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Cabinet unable to

decide on relief in bills

ISLAMABAD (Online): to provide relief to the people

The Caretaker government in the cabinet meeting. Ac-

could not give any relief to cording to the sources, it was

agreed in the meeting that

the bills will be collected in

installments during the next

six months from the con-

sumers using up to 400 units

of electricity, but this will

be possible only with the

the Energy Division to fix

the procedure. While,

WAPDA could not decide

on the free electricity units

given to employees of dis-

tribution companies and re-

lated institutions. According

to the sources, the issue of

outsourcing of Islamabad

Airport was entrusted to the

steering committee. Accord-

ing to the sources, the fed-

eral cabinet approved the

signing of the agreement with

the Hong Kong Examination

Authority, the memorandum

of understanding between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on

vocational training, and the

memorandum of under-

The Cabinet directed

consent of the IMF.

Ex PM to remain in jail for 'cypher' hearing

# IHC suspends Imran Khan's sentence in Toshakhana case

(IHC) on Tuesday suspended the imprisonment sentence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan in the Tos hakhana criminal case and ordered to release him

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): court considers that the pe-accused, the decision of the expressed its displeasure on The Islamabad High Court titioner is entitled to sus-trial court of August 5 "is pension of sentence and release 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

suspended and the petitioner 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 the Toshakhana case.

the people who came out on

the streets against the in-

meeting was held last day

under the chairmanship of

caretaker prime minister

Owing to the terms and conditions of the IMF agree-

ment, a decision could not

be taken to provide relief in

bills to consumers in the

form of subsidy. It has been

decided to collect dues in six

installments from the con-

sumers using up to 400 units

of electricity after IMF's

consent. In the meeting, the

possible relief in electricity

bills for the month of July

was reviewed. According to

the sources, the Ministry of

Finance took a stand in the

meeting that it is not pos-

sible to provide relief to the

people in the form of sub-

sidy on electricity due to the

IMF agreement.

Anwarul Haq Kakar.

The federal cabinet

crease in electricity bills.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Ayesha Tanzeem, Head of South & Central Asia Division, Voice of America called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi also present in the meeting

# case is of short duration, the by accepting the plea of the

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

ECP assures to hold free,

fair polls as per constitution

rector 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.

have to work together to save the nation from the tion to be protected from curse of drugs, the minister the menace for healthy sosaid adding the role of ANF ciety.

He appreciated the recent raids of the force and regard.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Election Commission

of Pakistan has assured to

hold the upcoming elections

peacefully and impartially

as per Constitution and the

Chief Election Commis-

sioner Sikandar Sultan Raja

gave this assurance, while

chairing two separate meet-

ings in Islamabad on Tues-

aimed at reviewing the

preparations regarding the

upcoming general elections

tion Commission, Secre-

tary ECP, Chief Secretary

Sindh, IG Sindh, Chief

Secretary Balochistan, IG

Balochistan, Provincial

Election Commissioner

Sindh and Balochistan, and

other senior officers of

During the meeting, the

ECP attended the meet-

Chief Secretary and IG Sindh briefed the Election

Commission on prepara-

tions for the upcoming

general elections and as-

sured full cooperation in

in the country.

The meetings were

Members of the Elec-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Diagrees of drug peddlers along with recovery of drugs from their posses-

> The minister also directed to take strict action against those involved in

He said Pakistan would All departments will be made a drug free country while the young genera-

> Sarfraz Bugti said the government would provide

> > The Election Commis-

sion emphasized on the Chief Secretary and IG

Sindh that conducting

transparent and impartial

elections are fundamental

responsibility of ECP. In this regard, the first step is

the transfer and posting of

all officers and officials

who are important in the

perspective of impartial

sion has issued directives

in this regard, because

transfer and posting is the

first step towards trans-

parency. After that, there

will be appointments of

District Returning Offic-

ers, Returning Officers, As-

sistant Returning Officers, and Monitoring Teams will

sion assured full support and cooperation to Chief

Secretary and IG Sindh.

In the second meeting, the Chief Secretary, IG

Balochistan, and Provincial

Election Commissioner

Balochistan briefed the

Election Commission on

preparations for the up-

ISLAMABAD: Activists of traders action committee Islamabad, chanting slo-

gans during protest against rising electricity bills, at Aabpara.

coming elections.

The Election Commis-

The Election Commis-

elections.

be made.

#### Balochistan delegation praises PM's efforts for restoring economy

ISLAMABAD (APP); A de lega tio n Balochistan comprising Sardar Aslam Bîzenjo, Mir Khalid Langu, Mir Asim Kurd Gello and Mir Waleed Bizenjo called on caretaker Prime Minis-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 Tues-

day.
Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi was also present in the meet-

#### Ministry to hold Interfaith Harmony Conference' today ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is holding an 'Interfaith Harmony Conference' on Wednesday, to bring together religious leaders and representatives from various faith communities to discuss pressing issues related to attacks on religious sites, desecration of holy scriptures, and the safety of minorities.

Presiding over by Minister for Religious Affairs, Aneeq Ahmed, the conference would promote unity and cooperation among different religious groups besides providing a platform for open dialogue and collaboration on topics crucial to fostering interfaith har-

The attendees would include representatives from both Muslim and Christian communities, demonstrating their shared commitment to peaceful

coexistence. The event would further witness the presence of renowned religious scholars from all schools of thought, people from various walks of life and members of diplomatic communities.

### The Energy Division presented various options standing between Pakistan and Belarus. Govt to utilize all available resources for polio-free country: Dr. Nadeem

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 areas.

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 for the significant reduction 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 medicines to patients in government



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

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

ISLAMABAD Prime Minister's Special Rights and Women Empowerment 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.

Representatives of different stakeholders participated in the conference and shared their valuable views on this occasion.

Highlighting the deplorable condition of women of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Special Kashmiri women.

(APP): Assistant said that Indian armed forces had been com-Assistant for Human mitting henious crimes especially, against women in the IIOJK for the last seven decades.

> ing used as a ferocious tool of weapon against Kashmiri women in order to demoralize them and suppress Kashmiris's just cause for the right to self-determination. 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

She said, rape was be-

### Govt meddling in judiciary affairs, says CJP Bandial

preme Court Practice and

Procedure Act is unconsti-

the independence of the ju-

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Tuesday expressed concerns over attempts to meddle in the judiciary through further appeals in the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act.

made during the hearing of the PTI chairman's petition against the NAB amendments, in which the Attorney General admitted to flaws in the Act.

The chief justice also referred to previous court orders related to the Act, stating that the Attorney General had informed about the Review of Orders and Judgments Act on June 1. However, despite assurances that the assembly would review the Act, no action has been taken. Justice Bandial also

questioned why the Attorney General sought time twice to review the Act,

Shahbaz Sharif says: Conviction

### suspended. not 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

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

#### China, Pakistan hold joint air force training exercise

BEIJING (APP): China 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

on training in typical combat scenarios such as joint air defense and joint counported 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

### causing delays in legal proceedings. Heako expressed

concerns about the government's interference in the scope of the apex Justice Ijaz pointed out that the government itself admitted to the flawed legislation, which led to the suspension of proceedings

The remarks were under the Act by court or-der. He emphasised that the court could not effectively carry out proceedings under such a suspended law. During the hearing, the chief justice welcomed the

PTI's lawyer Khawaja Haris and expressed his hope to avoid being targeted for his statement. He clarified that the Supreme Court does not intend to overrule the Parliament, but the Sututional and interferes with

## ofdarling

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

High Court.

is the 10th joint training exercise between the Chinese and Pakistani air The exercise will focus

only the three-member bench would hear the NAB amendments case, and adjourned further hearing of the case until today. APP adds: The Su-

preme Court (SC) Tuesday adjourned hearing till today in petitions challenging the amendments in National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) law. A three-member bench

headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah heard the case filed by Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI).

At the outset of hearing, the chief justice remarked that Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act was contradicting with the constitution, adding that it was an attempt to interfere the powers of judiciary through this act.



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 Masterplan on flood telemetry at local hotel.

Caretaker Federal Minister says:

### Pak needs to invest more in flood management, early warning amid growing vulnerability

ISLAMABAD (APP): floods, Pakistan faced huge Caretaker Federal Minister economic losses as menfor Water Resources 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 Na-tional Flood Protection ated. He also extended his Plan-IV which was supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Minister Ahmed Irfan to natural disasters whereas during the 2022 monsoon

tioned 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 through informed forecast which is not possible without modern flood telemetry systems," he added.

Aslam said the floodrelated departments were silently working without any recognition like the Federal Flood Commission (FFC) which should be acgratitude to the ADB for supporting the upgradation of the National Flood Protection Plan-IV as the gov-Aslam said globally some ernment had initiated the \$2.93 trillion was lost due endeavour based on the lessons learned during the floods of 2022.



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

### 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. 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 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 Sutlej 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 affected populations and move 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 ing 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 descration of churches and again being faced by the vulnerable 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 the agreement to compensate countries for loss and damage 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 damage fund have yet to be decided, and, with time already having run out for 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 media. It praised the local 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 doing a lot more than just enjoying the sophisticated weaponry left behind by the Western forces during their quick exit from Afghanistan: the organisation has also learnt the impor-

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 eve 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 eliminate militants. Indeed, the residents are fearful of the

tance of winning over the threat the TTP can pose. public and are now trying 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 beace 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 dis-placement 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 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 foolish.

Many feel the security concerns are a critical factor in the growing distrust between the people of KP and the state. As one iournalist 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

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

### 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 its first summit in 2009. South Africa was accepted 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 expressed interest in join-

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 ringent criteria

India's proposal requires that members have a be the target of international

applications for member-sanctions. This is strange 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, Ethiooia, 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 certain GDP and should not 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 Development 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 ditch- any other currency. ing 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. Like-

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 pres-

ence in BRICS and its at-

tached tantrum come as ir-

ritants 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 wise individuals too are not and preferred alternative yet ready to convert their system is yet to be seen. dollar savings to yuan or - Courtesy TheNews

### Living in fear

population calling itself

Unfortunately,

human life and presents

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 in-

dividuals with a flawed

sense in their practice of

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 viola-

tion 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 com-

mitted with impunity by

feudal lords and the privi-

leged classes. The recent

alleged rape and torture of

Fatima, a 10-year-old girl in

Sindh, or the alleged inhu-

If there are any words

Prophet

before us the

Muslim.



**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 the homes of its minority 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 crimes — because their existence is seen as hampering the economic rights of some in the mob.

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 mere allegation was enough to condemn thousands of people belonging to a particular religion to violence. It forced them to spend the night in the fields, praying for their lives. Pakistan has one of the most stringent blasphemy laws even among fellow Muslim coun-

tries. It also has among the mane treatment of Rizwana, highest, if not the highest, number of blasphemy cases reported anywhere in the world, despite the overwhelming majority of its

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 actions lies at the heart of a themselves. This has given successful country. It is as important for the functionrise to a sense of fear amongst not just members ing and existence of a counof the minority community, try as a country's territorial integrity. Yet, the state but also free thinkers and individuals who otherwise here appears to be at a loss when it comes to enforcing wish to be vocal against the misuse of religion. Islam is such writ on the religious, a religion of peace which codifies every aspect of

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 This is where the other

limbs of the state should come 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 Pakistan if not a collective of its people, a bouquet of flowers made up of the followers of different religions, and diverse ethnicities and circumstances all coming together

to emit the fragrance of

unity, togetherness and

love? -- Courtesy Dawn

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

em history: 1971.

But what if it transpires that our friend isn't

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 break-up with its East. The tion: what is there to be so stories they tell are so dark,



Hassan Kamal Wattoo

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 mod-

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-

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 In April this year, the

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 Office 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-

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. 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 ou 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

Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Tuesday emphasized the need for collective efforts to promote the country's development,

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

contribute positively. He urged the younger generation to foster a positive 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 Shafiullah Khan, convened.

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

fications in Dir Central District, education, healthcare, gas supply, municipal representative powers, funds, and other challenges.

The delegates appreprosperity and peace. ciated the Governor's re-He said that those ceptive approach and thanked him for being a public servant focused solely on addressing citizens' concerns without bias. 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

> 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

impartially and selflessly.

The Governor ac-The delegates dis- knowledged that engaging commitment to collaborate cussed issues concerning with the people and instithe region's population, tutions dedicated to social tions.

particularly related to noti- service brings him immense

He assured the delegates 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, delegation led by former provincial assembly member Israr-ul-Haq met with the Governor. The delegation discussed local issues, reaffirming the Governor's 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 count, he added. 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 oc casion 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 records, it will not be postion 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 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 acsaid.

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

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 online 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 the services meant for the people reach them," he ob- as the domestic consumers.

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 from stealing electricity."The power dis-

tribution companies can't

serve detection bills with-

out 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 trade and industry as well

#### **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

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

#### LHC moved against charging taxes to consumers thru electricity bills

LAHORE (Online): Inflated 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 sur-charge, 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 ave 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 Multan.

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 Muhammad Balighur Rehman has directed concerned department to restore old name of Bahawalpur zoo and rename it as Sherbagh. During 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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): sure, the transfers and ap-

the old animals should be

well taken care of.

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 Augaf 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 improved.

Baligjur Rehman directed to turn Sherbagh into a modern zoo with state of

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-

ing general elections.

Earlier, both the Chief

and IGP.

It was also decided that the Lal Suhanra National Park Bahawalpur will also be improved. It was further decided

excavation work regarding discovery of Ganveriwala archeology in Cholistan will be started in October. 'By discovering ancient heritage and civilization buried in Cholistan

more information can be

found about the ancient

Indus Valley Civilization,

Balighur Rehman observed He expressed the hope that cities as big as Mohenjo-Daro Harappa in the ancient Indus Valley Civilization can be discovered in Cholistan, adding, it will give Pakistan international

#### Two more ministers included in KP caretaker cabinet

PESHAWAR (APP): The caretaker cabinet of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government was further expanded as two ministers were included in it on Tues-

The two new ministers Engineer Aamir Nadeem Durrani and Engineer Ahmad Jan were administered oath by the Governor

Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan also attended the

### recognition and also create opportunities for tourism.

Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali here at Governor's

oath-taking ceremony.



Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and IGP GB Afzal Mehmood Butt inaugurating the Public library at old Jail Kashrote.

### **Court extends** physical remand of Parvez Elahi till Sept 2

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Tuesday extended physical remand of former chief minister Punjab and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi till September 2 in a case of receiving kickbacks in development projects.

Earlier, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) team produced Chaudhry Parvez Elahi before Accountability Court Judge Sajid Ali Awan on expiry of physical remand

A prosecutor represented the bureau and

pleaded with the court to extend physical remand of Parvez Elahi as investigation could not be completed from him. He submitted that Parvez Elahi was not cooperating with the investigation team. Parvez

However, Elahi's counsel Advocate Amjad Parvez opposed the physical remand plea besides questioning the arrest of his client by the bureau.

Subsequently, the court extended the physical remand of Parvez Elahi for another 4 days and directed for producing him on

#### French CG calls on Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of France in Karachi Alexis Chahtahtinsky called on the Mayor of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday and discussed matters of mutual interes t

The Mayor Karachi welcomed the French Consul General at the KMC head office and informed the details regarding various civic affairs including the local government system.

He said that Pakistan and France have long friendly relations and France can help Pakistan in medical, nursing, and other

### KP Relief Department, IRC sign MoU to strengthen disaster response efforts

Relief, Rehabilitation and Department (RRSD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance the disaster management and fortify the emergency response efforts.

Secretary Relief, Abdul Basit and Country Relief, Director of IRC, Shabnam

Baloch signed the MoU. This moment marked that the IRC was committed to an enhanced collaboration with RRSD-Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) across

PESHAWAR (APP): The all phases of disaster management. The collaborative initiatives encompass rapid response strategies, anticipatory actions, capacitybuilding projects and reinforcement of disaster preparedness programs.

The successful execution of this partnership hinges on the availability of essential resources to facilitate joint endeavors. Throughout this col-

laboration, RRSD and IRC maintain their distinct missions and responsibilities, ensuring the preservation of their individual objectives. Commenting on this

development, Secretary of

Relief, Abdul Basit, stated "By harnessing the resources at our disposal RRSD and IRC are poised to identify shared areas of interest in aiding communities affected by disasters or conflicts through targeted program interventions. He further added, "

strongly believe in the significance of building and strengthening local capacities in disaster preparedness and response. Additionally, he said we need to establish efficient mechanisms to streamline humanitarian efforts and prevent duplication of work during emergencies.

### KP caretaker minister chairs meeting on tourism, culture, archaeology

meeting regarding tourism, culture, archaeology and Museum was held under the chairmanship of the Caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism, Culture, Archaeology and Museum, and Department of Information Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel here on Tuesday.

Addressing the participants 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 environment and trees at tourists' spots will not be harmed, he added.

Kakakhel said that a ski resort will be built at Biyun (Kalam) which will generate income to the tune of millions of dollars annually and benefit the inform them about their hiseconomy. He said that the tory

being ensured through the tourism police so that there is peace in the tourist areas. Tourists should also take care of the environment and avoid littering the tourist spots. He said that the immediate impact-oriented projects should be completed as soon as possible 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 tourism helpline 1422 has also been set up for tourists to call in case of any problem.

He said that work on the preservation of archaeological sites is being carried out on various sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He invited the people to visit the archaeological sites wherein the guides would



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtuza Wahab inaugurates the operations of Land Management & Digital Archive System computerized land record at KMC Head Office.

### Dr. Jamal Nasir says: Pakistan had become fifth most populous country in the world

RAWALPINDI (APP): tion of the world was in-Caretaker Provincial Min- creased by eight billion ister for Health and Popu- people while the current lation Welfare Dr. Jamal rate of population growth Vasir said that according to 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 here on Tuesday.

this year, the total popula-

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

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-Council (PAC) titled on Tuesday. literacy, gender inequality, environmental pollution, maternal and child mortal-



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): Secre- Deputy tary 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,

Khawaia Mazharul Haque Saifur Kahman Khan, DPI (Secondary) South Punjab Zahida Batul, DPI (Elementary) Parvez Iqbal, and other officials. The Secretary empha-

Secretaries

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.

### **Senate Committee takes** decisive action to reinstate over 500 daily wage teachers

ISLAMABAD: During a meeting held today at Parliament House, Chairman Standing Committee on Education and Vocational Training, Senator Irfan Siddiqui passionately articulated that the abrupt dismissal of teachers with vears of dedicated service amounts to criminal offense. Drawing a parallel, he emphasized that even a household maid who has worked diligently for fifteen years, should not be subjected to such unfair treat-

Senator Siddiqui continued to advocate for fairness, highlighting that longserving teachers, deserve hetter than sudden terminations without proper justi-

Furthermore, Director General and Director of Federal Directorate of Education's (FDE) actions came under scrutiny for mis leading the Senate Standing Committee. Consequently, the matter was referred to the Senate Privileges Committee for thorough investigation and appropriate action.

The committee's meeting was marked by Senator Irfan Siddiqui's strong assertion that the

The Legal Aid and Justice

Authority (LAJA) and UN

Women on Tuesday con-

ducted the first-ever Na-

tional Conference of Service

Criminal Justice stakehold-

practices, with an aim to

establish standards of care

for survivors and to

strengthen the implementa-

tion of Gender-Based Vio-

lence (GBV) laws across

Pakistan, said the press

note. Addressing the audi-

ence, Ehsan Sadiq, Director

General of the National

Police Bureau, proclaimed

the importance of this col-

The event brought to-

Providers in Islamabad.

ers without valid reasons is an unacceptable criminal act. He passionately expressed that these actions should not be tolerated under any circumstances. He drew attention to the fact that even a domestic worker with a decade or more of service should not be subjected to such unjust treatment. The Senator also criticized the arbitrary interpretation of court decisions that led to the dis-

missal of over 500 teach-

ers, a move that disregarded

established legal principles. In light of the incident, it was revealed that 551 teachers teaching in Islamabad's modelcolleges were instructed to cease their duties from August 10 without proper justification. Concerned about the sudden turn of events, the affected teachers sought the intervention of the committee's chairman, Senator Irfan Siddiqui. Subsequently, the matter was included in the agenda of the

Efforts were made by the Director General and Director of FDE to validate their actions by referring to crete evidence supporting August 9

ISLAMABAD: Honourable Justice Supreme Court of Pakistan, Syed

Mansoor Ali Shah in a group photograph with other participants during Na-

tional Conference of Service Providers Gender Based Violence: From Legis-

LAJA & UN Women holds

**National Conference of Service** 

**Providers in Justice Sector** 

laborative effort and said,

This Conference repre-

sents a paramount stride in

addressing GBV compre-

hensively. By connecting

professionals across vari-

ous domains, we are creat-

ing a robust network poised

gether a diverse network of to build a more coordinated ence marks a significant step

ers to engage in cross-learn- survivors receive the sup- dards of services and reing and exchange of best port they rightfully desponse for survivors of

Chairperson of the Special

Committee on Anti-Rape

Law at the Ministry of Law

and Justice highlighted the

transformative potential of

trinsically linked to im-

proving mechanisms for

the conference.

Ayesha Raza Farooq,

response to GBV, ensuring toward advancing the stan-

"Our commitment to violence requires a united

enhancing GBV laws is in-national effort, where every

ongoing committee meeting.

of Law's opinion was also invoked, but representatives of the Law Division clarified that it was a standard response and was not a specific querry from the Ministry of Education.

The committee was

informed that Secretary Education is currently attending a cabinet meeting, Committee chairman directed the ministry officials to contact the secretary, Meanwhile a brief tenminute break was observed in the committee meeting. Education Secretary Waseem Ajmal joined the committee meeting following this brief pause. Meanwhile, committee members expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Education's unwarranted dismissal of teachers with over fifteen years of expe-

Rabia Waheed, a female teacher representing the affected educators, provided a comprehensive account of the situation and presented relevant court decisions. After extensive deliberation, Senator Irfan Siddiqui gave a ruling in favor of the immediate reincourt orders. However, statement of all 551 teachthey failed to provide con- ers to their positions as of



Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review social sector projects in Islamabad

### Sami Saeed reviews progress made in achieving goals of education, heath projects

Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Muhammad Sami Saeed here on Tuesday said that the project to attract outof-school children to education was commendable, providing equal opportunities for education to deprived children was the need of the hour.

Chairing a meeting to review the progress made tute would play an imporin achieving the goals of tant role in increasing the education, health projects capacity of teachers. He

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The ambassador of Euro-

pean Union Rina Kivanka

met with the caretaker

Minister for Health Dr.

Nadeem Jan and dis-

cussed issues related to

the health sector and mu-

the ambassador congratu-

lated the minister on as-

suming the portfolio of

said, "The world appreciates services of Jan in ef-

forts to eradicate polio."

appreciates practical

steps on Global Health

will hold a meeting with

the Nutrition Cell of the

Ministry of Health to co-

During the meeting,

The ambass ador EU

The EU ambassador

The European Union

operate in the nutrition program, the ambassador steps on Global Health Se-

tual interest.

federal minister.

Security Agenda.

EU ambassador meets

caretaker health minister

ment, the federal minister said that the Information Technology (IT) facilities in schools helped in preparing students to meet the demands of modern times and the Ministry had taken concrete steps in the field of health and education.

He said that the approved project for Islamabad Teachers Insti-

Dr. Nadeem Jan said

The eradication of

that the European Union

provided full support in

the rehabilitation of the

polio is the top most prior-

ity of the caretaker govern-

ment. Health ministry is in

contact with Afghanistan

for joint integrated strategy

at the border to eliminate

will soon host a high-level

meeting on the Global

Health Security Agenda.

Experts and stakeholders

from all over the world

will participate in the

meeting.
The EU ambassador

will also be invited to par-

ticipate in the Global

Summit. The EU ambassa-

curity Agenda

Security

He said that Pakistan

flood victims.

ISLAMABAD (APP): and sustainable develop- directed for ensuring the implementation of the decisions of the National Curriculum Council. He said a curriculum to meet the modern challenges is important to improve the mindset of students and the quality of education.

To achieve the goals of sustainable development, the Ministry of Planning should further strengthen the interconnection with the relevant ministries and departments, he added.

### **AC Potohar** crackdown on illegal petrol

ISLAMABAD (APP):Oi the directions of Deputy

businesses were a threat to

# ISLAMABAD: Aleema Khan and Uzma Khanum,

not be tolerated



sistant Commissioner Potohar visited various areas of Potohar subdivision on Tuesday. During his visit, he inspected LPG shops, clinics, and service stations in PS Shams Colony. He also sealed two illegal petrol agencies and warned other violators of strict action, ICT Spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasim said. The Assistant Commissioner said that the sealing of the illegal petrol agencies was part of a crack-down on illegal businesses in the area. He said that such the public safety and would



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 needs positive thinking for development: VC AIOU

IS LAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Dr Nasir Mahmood on Tuesday said that positive thinking is such a treasure that turns the soil into gold, youth need to develop positive thinking for the development of Pakistan.

While addressing the contestants of Speech and Painting competitions held at AIOU, he said these competitions were organized amongst students from schools, colleges, and universities of Rawalpindi/ Islamabad by the Directorate of Students Advisory & Counseling Services (DSACS) to pay tribute to the great leaders of the Pakistan Movement.

Dr. Nasir emphasized youth to channel their emotions into dedication and hard work for the betterment of Pakistan

importance of admitting

mistakes and taking responsibility for one's actions to bring positive change into their lives.

Director DSACS Syed Ghulam Kazim Ali, expressed that the purpose of these events is to honor the efforts and sacrifices of previous generations and inspire the next generation to pursue education for the development of Pakistan.

It is pertinent to mention here that 36 students participated in the painting competition, while 40 students took part in the speech competition. Hifza Nasib. Mahnoor Nawaz. and Umm Abiha secured the first, second, and third positions respectively in the painting competition, while Muhammad Ali claimed the first position in the speech competition.

Amina Adil and Mahnoor Zeib were placed second and third respec-He emphasized the tively in the speech com-

#### Motorway Police recover lost cell phone, owner overjoyed

supporting survivors. This

conference acts as a corner-

stone in aligning our legal

framework with the spe-

cific needs of survivors.

driving a survivor-centric approach" she said.

Gender-Based Violence

Country Representative of

UN Women, emphasized

the country-wide signifi-cance of this initiative:

individual becomes a voice

against silence.

Sharmeela Rassool,

"Ending gender-based

(GBV) in Pakistan.

This historic confer-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Motorway Police on Tuesday recovered a costly mobile phone of a motorist after it fell from his car near Charsada on the Peshawar-Islamabad motorway.

According to a torway (North) Motorway spokesman, the commuter, dentified as Omar, was travelling from Peshawar to Islamabad when he stopped to check his tire. As he got out of the car, his mobile phone fell out of his pocket where he did not realize that his phone had fallen and

continued on his journey. The Motorway Police were alerted to the lost phone and began a search. They eventually found the phone and contacted Omar. The owner was overjoyed to have his phone returned and thanked the Motorway Police for their help.

This incident is a reminder to motorists to be careful when traveling on the motorway

encroachments ISLAMABAD (APP): services

DC launches crackdown,

tackling price hikes,

On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon Assistant Commissioners on Tuesday took action against price hikes, encroachment and professional beggars in their respective areas.

As the ICT Spokesperson said, a comprehensive effort was made, involving inspections at 134 different locations to curb price hikes, while fines totalling Rs. 17,100 were levied in response to pricing violations. He further said, the

crackdown resulted in the sealing of three shops, arresting of four individuals, and the initiation of legal proceedings against them. Moreover, 29 pro-

fessional beggars were apprehended and subsequently handed over to law enforcement, while simultaneous measures were enacted against unlicensed medical facilities and outlets offering Shisha

Significantly, the campaign included an extensive anti-encroachment operation, leading to the apprehension of seven persons due to encroachment violations. A legal case was registered against two outlaws implicated in

The efforts to counteract rising prices also en-compassed the confiscation of over 12 kilograms of polythene bags, which are a major contributor to environmental degrada-

the encroachment inci-

In a parallel endeavour, unauthorized petrol filling stations and illegal LPG facilities were targeted. A total of fourteen non-compliant petrol filling agencies were shut down, alongside the closure of three unlawful LPG filling stations. Three individuals linked to these operations were arrested and relocated to police facilities

#### I'abad police chief conducts online open forum

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan organized an online open forum, providing residents with direct access to senior police officials and ensure the resolution of public problems. During this interactive

session, ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan personally addressed public inquiries while AIG (Operations) Saud Khan was also in at-Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan

attentively listened to callers' concerns and promptly directed relevant officers to find immediate solutions Many of the issues raised by the callers were of a personal nature and related to police station matters. Addressing the citi-

zens, ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan underscored the police force's unwavering commitment to promptly resolve public issues. He emphasized that initiatives like this one aimed to bridge the gap between the police and the public. Residents from across the city presented their suggestions and concerns to ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan. The majority of these concerns revolved around personal matters ongoing investigations, the expedited handling of cases and other related issues The Chief of Capital Police highlighted that the federal capital has witnessed a sig-

nificant reduction.

### consultations on child domestic labour held

Stakeholder's

ISLAMABAD (APP): Group Development Pakistan (GDP) and Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), in collaboration with the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), organized the 'Stakeholder's Consultations on Child Domestic Labour: The Way Forward

This collaborative initiative reflects an unwavering commitment to addressing the critical issue of child domestic labour and championing the rights and wellbeing of children across Pa-

Child domestic labour remains a pervasive issue that undermines the fundamental rights and well-being of children. The Stake-Consultations served as a platform for stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogues, share insights, and propose actionable solutions to combat this pressing challenge.

The event marked an intensive and comprehensive discourse on strategies to overcome legislative and enforcement challenges Participants included representatives from governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, civi society, academia, media, and concerned citizens Their diverse perspectives and collective expertise contributed to shaping holistic strategies that encompass legislative, policy, and grassroots initiatives to eradicate child domestic

GDP and SSDO have been at the forefront of advocating for the rights of children and marginalized communities. Their collaboration with NCRC underscores a shared commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of every child, in alignment with in ternational conventions and Pakistan's own legal framework.



sisters of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan leaving the Islamabad High Court after attending the hearing of Imran Khan's plea seeking suspension of a three-year jail term.

### IK's 3-year sentence suspended by IHC, not abolished: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Secretary General of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Atta Tarar said on Tuesday that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had suspended three-year sentence of PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case, without abolishing it.

During his interaction with the media persons, he clarified that the suspension of Imran Khan's disqualification was a temporary measure, as his legal team had solely lodged an appeal for the suspension

the decision to terminate the sentence would depend on the case's merits. 'The release of Chair-

man Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) appears unlikely because of his existing judicial remand in another case, and his association with events like May 9, which is a unique situation in history," he added.

He believed that Imran Khan had openly admitted to participating in purchase and sale of gifts.

This stance was backed by his lawyer's acknowledgment before the Election Commission, he He pointed out that added.

### Water level rises to full capacity in Mangla Dam

from the currently fullypacked country's largest Mangla dam was stopped on Tuesday the water level in the reservoir was kept intact to the stipulated maximum 1242.00 feet capacity. After a week-long pause only up to 0.30 feet of water had been discharged till Saturday last from the country's largest water reservoir, official sources told APP on Tues-

minimum operating level as under:-

After discharge of water 1242.00 feet against the maximum conservation level 1242 feet, live storage 7.356 MAF as recorded tod ay.

Inflows of Jhelum river at Mangla reservoir was recorded as 20400 cusecs with outflows of same 18300 cusees of water from the dam

At the same time, the position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoirs levels Mangla dam contains and the barrages remained

### **Islamabad Capital Police** distributed body cams to **Dolphin Squad officials**

**Independent Report** 

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directions of the Islamabad Capital duce crime rates and moni-City Police Officer tor suspicious individuals

sations during interactions with the public could be securely recorded. They were also informed that this initiative aims to re-



(ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City distributed body cams among the officials of Dolphin Squad and briefed them about their usage, a public relations officer

He said that, the purpose of the body cams is to ensure the secure recording of conversations between police officials during interactions with the public. The focus is to reduce the crime rate and keep an eye on suspicious individuals and activities.

The dolphin squad duty so that the conver- helpline

and activities Furthermore, the of

ficials were directed that no vehicle search should be conducted without the orders of senior officers and interactions with the public should be conducted courteously as well as maintaining a respectful attitude towards them. Islamabad Capital

Police is taking all possible measures to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens. Citizens were also requested to cooperate with the police and report any suspipersonnel were instructed cious activity to their reduring the briefing to use spective police station these body cams while on or dial "Pucar-15"



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