their land. These factors could be nurturing negative perceptions about Chinese nationals in the region.

One possible excuse for the local dynamics is seen in the blasphemy accusation against a Chinese official in the past year. The incident highlighted that tensions could erupt.

While local groups may lack the capability to carry out large-scale attacks independently, the presence of Shia passengers and the attack on tourists at Nanga Parbat demonstrate their capacity for violence. Their ability is amplified by support from like-minded groups within Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The government's strategy of outsourcing the means of force to local and external religious figures needs to be revised to address these sentiments. A more comprehensive approach is needed to calm tensions.

Sustainability of digital trade

By Hassan Nawaz Sheikh:

Pakistan's ailing economy is undergoing a process of revival. The economic wizards have placed a lot of bets on IT in the hope that the enormous potential of this sector can help alleviate our economic woes. There have been claims by former federal IT ministers that Pakistan's IT exports would reach between \$10 billion to \$20bn from the existing mark of \$2.6bn within the next few years. The premise on which these claims are being made is that the IT sector has been recording consistent upward growth since the last few years.

The IT industry has gained further focus when it was picked up by the newly christened Special Investment Facilitation Council as one

of the five core areas on which Pakistan's economic revival is predicated. Under the auspices of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, opportunities are available for setting up special technology zones (STZs) at seven prime locations including Lahore, Peshawar, Swat, Abbottabad, Haripur, and Islamabad. The Ministry of Information Technology & Tele-communication also has a plan for the establishment of 25 software technology parks (STPs) through Pakistan by converting public/private owned dilapidated or non-operational office buildings/retail spaces to provide IT-enabled offices within these zones. IT-enabled offices spaces to IT and ITES companies at affordable rates. A Special Investment Facilitation Council as one

thority has also been set up under the Special Technology Zones Authority Act, 2021 that provides incentives for STZs, enterprises and zone developers for 10 years. These incentives include tax exemptions under the Income Tax Ordinance, 1990. Capital goods import duties are exempted on taxes. There are no property tax obligations. Most importantly, investment/profit repatriation freedom is granted. There is no doubt that the development of STZs/STPs is an important catalyst for the emergence of digital and IT-related trade as more and more businesses and entrepreneurs are tempted to move their offices within these zones to avail tax benefits. However, these are just infrastructural develop-

ments. While digital trade policy would bring a holistic and competitive edge to our IT entrepreneurs so that they're able to compete at the international stage, digital trade agreements would be a more bilateral and preferential market access. DTAs are just a niche agreement that free trade agreements. Whilst Pakistan is struggling to gain benefit from the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) model, the developed world is moving swiftly towards the digital trade policy in the shape of DTAs. For instance, digital trade is a key element in the European Union's trade policy and every modern trade agreement that EU has concluded contains a dedicated digital trade chapter. Pakistan should, thus, aim to have a DTa with the world's largest export and import of digitally deliverable services. Singapore can be taken as another example that has a long track record of digital trade negotiations on digital economy agreements with Chile, New Zealand, Australia, the UK and South Korea. So, the trend of digital economy and trade agreements is definitely picking up. If our IT entrepreneurs can have direct and preferential access to developed economies — through the medium of DTAs — then we can keep our hopes high that sustainable and continued business will come our way and that would then justify our near nine-trillion growth of STZs.

T20 World Cup 2024: Aaron Jones steers USA to victory over Canada

DALLAS, June 02 (INP): Aaron Jones played a scintillating 94-run knock to power the United States of America (USA) to victory against Canada in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 opener here at Grand Prairie Stadium.

Chasing 195, the USA won the match by seven wickets with 14 balls to spare. The home team lost the first wicket on the second ball of their pursuit as Kaleem Sana dismissed Steven Taylor. Andries Gous joined skipper Monank Patel (16) and together they added 42 runs for the second wicket before the latter got caught behind off Dillon Heyliger.

With 153 required off 81 balls, Jones came down to the crease and joined a settled Gous.

However, they turned things around with their belligerent hitting, scoring 131 runs for the third wicket in only 58 balls. The partnership was dominated by Jones, who smashed Canadian bowlers all across the park, while Gous scored a 46-ball 65, featuring seven boundaries and three sixes.

Jones continued the onslaught after Gous' wicket, ending the game in the 18th over with a massive six over the deep midwicket boundary. The right-handed batter smashed ten sixes, during his enter-

taining innings of 94 runs from 40 balls. He also hit four boundaries. Canada's Kaleem Sana, Dillon Heyliger and Nikhil Dutta bugged one wicket each. Earlier, Canada were invited to bat first by the USA and had a stable start with a 43-run opening stand between Aaron Johnson and Dhaliwal. Johnson scored 23 off 16 with the help of five boundaries before falling to Harmert Singh in the last over of the powerplay.

Meanwhile, Pargat Singh got run out with 66 runs on the board. Kirton then joined Dhaliwal and together they constructed a blistering third-wicket partnership of 62 runs in just 37 balls. Corey Anderson broke the partnership with the wicket of Dhaliwal, who top-scored for Canada with 61 off 44. The opening batter struck six boundaries and three sixes.

Kirton continued his strokeplay, scoring 51 runs from 31 balls with the help of five boundaries, including two sixes before Ali Khan ended his stay at the crease. Shreyas Movva gave a finishing touch to the innings with an unbeaten 32 off 16, laced with two sixes and two boundaries to push the team's total to 194-5 in 20 overs. For the USA, Ali Khan, Harmert Singh and Corey Anderson claimed one wicket each.



CHINA: Planning Minister, Ahsan Iqbal and Vice President China Aerospace Science & Technology Corporation, Mr. Lin Yiming discussing their successful joint endeavor to produce a satellite to bolster Pakistan's internet and communication infrastructure.

CM Maryam says police must control crime as she accountable to 1.3bn people

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz asserted that police must control crime as she was answerable to 1.3 billion people of Punjab.

Punjab CM chaired a special session to review the law and order situation across the province.

During the session, Punjab Inspector General Usman Anwar provided a briefing on the state of law and order as well as police performance throughout Punjab.

CM Nawaz issued directives to the police force, emphasizing their responsibility in controlling crime as she was accountable to the 1.3 billion people of Punjab. Eliminate no-go areas in Punjab. She stressed the importance of eliminating no-go areas and reducing the crime rate under all circumstances.

She highlighted the public's prioritization of security over reforms and development in times of rising crime and public ignore the progress.

Punjab CM chaired a special session to review the law and order situation across the province. During the session, Punjab Inspector General Usman Anwar provided a briefing on the state of law and order as well as police performance throughout Punjab.

CM Nawaz issued directives to the police force, emphasizing their responsibility in controlling crime as she was accountable to the 1.3 billion people of Punjab. Eliminate no-go areas in Punjab. She stressed the importance of eliminating no-go areas and reducing the crime rate under all circumstances.

She highlighted the public's prioritization of security over reforms and development in times of rising crime and public ignore the progress.

Punjab CM chaired a special session to review the law and order situation across the province. During the session, Punjab Inspector General Usman Anwar provided a briefing on the state of law and order as well as police performance throughout Punjab.

CM Nawaz issued directives to the police force, emphasizing their responsibility in controlling crime as she was accountable to the 1.3 billion people of Punjab. Eliminate no-go areas in Punjab. She stressed the importance of eliminating no-go areas and reducing the crime rate under all circumstances.

She highlighted the public's prioritization of security over reforms and development in times of rising crime and public ignore the progress.



KARACHI: Supporters of PTI hold a protest in favor of their demands in front of Karachi press club.

Babar previews T20 World Cup in 52nd edition of PCB Podcast

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan captain Babar Azam is a special guest in the 52nd episode of the PCB Podcast. In a candid conversation that detailed our minds, we are thinking about how we have played two finals and a semi-final and how we can overcome the mistakes that derailed our campaigns.

"Effort is in our hands, but results, we don't know. How we present ourselves on the ground, our body language and how we communicate with each other will matter. We must be positive, so results will come." "As a batter, I have achieved decently and, as a captain, I have won a few series. But lifting the ICC trophy is a different motivation. You go to a different level and get a lot of praise. So, the motivation, aspiration and dream remains to lift an ICC trophy and present it to Pakistan."

"Conditions in the USA may pose challenges as we are going there as a national side for the first time. We are in the process of collating various cricket and match-related information from players who have played there, which can help and assist us in our preparations." "An India-Pakistan match is always the most talked about; it is discussed too much wherever you go in the world. The players get different vibes and excitement. What will happen is that everyone supports their country, so the focus is on that match."

"The whole world is focused on the day when the India-Pakistan match is held. Naturally, there will be nerves, but we need to keep our focus, stick to the basics and play easy cricket. It is always a pressure game; as long as a team and not due to an individual.

Japan's high-tech toilets go global

TOKYO, June 02 (INP): As Japan plays host to a record influx of tourists, one of the country's more private attractions -- its high-tech toilet -- is becoming a must-have in luxury bathrooms worldwide.

With their warm seats and precision spray technology, bidet toilets are the norm in Japan, where more than 80 percent of homes have one, according to a government survey.

Now sales are surging abroad and especially in the United States, led by A-list bidet fans such as Drake, the Kardashians and Alexandria Occasio-Cortez.

Japanese company TOIHO, which pioneered the electric bidets it claims have sparked "a global revolution from wiping to washing," says overseas revenue for toilets has roughly doubled from 100 billion yen (\$673 million) in 2012.

The pandemic was a key driver, bringing a home-renovation boom but also germ-conscious consumers desperate for an alternative to toilet paper after shelves were cleared by panic-buyers.

Senior TOIHO executive Shimura Tamara, who oversees international business, told the brand's growth has been a "word-of-mouth success. When people first learn how the toilets' water jets work, with pressure and temperature controls, "there's an image that it's not pleasant." But "we can't explain how good it is with words. You need to experience it", Tamura said.

After a while, most users can't live without it.

The company's international net sales for housing equipment are currently less than a third of those in Japan.

Firefighters finally manage to extinguish flames in forest on Margallah Hills

ISLAMABAD, June 02 (INP): After hectic efforts of several hours, the firefighters have managed to douse the blaze in a forest near Monal restaurant on Margallah Hills.

The fire, which had erupted in a forest in district Haripur of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), had reached the Margallah Hills overlooking the federal capital, Islamabad.

Earlier reported that three men were arrested while 15 cases had been filed over multiple incidents of fires at the Margallah Hills, where dousing efforts were underway on Friday as well, officials said.

Islamabad Chief Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon was present to review the fire extinguishing process. He said precautions have been taken to keep the fire

SITUATIONS VACANT

1. Ordinance Depot Quetta requires the following staff in their areas of working with in 15 Days after advertisement.
 2. Desires candidates may forward their applications alongwith 2x copies of Domicile / Local, Passport size photographs, Qualification Certificates duly attested. Mobile Number addressed to Ordinance Depot Quetta Cantonment.
 3. Please write down clearly name of applied post on application and envelope.
 4. No application will be entertained after due date. Preference will be given to experienced and professionally qualified candidates.

Ser	Post Name	Basic Pay Scale	No of Vacancies	Quota	Educational Qualification / Experience Required
a.	Civilian Workshop Supervisor (Lower Grade)	11	1	Merit	a. Three Years Post matric diploma of Associate Engineering (DAE) in Mechanical/Electrical or Civil from a recognized institution b. Able to supervise the work house / store independently and proficient to use MS word and MS Excel
b.	LDC	11	2	Punjab	a. Matric b. Typing speed 30 WPM c. In case of selection, 3 Weeks basic IT Training Course including MS Office be passed from NTB Islamabad during probation period
c.	Gate Keeper	7	1	KPK	a. Matric b. Six (6) months Certificate in security management from recognized institution OR a. JCO's/NCO's of all Arms / Service/Intelligence experience b. Six (6) months diploma in Computer applications
d.	Storeman	7	2	Punjab -1 Sindh (Rural) -1	a. Matric b. Six (6) months diploma in Computer applications c. Six (6) months Certificate of working experience in storekeeping and store management from recognized organization OR a. JCO's/NCO's of all Arms / Service/Intelligence experience b. Six (6) months diploma in Computer applications
e.	Store Supervisor	5	1	Balochistan	a. Matric b. Six (6) months Certificate of working experience in storekeeping and store management from recognized organization
f.	Civil Driver	4	2		a. Primary b. In possession of valid Driving License and able to drive Heavy Transport Vehicle c. Diploma holder or qualified from renowned technical institute (Diploma)
g.	Carpenter	3	1	Balochistan	a. Primary
h.	Electrician	3	1		a. Primary
i.	Fireman	2	3		a. Primary
j.	Head Quasi	1	1		a. Primary
k.	Sewer Worker	1	1		a. Primary
l.	ISM (Labor)	1	5		a. Primary

5. Candidate must pass departmental entrance exam.
 6. Applicant can submit their applications alongwith Postal Orders of Rs. 300/- (Non-refundable) (only for Basic Pay Scale 5 and above).
 7. Maximum age limit for candidates belongs to Sindh (Rural), Balochistan, A.J.K, GB and FATA is upto 33 years and for other provinces is upto 30 years. Therefore, maximum age relaxation for Ex-Serviceman is upto-45 years. Upper age relaxation will be admissible according to Government Policies.
 8. Quota for Female and Disable persons is reserved as per Government Rules.
 9. Preference for conversion into regular employment if they fulfil requirements of the applied post. Applicants who are applying for EPS-1 to 2 will be emolled on casual basis.
 10. Government servants can submit their applications through proper channel and also attach copy of No Objection Certificate alongwith application.
 11. Shortlisted candidates will only be called up for Test/ Interview.
 12. No TA/ DA will be granted and candidates will arrange self-living.
 13. Please write down your complete address with contact number. In case of wrong address and powered off cell phone deposit will not be responsible. Incomplete applications will not be entertained.
 14. A candidate can apply only on one post at a time, in case of dual applications both will be rejected.

**Commandant
Ordinance Depot Quetta Cantt**



QUETTA: The shield is being presented to Forest Secretary Dostin Jamaldini on the occasion of his visit to the under-construction forest complex.

Rangers arrest two robbery suspects in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Rangers have arrested two robbery suspects in an operation conducted in Saadi Town Karachi on Sunday.

As per details, the Rangers' spokesperson said the suspects identified as Owais and Khalid, are allegedly involved in robbery and looting incidents in the area.

The Rangers recovered a 9mm pistol, bullets, two mobile phones, and cash from the suspects.

According to Rangers spokesperson, the suspects

were looting citizens on Link Road, Malir, when they were apprehended by the Rangers.

The suspects have been handed over to the police for further action.

The spokesperson said that the operation was conducted on a tip-off and the suspects were caught red-handed.

In a separate operation, Rangers and Police in a coordinated intelligence-based operation, arrested a most wanted suspect from the Sammo Goth area of Karachi. The suspect, identified as

Nasir alias Chipu, was involved in numerous street crimes, the spokesman said.

During the arrest, authorities recovered a 30-bore pistol and ammunition from his possession. Nasir also confessed to participating in an attack on a mobile unit in 2021. He has a prior history of imprisonment. Efforts are ongoing to capture his accomplices.

The arrested suspect, along with the seized weapons and ammunition, has been handed over to the police for further legal action.



QUETTA: Group photo of Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandokhal with President of Anjuman Tajran Double Road, Malak, Nadir Khan Achakzai and the merchant community.

Punjab CM Maryam approves Lahore Development Project

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has given approval of Lahore Development Project.

In this regard, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a special meeting in Lahore on Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner Lahore Rāfia Haider presented the Lahore Development Project and gave a detailed briefing on the development plan.

The DC Lahore briefed the meeting that in the first phase, the six zones of Lahore will be constructed, repaired and developed.

A deadline of 10 months has been set for the completion of the Lahore Development Project phase one.

After the completion of Phase one, other zones will be developed, constructed and renovated in Phase II.

It was agreed on the proposal to use specific colours for separate identification of each zone.

The first phase will include Ravi, Shalimar, Samanabad, Dataganj Bakhsh, Nishar, Gulberg towns and Railway Area.

In the second phase, Allama Iqbal, Wagah and Aziz Bhatti zones will be developed, constructed and renovated.

The estimated cost of development and construction and maintenance of six zones in the first phase is Rs74.15 billion.

More than 9.3 million population of six zones included in the first phase which will be benefited.

The development plan includes the construction of water supply and drainage system, connecting roads and paved streets.

Installation of street light and restoration of parks are also included in the development plan.

A complete disposal system will be established in each zone for a sustainable system of sewage and drainage.

On the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a project management unit was also established for the development plan.

Senator Perver Rasheed, Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Minister Local Government and Community Development Zeeshan Rafique,

Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sajid Zafar Dal, Secretary Local Government and other senior officials were present in the meeting.

ICCI Ex-President warns of investor exodus amid tough business environment

ISLAMABAD (INP): Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, the former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), raised alarms on Sunday

about the exodus of international investors from Pakistan due to unresolved issues and a challenging business environment.

In a strongly-worded statement, Dr. Butt emphasized the urgency of addressing foreign investors' concerns to maintain their presence in the country. "How can new investment come to Pakistan when both local and foreign investors are fleeing?" he questioned.

He highlighted that numerous foreign companies in sectors such as oil, gas, pharmaceuticals, mining, telecom, and

transport have either left Pakistan or significantly scaled down their operations. This trend, he noted, is detrimental to Pakistan's investment reputation.

Dr. Butt pointed out that Shell, after 75 years of business in Pakistan, sold all its assets to a Saudi retailer last year. Now, British American Tobacco

(BAT) threatens to exit if taxes increase further. He criticized the uniform tax hike on all companies, suggesting instead that authorities differentiate between compliant companies and those evading taxes.

He further accused the influential cigarette mafia of controlling 58% of Pakistan's mar-

ket with political support, thereby creating obstacles for tax-paying companies like BAT, which supports the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government financially.

Dr. Butt lamented the burgeoning foreign investment in neighboring India and Bangladesh, contrasting it with the incompetence and poor planning of Pakistan's politicians and bureaucracy. He cited high electricity and gas prices, a 22 percent interest rate, political instability, smuggling, and law-and-order issues as escalating challenges for industrialists.

He warned that if the bureaucracy does not adapt to ground realities and facilitate investors, the country will face a further decline in investment.

BMP suggests significant cut in monetary policy rate to boost economy

ISLAMABAD (INP): Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman and former FPCCI president. Mian Anjum Nisar has urged the authorities to implement a substantial

reduction in the monetary policy rate at the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee meeting scheduled for June 10. This call comes amidst declining inflation and improvements in the external account, fostering optimism among the business community for economic revitalization.

Addressing a delegation of various trade and industrial associations, Nisar emphasized that the State Bank's stringent monetary policy has adversely affected the national economy for several years. He advocated for the policy rate to be reduced to a single-digit figure to alleviate the financial burden on the business community and stimulate economic activity.

Nisar highlighted that the tight monetary policy, combined with the government's significant domestic borrowing, has left minimal room for business growth. He stressed the urgent need for the government to freeze both domestic and foreign borrowing and to devise a comprehensive strategy to showcase Pakistan's economic potential to international investors.

The current low levels of domestic investment have sent negative signals to potential foreign investors, Nisar said. "If the government is serious about achieving an economic turnaround, it must take immediate steps to address these issues."

Nisar proposed a 200 basis points reduction in the policy rate, potentially bringing it down to 20 percent, a level last seen in March-April 2023. This anticipated cut is supported by several favorable economic indicators,

including a significant decline in inflation rates. He noted that the average headline inflation for the first ten months of FY24 has decreased to 25.97 percent, down from 28.23 percent during the same period last year. For May 2024, inflation is expected to drop further to 13 percent, reflecting a real interest rate of 900 basis points, much higher than the historic 10-year average of negative 44 basis points.

On the external front, the current account deficit has improved remarkably, narrowing by 95 percent to \$202 million in the first ten months of this fiscal year. This reduction has contributed to the stability of the rupee against the US dollar.

The IMF, in its recent country report, acknowledged these positive developments but emphasized the need to maintain a tight monetary policy for continued stability.



LONDON: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Oxford University officials exchanging documents of Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program.

KP Health Department revamps medicine procurement committees

PESHAWAR (INP): The Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has announced the dissolution of its existing Medicine Coordination Council committees responsible for government medicine procurement. In their place, three new committees have been formed, effective from the next financial year (July 1st, 2024).

According to a notification issued, the previous committees, formed last year for the current financial year's procurement, will be replaced.

The new structure aims to enhance efficiency and oversight in the procurement process.

The Technical and Evaluation Committee will be led by the Additional Director General of Monitoring and Evaluation Health. The committee will include the

Deputy Director of the Medicine Coordination Council as Secretary and Member, along with the Medical Super-

intendent of Police Services Hospital, Principal

Pharmacist Services Hospital, Additional Director MCC, a Specialist in Medicine, a Specialist in Surgery from Nasirullah Babar Memorial Hospital, Peshawar, a

Pediatrician, an Anesthetist from Services Hospital, a Gynecologist from Molvi Ameer Shah Memorial Hospital, and the Deputy Director of Pharmacy Services.

Additional members may be included as needed.

The Inspection Committee will comprise the Chief Drug Inspector, Senior Drug Inspector, and Drug Inspector. It will also include one pharmacist from a hospital and one from the pharmacy department of a government university. Additional members can be appointed by the competent authority.

The Rate Contracting Committee will be chaired by the Director General of Health

Services. The Additional Director General of Monitoring and Development Committee will serve as Secretary and Member.

The committee will also include the Director General of Drug Control and Pharmacy Services, Director of Finance Health Directorate, a Professor of Cardiology from Peshawar Institute of Cardiology, a Professor of Medicine from HMC, a Professor of Surgery from LRH, the Chair-

man of the Pharmacy Department at the University of Peshawar, a District Health Officer, Additional Director General Drugs, and Additional Director of Pharmacy Services. One additional member may be appointed by the competent authority.

This restructuring is intended to streamline the procurement process and ensure the effective supply of medicines to government hospitals and facilities across the region.

Punjab govt launches 'say no to plastic' campaign from June 5

LAHORE (INP): Punjab government spokesperson Marriyam Aurangzeb has announced that provincial government is launching 'say no to plastic' campaign from June 5th, on the directive of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, aimed at protecting against deadly diseases caused by plastics.

According to the spokesperson, in line with the 'say no to Plastic' campaign, preparations have been completed for strict enforcement against the preparation, production, distribution, and sale of illegal plastic bags.

She emphasized that the use of plastic led to cancer and other hazardous diseases, exacerbates environmental pollution.

The Punjab government spokesperson asserted that the use of polythene bags less than 75 microns and single-use plastic containers will be completely banned in accordance

with the law. She stressed that crackdowns will be initiated against factories producing illegal plastic products starting from June 5th. Several warnings have been issued to such factories prior to this action, she added.

Marriyam Aurangzeb stated that stringent actions will be implemented against hotels, restaurants,

and other food points serving meals in plastic bags after the deadline.

Complete crackdowns will occur against violators, leading to legal actions and heavy fines for the owners.

The Punjab government spokesperson asserted that the use of polythene bags less than 75 microns and single-use plastic containers will be completely banned in accordance

with the law. She highlighted that an awareness campaign titled "plastic is death" will be initiated to educate the public about the hazards of plastic usage.

She stated that public service messages will be circulated via social media, and written messages regarding the ban on plastic will be displayed in shopping malls, bus stands, parks, transports, metro buses, and public places.

Marriyam Aurangzeb revealed that the use, production and sale of cotton bags or alternative means instead of plastic bags will be boosted.

She also added that media participation was sought in the "plastic is death" awareness campaign.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan is inspecting development projects in Hana Lake

PML-N, PPP at 'odds' over power-sharing formula in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) are at odds over the power-sharing formula in Punjab, sources said on Sunday.

Despite four meetings of the provincial coordination committees of both parties, no progress has been made. The PPP alleges that PML-N is not showing seriousness regarding the power-sharing formula in Punjab, sources added.

Sources further said that PPP is also concerned that its members in the Punjab As-

sembly are being ignored in the budget and have not received funds so far.

Earlier sources revealed that PML-N is pressing PPP to join the coalition government in Centre.

Sources said that the PML-N has contacted directly and via mutual friends inviting the party to join the government.

The party has been invited to join the federal as well as Punjab government as an ally.

"The PPP didn't respond to the government over the offer, neither the party held consultations over the issue,"

sources said.

Sources said that the PPP leadership has been under pressure to join the government. The party's parliamentarians from Sindh backing to join the government.

However, a senior party leader from Sindh has vehemently opposed the offer and communicated the opinion to the party's leadership.

The People's Party's Punjab leadership opinion to join the government in Punjab instead of the Centre. "The PPP will strengthen in the province by joining the Punjab government," sources said.