

Independent

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Islamabad demands New Delhi's accountability on int'l level Horrifying Indian plot of terrorism in Pakistan exposed thanks to vigilant security agencies

Foreign Office says credible evidence of links between Indian agents and assassination of 2 Pakistanis; Calls Indian campaign "sophisticated and sinister"

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani security institutions have successfully exposed the terrorist group as well as Indian handlers and facilitators involved in the terrorism acts and target killings.

The security institutions exposed the plot on September 8, 2023 and Shahid Latif gunned down on October 11, 2023 in Daska.

Both the deceased were peaceful citizens and their only fault was to expose the ongoing cruelty, barbarism and heinous face of India in Kashmir.

The investigating agencies have the authentic proofs that the Indian citizens present in third country were involved in the whole targeted killing campaign, who were not only giving directives along with it's funding, but were also controlling the drive.

Matter of fact also remains that India assassinated the innocent people in terrorism acts in different countries including Pakistan, but no concrete evidences were provided about their evidences.

There's also no denying the fact that India is constantly busy in violation of the international laws

Worthwhile to mention is that India had killed the Sikh leader Hardeep Singh in Canada last year.

Canada had reacted strongly to the Sikh leader's killing at diplomatic level and highlighted it at the world level. India had made plot to assassinate all the Sikh leaders who used to raise voice against the Indian cruel acts.

After killing of Sikh leader in Canada, it was also conspired to kill another Sikh leader settled in USA, however, it was exposed because of the timely intervention of the US secret agencies.

The target killers involved in the cold blooded killings were arrested when they were attempting to flee from Pakistan.

It may be recalled here that Muhammad Riaz had been killed by the target kill-

ers on September 8, 2023 and Shahid Latif gunned down on October 11, 2023 in Daska.

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday urged the Al-Jomaih Group of Saudi Arabia to invest in the alternative energy sector of Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a four-member delegation, led by the Al-Jomaih Group head Sheikh Abdulaziz Hammad, said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had brotherly ties which were getting further stronger.

The Al-Jomaih Group had made a huge investment in the K-Electric.

The prime minister said that Pakistan greatly valued the Saudi investment and welcomed its investment in the energy sector.

He also lauded K-Electric strategy to invest in the alternative energy sector as it would help reduce the power tariff for the benefit of consumers.

The prime minister also expressed the hope that the K-Electric would further improve its infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted power supply to domestic and industrial consumers.

Apprising the prime minister of the company's 1500 megawatt projects, the delegation informed the prime minister that the projects would feature the usage of local resources and alternative energy.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding provision of water to Gwadar and surroundings

ISLAMABAD: Head of Al-Jomaih Group along with a delegation called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Provision of clean drinking water to be ensured in Gwadar, assures CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki directs concerned authorities to start work on all pending projects of water sector in port city without any further delay

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed to the concerned authorities to ensure provision of clean drinking water in Gwadar district, and for the purpose, the work must be started on the pending schemes of water sector without any further delay.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting held to review the issue of potable water and other related issues in Gwadar on Thursday.

Mr. Domki reached Gwadar to review law and order situation and preparations of the general elections in Gwadar the same morning.

Those who were present in the meeting were included: caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rashid Razaq, Director General Gwadar Development Authority, Commissioner Makran, Saeed Ahmed Umrani, Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Aurangzaib Badini and other concerned high ups.

The caretaker Chief Minister was briefed about the ongoing schemes in water sector in Gwadar.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that we are finding solution to the public issues regarding availability of clean drinking water in Gwadar.

He regretfully pointed out that unnecessary delay has been caused in certain projects, which is a matter of great concern.

He directed the concerned to start work on the same without any further delay.

He also directed to restore services after making payment of the arrears to QESCO and the concerned contractor.

Earlier, the Chief Minister was presented guard of honour by smartly turned out contingent of police.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also visited the complaint cell established in Deputy Commissioner Gwadar's office.

He directed to frame comprehensive mechanism for resolving the public complaints.

General Elections 2024 to be held on scheduled time: Democratic process can't be affected owing to terrorists'

Caretaker Provincial Minister Information lashes out at Amnesty International report, terms it biased and partial, urges AI not to become instrument of propaganda of separatist groups

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QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that there are challenges of law and order and security threats exist in different parts of the country including Balochistan, however, these threats and subversive acts can't affect the democratic process and as such the general elections would be conducted on the given time.

He noted that the incidents of terrorists may occur in Balochistan, Islamabad and different other parts of the country as the security threats have been received, still the democratic process can't be affected due to these threats or terrorists' attacks.

The Information Minister was addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Civil Secretariat on Thursday.

Maryam Nawaz says: PML-N does not believe in politics of allegations

LAHORE (Online): PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz has said PML-N does not believe in the politics of allegations.

"PML-N got done development work where it was not given mandate. Nawaz Sharif will soon present manifesto before the people. Vote will decide about your and your children future. On February 8 you have to come out of homes and cast vote, she said this while addressing a public meeting here Thursday.

I accepted to go to jail but I stood with my father. Today I am among you. This constituency is my home. Ballot paper is not only a ballot paper but it is decision about your and your children future.

Nawaz Sharif had eliminated darkness and terrorism from the country till 2017, she added.

Bilawal proposes to make Zardari president of Pakistan

LAHORE (Online): PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has proposed to make Asif Ali Zardari president of Pakistan.

Bilawal Bhutto has placed the proposal in this regard before party.

Bilawal Bhutto said we should learn from experience of Asif Ali Zardari. It is my desire Asif Ali Zardari becomes president of Pakistan once again.

Senior leadership of PPP has advised that proposal from Bilawal Bhutto Zardari be placed before central executive committee of party. It has also been said if result of general election comes in favor of PPP then PPP will nominate formally Asif Ali Zardari for the slot of President of Pakistan.

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Amid back-to-back hearings of his corruption cases, the incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Thursday asked an accountability court judge to also continue proceedings of corruption references against his rivals, Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari.

The discussion between the former prime minister and the judge, Muhammad Bashir, was held during the hearing of the £190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) scandal case.

"Nawaz Sharif [Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)] — and Asif Ali Zardari [Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman] have been given February 13 date for hearings of the Toshakhana cases. Every day, I hear about the filing of back-to-back cases against me," Khan said at the outset of today's hearing.

PM urges Saudi Arabia's Jomaih Group to invest in Pak alternative energy sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday urged the Al-Jomaih Group of Saudi Arabia to invest in the alternative energy sector of Pakistan.

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The prime minister also expressed the hope that the K-Electric would further improve its infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted power supply to domestic and industrial consumers.

The Al-Jomaih Group thanked the prime minister and the government team for resolving the longstanding issues faced by the company.

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ISLAMABAD: Head of Al-Jomaih Group along with a delegation called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Unless education made centre of policies Dream of literate Balochistan can't be materialized: Kakar

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QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that education is base of every kind of development, and as such we can't materialize dream of literate province until and unless we make education Centre of policies and projects at the national level.

The Governor stated so in a message issued marking the international Education Day observed on Wednesday.

The Governor said that the objective behind observance of the International Education Day this year is to ensure sustainable peace and harmony by getting education.

He said that the excellent progress of the developed nations is because of the quality education.

He stressed that we should realize that the secret of ending issue of unemployment, overcoming different crimes and promoting economic activities lies in generalizing

technical and vocational education.

However, it is unfortunate that thousands of children of Balochistan are deprived of the ornament of education in the present era science and technology even, adding he regretfully pointed out.

The Governor emphasized upon spreading education in the areas where there is still darkness of ignorance and thus educate those who are deprived of the education.

He also underlined the need to highlight the high character and honor of the teachers just because they are the soul of educational system.

In addition to this, the role of educated mothers cannot be overlooked in proper grooming and education of their children, he stressed.

The Governor also called for support and guidance of the national and international institutions for capacity building of the teachers serving in our educational institutions.

KALAT: President Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal and Prince Agha Musa Jan Ahmedzai addressing a public gathering

Caretaker CM condemns Turbat firing incident, seeks report from Home Department

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QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has condemned the incident of firing took place at the Regional Election Commissioner office, Turbat on Thursday.

According to an official hand out issued here, the Chief Minister sought the report of incident from the Provincial Home department.

He directed the concerned authorities to mobilize all resources for arrest of the culprits involved in the incident.

He expressed grief and sorrow over martyrdom of a police cop in the firing.

He asserted that the sacrifices of all security forces and police would not go wasted at all. He also paid homage to the brave soldiers who rendered sacrifice of their lives while performing their duties.



GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting regarding provision of water to Gwadar and surroundings

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QUETTA: Members of Baloch Solidarity Committee are gathered to welcome Dr. Mahrang Baloch after reaching Quetta from Islamabad, in Quetta.



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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Army duties

The state cannot hold elections without the Pakistan Army. On Tuesday, the caretaker government formally approved the deployment of military and civil armed forces personnel at polling stations and sensitive constituencies "in order to maintain peace and security" during the upcoming general elections.

It is understood that these personnel will not only be deputed to guard polling stations on election day but also serve as a rapid reaction force in case any law-and-order situation arises.

The government is said to have approved the arrangement after receiving a summary recommending the same from the hitherto minister-less interior ministry, which cited a severe shortfall of available personnel. The ECP had previously demanded the services of 275,000 troops from the interior ministry for election-related duties after learning that it was facing a shortage of more than 277,000 security officials, of which about 169,000 were needed in Punjab alone.

It is understandable why the ECP wants boots on the ground for the elections. Apart from various administrative and other reasons, there has been a surge in militant attacks targeting security forces in recent months, and the commission would not want anything untoward happening close to or on election day.

There has also been a recent spate of attacks targeting political leaders, mostly in KP, while there are multiple alerts regarding some politicians facing active threats. It is imperative for the state, in these conditions, to provide a secure environment for politicians and voters in the lead-up to and on election day.

However, the troops being deployed should be clearly instructed that their role is limited to providing security and ensuring peace. They must not, for whatever reason, enter polling stations or interfere in the voting and post-voting procedures. The controversies that arose after the 2018 polls must be avoided at all costs.

Finally, though Dr Gohar Ejaz was given the additional charge of caretaker interior minister last evening, it is worth asking what took the government so long to nominate him given that Dr Ejaz's predecessor, Sarfraz Bugti, had resigned in December. The government has been quite aware of the deteriorating security situation and has brought it up on various occasions and in different contexts; why, then, had it left the ministry responsible for law and order without a head for more than a month?

This was a rather reckless approach, given the serious challenges that have emerged, with the elections drawing nearer. Dr Ejaz's new role will require much attention and energy from him as he tries to address various emergent security-related challenges; will he be able to do so, considering he is also holding several other important portfolios? It is a big ask: the responsibility for the safety of millions now lies with him.

E-Governance: Building resilient societies in an uncertain world



By Qaiser Nawab

In the face of unprecedented global challenges such as economic downturns, financial crises, pandemics, and climate change, the need for innovation and adaptability in the public sector has become increasingly evident. However, within these challenges lies an opportunity for nations to harness the power of digitalization, turning adversity into innovation. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst for the acceleration of digitalization, forcing industries worldwide to adapt to the new normal. This article explores the role of e-governance in building resilient societies, with a focus on innovation and its potential impact on efficiency, transparency, and accessibility.

The industrial sector, particularly in developed economies like the UK, demonstrated remarkable adaptability by shifting to remote work and embracing digital transformation. Similarly, nations such as Brazil and Canada witnessed a surge in business transitioning to e-commerce. However, developing nations face the challenge of creating awareness among policymakers about the importance of digitalization. Conducive policies, support for innovation, skill development, and improved connectivity are crucial components

for these nations to harness the opportunities presented by digital transformation.

Climate change, a pressing global challenge, further underscores the importance of E-Governance in building resilient societies. As nations grapple with the far-reaching impacts of a changing climate, innovative digital solutions can play a pivotal role in developing and implementing effective environmental policies. E-Governance can facilitate real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination, enabling governments to make informed decisions for climate mitigation and adaptation. Collaborative efforts between nations, guided by E-Governance principles, can enhance the coordination of climate-related initiatives, ensuring a more efficient and unified response to environmental threats. By leveraging digital technologies, governments can not only strengthen their resilience to climate change but also foster a sustainable and eco-friendly trajectory for future development.

The integration of climate-focused E-Governance strategies aligns with the broader vision of creating a world that not only adapts to uncertainties but actively works towards a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future. The rise of digital technologies, including cryptocurrencies, brings both benefits and challenges. Addressing vulnerabilities, bridging the digital divide, and ensuring inclusive development require global collaboration and strategic policy initiatives.

Developing a comprehensive approach to tackle knowledge gaps, infrastructure disparities, and potential job displacement is crucial for the sustainable integration of digital technologies.

E-governance emerges as a linchpin in the digital transformation of the public sector. Its potential impact on efficiency, transparency, and accessibility cannot be overstated. The United Nations, World Bank, European Commission, McKinsey, and Deloitte all attest to the transformative power of e-governance, citing reductions in corruption, increased citizen satisfaction, reduced processing times, and cost savings.

COMSATS, with its network of 25 Centers of Excellence across three continents, stands as a beacon of support for member states in their digitalization endeavors. These centers offer scientific solutions, policy inputs, training programs, and research to aid industries and governments in navigating the complexities of the digital era. Particularly in middle and lower-middle-income economies, COMSATS members have shown remarkable progress in digitalization, surpassing expectations for their respective stages of development. With internet penetration rates exceeding 80%, these nations are setting an example for others to follow.

Innovation stands as the cornerstone for the success of e-governance initiatives, constituting a dynamic force that propels government into the digital age. Governments, as stewards of societal

progress, bear the responsibility of fostering an environment conducive to experimentation and the adoption of emerging technologies. To achieve this, a collaborative ecosystem must be cultivated, where policymakers actively engage with the private sector and research institutions.

Such partnerships are essential to identify, develop, and implement innovative solutions that address the evolving needs of a digitally-driven society. As the digital landscape undergoes continuous transformation, innovation becomes not just a strategic choice but a necessity. Policymakers need to navigate the rapidly changing technological terrain, ensuring that governance models are not only adaptive but anticipatory of emerging challenges and opportunities.

Embracing a culture of perpetual innovation allows governments to proactively tackle issues such as cybersecurity threats, data privacy concerns, and the ethical implications of emerging technologies. Moreover, it positions nations at the forefront of technological advancement, fostering a competitive edge in the global arena. In essence, the commitment to continuous innovation in e-governance is a commitment to building responsive, forward-thinking, and resilient societies that can effectively navigate the uncertainties of the digital era.

Navigating the path toward a digitally transformed future is laden with multifaceted challenges that neces-

sitate strategic foresight and collaborative efforts. One of the foremost challenges lies in the realm of cybersecurity threats, where the rapid evolution of digital technologies exposes governments and organizations to increasingly sophisticated cyber risks. Addressing these threats demands proactive measures, including robust cybersecurity frameworks and continuous monitoring to safeguard critical information infrastructure.

Data privacy concerns emerge as another pivotal challenge, as the collection and utilization of vast amounts of personal information raise ethical questions and demand stringent regulations. Striking a delicate balance between leveraging data for societal benefits and safeguarding individual privacy becomes imperative. Moreover, the ethical implications of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology, necessitate careful consideration and ethical guidelines to prevent unintended consequences.

In addition to technological hurdles, there is a pressing need for international cooperation to establish global standards for digital governance.

The absence of harmonized regulations may hinder the seamless flow of information and create disparities in digital development. Policymakers face the intricate task of fostering innovation while upholding responsible governance, ensuring that the benefits of digitalization extend across diverse socioeconomic strata. Moreover, ad-

ressing social challenges, including digital literacy disparities and the potential exacerbation of existing inequalities, becomes crucial to fostering an inclusive digital society. Policymakers must navigate these intricate challenges with agility and inclusivity, recognizing that the journey toward a digitally transformed future demands a holistic and collaborative approach.

In conclusion, the imperative for building resilient societies in an uncertain world is underscored by the transformative potential of e-governance-driven digitalization. As nations grapple with unprecedented challenges, including economic downturns, pandemics, and climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as a catalyst, accelerating the adoption of digital technologies.

While developed economies showcase adaptability, developing nations face the dual challenge of raising awareness among policymakers and implementing supportive policies.

E-Governance emerges as a linchpin, endorsed by global entities for its transformative impacts on efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. Policymakers must balance innovation with responsible governance, emphasizing international cooperation and inclusivity.

Qaiser Nawab, serving as the President of the Belt and Road Initiative for Sustainable Development (BRISD), is an expert in International Relations and Impact Technologies. You can contact him at qaisernawab098@gmail.com

Commerce News

Revolutionary initiatives in IT sector start bearing fruits: Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications, Dr. Umar Saif has said that the presence of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is leading to increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) and setting the pace of the country's development.

Addressing a Town Hall meeting during his visit to the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) office, Dr. Saif said, "We have achieved 13 out of 15 important targets for the promotion of the IT & Telecom sector in a short period of 5 months in the caretaker set-up. The forum of SIFC will prove to be a great support for the upcoming elected government in the process of building and developing the country, and the elected government will

also reap the benefits of the measures we have taken during the caretaker period." Ms. Aysha Morani Additional Secretary MOITT, Muhammad Zohaib Khan Chairman P@SHA, Nadeem Malik, General Secretary P@SHA and representative from IT Industry attended the event.

Dr. Umar Saif further said that, to facilitate IT exporters and boost

exports of IT and IT-enabled services, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has increased the permissible retention limit from 35% to 50% of their export proceeds in the Exporters' Specialized Foreign Currency Accounts (ESFCAs). "We worked with the SIFC and the State Bank to make a significant policy intervention, allowing IT companies to keep 50% of their export revenue in dollars.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a group photo after Town Hall meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Kazakhstan Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin called on the Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries, Investments and Interior, Dr. Gohar Ejaz to discuss regional connectivity and bilateral trade at the Commerce Ministry.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 524 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Thursday, losing 524.43 points, a negative change of 0.81 percent, closing at 64,298.01 points against 64,822.43 points the previous trading day.

A total of 460,691,033 shares valuing Rs 25,248 billion were traded during the day as compared to 479,982,148 shares valuing Rs. 22,501 billion the last day.

Norway wants to further enhance business relations with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan Per Albert Ilsaas on Thursday said that his country wanted to further enhance business relations with Pakistan.

Talking to a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said that both the countries had the potential to increase bilateral trade and do more business together. A delegation of ICCI led by President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari visited the residence of Per Albert

Trade and Investment officers visit PSGMEA

SIALKOT (APP): Trade and investment officers appointed by the Ministry of Commerce to abroad visited the Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) here on Thursday.

PSGMEA Chairman Arshad Latif Butt, Senior Vice Chairman Zahir Ahmed Dohdy, Vice Chairman Umer-Uz-Zaman and Secretary General Mohsin Masood welcomed the guests. According to Secretary General PSGMEA Mohsin Masood, Arshad Latif Butt and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) jointly organized an outstanding interaction with the newly-inducted counsellors at different stations abroad.

Pakistan's public-sector insurance companies' engine of economic growth: Gohar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Insurance Company and Pakistan Reinsurance Company have managed around Rs. 2 trillion of funds.

These companies have established themselves as pillars of financial stability and innovation, he said.

These are the best state-owned enterprises in Pakistan, he said. Over the years, he said that the companies have consistently demonstrated their ability to navigate economic cycles, maintain financial stability, and adapt to evolving market conditions.

Food group imports decrease 19.48% in 06 months of FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Food group imports into the country during the first half of the current financial year decreased by 19.48 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July to December 2023, different food commodities costing \$3.957 billion were imported as compared to the imports of \$4.914 billion in the same period of last year, according to

WCCIS to hold "We-Exhibit 2024" in March

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik has said that "We-Exhibit 2024" will be held on the 2nd and 3rd of March, 2024, at Living Dreams Marquee, Sialkot Cantt. In a statement on Thursday, Ghafoor Malik said the first We-Exhibit 2023 was organized by the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) while the second We-Exhibit 2024.

Roadshow in Bangkok for Pak 300MW floating solar plants on Jan 29

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will hold a roadshow in Bangkok on January 29 to attract investment for the 300-megawatt floating solar plants project to be executed at the Tarbela-Barotha Complex sites.

Under the project, Pakistan aims to develop two 150-MW AC floating solar plants, the Pakistan Embassy in Thailand said on its X account, inviting potential bidders to participate in the roadshow.

PTCL Group renews partnership with SNGPL for cellular services

LAHORE: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group

services to SNGPL under PTCL Group Business Solutions. Group Chief Business Solutions Officer

officials from both organizations. Under this agreement, PTCL Group will provide wireless connectivity and a host of



(PTCL & Ufone 4G), and largest integrated gas company of Pakistan, SNGPL have renewed their partnership for the continued provision of the state-of-the-art cellular

(GCBSO), PTCL & Ufone 4G, Zarrar Hasham Khan, MD/CEO, SNGPL, Amer Tufail signed the agreement at SNGPL headquarters in Lahore, in the presence of senior

bundled services to SNGPL. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer PTCL & Ufone 4G, stated.

Baligh commends role of Pak Navy in making defence of water boundaries impregnable

Independent Report
LAHORE: Commander Central Punjab, Commandant Naval War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Commander Central Punjab briefed Governor Punjab on the professional affairs of Pakistan Navy and informed about the performance and activities of the War College.

boundaries impregnable is commendable. He said that the professionalism of Pakistan Navy is a source of pride for the entire nation. Governor Punjab said that the martyrs and soldiers of Pakistan Navy who protect Pakistan's maritime boundaries are the pride of the country and the nation. The two sides also discussed Cadet College Khanpur in detail. Governor Punjab said that due to the change of government in 2018, despite the completion of this project, Cadet College Khanpur could not be started. He expressed hope that the future Punjab government would start classes in Cadet College Khanpur as soon as possible to ensure the provision of quality education to the children. On this occasion, Commander Central Punjab, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood invited Governor Punjab to visit Pakistan Navy War College.

Later, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman attended the closing ceremony of Pakistan Learning Festival 2024 at Children's Library Complex as Chief Guest. Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman, while addressing the ceremony, said that it is very important to teach students high moral values and build their character. He said that after 2018,



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Corps Commander Lahore Syed Amir Raza witnessing the signing ceremony of handing Administration of Data Darbar Hospital to Anti-Narcotics Force.

Administration of Data Darbar Hospital entrusted to Anti-Narcotics Force

Independent Report
LAHORE: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to transfer the management of Data Darbar Hospital to the Anti-Narcotics Force.

According to the terms of the agreement, the Anti-Narcotics Force will oversee the rehabilitation and upgrading of Data Darbar Hospital. The hospital's focus will be on the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals struggling with drug addiction.

The signing ceremony took place at the Chief Minister's Office with the presence of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, Corps Commander Lahore Lt Gen Syed Aamer Raza and DG Anti-Narcotics Force Maj Gen Aneeq Ahmad Malik. Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jan and Regional Director ANF Brig Sikandar Hayat Ch signed the MoU. Following the agreement, documents were exchanged.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi announced the dedicated allocation of Data Darbar Hospital for the rehabilitation of drug addicts. The event was attended by Ministers Dr Jamal Nasir, Azfar Ali Nasir, chief secretary, IG Punjab, secretary Auqaf and others.

Federal Ombudsman visits KP Ombudsman Secretariat

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmad Qureshi paid a visit to Provincial Ombudsman Secretariat and held meeting with Provincial Ombudsman Syed Jamal ud Din Shah here at his staff the other day, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

The provincial Ombudsman welcomed the Federal Ombudsman and briefed him regarding the role and activities of the Provincial Ombudsman. He also apprised him in connection with the complaints and redressal method of the complaints at the secretariat level. He said that in the year 2023, the provincial Ombudsman Office has received record number of complaints which were more than the previous years and majority of complainants received relief by resolving their grievances with in specific period as prescribed in the Ombudsman act.

Police conduct raid on Javed residence, arrest his son in law, servants

MULTAN (Online): Police have conducted raid on the residence of Javed Hashmi and arrested his son in law and domestic servants.

Javed Hashmi has said in this regard police conducted raids at his residence during PTI workers convention in Makhdoom Rashid and arrested PTI candidate and his domestic servants.

Police broke the doors and rushed into his home besides subjecting the women to violence. PTI leader Mehrbano Qureshi and Zain Qureshi were to participate in PTI workers convention.



KARACHI: Independent Candidate for NA-241 and PS-110, Dr. Shahab Imam addresses during corner meeting as a part of Election Campaign in connection of the General Election 2024 coming ahead, at Gizri area in Karachi.

PEN calls on minister for IC&TE, discusses issues of private schools

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: A delegation of private educational institutions organisation 'Private Education Network' on Thursday called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr Aamer Abdullah here at his office and discussed issues related to private educational institutions.

The delegation was comprised of Vice Presidents of the organisation and members of the Private Schools Regulatory Authority Fazlullah Daudzai and Syed Anas Takreem Kakakhel, office bearers of the organisation from Nowshera district Qazi Fazal Hakeem, Rashid Maqbool and Noorshad. Special Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Department, Samar Gul, Managing Director Private Schools Regulatory Authority Tanzila Sabhat and other officials of the education department were also present on the occasion.



PESHAWAR: Director General Audit Shehzad Naeem presenting Audit Report 2022-23 to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

ANF recovers 138 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 138 kg drugs and arrested nine accused including two women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 2 kg of Ice drug was recovered from a parcel at a Cargo Office in Lahore. In another operation, 1 kg of Ice was recovered from a parcel being sent to Bahrain from DHL Sadar, Peshawar.

In the third operation, 50 kg hashish and 40 kg opium were recovered from the possession of two accused arrested near M-1 Motorway Islamabad. 15 kg hashish and 12 kg opium were recovered from an accused netted near Motorway Bridge Peshawar.

In the fifth operation, 6 kg of weed was recovered from the possession of 2 suspects nabbed near M-9, Jamshoro Toll Plaza.

KP Labour Deptt launches first ever Child Labour Survey of KP

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Labour Department on Thursday has launched its first ever Child Labour Survey 2022-23 conducted across all districts of the province including the newly merged districts in a ceremony held here at a local hotel.

representatives of UN agencies, civil society organizations, donor agencies and academia.

KP Child Labour Survey 2022-23 is the second provincial survey in Pakistan, after Punjab, it was said during the event attended by the officials of various government departments,

This survey collected data from 49,734 households including 5,976 urban and 43,758 rural, achieving a response rate of 92.5 percent despite harsh weather and security challenges, especially in the Newly Merged Districts. According to the survey report, the child population of age between 5 and 17 years is approximately 8.28m in the province.

Teenager shot, injured over land dispute

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A child was shot at and injured in a heated verbal clash that erupted over a land dispute between the two families, according to the rescuer. The victim was identified as Muhammad Rashid, 17, s/o Muhammad Latif, a resident of Moza Kotla, who was reported to have received gunshot wounds on the forehead.

Making country an Islamic welfare state is vision of Jamaat-e-Islami: Mushtaq

Independent Report
RUSTAM, Mardan: Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan says that making the country an Islamic welfare state is the vision of Jamaat-e-Islami, where there is worship of Allah and slavery of the Prophet, and where every child, oppressed, youth, orphan, and widow gets free education, justice, treatment, employment, and justice, and the system of oppression and drugs is abolished.

He expressed these views while addressing a convention at Rustam Eidgah, where Jamaat-e-Islami candidates for NA-21 and PK-55 and district and tehsil leaders also spoke. He said that the PDM government passed a law to abolish the tax on drugs, and he raised his voice against it on the Senate floor for six years. He has fought and will fight for the rights of the people.

International News

NATO's largest military exercise since Cold War kicks off

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US Navy dock landing ship Gunston Hall left port on Wednesday to mark the first movement for the largest NATO exercise since the Cold War, officials said.

jets, helicopters and drones and at least 1,100 combat vehicles including 133 tanks and 533 infantry fighting vehicles.

Some 90,000 troops from the United States and fellow NATO allied nations are due to join the Steadfast Defender 2024 drills that will run through May.

The drills will rehearse NATO's execution of its regional plans, the first defence plans the alliance has drawn up in decades, detailing how it would respond to a Russian attack.

More than 50 ships from aircraft carriers to destroyers will take part, as well as more than 80 fighter

NATO did not mention Russia by name in its announcement. But its top strategic document identifies Russia as the most significant and direct threat to NATO members' security. The exercise comes at

an important moment after Russia's invasion of Ukraine started the deadliest war on European soil in more than 70 years.

"NATO today launched its biggest military exercise since 1988 with 90,000 personnel taking part in drills across the North Atlantic and Europe," Matthias Eichenlaub, a NATO spokesperson, said on Twitter.

"The departure of the @USNavy's Gunston Hall from Norfolk marked the (official) start of #SteadfastDefender24."



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends the 19th expanded political bureau meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Aid groups call for stopping arms supply to Israel

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Sixteen international humanitarian and rights organisations on Wednesday called for a halt to weapons transfers to Israel and Palestinian armed groups in a bid to end the Gaza conflict.

of civilian life. "Israel's bombardment and siege are depriving the civilian population of the basics to survive and rendering Gaza uninhabitable," the statement added.

In a joint statement they urged United Nations member states to stop sending weapons, parts and ammunition to "stop the crisis in Gaza and avert further humanitarian catastrophe and loss

"The civilian population in Gaza faces a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented severity and scale." The Israeli aggression has led to dire shortages of food, water, fuel and medicines in the besieged territory.

Gaza officials say Israeli fire strikes a crowd waiting for aid, killing at least 20

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Gaza's Health Ministry said Israeli fire struck a crowd of people waiting for humanitarian aid at a roundabout in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 20 and wounding 150. The Israeli military says it was looking into the reports.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a strike the day before on a crowded shelter in Gaza rose to 12, with over 75 wounded, according to Thomas White.

Erdogan, eyeing more trade with Iran

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey is considering opening new border crossings with eastern neighbour Iran, President Tayyip Erdogan said late on Wednesday after talks with his Iranian counterpart, as they seek to revive sagging economic relations.

from around \$10 billion a year earlier. "The issue of opening new border gates with Iran is also on our agenda. Efforts to establish trade centres in border (areas) to increase the economic development of our border provinces continue," he said.

Erdogan, speaking at a Turkish-Iranian business council meeting alongside Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, blamed international sanctions on Tehran and the COVID pandemic for a decline in trade volumes.

Turkey, a NATO ally, and Iran currently have four border crossings between them. One of those gates, between the Gurbulak-Bazergan regions, has been under construction since 2021. "While we have left behind the pandemic, the restrictive effect of sanctions lingers," Erdogan said, adding that Turkey would not cut its economic ties with Iran because of the international measures.

Trade between Turkey and Iran peaked in 2012 at nearly \$22 billion but has since fallen. It stood at \$7.4 billion in 2023, according to Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat, down



RAFAH: Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a mosque, amid the ongoing aggression in the southern Gaza Strip.

Attacks in Nigeria's Plateau state leave at least 30 dead

Monitoring Desk
MAIDUGURI: At least 30 people have been killed and several others injured in Nigeria's central Plateau state in a series of attacks around Mangu town, despite a curfew imposed by the state government, a community spokesperson said.

The area which left at least 140 people dead. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed on Jan. 23.

Farmer-herder attacks and communal conflicts are rife in central Nigeria, an ethnically and religiously diverse hinterland known as the 'Middle Belt' where a circle of violence has claimed hundreds of lives in recent years.

A Plateau police spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the attacks which took place over two days.

The latest violence on Wednesday came after a Christmas Day attack in

The attackers targeted several villages including Kwahaslalek, Kinat and Mairana, located on the borders of Mangu and Barkin Ladi local government areas, said Joseph Gwankat, head of the community group Mwaghavul Development Association (MDA).

Nearly all US Senate Democrats back two-state solution for Israel and Palestinians

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: An overwhelming majority of President Joe Biden's fellow Democrats in the Senate on Wednesday backed a statement reiterating US support of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Forty-nine of the 51 members of the Senate Democratic caucus backed an amendment supporting a negotiated solution to the conflict that results in Israeli and Palestinian states living side by side, ensuring Israel's survival as a secure, democratic, Jewish state and fulfilling the Palestinians' "legitimate aspirations" for a state of their own.

Senator Brian Schatz introduced the measure as an amendment to an upcoming bill that would provide national security aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. "What will determine the future of Israel and Palestine is whether or not there's hope. And the two-state solution has to be that hope."

Britons should be prepared to fight a land war, says army chief

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British citizens should be prepared to fight in a potential land war, the highest ranking army officer General Patrick Sanders said on Wednesday.

The chief of the general staff said any conflict would need to be a "whole-of-nation undertaking" and that citizens should be trained and equipped to be in a state of readiness. The general's remarks come after the UK defence ministry said last year that it would cut overall numbers

Japan man gets death sentence for killing 36 in anime studio arson - NHK

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: A Japanese man was convicted and sentenced to death on Thursday for the arson and killing of 36 people at famed anime studio Kyoto Animation in 2019, public broadcaster NHK said. The deadly attack on the Kyoto-based studio, better known as KyoAni, had sent shockwaves not only through Japan where violent crime is rare.

US Navy intercepts missiles in Red Sea while escorting Maersk ships

Monitoring Desk
COPENHAGEN: Maersk said explosions nearby forced two ships operated by its US subsidiary and carrying US military supplies to turn around when they were transiting the Bab al-Mandab Strait off Yemen, accompanied by the US Navy.

A spokesperson for Yemen's Houthi military forces said they fired ballistic missiles at several US warships that were protecting two US commercial vessels.

Both commercial vessels are operated by Maersk Line, Limited (MLL), its US subsidiary that carries cargo for the Department of Defense, Department of State, USAID, and other US government agencies.

"While en route, both ships reported seeing explosions close by and the US Navy accompanied also intercepted multiple projectiles," Maersk said in a statement, adding it was sus-



ISLAMABAD: President, Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo along with a delegation of educationists from Antalya Schools Franchise System, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for special focus on development of GB's natural, human resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday citing an immense potential in tourism sector of Gilgit-Baltistan, called for a special focus on the development of human as well as natural resources of the region.

He, in a meeting with elected members of Gilgit-Baltistan Council, reiterated the resolve for GB's durable socioeconomic development.

All the election held from 1947 to-date have been stolen: Shahid Khaqan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi while declaring the three major political parties of the country as failed parties has said these parties have no solution to the problems facing the people.

"Election is sacred process and country will suffer if it is made controversial. Decision for making new party will be made after election, he said this while talking to media men outside NAB office Rawalpindi Thursday.

He held NAB and anti corruption institutions are being used for manipulation in election and politics. Election is sacred process. It will cause harm to country if it is made controversial.

He underlined Nawaz Sharif was his Quaid. However there are differences in the party. I left party due to this.

Digitizing electoral process suggested to eliminate controversies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar on "Electoral Code of Conduct: Ethical Practices of Stakeholders including Media." Thursday stressed the need the importance of enforcing election laws and digitizing the electoral process to eliminate controversies in elections.

They also stressed the importance of implementing the Code of Conduct formulated by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in collaboration with stakeholders.

It was the third seminar organized by the Press Information Department (PID) with the aim to stimulate discussions on elections and contribute to the economic advancement of the country.

ECP Spokesperson Syed Nadeem Haider, in his remarks, said that the Commission, in collaboration with the stakeholders, developed a Code of Conduct for the media, political parties, and candidates.

PM condones over demise or ex-NA Speaker Elahi Bux

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday expressed his deep grief over the death of renowned politician and former National Assembly Speaker Elahi Bux Soomro.

"Elahi Bux Soomro was a seasoned politician. His services for Pakistan's politics and parliament will always be remembered.

Highlighting its key points, he mentioned that the Code "prohibits speaking against national institutions, dissemination of hate material, discussing private individuals' lives, sets an upper limit of election expenditure at Rs 10 million for the National Assembly and Rs 4 million for provincial assembly seats, restricts wall chalking, and imposes limitations on the size of banners and pamphlets."

He said that the ECP had established multiple monitoring teams, deploying two teams in each district and constituency to oversee the Code's compliance.

"Show cause notices will be issued, and fines imposed on those violating the Code," he added.

Dr Asmat Ullah of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) said that the voters' turnout was the lowest in Pakistan from among 169 countries. He demanded strict punishment for violators of the Code of Conduct.

Dr Shahid Hussain of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) mentioned that successive governments had not brought significant changes to the people's lives. Soaring fuel prices, utility bills, and unemployment had made their lives difficult, leading to frustration among them, he added.

Dr Rooh ul Amin Khan of the International Islamic University (IIU) Islamabad highlighted that rigging allegations stemmed from insufficient infrastructure. He recommended collaboration between the Election Commission and academia to address the issue and combat misinformation often propagated through social media.

Journalist Iftikhar Sherazi suggested simplifying the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Feudalism has made inroads in country's politics: Fazal

MULTAN (APP): Jamiat-e-Ulama Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman said on Thursday that feudalism had made inroads in the country's politics and barons were voted out of fear and fright.

Addressing a ceremony here, he stated that his party had always voiced for the commoners as getting their rights was the real politics, besides safeguarding their lives and properties.

He claimed that the JUI-F had always stood for the rights of the downtrodden segments of the society and never raised "hollow slogans".

Maulana Fazl maintained that his party was trying its best for keeping peace in the country and added that the economy could not be stable without tranquility.

He regretted that Pakistan's economic growth rate had gone too much down in the last three-and-a-half years. The political forces did not have any manifesto and they were battling for power only in the country, he added.

LAHORE: Supporters of Pakistan Muslim League (N) holds party flags during inauguration of election campaign camp office of senior vice president of the PML-N Maryam Nawaz, at Singhpura, ahead of the upcoming general elections.

JUI leaders say Those plundering public exchequer wouldn't escape from their wrath

CHAMAN: The leaders of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) have stated that the people who have plundered the public exchequer and limited their resources to mere a specific area couldn't escape from the public wrath.

They said that JUI is united and would remain united in future too.

They also said that JUI is just like our combined and we consider service in it as success in the world and hereafter. The JUI leaders Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi, Maulana Mufti Muhammad Qasim, Ghousullah Achakzai, Maulana Sharifuddin, Maulana Sirajuddin, and others were addressing different gatherings of inauguration of election offices of JUI at various places in Chaman on Thursday.

Pakistan raises Ram temple issue at OIC meeting; urges UN to protect Islamic sites in India

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Reiterating its condemnation of the recent consecration of 'Ram Temple' on the demolished Babri Mosque's site, Pakistan has urged the top official for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) to play his part for the protection of Islamic sites in India, Ambassador Munir Akram told an OIC Ambassadorial meeting Wednesday.

At the meeting held at UN headquarters in New York, the Pakistani envoy shared with OIC colleagues a letter he addressed to the UNAOC High Representative, Miguel Angel Moratinos, in which he said that the event in Ayodhya marked a "disturbing rise in Hindu majoritarianism in India," according to a Pakistan Mission press release.

"The developments over the past 31 years, culminating in the recent consecration ceremony, are indicative of a disturbing rise in Hindu majoritarianism in India," Ambassador Akram said in his letter to the UNAOC head.

"This trend poses a significant threat to the social, economic, and political well-being of Indian Muslims, as well as to the harmony and peace in the region.

The letter he shared with OIC Ambassadors also said: "Regrettably, this is not an isolated incident, as other mosques, including the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and the Shahi Eidgah Mosque in Mathura, face similar threats of desecration and destruction. The statements of some Chief Ministers of Indian states have linked such actions to territorial claims against Pakistan."

Jamali takes notice of IED blast in Dera Bugti

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has taken notice of the remote control IED blast took place in Dera Bugti.

In an official statement issued here on Thursday, the Provincial Minister expressed sorrow over the injuries caused to two persons in the explosion.

The Minister directed to the concerned authorities to take strict action against those involved in the incident.

He vowed that the enemies of the people would be eliminated together with the provincial governments.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Home also condemned the incident of firing at the office of regional election commissioner Turbat.

He expressed grief over the death of a police cop in the incident.

ECP clarifies about fake Whatsapp messages, calls

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has clarified that fake Whatsapp calls and messages are being issued in the name of Election Commissioner. People should not be deceived by such messages.

It has been requested to people in a statement issued by spokesperson of ECP that to be aware of the fake Whatsapp calls and messages in the names of Election Commissioner.

In case of receiving such call, confirm by contacting the staff officer of Chief Election Commissioner on landline.

If any telephone calls and messages are received from members of EC or any senior officer then it should also be fully verified.

The officers of EC and staff have also been directed to contact staff officer of Chief Election Commissioner on landline in case of such Whatsapp calls and verify them.

Spokesperson EC further said that all the staff performing duties in EC including DRO's and RO's should not act on any calls or messages unless it is fully verified.

Under the supervision of GDA Director Environment Fazal Shahswar, Deputy Director Abdul Rahim Baloch, Assistant Director Hamal Dashti, the renovation works would be completed with the support of civil society members and other institutions, he informed. The purpose of beautifying the parks was transforming the Gwadar into a top travel destination and tourist spot which would help attract domestic and international tourists towards this part of the region. The official said that public parks would also be constructed on mod-ern lines in a bid to provide a rec-reational opportunity to the residents of these areas. The GDA would be responsible to maintain greenbelts, public parks, and playgrounds throughout the city, he said.

torial claims against Pakistan. "I am writing to seek your urgent intervention for the protection of religious sites in India. Under your esteemed leadership, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations must play a crucial role in safeguarding Islamic heritage sites and securing the rights of religious and cultural minorities in India.

"The Secretary-General has entrusted you to implement the action plan for the protection of religious sites. We urge you to expedite efforts to implement the action plan and ensure the safeguarding of religious sites in India."

The OIC Ambassadors acknowledged the importance of the issue, with some envoys mentioning the attacks on mosques in some European countries.



GWADAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inspecting complaint cell set up at DC Office

Caretaker Info Minister meets with Caretaker Interior Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister or information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Solangi, met with the Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Thursday. The Federal Minister of Information congratulated Dr. Gohar Ejaz on taking charge of the Ministry of Interior.

In the meeting, the two leaders reviewed preparations for the February 8 general elections and discussed measures to strengthen security arrangements. The government is taking all possible steps to conduct the elections in a peaceful and transparent manner, the information minister said. Gohar Ejaz said that there is full cooperation between the federal and provincial governments to strengthen the security arrangements. He said that all political parties support the government in maintaining law and order in the elections and the Law and order will be maintained during the elections.

CT CM takes notice of public complaints about clean drinking water in Gwadar

Independent Report GWADAR: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has taken notice of the hardships being faced by general public about clean drinking water in Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara and Jiwan.

The notice was taken by the caretaker Chief Minister during his visit to Gwadar on Thursday.

Mr. Domki reached the port city of Gwadar on Thursday morning to review the preparations of general elections and law and order situation besides other related issues there.

He summoned the meeting to take review of the issue of clean drinking water in Gwadar.

During the visit, the Chief Minister presided over meeting on law and order preparations and law and order situation in Gwadar.

Earlier, he was accorded warm welcome upon his arrival in Gwadar on Thursday morning.

GDA starts renovation, cleaning of parks

GWADAR (APP): The Environment Directorate of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has started work on cleaning of parks, renovating and preserving the pro-vincial horticulture.

On the direction of Director General GDA Dawood Khan Khilji, the planting of trees has also been launched in the parks located in the port city of Gwadar, an official of GDA said here on Thursday.

The GDA has taken various initiatives including the conservation of historical buildings, promotion of tourism, improvement of green belts between monuments, and roads, he said adding that plantation of trees would further improve the beautiful image.



QUETTA: Director General Punjab Forensic Science Agency Muhammad Amjad being briefed about Balochistan Forensic Science Laboratory at Home Department

SIFC resumes 2nd session of 8th Executive Committee meeting

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) resumed the 2nd session of its 8th Executive Committee Meeting on 25 January 2024. The meeting was convened to deliberate on agendas of remaining ministries.

The meeting was chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and attended by concerned Federal and Provincial Ministers and high-level government officials.

Govt paying special attention on health of new generation: DC

LASBELLA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Noor Muhammad Mandukhel on Thursday said that the current government was paying special attention to the healthy development of the new generation, especially children.

On behalf of the Ministry of Planning and Development, the project is being successfully implemented in collaboration with the Department of Health, Education and District Administration, he said.

He expressed these views while addressing the de-worming campaign ceremony at the public level under the Balochistan de-worming national program.

The Deputy Commissioner said that more than 0.2 million children of Lasbela would be given anti-worm food while a

Domki, Jamali grieved over death of Sardar Fateh Umrani

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of head of Umrani tribe and former Provincial Minister and Advisor Sardar Fateh Ali Umrani.

In a condolence statement issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of his death.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home Mir Zubair Jamali has also expressed grief over death of Sardar Fateh Ali Umrani.

Six killed several injured in road mishap

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least six people were killed and twenty others injured in a bus and van collision near Qazi Ahmed Road, Jona Mori, in Nawabshah on Thursday morning.

According to a police spokesman, the ill-fated incident occurred when a university bus turned turtle.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Health Abdullah Khan presiding over a meeting with a delegation of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination Government of Balochistan