



"Pakistan is fully alert and capable of defending itself but we want peace in the region"

Federal Information Minister
Attaullah Tarar

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Security forces kill eight terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan District

RAWALPINDI: On 5 April 24, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Dera Ismail Khan District on reported presence of terrorists. According to the statement issued by ISPR on Saturday, during the conduct of operation, after an intense fire exchange, eight terrorists were sent to hell. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces and target killing of innocent civilians. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from killed terrorists. Locals of the area appreciated the operation. Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as the security forces are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country. PR

Soldier martyred, 2 injured in KKH landslide clearance operation

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army was martyred while two others injured during clearance operation of landslide on Karakoram Highway (KKH) in Chilas on Saturday. According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), a landslide near Gonar Farm Chilas on April 04, had blocked KKH for all types of traffic. Two restore the traffic and help the stranded people, a detachment of Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) headed by Naib Subedar Khalid and two soldiers immediately reached the site and started the clearance. During the process of clearance, another slide was triggered that critically injured the detachment. The martyred soldier was identified as Naib Subedar Khalid who succumbed to the critical injuries and embraced, shahadat, whereas Sepoy Waseem and Lance Naik Azmat were recovering from serious injuries. "The nation is grateful for their service and dedication to assist people. Pakistan Army remains committed to serve the nation against all adversities," the ISPR said. PR

Two terrorists killed in N Waziristan Operation

RAWALPINDI: Two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation conducted by the security forces on Saturday in North Waziristan District. During conduct of the operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which two terrorists were killed whereas weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from them, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. "Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism," the ISPR said. PR



LAHORE: A delegation of Istanbul Grand Airport (IGA) calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. APP

Pakistan welcomes foreign investment, businesses: PM

VOM Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that Pakistan

was rapidly moving towards economic stability and they welcomed the investors and business people across the globe. He said in this regard, they were increasing public-private partnership.

A delegation of Istanbul Grand Airport (IGA) comprising board members, chief airport operating officer and chief corporate officer called on the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister expressed the desire to particularly enhance investment and partnership with the brotherly country Turkiye. He informed that steps were being taken to further improve and increase facilities for passengers at Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore airports.

Under private-public partnership, outsourcing of certain commercial operations at Islamabad International airport were being made, he said, adding transparent outsourcing at all stages was among their top priorities.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema and relevant senior officials. Turkish Counsel General in Lahore Durmus Bastug and other staff were also present.

The prime minister further said that there were huge investment and partnership opportunities in the urban development sector.

He observed that Pakistan and Turkiye were brotherly countries and their bilateral ties were growing with the passage of time. It was a ripe time for both the countries to increase their partnership, he stressed.

The delegation expressed its keen interest in investment and partnership opportunities in Pakistan.

PM arrives in Saudi Arabia on 3-day official visit



MADINA MUNAWARAH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday arrived in Saudi Arabia along with his delegation on a three-day official visit. Upon his arrival, Governor of Madina Munawarah Prince Salman Bin Sultan Al Saud received the prime minister at the airport.

PM Shehbaz Sharif will stay in Madina Munawarah and will offer prayers at Masjid e Nabwi (PBUH). The prime minister travelled on a commercial flight and during the flight mingled with the passengers.

The passengers took selfies with Premier Shehbaz Sharif and had a chat with him. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and members of the federal cabinet including Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Asif, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem Khan, Attaullah Tarar and Ahad Cheema accompanied the prime minister.

Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri-Moghaddam says they want to promote close cooperation with Pakistan in all the areas

Holds meeting with Minister for Industries & Production Rana Tanveer Hussain



ISLAMABAD: Iran has expressed interest in further importing meat, rice and other agricultural products from Pakistan. The interest was conveyed by the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri-

Moghaddam during a meeting with Minister for Industries and Production and Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad. The Iranian Ambassador said the Iranian people are fond of Pakistani kinnow. He said during the expected visit of the Iranian President to Pakistan, an MoU on livestock quarantine and plant protection is expected to be signed between the two countries. In his remarks, the Minister for Industries and Production said Pakistan and Iran enjoy strong relations and both the countries can work on industrial cooperation. The Iranian Ambassador said they want to promote close cooperation with Pakistan in all the areas. SABAH

'Pakistan will maintain its defense strong & will not allow anyone to threaten its sovereignty & security'

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch has said that Pakistan will maintain its defense strong and will not allow anyone to threaten Pakistan's sovereignty and security. Muntaz Zahra Baloch said that we have always stated that Pakistan wants to live with all countries including India peacefully and on the equality basis. In an interview with a private TV channel, Muntaz Zahra Baloch said that the statement of Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh is provocative and condemnable, adding that the statement tells that India is irresponsible country and it has no manners to live peacefully with its neighbors. Muntaz Zahra Baloch said that India has history of intervention with its neighbors in South Asia. She said that RAW has been carrying out activities in the neighboring countries and especially Pakistan remained the victim of it, adding that RAW has committed extra-judicial and extra-territorial killings in Pakistan. She said that now the Indian network of terrorism has spread in the whole world, adding that the evidences of it are present in Middle East and North America. SABAH

Naqvi directs to make sure foolproof security of foreigners, especially Chinese

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi has directed to make sure foolproof security of Chinese nationals during their stay in Pakistan stressing protection of foreigners especially Chinese citizens at all costs.

He was presiding over a meeting held at Interior Ministry on Saturday during which security of foreign nationals especially Chinese citizens was thoroughly reviewed.

The meeting was also attended by Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Agha and other senior officials of the Interior Ministry.

Mohsin Naqvi said, "We should make sure to follow the security SOPs when it comes to the security and protection of the foreigners in the



country and Chinese citizens in particular. The enemies of the state do not want Pakistan to prosper, but they are mistaken. We will not let the nefarious motives of the miscreants be successful." INP

Government taking steps to strengthen national economy: Attaullah Tarar

LAHORE: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that the incumbent government was taking all possible measures to strengthen the national economy and the economy and the industry both were showing positive signs. In a press conference at the PML-N's Secretariat here he that Bloomberg stated it clearly that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had a good experience of talking to financial institutions and bringing economic reforms.

"The previous 16-month government saved the country from default and helped stabilize the Pakistani rupee and even during the tenure of the interim government the rupee remained stable. The stability of the rupee helped stabilize the country's economy and positive news were coming with regard to the stock exchange as well," he maintained.

He said all these positive indicators were showing that business confidence had increased in the country. He said it was

very unfortunate that anti-state elements which could not digest the country's progress were stuck to their negative agenda. "Chinese engineers were attacked in Dasu and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Dasu and met Chinese engineers and expressed grief over the incident besides offering condolences," he added.

He said that Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain went to Wuhan, China, on a special flight that carried mortal remains of five Chinese personnel, who had died in the terror attack and expressed condolences with the Chinese government and officials.

He said that the PML-N government had always given importance to Pak-China friendship. He said, "After the incident, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the Chinese Embassy and met the Chinese Ambassador. The premier also visited Dasu to



boost the morale of the Chinese engineers and give a message that Pakistan gives high importance to its friendship with China." Attaullah Tarar said that the Prime Minister had presided over many meetings on Chinese security and an committee was formed for an inquiry into the Dasu incident as Chinese. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had ordered action against RPO

Hazara division, DPO Upper Kohistan district, DPO Lower Kohistan district, Dasu Hydropower Project Security Director and KP Special Security Unit Commandant in fifteen days.

The information minister that the quick action was a proof that no compromise would be tolerated on the security of the Chinese in future. He further said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was personally supervising security matters pertaining to Chinese projects and the Chinese and an effective system was being evolved in this regard.

He said, "We pay homage to all those who sacrificed their lives in war against terrorism." He said that the Pak armed forces and law enforcement agencies of the country were determined to root out terrorism and would not allow anybody to harm the country's peace.

Regarding a Guardian report on extrajudicial killings by India in different countries,

Attaullah Tarar said that today the Foreign Office had also issued a statement in which not only rejected the statement of the Indian defence minister but condemned it.

He said that the international community should also take notice of the extrajudicial killings.

He said, "Pakistan is fully alert and capable of defending itself but we want peace in the region."

He said yesterday he had visited Karachi and met journalist organizations including PBA, APNS, CPNE and problems facing the media industry were also discussed. Problems of journalists and media workers had been highlighted and pending dues of media workers and reporters would be paid prior to Eid-ul-Fitr, he added.

He said an all-out effort would be made to ensure payment of pending dues in the next two days as per the direction of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, adding that all approvals in this regard had been

completed.

He further said, "Today we would leave for a visit to Saudi Arabia along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The delegation visiting Saudi Arabia consisted of the family members of the premier besides members of the cabinet. The delegation would leave for Saudi Arabia on a commercial flight and all members of the delegation would bear their expenses and no burden would be put on the government kitty."

He said that the delegation besides him included Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Economics Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema.

He hoped that positive news related to this visit would come, adding that besides performing Umrah, special meetings were also expected.

He said being Information Minister he would keep the Pakistan media updated about the developments taking place there. APP

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Hafiza Saba Ashraf

Our FDI follies

returns in foreign currency at rates north of 20 per cent per annum as long as their projects are successful. If these projects are domestically profitable but do not generate foreign revenue or insufficient foreign revenue, profit repatriation will cause an increase in foreign indebtedness for the nation. And that is what has happened and left Pakistan where it is today.

The only way to avoid worsening our predicament is by putting a halt on further foreign-sourced investment into projects that do not directly generate enough foreign revenue to service the foreign currency needs of the particular project.

Similarly, FDI investments into loss-making state-owned enterprises (SOEs) – normally referred to as 'privatization' – if analyzed from this perspective are in fact parasitical, because they either do not generate foreign revenues or generate insufficient foreign revenue to service the foreign currency outflows that arise from the project.

Given our current foreign currency insolvency, we cannot afford the additional foreign 'debt' that will result from paying for the expensive though legitimate foreign currency dividend repatriation that will ensue thereafter as long as these projects generate profit in rupees.

Any lay reader may be puzzled why FDI – which many countries are pursuing – is not suitable for Pakistan. The answer is timing. Countries that are generating surplus foreign revenue already can afford FDI for import substitution, infrastructure and future exports. But Pakistan is at a different economic stage currently. It is already in a foreign currency deficit situation. The profit repatriation of FDI projects will exacerbate this situation.

There is a widely held view that the privatization of government-owned banks to foreign investors illustrates the success of privatization through FDI as it has resulted in more efficient and profitable banks that are avoiding bad loans. This is indeed a success as a privatization, but it is a failure as FDI. Pakistan indeed received foreign proceeds but as FDI this is really a very expensive foreign currency

loan. They appointed a board that polices a commercially objective culture, and a merit-based technocratic Pakistani management team. However, all these elements do not warrant a foreign shareholder as a prerequisite – the important element is avoiding unhealthy government interference. The successful operation of these banks generates healthy profits. However, this legitimately translates into bucket loads of foreign outflows by way of profit repatriation to foreign owners forever. In 2002 while as president I was restructuring UBL. Islamabad instructed that UBL be privatized through FDI, incredulously stating: "Let us through privatization pay expensive foreign debt with cheap foreign equity". I raised my reservations over using the FDI route to achieve this privatization and suggested a domestic route for achieving this.

However, I was informed that the decision was final as we had committed the FDI route to the World Bank as a pre-condition to a further foreign loan from them. So as a true soldier, I fulfilled my responsibility. Thereafter, I have witnessed helplessly bucket loads of profit in rupees being converted and paid out as dividends in hard currency to foreign owners and for the foreseeable future. This has spiralled the country's foreign indebtedness.

Pakistan too can pursue FDI, provided it restricts FDI to export projects that directly generate surplus foreign revenue. Even FDI into mining for export should be re-negotiated such that instead of exporting raw ore these projects are expanded to include downstream projects that maximize domestic value added before exporting. We are bursting with human resources. Why not maximize their deployment by increasing local value addition and thus maximize foreign receipts from this ore that takes millions of years to replenish?

I fully endorse the privatization of loss-making SOEs in the hope that by operating under objective commercial disciplines they become sustainable without burdening the taxpayer. However, if the projects are not generating foreign currency sur-

pluses they should be sold to domestic investors. At the time of sale, whether to local or foreign investors, the government will have to anyway replenish the past losses, after which only a viable business model assuming sound commercial disciplines will be sold.

The price of the sanitized SOE, once presented as a viable model, protected by an independent board of directors that appoints a sound management team, can be realized in the domestic capital market. I would add that on the back of the historically spiralling fiscal deficit and exploding money supply, Pakistan has a deeper domestic savings base to tap for investment appetite.

Any fear that these monopolistic projects may be bought by rich capitalists can be mitigated by restricting the size of individual shareholdings and sold to retail investors. The government should study the privatization models of such nationally strategic SOEs in other countries at times when they were experiencing balance-of-payments challenges. British Airways privatization in the 1970s is one such example. The most important benefit is that Pakistani investors become beneficiaries of the profits once materialized rather than foreigners – and Pakistan avoids foreign dividend outlays forever.

Let's pray greater wisdom prevails in our government so that it halts its current desperate chase of selling Pakistan resources short in the pursuit of short-term foreign liquidity and eliminating the fiscal deficit triggered by loss-making SOEs. If predicated on the wrong projects, FDI will leave the country further indebted and impoverished in the future.

Friends with access to the current government should strive to bring this folly to the decision-makers' attention, notwithstanding their short-term decision horizon. I would like to assume their decision is well intended but has resulted from misunderstanding the contextual situation within which Pakistan's economy finds itself.

The writer is the former president of United Bank Limited (UBL).

The FDI strategies the current government has adopted are ill-timed and can deeply harm our future economy. The nation needs to debate the tactics and approach before investments are crystallized and become irreversible.

Just look at our past to see what our experience has been by channelling the investment appetite – both domestic and international – into import substitution projects (commercial projects aimed at serving domestic demand, by processing inputs that are directly or indirectly imported), as well as domestic infrastructure and low value-added exports.

Today, bankruptcy and insolvency in terms of the country's ability to repay foreign debt stare us in the face. As we borrow more to service old debt, we are spiralling into a desperate beggar nation with an almost complete loss of sovereignty and likely loss of security.

Superficially viewed, import substitution to meet domestic demand reduces dependency on imports of finished goods so it is less taxing on our foreign reserves – and it creates domestic employment and transfer of technology. If this were true then why are we hemmed in our current foreign insolvency situation, unemployment and high poverty levels? Corruption and nepotism are contributors but are not the main drivers. If we look around, many countries are afflicted with corruption but are not insolvent and are in fact thriving. India and Indonesia are two such examples. Why?

In a word, the answer is affordability. No country can afford to borrow beyond its foreign currency earning capacity just to meet domestic demand. Simplistically viewed, foreign inward investment appears to be a noninterest-bearing receipt of foreign liquidity as we sell the family silver. In reality, though, it is the most expensive form of foreign borrowing as investors logically expect

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



In 1961 the Pakistani space program was launched and the nuclear power program was continued. Military aid from the US grew, but the country's national security was severely compromised following the exposure of U2 secret spy operations launching from Peshawar to overfly the Soviet Union in 1960. The same year Pakistan signed the Indus Waters Treaty with India in

an attempt to normalise relations.[95] Relations with China strengthened after the Sino-Indian War, with a boundary agreement being signed in 1963; this shifted the balance of the Cold War by bringing Pakistan and China closer together while loosening ties between Pakistan and the United States.[96] In 1964 the Pakistani Armed Forces

quelled a suspected pro-communist revolt in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, West Pakistan, allegedly supported by communist Afghanistan. [clarification needed] During the controversial 1965 presidential elections, Ayub Khan almost lost to Fatima Jinnah.[97] In 1965, after Pakistan went ahead with its strategic infiltration mission in Kashmir codenamed Opera-

tion Gibraltar, India declared full-scale war against Pakistan.[98] The war, which ended militarily in a stalemate, was mostly fought in the west.[99] Controversially, the East Pakistani Army did not interfere in the conflict and this caused anger in West Pakistan against East Pakistan.[100]

To be continued....

Lessons from Asia

YOUSUF NAZAR

It is wise to remember the reasoning – associated with among others, the Indian Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen – that the question of whether democracy encourages or retards development is part of a false distinction. Democracy and institutional development are part of the development and so are not to be judged as drivers of it. Some Pakistani intellectuals like Hamza Alvi attributed Pakistan's problems to an "overdeveloped state" – a legacy inherited from the colonial era. However, this was true for many countries including South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore. Taiwan was literally under martial law from 1948 to 1987. Perhaps, even that theory does not offer a sufficient explanation for Pakistan's failures.

South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia followed an authoritarian route for decades after the Second World War before moving towards democratization in the 1980s. China has been a one-party state but so has North Korea. India has been a vibrant – albeit occasionally chaotic – federal democracy since independence. Hence, it is difficult to argue whether democracy or authoritarianism alone can explain Asia's economic miracle.

Vietnam's GDP has grown by an average rate of 7.0 per cent annually in the past three decades, surpassing all its regional peers. The Southeast Asian country, with 100 million people, has been under authoritarian rule for decades. On March 21, Vietnam's government announced the resignation of its second president in as many years amid an anti-corruption drive. The position of president in Vietnam is largely ceremonial and ranks third in the country's political hierarchy. The most powerful position is that of Communist Party general secretary, a post held since 2011 by Nguyen Phu Trong, who is 79.

On March 22, the US food and drink maker PepsiCo committed to investing an additional \$400 million in Vietnam to build two new plants powered by renewable energy. The announcement came as delegations of more than 60 American companies, including PepsiCo, paid a three-day work visit to Vietnam.

Vietnam attracted around \$36.6 billion in foreign investment in 2023, a rise of 32.1 per cent year on year. In 2023, the foreign direct investments (FDI) to Vietnam came from 111 countries and regions, led by Singapore with over \$6.9 billion, accounting for 18.6 per cent of the total FDI inflow. Vietnam welcomes foreigners despite having an authoritarian political system. Socially, it has a relatively open and liberal society. Facebook is the most popular social media platform in the country. Vietnam currently offers visa-free travel to citizens of (mostly Western) 25 countries. In 2019, the tourism industry accounted for 12 per cent of the country's GDP with international tourist spending of \$12 billion. This year, Vietnam aims to welcome 18 million international tourists and generate \$33.9 billion in tourism revenue.

The lure of Vietnam for foreign investors and tourists alike is understandable. Vietnam has been a development success story. Economic reforms since the launch of Doi Moi in 1986, coupled with beneficial global trends, have helped propel Vietnam from being one of the world's poorest nations to a middle-income economy in one generation, according to the World Bank. When the 20-year Vietnam War ended in 1975, Vietnam's economy was one of the poorest in the world, and growth under the government's subsequent five-year central plans was anaemic. Since the late 1980s, its communist government has overseen a transition from a controlled economy to a more open and capitalist model. It sought help from the IMF only three times during its turbulent and violent history; the last time in 2001 for about \$400 million extended credit facility. According to Oxford Economics, a think tank, Vietnam's three decades of remarkable growth can be largely attributed to the structural reforms introduced in the late 1980s. Known as Doi Moi (or 'renovation'), the reform includes a set of policies covering agriculture, enterprises and international integration, aimed at shifting the economy away from central planning to a regulated market economy.

According to analysts at Brookings, a US think tank, Vietnam's economic rise can be explained by three main factors: "First, it embraced trade liberalization with gusto. Second, it complemented external liberalization with domestic reforms through deregulation and lowering the cost of doing business. Finally, Viet Nam invested heavily in human and physical capital, predominantly through public investments."

Vietnam's allure as an investment destination and trade partner was not solely due to the reform. Vietnam has benefited from its young and growing workforce (having a large female component) with competitive labour costs, it is strategically located along important maritime routes, and its politics are relatively stable and neutral.

Vietnam has become a major beneficiary of manufacturers' efforts to 'de-risk' their exposure to China as geopolitical tensions between Beijing and the West mount. Foreign direct investment has soared. Big names including Dell, Google, Microsoft and Apple have all shifted parts of their supply chain to the country in recent years and are looking to do more as part of a 'China plus one' strategy.

Like India, Vietnam has developed economic relations with both China and the West with a relentless and single-minded focus on its economic development and trade interests. Both India and Vietnam have been among the fastest-growing countries globally for decades despite their strikingly different political systems. Pakistan can draw a few lessons from Asian success stories.

The writer is former head of Citigroup's emerging markets investments and author of 'The Gathering Storm'.

Showbiz

Dwayne Johnson explains why he won't endorse this year's presidential race

Dwayne Johnson dishes details about not endorsing anyone in this year's presidential run

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has recently revealed he won't endorse anyone in this year's presidential elections. Speaking with Fox News, the Jumanji actor, who backed Joe Biden in 2020 elections, said, "The endorsement that I made years ago with Biden was what I thought was the best decision for me at that time." "And I thought back then, when we talked about, 'Hey, I am in this position where I have some influence, and it's my job then,'" continued the 51-year-old. Dwayne stated, "I felt like that then. 'It is my job now to exercise my influence and share with, 'This is who I am going to endorse.'" However, the Black Adam actor



explained, "Am I going to do that again this year? That answer is no." Explaining his reason, Dwayne mentioned, "I'm not going to do that, because what I realised what that caused back then was something that tears me up in my guts, back then and now, which is division. And that got me." "That takeaway, after that, months and months and months, I started to realise, like, 'Oh man, that caused an incredible amount of division in our country,'" remarked the actor. Therefore, Dwayne noted, "I realised now, going into this election, I'm not going to do that, because my goal is to bring our country together."

Tech

Meta to start labelling AI-generated content from May



Facebook and Instagram giant, Meta on Friday said it will begin labelling AI-generated content beginning this May. The company tries to reassure users and government over the risks of deepfakes. The social media juggernaut added that it will no longer remove manipulated images and audio that don't otherwise break its rules, relying instead on labeling and contextualisation, so as to not unnecessarily infringe upon freedom of speech. Tech insider websites such as The Verge also reported in February that Meta will start to

label AI-generated photos uploaded to Facebook, Instagram and Threads as the world to observe elections in many countries. According to the Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global affairs, said in an interview that machine generated content is increasingly difficult to discern from reality. On the other hand, the White House also pushed the companies to watermark the AI-generated images and videos. However, Clegg assured that Meta is developing the tools to detect synthetic images and videos. Meta is already adding watermark "Imagined with AI" to the images created with its own Imagine AI generator and will further expand this feature to various tools notably from Google, OpenAI, Microsoft, and Midjourney among others. In a blog posted in February 2024, Meta asked people to consider several things about the content generated by AI, like trust worthiness of account and unnaturalness as well.

Morning bad breath will no longer be your problem if you follow this

Morning bad breath is medically known as Halitosis, considered unpleasant state

Morning breath is a terrible way to start the day, and it gets worse if you experience it on a daily basis. Halitosis, the medical term for bad breath, can be brought on by a variety of reasons. Fortunately, there are a few methods to fight off this unpleasant state. Dr Ferakh Hamid, of Aesthetic Dental Care, told The Sun: "Bad breath, or halitosis, isn't just about what we eat. It's often caused by

poor oral hygiene — when food particles linger, bacteria build up into plaque, leading to bad breath." "It can also signal more serious dental issues like cavities or gum disease," he added. Your mouth drying out overnight is also one of the reasons you get bad breath in the morning. Dr Safia Debar, GP Executive Health at Mayo Clinic Healthcare in London, told The Sun:

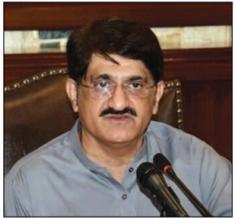
"Dry mouth can result from reduced saliva flow. Saliva helps neutralise acids, bacteria and maintain a healthy pH. If we have less saliva or if it doesn't do its job then bacteria can multiply and produce bad-smelling compounds." Additionally, your diet also plays a big role in bad breath. "Garlic is another food known to cause bad breath, and it can be smelled from our mouth

and skin. Dairy products, a lesser-known cause of bad breath, feed the naturally occurring bacteria on your tongue which produce foul odours," she said. "Poor dental hygiene means build-up of plaque, persistence of food particles between the teeth, and tongue coating which essentially changes the bacterial environment of the mouth," she added.



Health

Sindh CM sets timeline for completion of much delayed K-IV project



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah reviewing the progress of the ongoing K-IV project set a timeline for the completion of the WAPDA components of the intake structure and conduit intel chamber, which includes finishing two pumping stations along with civil, electrical, and mechanical works by September 2025. He said that he would discuss the pending augmentation project, Sindh Component, with the federal government, which has been pending since March 2022 and directed the water board to start consultancy of the augmentation works for which he would arrange the funds.

KSRelief Distributes 9,000 Food Packages to Flood Victims in GWADAR



ISLAMABAD: In a steadfast commitment to address the urgent needs of Baluchistan's recent flood-affected residents, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has successfully completed the distribution of 9,000 essential food packages across three districts in holy month of Ramadan. Among these, 8,000 food packages were distributed in Gwadar, 500 in Quetta, and 500 in the Chagai district. This initiative was launched in response to the emergency relief efforts required following flash flooding induced by recent heavy rainfall. The distribution of these food packages has provided crucial nutrition to families in dire needs and affected. Each package, weighing 97 kilograms, contains essential food items designed to sustain a family for an entire month. The contents include 80 kilograms of flour, 5 liters of cooking oil, 5 kilograms of sugar, 2 kilograms of dates, and 5 kilograms of Daal Chana. The project was executed in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), local governments, and implemented through the coordinated efforts of KSRelief and its partner organizations Bright Star and Hayat Foundation. This distribution underscores KSRelief's unwavering dedication to extending assistance to the most vulnerable populations in these districts. Approximately 63,000 individuals across these three districts are set to benefit from this humanitarian effort. — VOM Report



ISLAMABAD: An illuminated view of Faisal Masjid decorated with colourful lights in connection with Shab-e-Qadar on 27th day of Holy fasting month of Ramzanul Mubarak. APP

Pakistan, Azerbaijan vow to work jointly to boost global climate action, disaster resilience

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov called upon Secretary Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ezzaz A. Dar at the Ministry here Saturday and vowed to work jointly with Pakistan to boost global climate action and disaster resilience. The spokesperson for the Ministry in a news release, said that during the meeting, the Ambassador highlighted very close and brotherly relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, which date centuries back in history. In turn, Ezzaz A. Dar acknowledged the close ties between the people of the two countries and indicated that Pakistan was committed to further enhance the relationship with Azerbaijan, said the Ministry spokesperson. The Ambassador apprised that the Republic of Azerbaijan as host country, based on the efforts which were made at the UN-led annual global climate conference (COP28) held last year in Dubai towards the Global



Climate Agenda, aspired to hold the conference in a manner that helped in up-scaling the global climate action and upcoming COP29 would build on the momentum from the Dubai climate conference and advance the international community's collective cause in Baku, and in the process set up

Belem (COP30) for success. The Ambassador underlined that achieving significant results at COP29 would need a joint effort by all stakeholders, including countries, international organizations, international financial institutions and the private sector. Meanwhile, the Ambassador especially stressed that by the order of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, 2024 had been declared as the "Year of Solidarity for a Green World" in the Republic of Azerbaijan and hosting and presiding COP recognizes Azerbaijan's endeavours in addressing climate change not only at national, but also at regional and global scales. The Secretary assured the Ambassador of all-out support in the successful organization, conduct and negotiations at the two-week long UN-led 29th session of the Conference of the Parties set to kick off from November 11 this year at Baku, the climate change, the spokesperson told the press. The meeting ended with an exchange of souvenirs and assurances for further deeper relations between the two brotherly countries.

PM strongly condemns terrorist attack in Lakki Marwat; lauds security forces' operation in DIKhan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday strongly condemned a terrorist attack on police personnel in district Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The prime minister prayed for the high ranks of Shaheed DSP Gul Muhammad Khan, Naseem Gul, constable and others and expressed sympathies with the bereaved families, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said that KP police had been acting like a bulwark against terrorism. The cowardly terrorist activities could not shake their determination, he added. The prime minister also appreciated the security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in District Dera Ismail Khan. In a statement shared by PM Office Media Wing, the prime minister said that the brave jawans of security forces had countered terrorists without caring for their lives and sent them to hell. The security forces had given unparalleled sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, he said while expressing resolve to crush the specter of terrorism. The prime minister further said that the entire nation was paying tribute to shaheed and serving personnel of security forces.

Pakistan Army collaborates with Digital Skill Development in South Waziristan

WANA: The Pakistan Army has launched an empowering initiative aimed at enhancing digital skills and fostering employment opportunities in the region. Under this program, the fourth batch of digital skills training has commenced, spanning over a three-month period. Male and female students from various areas are actively participating in courses such as AutoCAD, video editing, freelancing, graphics designing, and creative writing. A total of 77 students have enrolled in this latest batch, contributing to the initiative's growing success. Since its inception, approximately 180 youths from South Waziristan have already benefited from these skill-building courses. In addition to providing skill development opportunities, efforts have been made to enhance the quality of education infrastructure in the region. Modern computer labs equipped with internet facilities have been established in various areas by security forces, further facilitating the learning process. The proactive measures taken by the provincial government and the Pakistan Army have been warmly received by the youth of South Waziristan. These initiatives signify a collective commitment to promoting modern sciences and nurturing talent within the region. INP

Mushaal Mullick blasts Modi for sinister plot to change demography of IIOJK

Urges world to act swiftly to foil Indian govt's nefarious settler plan

ISLAMABAD: Former Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick blasted the notorious fascist Hindutva regime for its sinister plot to change the demography of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) under its nefarious scheme to settle outsiders in the occupied valley. Mushaal Mullick, who is a wife of unlawfully incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, said that the fascist Narendra Modi-led government was hell-bent on accomplishing his notorious agenda to convert the Muslim majority into minority and to snatch the lands of Kashmiris in IIOJK in total disregard of local and international laws. She said that the blood-seeking Indian government adopted two pronged strategy to change the territory's demography, as on one hand the brutal occupation forces were given license to kill Kashmiri people ruthlessly sans any fear of accountability and on the other, settle outsiders in the region in line with its settler colonial agenda to snatch the lands of Kash-

miris. Mushaal Mullick lamented that the supremacist Indian government was committing all war crimes in the valley to crush the Kashmiri people and annihilate their identity altogether. The senior Hurriyat leader stated that lakhs of domicile certificates were issued mostly to non-locals in the scenic valley, as the occupied authorities virtually put up the territory for sale to change its demography, identity and culture aimed at altering the results of a plebiscite if it were to ever take place. Mushaal Mullick made it clear that the people of Kashmir would resist Modi's plot to change the demographic composition of the Muslim-majority region tooth and nail and would not let the notorious regime to execute its nefarious plan come what may. However, she called upon the world community and UN bodies to shun the ostrich-like attitude burying their heads in the sand and should react strongly and swiftly to foil the Indian settler plot, besides taking steps to find out permanent solution to the decades-old land dispute. SABAH

Newly elected Emir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Hafiz Naemur Rehman to take oath of his office on 18th April at Mansoorah

LAHORE: Newly elected Emir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Engineer Hafiz Naemur Rehman will take oath of his office on 18th April (Thursday) at Mansoorah. The oath taking ceremony will be held after Maghrib prayers at Jamia Masjid Mansoorah. The invitations to the guests regarding the oath taking ceremony of newly elected Emir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Engineer Hafiz Naemur Rehman have been issued by Secretary JI Ameerul Azim. According to the invitation card, the JI members, known as Rukn, have elected Hafiz Naemur Rehman as Emir JI Pakistan for the term of 2024 to 2029. It is worth mentioning here that Hafiz Naemur Rehman was elected Emir JI Pakistan on 4th April (Thursday). The announcement was made by the Head of the JI Election Commission, Rashid Naseem, along with members of the election cell during a press conference at Mansoorah SABAH



ISLAMABAD: CEO of HanGeng Trade & Yuanhua Industrial Andy Liao, calls on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, to discuss foreign investment opportunities in Gawadar and ways to expand exports.

Cm Maryam Nawaz chairs LDA review meeting to approve Development Projects in Lahore

Directs to undertake LDA'S staff monitoring



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz has directed to formulate a monitoring mechanism of the LDA staff members along with including katchi abadis in the LDA development plan on priority basis. CM chaired a review meeting of LDA projects in which the programme to transform Lahore into a sustainable smart city was reviewed. A development project was approved in the meeting to bring improvements in the road structure at a cost of rupees 06 billion along with provision of other facilities. A waiting area will be allocated for walkways, specific bicycle lane, central recreation area, wheel carts and stalls. A principal approval was granted for the Pilot Development Project in LDA Avenue 1. The LDA restructuring plan was also reviewed in the meeting and it was decided to make LDA's Strategic Policy Unit functional as well. A principal decision was taken to amend LDA rules along with introducing one window transfer and digital transformation system. A principal decision was made to establish LDA Uniformed Force along with setting up LDA police station. The proposal to make 20 roads in Lahore commercial was reviewed in the meeting. CM stated that a maximum number of corruption complaints have been reported about LDA. Maryam Nawaz directed to establish vending points for the wheel cart carriers and avoid snatching anyone's wheel cart. CM was informed during the briefing that rupees 20 billion income will be accrued due to commercialisation and a complete paperless system would be introduced in one year. The encroachments will be monitored through drone cameras. The LDA would provide standard maps of small houses on its website for the facilitation of citizens. LDA's approved model construction maps will save the precious time of citizens. CM directed LDA to launch new projects so as to increase its revenue. Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Former Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Information Minister Azma Bokhari, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary, DG LDA and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Pakistan, China to promote bilateral cooperation on legal affairs: Cheng Deyong

ISLAMABAD: A key figure in bridging legal and academic ties between China and Pakistan, Cheng Deyong, Managing Director of Pakistan ZAO Law LLP and legal advisor to the Consulate General of China in Lahore, has been appointed as the legal advisor to the Consulate General of China in Karachi with a 2-year term. "As strategic hubs for diplomatic activities between China and Pakistan, Chinese Consulates play a crucial role in facilitating communication, promoting cultural exchanges, and strengthening economic ties. I am honored to take on this role and look forward to making due contribution to the strengthening of legal ties between the two countries," said Cheng. According to Gwadar Pro, Cheng actively assisted in promoting the cooperation between the Law School of Southwest Petroleum University, Chengdu, Sichuan, China and the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at National University of Sciences and Technology



(NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan, and between Sichuan Lawyers Association and Islamabad Lawyers Association, etc. These collaborations have played a positive role in promoting the training of legal talents, legal exchanges and continuous improvement of foreign-related legal services. However, current legal cooperation between China and Pakistan is mainly based on specific business cooperation between law firms and lawyers, mainly in handling cases and specific non-litigation business. The scope of legal cooperation between China and Pakistan is insufficient to meet the economic and personnel needs of the two countries. Another most prominent challenge is the communication and understanding difficulties caused by cultural differences and differences in legal systems. To address the issue, he suggested that the two sides further strengthen

cooperation in personnel training and technical support, and promote the sharing and exchange of judicial resources. Working with lawyers and experts from Supreme Court Bar and High Court Bar in Pakistan, ZAO is building a local team of professional lawyers in Pakistan covering the practices in the country's major cities. Cheng also called on more lawyers, law schools, bar associations, arbitration bodies and other relevant departments to jointly promote Sino-Pakistani legal cooperation. "Improving the legal awareness and literacy of citizens of the two countries through organizing various publicity and education activities will inject new impetus into the development of bilateral relations. Meanwhile, the two sides can actively participate in international events such as the International Forum on the rule of law and contribute wisdom and strength to promoting the development of global rule of law," he added. INP