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Ex PM to remain in jail for 'cypher' hearing

IHC suspends Imran Khan's sentence in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): court considers that the peaccused, the decision of the expressed its displeasure on The Islamabad High Court titioner is entitled to sus- trial court of August 5 "is (IHC) on Tuesday suspended the imprisonment sentence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana criminal case and ordered to release him on bail.

The two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, in their eight-page judgment reserved on Monday and issued today, also ordered the former prime minister to submit surety bonds of Rs 100,000 to avail the bail.

The judgment said,"As the sentence given in the case is of short duration, the

pension of sentence and re- suspended and the petilease on bail. The trial court's sentence of 3 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs100,000 is suspended."

It further stated that the trial court pronounced the sentence on the complaint of the Election Commission of Pakistan under the Elec-

The Supreme Court's Qaim Ali Shah case reference was also included in the written decision. It said that the top court had declared that it was the high court's discretion to grant or deny

The order also said that by accepting the plea of the tioner should be released on bail on filing a bond worth Rs100,000

The IHC said the jurisdiction of the trial court and other issues for consideration were not being determined in the order. The respondents had given detailed arguments on these issues, but they would be decided in the main appeal.

The court also gave a reference of the order of the Supreme Court in an appeal against the suspension of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's sentence in the Avenfield property case. It said that the top court had issuing lengthy orders in decisions pertaining to the suspension of the sentences. Additional District and

Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar had announced a three-year jail term along with fine of Rs 100,000 to the former prime minister in the Toshakhana criminal case lodged by the Election Commission of Pakistan. INP adds: Imran's legal

team filed a fresh petition in the IHC seeking directives to refrain authorities from further "illegal and unjustified arrest" of the former premier in any case filed against him after August 5, when he was convicted in



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Baloc histan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki being briefed by UAE Consul General Bakheet AteeqAl-Remeithi about Facilitation Desk in the UAE Consulate

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Balochistan comprising Sardar Aslam Bizenjo, Mir Khalid Langu, Mir Asim Kurd Gailo and Mir Waleed Bizenjo meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad

<u>Delegation of Minorities Commission meets:</u>

Governor calls for working together to ensure equal rights for all citizens

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar stresses need to promote harmony and unity among different languages and civilizations as world has turned into global village

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul don't make friendship or Wali Khan Kakar has stated enmity on the basis of personalities of the society. that the constitution of Pa- colour, cast or creed. equal rights as well as religious freedom to all inhabitants of the country. It is also the Constitution which is guarantor of expression of opinion of all. Therefore, we have to work together to ensure equal rights for all citizens instead of representing any minority or majority.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to a delegation, who called on him under leadership of National Minorities Commission, Sham Lal Lasi, here at the Governor

House on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said

He said that it gives him utmost pleasure that there are representatives of all minorities including Hindu, Christian, Sikh, Parsis, Kailash and others in the Minorities Commission.

He stressed the need to promote brotherhood, religious harmony, mutual respect and understanding among all in order to make the country and province hub of peace.

Meanwhile, speaking to a delegation of Pashto Academy who called on him under leadership of its President, Sohail Jaffar, the Governor said that it is duty of the research centers and literary academies to take

that subordinate court

should not do this then it

He went on to say moni

toring judge was appointed

to ensure conviction of

Nawaz Sharif and Chief

Justice himself became

monitoring judge to save the

tem will be written in black

justice system hurting the

the one who has sold out

watch. If thief and state ter-

rorist is facilitated then the

justice will be administered

justice is not acceptable.

chapter of history.

This role of justice sys

He said tilting scale and

Law is helpless before

should do what.



QUETTA: Members of Central Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan holding protest demonstration against inflated electricity bills, at Mannan Chowk

Shahbaz Sharif says:

Conviction of darling suspended, not abolished

(Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said the conviction of the darling has been suspended and has not been abolished.

He said this in a statement while reacting to suspension of PTI chairman sentence in Toshakhana case. He went on to say that message of 'good to see you and wishing you good luck reached Islamabad High Court.

If every one knows what will be decision before the announcement of decision then it should be matter of grave concern for justice system.

If clear message is re- to common man from ceived from superior court where.

that we have learnt from our vation of the achievements political elders that we

Balochistan delegation praises PM's efforts for

concrete steps for preser-

and sacrifices of the other-

wise neglected parts and

has turned into a global vil-

lage and so we need to pro-

mote harmony and unity

among different languages

benefit from the experi-

ences and civilizations of

the developed countries

and learning international

languages, adding he

egation apprised the Gov-

ernor about the issues be-

ing faced by the Pashto

Academy. They also sought

the role of Governor for in-

creasing the grant for the

Academy and land for its

The members of del-

and civilizations.

stressed

He said that the world

We should also take

restoring economy ISLAMABAD (APP); A delegation from Balochistan comprising Sardar Aslam Bizenjo, Mir Khalid Langu, Mir Asim Kurd Gello and Mir Waleed Bizenjo called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad on Tuesday.

They paid tribute to the Prime Minister for his efforts to restore economy and promote inter-faith

harmony in the country. Meanwhile Head of South and Central Asia Voice of America, Ayesha Tanzeem called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad on

Three killed, two injured in firing on vehicle **Jaffarabad**

JAFFARABAD (INP) Three people were killed and two others injured which armed men opened firing on vehicle at the National Highway on Tuesday. Police said that gunmen sprayed bullets at Quetta bound vehicle coming from Karachi. As a result of firing three people of Marri tribe, hailing from Rojhan Jamali were killed while two sustained bullet

wounds

SLAMABAD (Online): for the month of July was The Caretaker government reviewed.

According to the sources, the Ministry of could not give any relief to the people who came out on the streets against the Finance took a stand in the increase in electricity bills. meeting that it is not pos-The federal cabinet meeting was held last day sible to provide relief to the people in the form of subsidy on electricity due to the IMF agreement.
The Energy Division

under the chairmanship of caretaker prime minister Anwarul Haq Kakar. Owing to the terms and presented various options conditions of the IMF to provide relief to the agreement, a decision could people in the cabinet meetnot be taken to provide reing. According to the lief in bills to consumers in sources, it was agreed in the the form of subsidy. meeting that the bills will It has been decided to be collected in installments

Cabinet unable to

decide on relief in bills

collect dues in six installments from the consumers using up to 400 units of electricity after IMF's consent. In the meeting, the possible relief in electricity bills IMF.

up to 400 units of electricity, but this will be possible

during the next six months

from the consumers using

Govt meddling in judiciary affairs, says CJP Bandial

ISLAMABAD (INP): Attorney General admit Chief Justice of Pakistan ted to flaws in the Act. Umar Ata Bandial on Practice and Procedure Act.

The remarks were made during the hearing of tion against the NAB Act, no action has been amendments, in which the taken.

The chief justice also

Tuesday expressed con- referred to previous court cerns over attempts to orders related to the Act, meddle in the judiciary stating that the Attorney through further appeals General had informed in the Supreme Court about the Review of Orders and Judgments Act on June 1.

However, despite assurances that the assemthe PTI chairman's peti-bly would review the



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Khan Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan

Shares video on his social media account: CM Domki thanks Caretaker PM for efforts on Pinjra Bridge

Terms start of work on construction of Pinjra bridge in Bolan an important progress Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan

Khan Domki has described the start of work on the construction of Pinjra bridge in Bolan as an important development and a big good news for the people of area. The caretaker Chief Minister also shared the video of initiation of workon the Pinjra bridge on his social media

account, Twitter. He said that as the work has been started on the construction of Pinjra bridge, it is an important development and good news for the people of area, for we are thankful to the caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq

He said that we are thankful to the Prime Minister whose personal interest worked and it could be made

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki hoped that the National Highway Authoritywould complete the project at the ear

It may be mentioned here that the caretaker Prime Minister had taken notice of the damaged Pinjra bridge during his visit to Quetta and directed the concerned au thorities to start work on it.

Special JIT formed over smear campaign against IHC CJ

The Ministry of Interior on Tuesday evening notified a four-member special Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe the "malicious campaign on social media" against Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Amir

Farooq. The JIT, headed by the Director Cyber Crime of Federal Investigation Agency, would comprise one representative each of Inter Services Intelligence Intelligence Bureau, and Islamabad Capital Territory

Domki inaugurates Madadgar Desk in UAE Consulate:

Caretaker CM & UAE Consul General agree on establishing coordination between business community

Mir Ali Mardan Domki points out towards great potential of investment in different sectors in Balochistan; Bakheet AteeqAl-Remeithi shows deep interest saying UAE investors to be motivated to invest in province

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki visited the consulate of United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Karachi on Tues-

During the visit, he in-augurated the Facilitation Desk in the UAE Consulate. Upon his arrival in the Consulate, the UAE Consul General based in Karachi, Bakheet AteeqAl-

Remeithi warmly wel-comed the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan. While briefing the care-

China, Pakistan hold joint air force training exercise

and Pakistan kicked off a joint air force training exercise within Chinese territory as part of efforts to further boost training and coordination between the two militaries and deepen their exchange and cooperation on military technol-

Codenamed "Shaheen (Eagle) - X," it is the 10th joint training exercise between the Chinese and Pakistani air forces.

The exercise will focus on training in typical combat scenarios such as io int air defense and joint coun-termeasures, CGTN reported on Tuesday.

The two sides will send fighters, early warning aircraft and several other types of aircraft, as well as ground forces such as ground-to-air missiles and radar and signal troops to participate in the exercise. Chinese naval aviation units will also be involved in the training.
The "Shaheen (Eagle)"

series between the two countries started in March

taker Chief Minister, the counter in the UAE Con-

Consul General UAE said that the objective behind establishing Happiness Desk in the Consulate is to provide via and other necessary facilities to the Pakistani people. He said that it would

also provide assistance to the Pakistani business community doing business in UAE and in promotion of the joint ventures of investment there.

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on the occasion expressed pleasure over es-

sulate. He said that the counter is an important progress for promotion of mutual rela-

tions between the two brotherly countries. Meanwhile, there was also a formal meeting be-tween the caretaker Chief Minister and Consul Gen-

eral of UAE. During the course of meeting, the matters were discussed pertaining to boost the investment of UAE in Balochistan and promotion of mutual coop-



ISLAMABAD: DGAnti-Narcotics Force Major General Muhammad Aniq Ur Rehman Malik calls on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior and Anti-Narcotics Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti.

DG, ANF briefs Interior Minister on narcotics control

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (DG) Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Major General Aneeq ur Rehman Malik Tuesday brief caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Buti regarding efforts being made for narcotics control.

All departments will have to work together to save the nation from the curse of drugs, the minister said adding the role of ANF in this regard was very im-

He appreciated the re-

arrests of drug peddlers along with recovery of drugs from their possession.

The minister also di-

rected to take strict action

against those involved in

drugs business. He said Pakistan would be made a drug free country while the young generation to be protected from the menace for healthy so-

Sarfraz Bugti said the government would provide all kind of support in that

ECP assures to hold free, fair polls as per constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan has assured to hold the upcoming elections peacefully and impartially as per Constitution and the law. Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja gave this assurance,

while chairing two sepameetings Islamabad on Tuesday. The meetings were

aimed at reviewing the preparations regarding the upcoming general elections in the country. **Members of the Elec-**

tion Commission, Secreings.

tary ECP, Chief Secretary Sindh, IG Sindh, Secretary Balochistan, Balochistan, Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh and Balochistan. and other senior officers of ECP attended the meet-



OUETTA: Iranian Consul General Hassan Darvishvind meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Muhammad Achakzai

Daily Soice of Masse, Independent

Wedesday August 30, 2023

Sutlej floods

Climate change-related devastation seems to have become such an ordinary feature of our news cycle that it does not appear to be arousing the same level of angst as our more ephemeral problems do. media. It praised the local With national attention focused more on political and economic challenges, widespread devastation continues in Punjab along the Sutlej, which has swelled manifold to reportedly its highest level in 35 years, inundating vast areas along its banks. The flooding was triggered by the flow doing a lot more than just of large volumes of water into Pakistan from India, where heavy monsoons in the north of the country — rainfall was reported as almost three times the norm in the Ladakh region, for example — have fed the river and forced it to spill its banks. Satellite images captured by Nasa's Earth Observatory depict a huge level of flooding in both countries, with before and after images of the Sutlei taken around mid-June and mid-August showing how radically the landscape has changed in a very short while.

With hundreds of thousands of citizens already relocated, efforts to secure af- its first summit in 2009. fected populations and move | South Africa was accepted them to safer lands are still ongoing. Thankfully, the authorities have been proactive in their rescue operations, managing to move thousands of residents and livestock from hundreds of settlements in the fertile plains alongside the the further expansion of Indus's easternmost tributary to safer locations before there could be any major loss of life. The Punjab relief commissioner believes life will be back expressed interest in joining BRICS, while about 20 to normal "soon", and the people will eventually be able to return to their homes, but that is unlikely to be the end of this episode. Vast tracts of cropland have been submerged, and their produce may be destroyed by the time the waters recede. There will also be new health challenges in the affected areas arising from waterborne diseases, which will require timely action by the provincial authori-

Within a year of 2022's catastrophic monsoon and the floods that followed, we are witnessing a rerun of the disasters wrought on our lands by climate change. The locus may have shifted to another geographical area, but the worst effects of the damage done to the global environment by developed nations are desecration of churches and again being faced by the vul- the homes of its minority nerable populations of the Global South. With COP28 just a few months away, Pakistan, had to live their lives in fear India and all other nations bearing the brunt of climate disaster must join forces and seek the operationalisation of crimes—because their exthe agreement to compensate stence is seen as hampercountries for loss and damage some in the mob. arising from climate change, which was reached at the conference last year. Key issues like who is to pay, who will benefit, and what amount will be allocated to the loss and mere allegation was enough damage fund have yet to be to condemn thousands of decided, and, with time already having run out for the lit forced them to spend the people of the subcontinent, the matter needs urgent attention.

'For want of a nail...



Arifa Noor

Last week, after the daylong high drama surrounding the cable chair rescue, a press release from the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan began doing the rounds on social residents who were part of the rescue mission, and announced a cash award for

So bizarre is the press release that people such as myself thought it was fake. However, since then, I have spoken to journalists who cover these issues and they confirm it is genuine. In fact, colleagues point out that the TTP in its present 'reincarnation' seems to be a enjoying the sophisticated weaponry left behind by the Western forces during their quick exit from Afhas also learnt the impor-

tance of winning over the threat the TTP can pose, public and are now trying to 'craft' a social agenda. Apparently, it even released a statement on the migrants' ship that went down. (Those familiar with the issue say the group is trying to emulate the Af-Taliban organisational matters and reaching out to the populace).

So far, there is little indication they are making any headway in winning over the people. However. this may change, as discontent in the province is growing due to several reasons. according to those who keep a close eye on the situ-A major factor is the

security situation, which continues to deteriorate day by day. Incidents take place on a daily basis, even though not all of them are, fortunately, big enough to catch the attention of the press.

However, the impact on the local residents is evident enough. While the people of the province are worried and upset at the attacks, they are also wary of the possibility of largescale operations to elimighanistan: the organisation nate militants. Indeed, the

as evident in the large, seemingly spontaneous, protests held earlier this year in different parts of the province when the attacks gained momentum. Such was the sentiment that most of the parties active in the province took part in these protests, ranging from the PTI to ANP, to peace movements such as

However, it is important to note that these protests were not just against the TTP's return but also against the possibility of further operations by the state. Having suffered displacement and the destruction of their homes in the past, the people of KP are not keen on a repeat of the experience. This is not lost on the parties active in the

Along with the fears of the people, the security situation has also impacted the police force in KP. At the receiving end of many terrorist attacks, the police have borne the brunt of the situation. What complicates matters is the sophisticated equipment being used by the TTP in attacks, placing law-enforcement personnel residents are fearful of the at a distinct disadvantage.

That the police force is as frustrated by the attacks as are the people was evident from the protest the force held after the attack in Peshawar in February. There may have not been another protest since then. but to assume that its reservations and worries have been addressed would be Many feel the secu-

rity concerns are a critical factor in the growing distrust between the people of KP and the state. As one journalist put it, the people feel abandoned and are scentical of any effort or move by the state. Economic hardship doesn't help, but while that is a phenomenon the entire country is dealing with, in KP it is being matched by the insecurity caused by terrorism. It is in this context that the TTP's strategy should be viewed.

An additional factor is the challenge presented by Fata's merger with the province. Due to a number of reasons, the administrative challenges which arose since the merger have not been effectively addressed Financial constraints have been a major reason — especially because of the lack of consensus on the NFC

agreed on by all the provinces. As a result, the state's infrastructure has not been extended to the region. An example of this is that dispute resolution has become difficult. Colleagues point out that the TTP is once again trying to mediate for the quick resolution of disputes. However, these are issues limited to one part of the province: they need immediate attention because this is the area where the militants entrenched themselves the last time And if the alienation is not addressed the forces which can take advantage of it will prove dangerous for the entire coun-

Last but not least is the larger political situation in the province, where the bulk of the political support is enjoyed by the PTI, electorally, or peace organisations such as the PTM. The rest of the parties, now expected to return to power whenever elections are held, are not seen to enjoy widespread support. This strategy needs to be viewed in the larger context of KP rather than simply the issue of PTI and its 'undesirabil-

share which was to be ity But that is not happening. If earlier the entire focus was on providing support to the PDM parties, such as the JUI-F and ANP, it now seems that hopes are being placed on Pervez Khattak, who is rumoured to enjoy access to the new caretaker set-up and, in his interactions with journalists, appears confident of a bright future.

However, this unhealthy focus on the political situation — over security matters — can have unforeseen ramifications. If there is already a sense of alienation or distrust among the people, will it be aggravated or addressed by an election result which brings to power forces that don't enjoy popular support? For at some stage, there will be a need to address the security challenge in the province, which is not possible without the local people's support.

The battles at the top may be important, bût strategies shouldn't be planned without taking into account public sentiments. One can only hope someone has their ear to the ground as well. --Courtesy Dawn

BRICS plus six



Maheen Shafeeq

In 2001, Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill coined the acronym BRIC in a research paper, predicting a potential club of emerging economies. From there, BRIC grew and had as a full member in 2010, and the group was renamed BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Af-

Last week, BRICS held its 15th summit in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 22 to August 24 where the prominent agendas of the debate were

On the subject of expansion, South African officials have reported that

applications for member- sanctions. This is strange ship were received. Among the applicants, divergences in political systems, economies, cultures, and even diplomatic positions remained obvious

However, the prominent commonality across the application remained hailing from the Global South. Many analysts have assumed the group to be a counter to the Global North's G7. However, G7 is an exclusive group which does not accept more members. In contrast, BRICS has expansion plans.

China views expansion as the most critical factor of BRICS. Many Western analysts argue that BRICS offers China a forum to expand its influence and cast itself as a champion of the developing world and the Global South. India, in strategic rivalry with China, has been competing for the status of the leader of the Global South. However, when it came to the expansion of BRICS membership to countries in the Global South, India proposed stringent criteria

India's proposal requires that members have a certain GDP and should not be the target of international

since Russia. India's historical strategic partner and also a member of BRICS, is under international sanctions This shows the complexities that India has put

Brazil, regardless of having a similar non-alignment foreign policy as India, believes adding its regional neighbours, buried under inflation, will relieve them from the Western financial system. Russia, at war with the West, has also shown enthusiasm towards ending the West's neocolonialism by adding new members to its alternative

It was highly anticipated that the recently held BRICS summit would add new members. As per reports from Johannesburg, BRICS has decided to invite six new members – Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. This shows that expansion is underway, and it yet remains to be seen how the new enlarged group will be able to forge convergences.

The matter of dedollarization is highly polarized. While some believe that it is inevitable, others believe in the irreversible

supremacy of the US dollar. It is undeniable that efforts towards dollarization are gaining some momentum through BRICS.

The New Develop-ment Bank (NDB) was established by BRICS members in 2015 with its headquarters in Shanghai, China, which is argued as an alternative option to the IMF and the World Bank. The NDB lends loans in Chinese renminbi and is expected to start lending and trading in South African, Brazilian and Indian currencies soon. The NDB ceased

structuring loans in US dollars and euros in 2021, which shows measures towards reducing the use of Western currencies and the expected use of currencies of BRICS nations. So far this is the only platform of such a kind. Although nations have started using other currencies for trading, such as Pakistan and India paid for Russian oil in the Chinese currency recently, these are sporadic inci-

The invitation to oilexporting countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, shows that there is a great enthusiasm towards ditching the petrodollar. So far, further acceptance into BRICS has remained unclear; however, oil-exporting countries stand a high chance of acceptance into the BRICS to end the dollar fanfare.

Some analysts have argued that the choice of trading currency depends on the oil-importing country, and as the Western countries, especially the US is one of the major oil-import, the dominance of the petrodollar will prevail. However, at the BRICS summit, the countries expressed strong interest in using currencies other than the US dollar while trading among themselves.

As the group expands

and offers national currencies of members, there could be a possibility of not preferring dollars. While countries might opt to use other currencies for trade with non-Western states. they cannot completely rule out the use of the dollar. At the government level, most central banks, even BRICS nations, hold reserves and most business transactions take place in dollars. Likewise, individuals too are not yet ready to convert their dollar savings to vuan or

any other currency

Pakistan has not made any formal requests to join BRICS. It appears that Pakistan is still deciding on whether to be part of the group since Islamabad is watching the group closely. It is also mindful of becoming part of bloc politics as the group is being led by the Sino-Russia alliance. Additionally, India's presence in BRICS and its attached tantrum come as irritants to Pakistan.

BRICS should also be mindful of India and its tactics of sabotaging every multilateral forum. India hosted the SCO, which could not be productive for regional cooperation, while its G20 presidency was marred with controversy. This shows that India's self-serving agendas and its rivalry with China and Pakistan could be a bane for BRICS and its potential.

India has failed to work for the global good and should do a reevaluation of its failures at multilateral forums. BRICS presents an insight into the future of global geopolitics; however, its effectiveness as a stable and preferred alternative system is yet to be seen. -Courtesy TheNews

Living in fear



Syed Sheheryar Raza Zaidi

Among the many existential crises Pakistan faces, the plight of its minorities and the downtrodden seems to be the least of the state's worries. In all the perceived concern for Pakistan's economic plight and the fundamentals of its Constitution, the people of Pakistan — that is, its constituents — have been left at the mercy of mobs, religious fanatics and feudal lords.

A nation which has continued to vociferously protest against the desecration of the Holy Quran now finds itself condemning the Christian community by its own brethren.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's minorities have - the fear of being subjected to abuse, fear of being killed at the whim of the local cleric, and fear of being accused of religious hate ing the economic rights of

To put things in context, a mob of 'religious fanatics' recently burned the homes and places of worship of the Christian community in and around Faisalabad on the mere allegation of blasphemy. A night in the fields, praying for their lives. Pakistan has one of the most stringent blasphemy laws even Fatima, a 10-year-old girl in unity, togetherness and among fellow Muslim coun-

tries. It also has among the highest, if not the highest, number of blasphemy cases reported anywhere in the world, despite the overwhelming majority of its population calling itself

Unfortunately, for

some religious bigots in the

country, being accused of blasphemy is the same as being convicted of it. This has meant that tens of people have been brutally murdered on charges of blasphemy even before they had a chance to defend themselves. This has given rise to a sense of fear amongst not just members of the minority community, but also free thinkers and individuals who otherwise wish to be vocal against the misuse of religion. Islam is a religion of peace which codifies every aspect of human life and presents before us the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the embodiment of kindness, serenity, respect and love. Yet, its weaponisation by politico-/socio-religious leaders for their own petty political, social or monetary gains has meant that entire generations have been led to believe that they are the 'true protectors of faith', when in reality they are individuals with a flawed sense in their practice of

If there are any words of comfort—although even these would be ironic — for Pakistan's minorities, it is that they are not the only ones bearing the brunt of unbridled lawlessness. Many among the Muslim community have also had to, and continue to, live in constant fear of the violation of their person, life and livelihood. The pages of newspapers are filled with incidents of rape, torture and the general degradation of human values being committed with impunity by feudal lords and the privileged classes. The recent alleged rape and torture of

Sindh, or the alleged inhu-

mane treatment of Rizwana, an adolescent in Punjab, are all examples of the diminishing fear of one's actions.

All these incidents constitute crimes punishable with lengthy sentences if not death, and yet they continue to be committed one after the other, without fear of accountability The reason is simple: the diminishing writ of the

The writ of the state or the fear of accountability by the state of one's actions lies at the heart of a successful country. It is as important for the functioning and existence of a country as a country's territorial integrity. Yet, the state here appears to be at a loss when it comes to enforcing such writ on the religious, political and economic elite.

It is not that there is insufficient legislation or that the Penal Code lacks effective measures to protect the fundamental right to life, and the freedom to practise and propagate religion; instead, the ruling elite lacks the will to ensure these rights, or fears antagonising powerful groups that could lead to retribution or losing their voter base. This is where the other

gions, and diverse

ethnicities and circum-

stances all coming together

to emit the fragrance of

love? -- Courtesy Dawn

limbs of the state should But what if it trancome into the picture. The august Supreme Court and other state institutions that are perceived to hold sway and authority in the running of this country must realise that radicalisation, religious intolerance and the unmitigated abuse of power harm the very fabric of society and need to be dealt with as much firmness as the vehemence with which state property is damaged or desecrated. For what is In April this year, the Pakistan if not a collective of its people, a bouquet of flowers made up of the followers of different reli-

For a country that discovers fresh, unique ways to fail its people every day, we're awfully weird about acknowledging failings of the past. Consider one of the greatest failures in modern history: 1971.

I'll admit, this is something I hesitate to bring up. See, as a patriot, love for one's country is often persistent and inexplicable. This place has its flaws, but it's ours. The subject of our loyalties. The sole friend in a crowd of strangers. And if a friend has been through a bitter divorce, one's immediate reaction isn't to start interrogating. We listen to their version of events, nod along (even when we notice holes in their story), and offer our assurances that they are wonderful and deserve bet-

spires that our friend isn't too innocent? Say, if the other side alleges unspeakable abuse, pulls out evidence, and points to a pattern of behaviour that persisted long after things fell apart? If all signs point to our friend being a bit messed up in the head, and emboldened by lack of consequence, we might not feel very safe in their presence

Guardian published the following report: "We lay like corpses. Then the raping began: 52 years on, Bangladesh's rape camp survivors speak out." It features eyewitness accounts of the women who lived through Pakistan's violent

Skeletons in your closet stories they tell are so dark. anyone with a heart would

But let's assume for a

moment that they're a pack of lies. That these war-surviving old women are conniving imposters, and this 200-year-old British newspaper is conspiring to malign our glorious, angelic past. Did the Foreign Of-

Hassan Kamal Wattoo

fice issue a rebuttal? Has any government body contradicted the testimonies? If we don't deny them, do we have an ounce of shame to address the living breathing proofs of our country's Of course, Pakistan

isn't the only country with a sinful past. America had the slave trade. Britain had colonialism. Germany was Germany. Where we are unique is being the only major country that views shut up, act cool, and pretend it never happened' as a viable policy decision. We'll teach our kids that the split with East Pakistan was infinitely complex: one of the profound mysteries of the universe, riddled with nuances like 'actually, we only killed 30,000 people'. Everything except 'the narcissistic authoritarians in charge of this country treated their own people like idiots who wouldn't mind their rights being robbed from them'. What

does this accomplish? In 2008, the US Congress formally apologised for slavery and the Jim Crow laws. In 2018, Justin Trudeau apologised for Canada's failure to help a ship of Jews escaping the Nazis. One ship. Seventynine years ago. Did these countries lose anything by acknowledging a mistake? Did some humility and selfreflection make them weak, or did it strengthen their moral position?

Pakistan has an honesty problem. Mostly with itself. One grounded in childlike insecurity and pathetic chest-thumping hubris. But here's my ques-

break-up with its East. The tion: what is there to be so insecure about? Have you ever seen the Germans trying to hide, censor or downplay the dark parts of their history? If they did, would it not be a lingering reminder of their willingness to do it again?

These persistent cruelties evoke the kind of anger these pages would struggle to carry the weight of. But we know that the folks running this country don't take nicely to bitter truths. So, I'll address it like a friend that's made terrible mistakes, but can still correct course. To quote a modern lyricist, T. Swift, 'it must be exhausting always rooting for the antihero". We do it anyway. Because critique can come from a place of love, and this struggling young nation has been through a lot.

In its history, it's seen wholesale assaults on its peoples' civil liberties. Some who dissented, shot dead. Others, many others, gone missing. Politicians persecuted until they folded. Collective punishment on those around them until they bent and broke. It's seen fundamental rights treated like suggestions, discardable at a whim. The will of millions displaced by a handful of men in Islamabadi drawing rooms. It's seen the Constitution treated like a joke, judges taking its butchered, bloodied remnant and rewriting its most basic principles. It's seen the persistent delusion that free speech can be crushed into submission. The hubris of the powerful declaring at every juncture that they know what's better for you, not you. And, it has seen columnists unable to speak freely about any of it. But you know what's wonderful? That we learned so much from all this history, and never allowed it to repeat itself. Of course, we can continue showering our friend with unquestioning, unconditional love and support. Surely, he'd never turn on us. -- Courtesy Dawn-- Cour-

Governor KP for collective efforts to promote country's development, prosperity, peace

PESHAWAR (APP): Gov- particularly related to noti- service brings him immense Ali on Tuesday emphasized the need for collective efforts to promote the country's development, prosperity and peace.

with intentions of weakening the state and spreading especially among the youth, cannot contribute positively.

He urged the younger generation to foster a posi-tive mindset, uphold traditions, and promote values.

He expressed these views during a meeting at the Governor's House, where a delegation of 45 members from the district of Dir Upper, led by former minister Shafiullah Khan, convened.

The delegation included representatives from various political and social circles, such as ANP, PPP, JUI, and PTI, among oth-

cussed issues concerning with the people and instithe region's population, tutions dedicated to social tions

fications in Dir Central Dis-Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam trict, education, healthcare, gas supply, municipal repand other challenges.

The delegates appreciated the Governor's re-He said that those ceptive approach and thanked him for being a public servant focused solely on addressing citibias. They highlighted that this was the first time in history that a public-serving Governor was directly accessible to the province's people for dialogue and assistance. During the conversation, the Governor underscored his commitment to resolving public issues impartially and selflessly.

He said that serving humanity was a significant form of worship and that the provision of non-discriminatory public service was a crucial aspect of his

The Governor ac-The delegates dis- knowledged that engaging

egates that the problems faced by local governments would be resolved soon, allowing them to initiate developmental activities in

Furthermore, Governor Ghulam Ali expressed his willingness to visit Dir shortly in response to the invitation extended by the delegation. The delegation from Peshawar Public School and College, headed by Principal Iftikhar Ahmed, also met with the

The delegation discussed matters concerning institutional improvement and exchanged ideas for en-

In a separate meeting, a delegation led by former provincial assembly member Israr-ul-Haq met with the Governor. The delegation discussed local issues, reaffirming the Governor's commitment to collaborate and assist in finding solu-



LAHORE Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman briefed by officers of the relevant departments on Jamia Masjid Al-Sadiq, Bahawalpur Zoo and the remains of ancient civilization Ganveriwala in Cholistan.

Mayor Karachi terms digitization of land records as major challenge

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the major challenge of the city is the digitization of land records, which has been started by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation

(KMC) land department. He said this on the occasion of inaugurating the Land Management and Digital Archive System operations at the head office of

KMC's Land Department. He said that with the computerization of land tion in this record in the future. The land department challan will be issued along with a QR code that would bring transparency in this process while the

He said this method will prevent fake works as the fake item will not be found in the database. In the future, only valid and certified challans will be issued by KMC and this initiative will benefit KMC and all the citizens living in Karachi, he added.

Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Director Land Sabah ul Islam and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Mayor Karachi said records, it will not be pos- that land records are being Congratulations to the land department KMC for this operation. KMC is being transformed into a transparent organization, where there will be no room for amount of challan will be credited to the KMC's ac-said.

Federal Ombudsman says: 98 percent of cases decided in favour of complainants

HYDERABAD (APP): served The Federal Ombuds man Dr Syed Rizwan Ahmed has said 18 regional offices of the Federal Ombudsman Pakistan are providing justice to the citizens affected by the black sheep working in the government departments. Addressing the business community at Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) here on Tuesday, the former ambassador Ahmed claimed that 98 percent of the decisions made by them come out to be in

favour of the complainants. He apprised that the people could submit their complaints on line or by jotting them down on a piece of paper which should be couriered to his office."The Federal Ombudsman's office wanted to ensure that

He suggested the business community to create awareness among the traders and industrialists about the functioning of the ombudsman's office.He added that the community should put up banners in the markets and in the industries to acquaint people. The Ombudsman asked the people to desist stealing fro m electricity."The power distribution companies can't serve detection bills without establishing theft," he underlined.

The HCCI's President Adeel Siddiqui said the ombudsman was well aware with the problems and sufferings caused by the power distribution companies to the people. Not only power outages were hurting the the services meant for the trade and industry as well people reach them," he ob- as the domestic consumers.

BoD meeting of autonomous bodies held

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting regarding Boards of Directors (BoDs) of autonomous bodies was held here at Chief Minister's House on Tuesday with Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in

Legal matters related to the functions of the BoDs were reviewed in the meeting with a special focus on the decisions taken in the 34th board meeting of the Provincial Housing Authority.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law, Justice Shah, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Secretary Law, Advocate General and other concerned high ups were present.

LHC moved against charging taxes to consumers thru electricity bills LAHORE (Online): In-

flated electricity bills and collection of taxes through these bills have been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC).

Petition was filed by a citizen Sheikh Muhammad Latif making chairman WAPD and Chairman NEPRA respondents.

The petitioner has

taken plea in the petition diverse taxes are being received from the consumers in electricity bills. FC surcharge, GST, TV fee, electricity duty and other taxes are being charged to con-

sumers in electricity bills.
It has been said in the petition the superior courts have declared collection of different taxes of electricity illegal. Thousands of rupees is increased on the difference of one unit in bills. He prayed that un-precedented hike in electricity bills has made the life of people miserable.



MULTAN: Rescue workers evacuate people from the villages as water from the Sutlej River continued to inundate settlements along its banks, near



PESHAWAR: 45-members Qaumi Jirga consisting of tribal elders from Dir Bala meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa

Governor Punjab orders renaming of Bahawalpur zoo

Independent Report AHORE: Governor MuhammadBalighur Rehman has directed concerned department to restore old name of Bahawalpur zoo and rename it as Sherbagh. Dur-

ing a briefing to the Governor Punjab on Jamia Masjid Al-Sadiq, Bahawalpur Zoo and the remains of ancient civilization Ganveriwala in Cholistan at the Governor's House here on Tuesday, he said the zoo should be equipped with state of the art facilities, new animals should be brought here, and the old animals should be well taken care of.

Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr. Ehtisham Anwar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Jam Aftab, Secretary Tour-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP), in a bid

to ensure free, fair and

transparent elections, on

Tuesday directed the Sindh

Chief Secretary and Inspec-

tor General of Police to sug-

gest transfers/postings of

key provincial government

by Chief Election Commis-

sioner (CEC) Sikandar Sul-

tan Raja, it was empha-

sized that ensuring trans-

parency and impartiality in

the elections was the fore-

most duty of Sindh

government's top officials.

"As an initial mea-

In a meeting, chaired

ECP seeks proposals

for transfer/posting of

key officials in Sindh

ism Asif Bilal Lodhi, Head of Archeology Islamia University Bahawalpur Dr. Khalil Ahmed, Secretary Auqaf Tahir Raza Bukhari, DG Wildlife Mubeen Elhi, Secretary Forest Mudassar Waheed Malik, Administrator Auqaf Bahawalpur Ghulam Abbas, Principal Secretary to Governor Nabeel Awan, Special Secretary to Governor Umar Saeed and DG Walled City Kamran Lashari attended the briefing.

The Governor Punjab further said that matters relating to ticketing, parking, living conditions of animals inside cages should be

rected to turn Sherbagh into a modern zoo with state of the art facilities

sure, the transfers and ap-

pointments of crucial offi-

cials are necessary to en-

sure non-controversial elec-

tions. Subsequently, the

process will involve the ap-

pointment of district re-

turning officers, returning

officers, assistant returning

officers, and monitoring

teams," it was further stressed. The Election

Commission extended its

full support and protection to the Sindh Chief Secretary

Secretary and IGP apprised

the meeting of their pre-

paredness for the upcom

GILGIT: Minister Law & Prosecution Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Sohail Abbas,

Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and IGP GB Afzal

pleaded with the court to

Parvez Elahi as investiga-

tion could not be completed

from him. He submitted

that Parvez Elahi was not

cooperating with the inves-

Elahi's counsel Advocate

Amjad Parvez opposed the physical remand plea be-

sides questioning the arrest

of his client by the bureau.

court extended the physi-

cal remand of Parvez Elahi

for another 4 days and di-

rected for producing him on

KP Relief Department,

IRC sign MoU to strengthen

disaster response efforts

agement. The collaborative

initiatives encompass rapid

response strategies, antici-

patory actions, capacity-

building projects and rein-

forcement of disaster pre-

tion of this partnership

hinges on the availability of

essential resources to facili-

laboration, RRSD and IRC

maintain their distinct mis-

sions and responsibilities,

ensuring the preservation of

their individual objectives.

development, Secretary of

Commenting on this

The successful execu-

Throughout this col-

paredness programs.

tate joint endeavors.

PESHAWAR (APP): The all phases of disaster man-

Subsequently, the

However,

Parvez

tigation team.

extend physical remand of

Mehmood Butt inaugurating the Public library at old Jail Kashrote.

Court extends

physical remand of

Parvez Elahi till Sept 2

LAHORE (APP): An ac-

countability court on Tues-

day extended physical re-

mand of former chief min-

ister Punjab and Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

President Chaudhry Parvez

Elahi till September 2 in a

case of receiving kickbacks

in development projects.

Accountability Bureau

(NAB) team produced

Chaudhry Parvez Elahi be-

fore Accountability Court

Judge Sajid Ali Awan on

expiry of physical remand

A prosecutor represented the bureau and

Relief, Rehabilitation and

(RRSD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

and the International Rescue

Committee (IRC) on Tuesday

signed a memorandum of un-

derstanding (MoU) to enhance

the disaster management

and fortify the emergency

Secretary Relief, Abdul Basit and Country

Director of IRC, Shabnam

that the IRC was commit-

ted to an enhanced collabo-

ration with RRSD-Provin-

cial Disaster Management

Authority (PDMA) across

This moment marked

Baloch signed the MoU.

response efforts.

Department

Relief,

Earlier, the National

ing general elections.

Earlier, both the Chief

and IGP.

It was also decided that the Lal Suhanra Na-tional Park Bahawalpur will also be improved.

archeology in Cholistan will be started in October. "By discovering an-

He expressed the

Baligjur Rehman di-

Two more ministers included in KP caretaker

caretaker cabinet of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government was further expanded as two ministers were included in it on Tues-

ters Engineer Aamir Nadeem Durrani and Engineer Ahmad Jan were administered oath by the Governor Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali here at Governor's

ister Muhammad Azam Khan also attended the oath-taking ceremony.

French CG

calls on

Mayor

Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Consul

General of France in Karachi

called on the Mayor of

Karachi Barrister Murtaza

Wahab on Tuesday and dis-

cussed matters of mutual

welcomed the French Con-

sul General at the KMC

head office and informed the

details regarding various civic affairs including the

local government system.

and France have long friendly relations and

France can help Pakistan in

medical, nursing, and other

Relief, Abdul Basit, stated,

"By harnessing the re-

sources at our disposal,

RRSD and IRC are poised

to identify shared areas of

interest in aiding communi-

ties affected by disasters or

conflicts through targeted

strongly believe in the sig-

nificance of building and

strengthening local capaci-

ties in disaster prepared-

ness and response. Addi-

tionally, he said we need to

establish efficient mecha-

nisms to streamline hu-

manitarian efforts and pre-

vent duplication of work

during emergencies.

He further added, "I

program interventions.

He said that Pakistan

The Mayor Karachi

Alexis

interes t

Chahtahtins ky

It was further decided

excavation work regarding discovery of Ganveriwala

cient heritage and civilization buried in Cholistan more information can be found about the ancient Indus Valley Civilization,' Balighur Rehman observed.

hope that cities as big as Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa in the ancient Indus Valley Civilization can be discovered in Cholistan, adding, it will give Pakistan international recognition and also create opportunities for tourism.

cabinet

PESHAWAR (APP): The

The two new minis-

Caretaker Chief Min-

agement & Digital Archive System computerized land record at KMC Head Office. Dr. Jamal Nasir says: Pakistan had become fifth most populous country in the world

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtuza

Wahab inaugurates the operations of Land Man-

ally and benefit the inform them about their his-

KP caretaker minister

chairs meeting on tourism,

culture, archaeology

being ensured through the

tourism police so that there

is peace in the tourist ar-

eas. Tourists should also

take care of the environ-

ment and avoid littering the

tourist spots. He said that

the immediate impact-ori-

ented projects should be

completed as soon as pos-

sible so that the people

could benefit from them. We

are here for good governance

so that the people could

benefit from it. Barrister

Kakakhel said that a tour-

ism helpline 1422 has also

been set up for tourists to

call in case of any problem.

the preservation of ar-

chaeological sites is being

carried out on various sites

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He invited the people to

visit the archaeological sites

wherein the guides would

RARCHIMETROPOLITAN CORPORATION

DAUGRATED FOR THE OPREATIONS OF

RECORD & TECHNICAL

BARRISTER MURTULA WAHAB

POORABLE MAYOR KARACHI

ANGGEMENT & DIGITAL ARCHIVE SYS

He said that work on

meeting regarding tourism, culture, archaeology and

Museum was held under the

chairmanship of the Care-

taker Provincial Minister

for Tourism, Culture, Ar-

chaeology and Museum,

and Department of Infor-

mation Barrister Feroze

Jamal Shah Kakakhel here

ticipants of the meeting, he

said that new recreational

parks, tourist parks, skiing,

new chairlifts, new tourism

tracks and other measures

are being taken for the

safety of tourists. The en-

vironment and trees at tour-

ists' spots will not be

ski resort will be built at

Biyun (Kalam) which will generate income to the tune

of millions of dollars annu-

economy. He said that the

Kakakhel said that a

harmed, he added.

Addressing the par-

on Tuesday.

RAWALPINDI (APP): tion of the world was in-Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr. Jamal creased by eight billion people while the current rate of population growth lasir said that according to in Pakista the latest census results, Pakistan had become the fifth most populous country in the world after India, China, America and Indo-

He was addressing as the chief guest at a semi-nar on "Alarming population growth rate and family planning" held in collaboration with the District Population Wel-Department Rawalpindi at the Punjab Arts Council (PAC) titled

percent which was very high compared to international standards. He further said that the Punjab government was taking all necessary steps to prevent over-

literacy, gender inequality, on Tuesday.

The minister said that environmental pollution, maternal and child mortal-

here on Tuesday. this year, the total popula-

population. District Population Officer Shireen Sukhan, while speaking said that population growth was the main cause of development challenges faced by Pakistan resulting in an alarming increase in poverty, il-



HYDERABAD: Fishermen are hunting into Indus river as the water level increases due to low flood that may cause any life risk for them, near

Flood-prone areas **Authorities directed** to safeguard schools' infrastructure

MULTAN (APP): Secretary School Education for South Punjab, Rana Saleem Ahmad Khan, directed the officials to take all possible measures to safeguard schools vulnerable to flooding in Sutlej river. He was addressing a conference at Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday. The Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of respective districts have been tasked with ensuring comprehensive protection against water-related damages by implementing ro-

bust measures. The conference was participated by key education stakeholders, including Additional Secretary Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi, Deputy Secretaries Khawaia Mazharul Haque Saifur Řahman Khan, DPI (Secondary) South Punjab Zahida Batul, DPI (Elementary) Parvez Iqbal, and other officials. The Secretary empha-

sized the paramount importance of restoring damaged school structures and providing essential amenities. He underscored the necessity of proactive measures to avert flood-induced harm, highlighting effective communication with the district administrations concerned. He stressed the need for an enhanced coordination mechanism with relevant authorities to bolster preparedness



ISLAMABAD: Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Yevgeniy Zhukov presenting a souvenir to Caretaker Federal Minister for Water Resources, Ahmad irfan Aslam during the launching ceremony of the National Master plan on flood telemetry at local hotel.

Bridging gap between policy, laws and practice key to lessen gender based violence: Advisor

ISLAMABAD (APP): and shared their valuable the right to self-determina-Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Human Rights and Women Em-Mushaal powerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick Tuesday stressed the need for bridging gap between women empowerment laws and practice for lessening the gender discrimination and violence against them in the society. She was addressing at a national conference of service providers on gender based violence here.

different stakeholders par- alize them and suppress ticipated in the conference Kashmiris's just cause for

Independent Report

CHAMAN: The Provincial

president of Awami Na-

tional Party (ANP), Asghar

Khan Achakzaihas strongly

condemned the incident of

burning of a goods' trawler

by unknown miscreants in

Loralai area couple of days

that we would not accept

such incidents at all nor

would sabotage the Pak-

possible cooperation to the

Chaman Chamber of Com-

Afghan trader.

Mr. Achakzai asserted

He assured his every

Asghar condemns

incident of burning

of goods' trawler

views on this occasion.

Highlighting the deplorable condition of women of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Special Assistant said that Indian armed forces had been committing henious crimes especially, against women in the IIOJK for the last seven decades.

She said, rape was being used as a ferocious tool of weapon against Kashmiri Representatives of women in order to demor-

> He also asked the government to compensate the

> losses caused due to the in-

cident and take solid steps

for prevention of such un-

toward incidents in future.

Meanwhile, taking

notice of the incident,

ANP's leader talked to the

Additional Chief Secretary

Home Saleh Muhammad

Nasar on the issue and

sought his immediate re-

sponse for taking the cul-

Home contracted the

Deputy Commissioner

Loralai and directed him to

On this, the ACS

prits to task.

tion. Indian state authorities not only condone such condemnable acts but also encourage such nefarious crimes as a state policy, she added. Mushaal Mullick said that being the daughter of Kashmir, she had the true realization of the state of women rights in IIOJK which led her decision to become powerful voice of Kashmiri women.

She further said that she has also been advocating for rights of children and women in Pakistan for last many years

OESCO to close **Grid Stations** for works on Aug 31

QUETTA (APP): Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) on Tuesday announced to close its power Grid stations in connection with the development works on electrical installations and lines, on August

31 (Thursday),
According to the statement of QESCO, Sariab Grid Station's Old Liaquat Bazar, Sirki Road, Joint Road, Khair Bakhsh, and the Express Feeder of Mirriabad Grid, while the Industrial Grid Station's Pashtunabad Express New Pashtunabad, Old Pashtunabad feeders would



QUETTA: A delegation led by Chairman Minority Commission Mukhi Sham Lal meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Directives of caretaker PM: Work on rehabilitation of roads and bridges started on emergent basis: Akbar

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary

Communications and Works (C&W), Ali Akbar Baloch has stated that the work was started on rehabilitation of the highways and bridges affected due to the recent flood and rains in the province, on an emergent basis. He was chairing a meeting to review the steps taken for safety of the basic infrastructure and communications in the province, here on Tuesday.

The meeting, actually was in backdrop of the directives of caretaker Prime Minister issued recently during the visit of the prov-

The highways of National Highway Authority as well as the Special Secretary Irrigation Department, Nadeem Samalani and others were in attendance.

The meeting reviewed the matters about the channelization of the flood water, its effective use and protection of the roads and other infrastructure from

the flashflood caused due to the heavy rains.

The meeting was also briefed in detail on the progress of work started for rehabilitation of the roads and bridges besides their existing condition.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary C&W said that the heavy damages were caused to all important highways and bridges due to the recent rains and flashfloods, disrupting the communication network and traffic blockade in different parts of the province and to rest of the country.

However, the C&W department together with NHA started work on the affected highways and bridges on emergent basis. However, still, there is a need of complete rehabilitation of the important highways in the province.

During the course of meeting, C&W department high ups provided details to the NHA about rehabilitation of the highways of the

ATC approves 3 days physical remand of Imaan Mazari

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has handed over Ìmaan Mazari daughter of Shireen Mazari to police on physical remand for 3 days.

Judge Abual Hasnat of ATC took up case against Imaan Mazari for hearing Tuesday.

Prosecutor Raja Naveed appeared in the court. Zainab Janjua appeared on behalf of Imaan Mazari.

Prosecutor Raja Naveed argued during the hearing of the case that a case has been registered against Imaan Mazaari in police station Bhara Kahu. The plaintiff has charged Imaan Mazari with inciting youths against the state.

The plaintiff alleged when he parted ways with Imaan Mazari party, threats were hurled on him. Prosecutor Raia

Naveed requested the court to grant physical remand of Imaan Mazari. The defence counsel while opposing the physical remand said new case was instituted the day Imaan Mazari was to be granted bail.



QUETTA: A view of 3-day training workshop regarding Role of Media in Promoting Anti-corruption Practices and Good Governance.

Caretaker Federal Minister says: Pak needs to invest more in flood management, early warning amid growing vulnerability

ISLAMABAD (APP): through informed forecast Caretaker Federal Minister out modern flood telemetry Ahmed Irfan Aslam on Tuesday said the country during the 2022 monster monsoon floods bore \$30 billion in economic and infrastructure losses that demanded to invest more resources in flood management and early warning systems for better disaster preparedness.

The Interim Minister delivered his keynote address at the launching ceremony of the National Master Plan on Flood Telemetry and National Consultation on Updated National Flood Protection Plan-IV which was supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Minister Ahmed Irfan Aslam said globally some \$2.93 trillion was lost due to natural disasters whereas during the 2022 monsoon floods, Pakistan faced huge economic losses as mentioned above and these were staggering statistics. He said, "If we are to

grow as a nation, as an economy we need to have strategic flood management plans. Water-related natural disasters can be managed

systems," he added. Aslam said the flood-

related departments were silently working without any recognition like the Federal Flood Commission (FFC) which should be acknowledged and appreciated. He also extended his gratitude to the ADB for supporting the upgradation of the National Flood Protection Plan-IV as the gov-ernment had initiated the endeavour based on the lessons learned during the floods of 2022

He said the exchange of knowledge and information had a long way aiming to protect more lives which would significantly contribute to the implementation of the updated Plan.

The Caretaker Minister also lauded the Secretary Water Resources for his dedication to the subject matter and termed it helpful in taking informed steps at the Division.

Secretary of Water Resources Division Syed Ali Murtaza in his opening remarks said that the country was highly vulnerable due to floods. However.

curred huge economic losses to the country whereas information and prevention of floods was a key driver for the country to ensure convincing flood management strategies on

the ground. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Irrigation Departments of respective provinces, and other relevant departments realized the proactive role and devised the flood management plan. He added that it

would help take endeavours that were informed and the telemetry systems were to help monitor river flows.

He informed that the implementation process would include a total of 707 telemetry systems and some 457 systems would be installed in all the provinces and federating units of the country.

Secretary The thanked the technical and financial support to develop the master plan for telemetry systems and up-dated Flood Protection Plan-IV.

He felicitated all stakeholders on the success of the intervention



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki offer Fateha at Mazar-e-Quaid

Caretaker CM visitsMazar-e-Quaid; pays homage to Father of Nation

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki visited the Mausoleum of Father of Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in

Karachi on Tuesday. He offered fateha for the departed soul of Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister said that he is feeling immense pleasure and tory, who spent three days

He said that we have to create spirit of love and service to Pakistan by our heart and soul for paying homage to the Father of Nation in true meaning.

He said that the whole Pakistani Nation is proud of their great leader, and they would never forget his

He also written his comments in the guests' book at the mausoleum. Later, speaking to the

media persons, Mir Ali Mardan Domki referred to the recent visit of caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar to Quetta and said that there was no Prime Minister in the hissatisfaction by visiting the and three nights in Quetta

> He commended that the caretaker Prime Minister kept on holding meetings about the development of province and resolution of the issues of people dur-

The caretaker Chief Minister said that it is the prime task of caretaker governments to hold free and fair elections in peaceful environment. He said that we would perform our responsibilities regarding elections as soon as the Election Commission of Pakistan announces to conduct the elections

He said that an important issue of the province is to maintain law and order and it is our endeavor to ensure it.

is also our responsibility to ensure timely completion of the development projects so that the general public may get relief, he main-



ISLAMABAD: PIO/MD APP, Muhammad Asim Khichi in a group photo with the participants of the Training Workshop for the journalists of Balochistan organized by PFUJ Workers at PID.

Pakistan to submit VNR report at SDG summit next month

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is all set to present its Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at a midterm summit on Sustainable Develop ment Goals (SDGs), scheduled to take blace in September 2023 in New York.

According to a press statement, the SDGs Support Unit of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives conducted a multi-stakeholders consultative session here Tuesday to conduct a mid-term review of goak.

The aim of the session was to evaluate the performance and outcomes of SDGs implementation, identify the challenges faced and devise a roadmap for accelerated SDGs implementation. The consultative ses-

sion was attended by representatives from various ministries, provincial gov-ernments, UN agencies, development partners, academia, private sector, civil society and media.

On the occasion, the participants shared their inputs and feedback on

Pakistan's progress on SDGs and agreed on a common vision and strategy to accelerate SDGs implemen-

The session was convened by the SDGs Support Unit of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives while Chief SDGs, Dr. Ali Kemal presented an overview of Pakistan's progress on SDGs.

tation in light of the chal-

lenges faced.

He said that Pakistan was reporting on 133 out of 247 indicators and has integrated the SDGs into its national development plans and policies. He also highlighted the role of various stakeholders in advancing the SDGs agenda in Pakistan, such as universities, private sector, civil society and media.

Dr Kemal also discussed the major challenges faced by Pakistan in implementing the SDGs, such as macroeconomic and political economy challenges. uncertain global economic and demand outlook, increased frequency of natural disasters and weak governance system.

UNGA adopts Pak-backed resolution declaring Jan 26 clean energy day

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The UN General Assembly has adopted a Panamanian resolution, cosponsored by Pakistan. proclaiming January 26 as the International Day of Clean Energy.
The text, which was

adopted without a vote, underlined the 193-member Assembly's commitment to protecting the environment. January 26 will be-

come a platform to drive the adoption of policies and practices to promote awareness on the sustainable use of energy resources and to strengthen collaboration and cooperation to promote the global energy transition. Introducing the draft, Panamanian delegate Markova Concepcion Jaramillo said that transitioning to clean and renewable energy sources was essential to face current environmental and socioeconomic challenges and guarantee human survival

planet" The US. representative said her dêlegation ioined the consensus

and well-being on the



ISLAMABAD: EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka called on caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan.

AJK PM urges world to take stringent notice of **Indian atrocities in IIOJK**

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Tuesday emphasized upon the international human rights organizations to take stringent notice of the atrocities committed by the Indian occupational forces on civilians in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). In a statement, the PM, while voicing his grave concern over the fast-deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said that Indian forces have crossed all limits of barbarism and savagery in Kash-

The Indian government, he said, had trampled the Kashmiris' fundamental human rights of Kashmiris under the jackboots. He, however, maintained that despite its policy of oppression and suppression, India could not break the Kashmiris' spirit and their political will

While urging the international community to come up with a solid plan of action to stop the bloodshed of innocent civilians at the hands of the Indian occupation forces, the PM said it was high time that the global community should influence the government of India to fulfill the promises and commitments its leaders have made vis a vis the settlement of the Kashmir dispute at the international level.

He said that it was the Prime Minister of India who took the issue of Kashmir to the United Nations. He said that it was quite unfortunate that India has not only backtracked from its commitments but also violated the UNSC resolutions that call for holding a referendum in Kashmir.He said that Kashmiris have associated their future with Pakistan.He said that accession to Pakistan was the Kashmiris' ultimate objective, for which they have been struggling at all levels to achieve their cherished with absolute determination and dedication.

Govt to utilize all available resources for polio-free country: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan said on Tuesday that the interim government was committed to actively implementing a special emergency response plan to eradicate all forms of polio in the country and reach children in remote ar-

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the polio vaccination campaign in remote areas and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) was considered a major reason cines to patients in governfor the significant reduction ment hospitals

in the number of polio cases in the country.

"All the provinces would ask to pay special attention to ensure that every child is reached by the polio programme," he added. He said that the Ministry of Health is actively involved in the polio program and we will ensure that the focus on polio remains unwavering.

In response to a question, he said that the present government will maintain zero tolerance regarding the provision of quality medi-

JI urges SC to direct ECP for ensuring elections within 90 days

Pakistan (ECP) to ensure the holding of elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly.

The petition in apex court was filed by JI leader Liaquat Baloch on Tuesday. The petition pleaded with the court to direct ECP

to ensure the holding of general elections in the country within 90 days.

It is pertinent to men-

ISLAMABAD (INP): The tion that this is the third pe-Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has for- tition filed with the apex mally requested the Su- court. Earlier, Pakistan preme Court to direct the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Election Commission of and Supreme Court Bar Association President Abid S. Zubairi had filed the same petition in the apex court.

The PTI plea stated that Supreme Could should also direct the ECP to issue the schedule for upcoming general elections.

The top court was urged to declare the CCI decision regarding the delimitation and the census 2023 null and void.



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leaders speaking during a press conference in Islamabad

SP Manzoor says Sugar smuggling bid foiled, 8000 bags of sugars seized from 15 trucks in Shiran

QUETTA (APP) Superintruck drivers could not tendent of Police (SP) present any official permit to the staff on the spot and Ahmed Buledi on Tuesday said that on special directive of IG of Police Balochistan and DIG General Police Zhob Range, actions were taken against sugars smugglers and 8000 sacks of sugars were recovered from 15 trucks at Dhanasar check post.

He expressed these views while giving details about sugars smugglers to the media representatives. Today's action is also

a continuation of the same operation where the operation was conducted at the Dhana Sar check post. He said that during the

operation, a huge quantity of sugar has been recovered from 15 trucks and all the

drivers told that initial investigation, these sugars were being smuggled to Afghanistan. The official of Police said that these sugars were handed over to Customs authorities for further investigation. SP Sherani said that

search operation was going on in the border areas to control the sugars crisis across the country which price was increased due to smuggling of sugars to neighbor country

He reiterated that he would never allow traffickers to create problems for the public, strict measures would be taken to prevent smuggling for interest of

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