



No one has the right to issue a fatwa of killing related to a court decision

Federal Minister for Law and Justice
Azam Nazeer Tarar

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Price Rs 8 | Pages 4

Five terrorists killed in three separate IBOs in KP



RAWALPINDI: The Security Forces have killed five terrorists in three separate intelligence-based operations conducted on July 28 and 29 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

A joint intelligence-based operation was conducted in Mohmand District and three terrorists, including Kharji alias Qari of Fitna Al Khawarij, were successfully neutralised.

During the conduct of the operation, terrorists' hideout was also busted and a cache of arms, ammunition and explosives was recovered. However, during an intense fire exchange, Police Constable Abrar Hussain (resident of District Swabi) of KP Police, having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).

In another intelligence-based operation conducted in Dera Ismail Khan District, security forces effectively engaged terrorists' location, as a result of which Kharji Sifatullah alias Mullah Mansoor of Fitna Al Khawarij was sent to hell, while three other terrorists got injured. Kharji Sifatullah was involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area including facilitation of suicide bombing attack in Daraban on December 12, 2023 and was highly wanted by law enforcement agencies.

In a third engagement that occurred in North Waziristan District, another Kharji terrorist of Fitna Al Khawarij was sent to hell by the security forces.

"Pakistan's Security Forces stand shoulder to shoulder with other law enforcement agencies to ensure peace and stability across Pakistan and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said. PR

Govt decides to provide maximum relief to power consumers: Musadiq

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Senator Musadiq Malik on Monday said that incumbent government has decided to provide maximum relief to power consumers.

Talking to a private television channel program, he said that eighty six percent domestic consumers of electricity would enjoy relief and for this purpose, a sufficient amount had been allocated for extending subsidy to power consumers.

Besides domestic consumers, he said the subsidy has also been given to industrial sectors so that the factories could continue function without facing any difficulty.

Commenting on role of Independent Power Producers (IPPs), he said there is a need to revisit the agreements so that burden could be minimized on energy users in future.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds meeting with Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PM welcomes Pakistan's triple C plus rating by Fitch

PM commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has welcomed Pakistan's Triple C Plus rating by global credit rating agency Fitch. In a statement on Monday, he commended the hard work and efforts of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and the finance team for this achievement. The Prime Minister said the country and the nation are getting the fruits of the sacrifice of politics for the sake of the state today in the form of economic improvement. He said the international rating of triple C plus is a global recognition of the prudent economic policy of the government.

Shehbaz Sharif said his government is working day and night on the agenda of economic reforms and it will not take a backseat before delivering the dividends of this policy to the people. He said reports of Fitch and other international financial institutions are important for the economic improvement of Pakistan. The Prime Minister expressed the resolve to move forward on the path of economic improvement of Pakistan with more effort and passion. He hoped that the new IMF program would further strengthen Pakistan's efforts for economic improvement. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday commended the officers and personnel of security forces for launching successful operations against terrorists at three separate places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a statement, the prime minister said the security forces fought bravely with Khawarij terrorists in Mohmand, Dera Ismail Khan and North Waziristan areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and killed five of them. He paid tribute to Police Constable Ibrar Hussain who embraced martyrdom during fight with the Fitnah-al-Khawarij terrorists. He prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the departed soul in Jannah and to grant patience to the family members of the martyr to bear this loss with courage. The joint operation of the security forces proved that the terrorists cannot escape from the officers and soldiers who are determined to defend their homeland, the prime minister added. He said the nation stood by its security forces until the menace of terrorism was completely uprooted from the country. The entire nation, including me, pays tribute to the security forces for their unwavering determination to defend the country, he added.

Pakistan committed to Commonwealth agenda of connectivity, climate resilience: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to working with the Commonwealth to promote its agenda of connectivity, education, youth and women empowerment, and climate resilience. The deputy prime minister, addressing a joint press stakeout with Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland after their meeting, said that Pakistan was also resolved to support the initiatives aimed at strengthening and modernizing the Commonwealth to meet the 21st-century challenges, besides continuing to play an active role in building bridges among member states. He appreciated the secretary-general, who is on a five-day maiden visit here, for serving the organisation with "dedication and grace" across her eight-year term and her role in promoting the Commonwealth's values and mission and modernizing the outlook.

The deputy prime minister lauded her contribution to promoting cooperation in education, youth empowerment, capacity building, and climate action, besides supporting Pakistan after floods, particularly regarding the appointment of a climate finance advisor for Pakistan. Ishaq Dar urged the Commonwealth's role to resolve outstanding disputes among member states with greater urgency and press for implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Dar said Pakistan's vision of the regional connectivity agenda matched that of the Commonwealth. He highlighted the vast opportunities for collaboration in realizing goals in education, skills, youth and women empowerment, health, and environment preservation. He told the visiting dignitary that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was looking forward to attending the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024 scheduled to take place in Apia, Samoa in October. Dar said on the sidelines of the Commonwealth foreign ministers meeting in September, he would engage with the participating counterparts. In her remarks, Secretary-General Patricia Scotland lauded Pakistan's continued support of the Commonwealth particularly during her eight-year term.

She told the media that she was visiting Pakistan to see and celebrate the way Pakistan had arisen from the devastating floods of 2022 that had affected more than 33 million Pakistanis with two million of them lost homes and livelihoods. The secretary-general appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth principles as the organisation strived for a digitized and AI-enabled world. She said that 65% of Pakistan's population under age 30 would not just be the leaders of tomorrow but would also help the Commonwealth create a better future. To a question, Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that Pakistan continued to uphold values like peace and development through dialogue and respecting independence and sovereignty. APP

Finance Minister underscores Pak-US bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday underscored the importance of bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States.

According to press release issued by Finance Ministry, the minister was called on by the Ambassador-designate to the US, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh. The minister congratulated him on his new appointment.

He shared insights from his visit to Washington D.C. for the Spring Meetings and informed about the recent Staff Level Agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Minister also elaborated on Pakistan's economic reform agenda, focusing on key areas such as energy reforms, State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) reforms, and privatization efforts.

Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh expressed keen interest in collaborating closely with the Finance Ministry. He affirmed his commitment to showcasing Pakistan's economic reforms agenda on the international platform.

The Ambassador also conveyed his gratitude to the Finance Minister for his warm wishes and support, the statement added.



Justices Sardar Tariq, Mazhar Alam take oath as SC's ad hoc judges



ISLAMABAD: Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Chief Justice of Pakistan on Monday administered the oath of offices to Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel as Ad-hoc Judges, Supreme Court of Pakistan.

A simple and dignified oath taking ceremony was held at Supreme Court of Pakistan in this regard. The judges of apex court, Attorney General for Pakistan, members of Pakistan Bar Council, Supreme Court Bar Association, senior lawyers, law officers and officers of Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan attended the ceremony. Registrar Supreme Court of Pakistan conducted the proceedings of oath taking ceremony.

Naval Chief meets Romanian military leadership, delivers lecture at NDU, Romania

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid an official visit to Romania where he called on the military leadership and delivered a lecture at the National Defence University (NDU) of Romania.

During the visit, the Naval Chief held combined meeting with Chief of Defence Staff General Gheorghita Vlad and Chief of Romanian Navy Vice Admiral Mihai Panait onboard Romanian Navy Frigate Regina Maria, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Issues related to regional maritime security, professional matters of mutual interest and bilateral military collaboration were discussed in the meeting.

The dignitaries, while acknowledging the significance of strong bilateral military collaboration, agreed on further enhancing mutual interactions in diversified military domains. During his visit to National Defence University of Romania, the Admiral also delivered a lecture on 'Collaborative Maritime Security' in which he stressed upon the need for Collaborative Maritime Security efforts.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf underscored that Pakistan firmly believed that dialogue and negotiations were the most effective means of resolving maritime disputes. He highlighted that no single state has the capacity to create and sustain an environment with effective Maritime Security.

Pakistan Navy effectively contributes towards Collaborative Maritime Security efforts with participation in Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) led CTF-150 and 151, conduct of Regional Maritime Security Patrol and multinational maritime exercise AMAN. The recent visit of the Naval Chief will further augment and expand the bilateral defence ties between two friendly countries. PR

Information Minister condemned malicious campaign against CJP

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar here on Monday said that the state would respond to the malicious campaign against the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and no one would be allowed to decree religious notions against anyone.

The minister while condemning the act of threatening and instigating the people against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) said that the state would shield against spreading hate in the country. It is the responsibility of the state to impose laws in the country, he said adding that belief in the finality of the Prophet (SAAW) remained an essential part of Islam without which no one

could claim to be a Muslim. The minister said this in a press conference after attending a meeting with Ulema, in the Commissioner Office. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar said that Ulema had laid down many sacrifices in Pakistan.

The minister highlighted that the father of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) was a close ally of the Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He went on to say that Qazi Esa (father of CJP) and his father played an important role in affiliating Balochistan province with Pakistan. Therefore, without any research, no space could be given to any unauthen-



tic claims in the society; he said adding that the campaign against the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) was a political move which would not be allowed.

He termed the decree of maligning Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) as against law, morality and religion. Responding to media queries, the minister informed that an FIR containing terrorism and hate clauses was registered against the culprit. He said that Pakistan has condemned the Gaza massacre and voiced justice for the victims.

They have not cited the Gaza situation but they are running a malicious campaign, he said adding that Pakistan had

raised its voice for justice for Gaza against Israel's brutalities. Pakistan had sent relief goods to Gaza victims through six air sorties and three ships, he added.

Hanif Abbasi on the occasion said that Pakistan had a history of the pivotal role played by the youth regarding 'Khatam-e-Nabuwat'.

He said, "Respect and love for the Prophet SAAW being part of our faith, did not require any degree and no one could be permitted to issue 'fatwa' against anyone."

He thanked the prominent Ulema and the members of the Interfaith Harmony committee for their support in this regard. Agencies

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Social security for all

ZAMEER AHMED MALIK

The province of Sindh, characterized by its diverse economic framework, encompasses a substantial labour force integral to its industrial and service sectors. According to the most recent Labour Force Survey, Sindh's labour force comprises millions of individuals, with a significant concentration in Karachi, the economic nucleus. It is imperative to safeguard and empower this workforce to ensure the sustained economic growth and social stability of the region. In this context, the Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI) plays a pivotal role. Established over 50 years ago, SESSI is entrusted with registering labourers and ensuring their access to essential social security benefits. Despite the significant labour force size, SESSI has registered fewer than 400,000 workers across Sindh, highlighting a glaring registration gap.

Despite Karachi's status as an industrial hub, SESSI has registered fewer than 300,000 workers across the city. This figure starkly contrasts with the estimated workforce within Karachi alone. Reports from organizations such as K-Electric, which claims approximately 32,000 industrial connections in Sindh, suggest a significant registration gap. Assuming an average of 100 workers per industrial unit, millions of eligible labourers remain unregistered.

The implications of this gap are profound. SESSI's inefficiencies in registration not only deny countless labourers their rightful access to social security benefits but also hinder Sindh's broader socio-economic development agenda. Imagine the transformative impact had SESSI effectively registered these workers: millions of families could receive free healthcare, children could attend schools under the labour department's auspices without any financial burden, and the overall quality of life for the working class could significantly improve.

The contrasting success story of the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB), established just a decade ago, underscores the potential for institutional effectiveness under visionary leadership. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah's leadership has enabled the SRB to modern-

Issuance of Benazir Mazdoor Cards could serve as a beacon of hope for millions

ize revenue collection practices, leverage technology for efficiency gains, and enforce stringent compliance measures. This proactive approach has not only bolstered revenue streams but also enhanced operational transparency and accountability.

In contrast, SESSI's challenges stem from bureaucratic inertia, outdated operational frameworks, and insufficient digital infrastructure. These factors have impeded its ability to scale operations effectively, resulting in a persistent registration backlog that undermines its mandate and societal impact. To address these systemic deficiencies, SESSI urgently requires a comprehensive reform agenda. This should encompass modernizing registration processes to introduce streamlined, digital mechanisms, enhancing outreach and awareness campaigns to inform employers and labourers about SESSI's benefits and registration requirements, and instituting governance reforms to enhance accountability, transparency, and operational efficiency within SESSI.

As Karachi continues to evolve as a global economic centre, SESSI stands poised to play a pivotal role in supporting the welfare of its working population. By revitalizing its operational strategies and embracing transformative reforms, SESSI can fulfil its mandate effectively, ensuring that every eligible worker in Sindh receives the social security benefits they deserve. The time is ripe for SESSI to embark on a path of revitalization and reform. By seizing this opportunity, SESSI can transform its operational landscape, contribute to socio-economic progress, and uphold the rights and dignity of Sindh's hard-working labour force.

The issuance of Benazir Mazdoor Cards could serve as a beacon of hope for millions, providing access to essential healthcare and education, thereby paving the way for a more equitable society in Sindh.

Envisioning the future of SESSI, the potential impact of registering 3.2 million labourers in Karachi alone, and an additional two million across the rest of Sindh, cannot be overstated. This means that approximately five million families in Sindh will hold the card and could access free medical treatment without any upper limit.

The children of these families will have access to education under the labour department's care, and labourers will enjoy various cash benefits, including pensions, iddat and maternity benefits, and dowry grants. Importantly, registered labourers facing sickness will receive financial support from SESSI, ensuring economic stability during times of a health crisis.

Securing these registrations is not just about numbers; it is about transforming lives and strengthening the social fabric of Sindh. By fulfilling its mandate comprehensively, SESSI can pave the way for a more equitable society where every worker's dignity and wellbeing are prioritized, thus fostering a brighter future for all of Sindh.

The writer is a former lawyer. He tweets/posts @ZameerAMalik



Rubia Shoukat

AI in education

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force across various sectors. Among the many domains where AI is leaving an indelible mark, education stands out as one of the most promising and challenging frontiers.

AI aims to innovate teaching and learning practices, contributing significantly to the rapid progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, which focuses on providing inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities.

By acting as a 'social resource multiplier', AI assists in offering students a more personalized and efficient educational journey, thus enhancing societal development. With its potential to address some of the biggest challenges in education today, AI is poised to revolutionize the field.

Unesco is committed to supporting member states in harnessing the potential of AI to achieve its Education 2030 Agenda, which promises 'AI for all'. In its report, 'Artificial Intelligence and Education: Guidance for Policy-makers', Unesco aims to shift the conversation to include AI's role in addressing current inequalities in access to knowledge and research. It emphasizes ensuring that AI does not widen the technological divide within and between countries. The publication also affirms that the deployment of AI technologies in education should enhance human capacities, protect human rights, and facilitate effective human-machine collaboration in learning and working for sustainable development.

According to Unesco's Education 2030 Agenda, AI in education is aligned with an inclusive approach along with the involvement of gov-

ernment. Recognizing the impact of data in policy formulation, it underscores the importance of machine and human collaboration while emphasizing privacy and security in AI tools. It takes into cognizance integration of AI-related skills into school curricula and incorporation of ethical considerations, especially in technical and vocational education. It focuses on quality education, regardless of the educational background of the students while supporting trainees with learning impairment and disabilities. Unesco's agenda also advocates integration of AI skills into Information and Communication Technologies Competency Framework providing

AI aims to innovate teaching and learning practices, contributing to rapid progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goal

support to countries in training the trainers.

Critics of AI in education raise concerns about the potential dehumanization of the educational process, data privacy and biases in AI-driven tools, as well as ethical concerns and the credibility of AI-produced research. These apprehensions must be acknowledged and mitigated to ensure that AI's use in education is ethical, responsible and effective.

It is pertinent to carry out a comparative overview of distinct approaches adopted by two neighbours of Pakistan, China and India. Both nations are at the forefront of AI adoption, but their approaches differ, showcasing the adaptability of AI to diverse educational contexts. China has embraced AI in the education sector with AI-powered classrooms, with facial recognition and curricula transformation at its core, exemplifying AI's transformative potential in a nation's educational development.

Integrating AI into the education of young students is seen as a pioneering solution for how the country can nurture its future AI talent. As early

as 2017, the Chinese State Council issued the 'New Generation of Artificial Intelligence Technology Development Plan', proposing to carry out AI science popularization activities, implement national intelligent education projects, set up AI-related courses in primary and secondary schools and gradually promote programming education. In China's Guangzhou province, authorities have included AI in the annual curriculum since September 2023. China is planning to merge Human and AI through Neuromorphic Computing. India, on the other hand, is employing AI through adaptive learning platforms, personalized courses and intelligent tutoring systems. In 2015,

in the Visakhapatnam district of State of Andhra Pradesh, the government collected and analyzed data of students through an AI-based application which found predictive patterns of probable dropouts. The data revealed that thousands of students were likely to discontinue school in the academic year 2018-2019. Such experiments testify to the potential of AI acting as a catalyst in streamlining the education system and helping institutions make better decisions. In 2022, three Indian schools in Hyderabad, Bangalore and Pune incorporated AI in class activities by introducing 21 highly interactive 'Eagle Robots' to assist teachers and impart education in 30 different languages and conduct automated assessment.

In recent years, Pakistan has made significant strides in AI education through the President's Initiative on Artificial Intelligence and Computing (PIAIC). This initiative is training a new generation of AI practitioners. Pakistan has developed a national AI policy draft that consists of four pillars: (i) Enabling AI market; (ii)

Enabling AI through awareness and readiness; (iii) Building progressive and trusted environment; and (iv) Transformation and evolution.

While the document emphasizes the fundamental understanding and awareness of personal data protection and AI, it also aims to stimulate an incremental impact of AI on society from the grassroots. Therefore, the policy has given equal importance to teaching algorithms, data science and AI in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. The policy suggestions include forming a STEM education expert working committee for reviewing the National High-Tech Curriculum Draft.

To successfully leverage AI in education, it is important to emphasize collaborative efforts between educators, policymakers and AI developers. The potential of AI to revolutionize education is vast. A 'train the trainers' programme, combined with the necessary infrastructure is vital to maximize AI's application in education.

The Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Summit 2003 stated that ICT promises fundamental changes in all aspects of our lives including knowledge. AI is doing the same nowadays. Silicon Valley is the epicenter of AI advancement, collaborating with a number of national academic institutions such as MIT.

In Germany, institutes like the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems are at the forefront of AI research. To encourage and harmonize AI education and training in Pakistan, there is a need to establish AI institutes of higher learning at both federal and provincial levels on priority. The government could therefore consider establishing an AI City in Islamabad and AI universities at provincial levels. We must catch up with the others.

The writer is a research officer at the Center for International Strategic Studies, Sindh.

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



Once the investors have recovered their outlay, the facility created is transferred to the government.) Pakistan's telephone system has developed and expanded since the first years of independence. Since 1988 the government has stimulated investment in telecommunications and prompted the development of an efficient national system. Pakistan Telecommunications Company, Ltd.—originally founded in 1947 as the state-run Pakistan Posts and Telegraph Department and partly privatized in 1994—is the country's largest carrier. Despite increasing

capacity, standard telephone service is generally sparse, with only a fraction of households having a landline and rural areas generally still without any standard services. Mobile phone usage, however, has increased dramatically. Pakistani networks are connected with the outside world via satellite and by fibre-optic lines. At the beginning of the 21st century, personal computer ownership was almost nonexistent and Internet access was sparse. Since that time, however, Pakistan experienced significant growth: by the end of the decade, the proportion of house-

holds with a personal computer had grown to almost one-tenth. While Internet access through home computers remained very limited, Internet penetration in general reached about one-tenth of the population, partly due to the popularity of shared portals such as Internet cafés.

In 1947 the newly independent Pakistan consisted of two distinct parts: the smaller but more densely populated East Pakistan, centred on the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta region, and the much larger West Pakistan, occupying the northwestern portion

of the Indian subcontinent. The country's government, functioning under a modified 1935 Government of India Act, was associated with a British-inherited parliamentary system, containing a strong central government as well as governments in the several provinces that also gave it a federal form. However, in 1971, after the country had experienced more than two decades of turbulent politics, the eastern region seceded and established itself as the independent state of Bangladesh.

To be continued....

Angelina Jolie hired hitman to plan her murder at 22

Angelina Jolie opens up about dark past

Angelina Jolie has shared a harrowing chapter from her past, revealing that she once sought out a hitman to plan her own murder while struggling with suicidal thoughts.

The Oscar-winning actress is currently navigating a divorce from Brad Pitt, opened up about this dark period in her life during a 2001 interview and a 2003 discussion with The Face.

At age 22, Jolie admitted to IMDB, "This is going to sound insane but there was a time I was going to hire somebody to kill me."

She explained that she believed a murder would be less painful for her loved ones than her own suicide.

In her The Face interview, she further detailed how finding a hitman in New York was not as difficult as one might think.

Reflecting on this dark chapter, the actress recounted how she believed



that a murder would spare her loved ones from the guilt of her suicide. In her revealing account, Jolie explained to IMDB that she considered orchestrating her death as a "robbery" so her family wouldn't feel responsible.

She even planned to withdraw cash over time to avoid leaving a large sum in her bank account for the hitman.

However, the assassin's response was unexpectedly compassionate. She recalled, "He was a decent enough person and asked if I could think about it and call him again in two months." By 2011, Jolie hinted at these darker times in an interview with 60 Minutes, stating, "I went through heavier, darker times and I survived them. I didn't die young, so I'm very lucky." She admitted, "I was not a very stable woman. In fact, I never thought I could be anyone's mom."

World's largest quake early warning network launched by China

China has successfully completed its National Earthquake Early Warning Project, unveiling the world's largest earthquake early warning network, the China Earthquake Administration (CEA) said on Friday.

The project, through the deployment of 15,899 monitoring stations across the country, will provide the public with earthquake early warning service and rapid earthquake intensity reporting service, Yin Chaomin, vice head of the administration, said at a press conference. Earlier warnings issued by the project can reach the public through TV, IPTV, mobile APPs such as WeChat and Alipay, as well as loudspeakers in villages, according to Yin.

Earthquake early warning relies on a dense network of seismic monitoring stations to issue alerts before destructive seismic waves arrive. It takes advantage of the fact that seismic waves travel significantly slower than electromagnetic waves. The public can take precautionary measures

to reduce casualties, after receiving warnings a few seconds to tens of seconds before the arrival of the seismic waves.

According to Yin, through the project, China made significant breakthroughs in the core technologies of earthquake early warning and rapid intensity reporting, and the overall performance of the system is comparable to international advanced standard.

For the five critical zones including north China and coast areas of southeast China, the project can issue early warning signals within seconds of an earthquake. It can also report the intensity of any earthquake that occurred in any part of China within minutes.

The project can detect an earthquake with a magnitude of 2.5 or above for most parts of the country. In the eastern regions, it can detect any earthquake with a magnitude of 2.0 or above. In densely populated areas like the capital circle and the Yangtze River Delta, any earthquake with a magnitude of 1.0 or above will be detected by the project.

Veganism could 'reverse biological ageing'

A vegan diet may reduce a person's biological age, research suggests. After eight weeks of a plant-based diet, there were also decreases in the ages of the heart, hormone, liver and inflammatory and metabolic systems, the study found. However, these changes were not seen in those whose diet included meat, eggs and dairy.

Those who ate a vegan diet also lost two kilograms more on average than those who did not, due to them consuming 200 fewer calories through the meals provided during the initial four weeks of the study.

The weight loss could have contributed to the observed differences in biological age between both groups.

Some experts suggest that long-term, a vegan diet may result in nutritional deficiencies and may not

suit all ages, while others say the differences could have been down to the weight loss. The findings are based on a small study of 21 pairs of identical twins aged 39. One sibling ate a vegan diet, while the other ate an omnivorous diet, which included between 170 and 225 grams of meat, one egg, and 1.5 servings of dairy each day. Participants had an average body mass index (BMI) of 26 kilos per metre squared and 77 per cent of them were women.

For the first four weeks of the study, participants ate meals that had been prepared for them and for the second four weeks, participants ate meals that they had prepared themselves, after receiving nutrition classes.

The researchers investigated the impacts of diet on levels of DNA methylation by analysing blood samples collected from participants at the outset,

week four and week eight of the study.

By the end of the study, the researchers observed decreases in biological age estimations based on levels of DNA methylation – a type of chemical modification of DNA that is used to estimate biological age. Biological ageing refers to the decline in the functioning of tissues and cells in the body, as opposed to chronological age.

Previous research has reported that increased DNA methylation levels are associated with ageing. However, Varun Dwaraka, of epigenetic testing company TruDiagnostic Inc, and Christopher Gardner of Stanford University, California, said it is unclear how much the differences between the pairs can be attributed to diet. Further research is needed to investigate the relationship between diet, weight and ageing, as well as the long-term effects of vegan diets, they add.



Health

Soldier killed, 16 injured as violent mob assaults security forces' personnel in Gwadar

RAWALPINDI: A violent mob in the garb of so called Baloch Raji Muchi assaulted Security Forces' personnel employed for security duties in Gwadar district that resulted in the martyrdom of a soldier and left an officer and 16 others injured during unprovoked assaults. The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Shabbir Baloch (Age: 30 years; resident of District Sibi), who embraced shahadat, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

While on the other hand, fake and malicious propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to gain sympathy and support for the unlawful violent march, it said. "Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations. The violent actions of the mob are unacceptable and those responsible will be brought to justice," the ISPR said.

All citizens were urged not to fall prey to the propaganda, remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining public safety and order, it added. "Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace and stability of Balochistan," the ISPR said. PR

We have to move forward with latest tech, artificial intelligence: Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

KARACHI: The Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, on Monday said we have to move forward by equipping ourselves with modern technology and artificial intelligence. He said that our all-time tested friend China invested at right time in right place and took its poor people out of poverty level.

While addressing a cheque distribution ceremony of Nursing and Arts and Culture Students by Pakistan Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) at National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), he said that our region was developing in spite of the more population in our neighboring countries. He said that they did not make the population a liability, but made it their asset and China was the best example of it. The Education Minister said that the youth of the country were our assets. Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that NAPA was an institution for the promotion of intellectual freedom and art. He said that the students were important to us. He further said that most of the countries had high population level, but there was innovation in these countries and those countries needed our manpower. Later, he distributed cheques. APP

Robust plan must to showcase Pakistan's resilience-building initiatives at COP29: Romina



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said that all-out efforts would be taken to project Pakistan's climate vulnerability and resilience-building measures in different socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture, water, energy, health, education and gender. Chairing the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on the 29th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 29) here on Monday, she urged the meeting participants to come with a concrete plan in close coordination with relevant federal and provincial departments to showcase Pakistan's resilience-building initiatives being implemented by federal government and provinces. The meeting focused on preparations for the country's active participation in the upcoming COP29, a UN-led annual global climate summit, which is scheduled to kick off from 11 to 22 November 2024 at Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. "We must come up with a

well-thought out plan to showcase the country's resilience-building measures with own resources and highlight the finance, technology and capacity-building needs to strengthen further the country's resilience against myriad climate risks through adaptation and mitigation measures," she urged the meeting participants.

She pointed out that global community is very much cognisant of the fact that Pakistan is among the few countries most affected by climate change, facing climate change-caused challenges like recurring and intensifying flooding, heatwaves and shifting monsoon patterns. "But, there is pressing need for the country to emphasise the need for financial and technical support needed to cope with these vulnerabilities, protect lives and livelihoods of the communities and socio-economic sectors," Romina Khurshid Alam Suggested. She emphasized that Pakistan has been vocal about the importance of adaptation strategies in resilience building against various fallouts of the climate change. Given the reason, the country has put forward proposals for increased support to enhance resilience in vulnerable communities and sectors, such as agriculture and water management with increased focus on adaptation measures in the resource-poor countries like Pakistan. APP

We Are Committed to Make Punjab Biggest Digital Hub of South Asia, says CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif



LAHORE: "All possible measures are being taken to eliminate environmental pollution in Punjab," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with British High Commissioner in Pakistan H.E. Jane Marriott to discuss promotion of mutual cooperation in education, health and other sectors. She added, "We are providing solar panels to people for economic relief." She highlighted, "Solarization project will be started in Punjab from August 14." Madam Chief Minister said, "Transparency and merit will be ensured in the bidding of solar panel project." She added, "British companies

are welcomed to participate in the project." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif briefed British High Commissioner H.E. Jane Marriott, "We are taking all possible measures for the protection of women and children in Punjab." She apprised H.E. Jane Marriott about the establishment of first Virtual Women Police Station and Virtual Child Safety Center in Punjab. The British High Commissioner appreciated the implementation of Sikh Marriage Act in Punjab, and termed Child Marriage Bill as an exemplary initiative of the Punjab Government. She said, "Punjab government is taking unique and historic steps for the protection of women and children." Madam Chief Minister commended the welfare services of Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office in Punjab. Senator Pervaiz Rashid and Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb attended the meeting. Additional Secretary Sara Hayat, Head of British High Commission Lahore Office Clara Strandhoj and other relevant officers were also present. PR



LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren.

President Zardari for enhanced representation of women, minorities in govt jobs

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday called for greater representation of women and minorities in government jobs to enhance their inclusion in the mainstream of society.

The president, talking to a delegation of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), led by the senior member Akbar Hussain Durrani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said that the Commission should find ways and means to further improve the civil service recruitment process to select the right person for the right job, according to a President House press release.

He said that Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) had an important responsibility of recruiting civil servants to improve service delivery and promote good governance in the country.

He urged the need to make the recruitment process more efficient and transparent by adopting modern technology and new methods, particularly computerized testing, that would help in the selection of qualified and efficient civil servants.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that candidates securing high marks during the writ-



ten examination should be fairly evaluated. Akbar Hussain Durrani briefed the president about the role and function of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) in recruiting government servants.

He also highlighted certain issues being faced by the Commission. President Zardari assured the delegation of his support and guidance in the resolution of problems and improving the recruitment system.

Gilani expresses govt's desire to expand bilateral relations with UK

LONDON: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday said that Pakistan greatly values its bilateral relations with United Kingdom (UK) and desires to further expand the bilateral relations to new levels for mutual benefit.

The Chairman Senate expressed these views in a meeting here with Speaker of the House of Commons Lindsay Hoyle during his visit to the UK. The Chairman Senate, along with a delegation of Senators, is visiting UK to explore opportunities for further strengthening bilateral, multilateral and institutional cooperation in diverse sectors.

Chairman Senate was accompanied by Senators Agha Shahzeb Durrani, Faisal Salim Rehman, Ashraf Ali Jatoi and Members of the National Assembly, Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani and Syed Qasim Ali Gilani. In his opening remarks, the Chairman Senate highlighted the historical and cultural ties that both sides have enjoyed since long and said that the historical bond between the two has paved the way for deepening political, diplomatic, economic ties and people to people contacts. APP

Commerce Minister reviews regional trade trends, explores new markets



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday chaired a meeting to review Pakistan's current trade relations with international partners and explore new export markets. The meeting was attended by Federal Secretary for Commerce Jawad Paul and Joint Secretaries from various wings of the ministry, said a news release.

The meeting provided a comprehensive overview of ongoing trade activities and volumes with different countries.

Jam Kamal emphasized leveraging Pakistan's natural assets, including mining, minerals, agro-products, gems, and fisheries, to increase

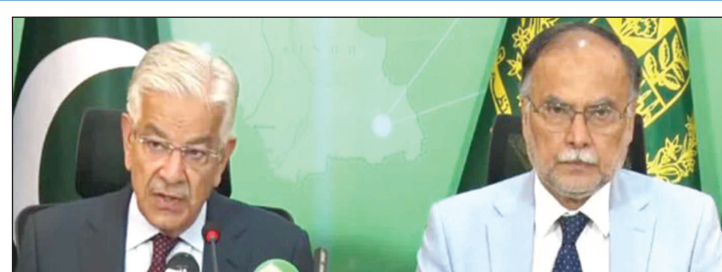
exports. He stressed the importance of specializing in these sectors rather than diversifying into less impactful areas. Discussions covered market access, trade promotion, and relations with regional and global partners. The minister was updated on the status of existing trade agreements and the country's export profile. Potential new markets and connectivity issues were also key points of discussion. The minister recommended opening new trade missions in regions with significant trade potential. He highlighted the need for strategies to enhance exports, noting that while Pakistan has a trade surplus with the EU, UK, and the United States, trade volume with China remains the highest. He also observed that export potential to Afghanistan and Central Asian countries could be significantly increased by addressing political and connectivity challenges.

TLP vice emir 'arrested' for inciting violence against CJP Isa

State will not allow anyone to issue a fatwa calling for anyone's murder, says defence minister

LAHORE: Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) Vice Emir Pir Zaheerul Hasan Shah, who had gone in hiding in Okara, has been arrested after being booked for inciting violence against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, sources told media on Monday. Shah's arrest comes after a case was lodged against him for a speech made during a protest rally outside the Lahore Press Club during a demonstration against the SC verdict in the Mubarak Sani case.

The case was lodged in Lahore's Qila Gujjar Sing police station on behalf of Station House Officer (SHO) Hammad Hussain against the TLP leader and 1,500 party workers for issuing death threats to the chief justice. The FIR includes provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and those related to spreading religious hatred and anarchy, pressuring and threatening the higher judiciary, interference in state affairs, obstructing in performance of legal duties and others. It is to be noted that apart from TLP, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Sami (JUI-S),



Mili Yakjehti Council Pakistan (MYC) and Wafaqul Madaris-ul-Arabiya (WMA) have also voiced their opposition to the apex court's verdict in the said case. The opposition comes despite the clarification issued by the apex court on Friday which said that the court's verdict clearly states that no one can be a Muslim without having faith in the finality of prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). 'State won't allow fatwas calling for murder' Earlier in the day, the federal government announced that it won't allow malicious propaganda against the CJP and will take strict action against those

responsible for it. "The state will not allow anyone to issue a fatwa calling for someone's murder," Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said in a press conference in Islamabad. Flanked by Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal, the defence minister, while referring to the propaganda campaign hurled against the chief justice following the SC verdict in the Mubarak Sani case, said that an attempt is being made to use religion for bloodshed for vested political interests. "There has been malicious propaganda about the chief justice and he has been targeted for a long time," said the federal minister.

He said that an attempt is being made to silence a voice which has set a tradition of speaking truth, reiterating that the law will take its course.

Asif further said that the state will now take action because CJP Isa has been targeted for a long time, adding that baseless accusations cannot be made against someone.

"There should be supremacy of Constitution in the country and justice should prevail. [The state] will not accept dictation aimed towards securing personal interests in the name of politics," he added.

The defence minister claimed that campaigns are launched against CJP Isa if a verdict is announced in someone's favour. "This trend should end," he maintained. Asif stressed that the state cannot allow anyone to issue a fatwa to kill someone.

Meanwhile, terming the threats to the CJP as a "rebellion" against the country's Constitution, Planning Minister Iqbal said that no group is allowed to issue fatwas to kill someone.

Pak- Indonesia \$4.5 bln bilateral trade less than its potential; needs to be further increased: Rahmat Hindiarta

QUETTA: Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma on Monday said that the current annual bilateral trade between Pakistan and Indonesia is \$4.5 billion, which is much less than its potential and needs to be further increased.

"In Pakistan, economic diplomacy and people to people contact is the main priority of the Indonesian government and our visit to Balochistan is a part of this agenda," Charge d'Affaires said during his visit to Quetta Press Club here.

President, QPC along with senior journalists received the Indonesian delegation.

Talking to the media, the Indonesian top diplomat said, during his visit to Quetta, he came to know the real potential of the country that lies in the province of Balochistan. "If explored, this could prove to be an important factor in the mutual relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

He said that his visit to Balochistan is a part of economic diplomacy, which aims to increase relations and links with the local business community and the private sector.

Apart from visiting the press club, he said, I have visited the local markets for people to contact people, that increased his knowledge about the local culture.

"We have invited the business community of Balochistan to participate in the trade expo to be held in Indonesia in October, Mr Rahmat said adding that this trade expo is one of the biggest business activities in the world in which businesses from 116 countries will participate.

To a question, Indonesian diplomat said, there are 400 Pakistani students studying in Indonesia on scholarship and the government is mulling over to increase the number of students in future.

In response to another question, he said that there are ample opportunities for students of Balochistan to study in Indonesia and get scholarships.

He said that Indonesia is an emerging economy where there are opportunities for Pakistani businessmen and efforts are being made on both sides in this regard. He said that Indonesia and Pakistan are bound in historical religious and cultural ties and so are our economic and trade relations.

Recalling the historic bond shared by both countries, he said the founders of both countries, Ahmad Sukarno, the founder of Indonesia, and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, were very good friends, and during their time, the foundation of the relationship between the two countries was very strong.

"We need to transfer this legacy to the younger generation; Charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia said hoping that it will strengthen the relations between the two countries. Stressing the need for strengthening the bilateral ties between two brotherly Islamic countries, he remarked "the media of both countries should play their pivotal role for the strengthening of mutual relations". APP