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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Ex PM to remain in jail for 'cypher' hearing IHC suspends Imran Khan's sentence in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (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

court considers that the petitioner is entitled to suspension 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 Election Act.

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 bail.

The order also said that by accepting the plea of the

accused, the decision of the trial court of August 5 "is 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

expressed its displeasure on 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.



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



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

Delegation of Minorities Commission meets:

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 Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the constitution of Pakistan guarantees giving 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 that we have learnt from our political elders that we don't make friendship or enmity on the basis of colour, cast or creed.

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 concrete steps for preservation of the achievements and sacrifices of the otherwise neglected parts and personalities of the society.

He said that the world has turned into a global village and so we need to promote harmony and unity among different languages and civilizations.

We should also take benefit from the experiences and civilizations of the developed countries and learning international languages, adding he stressed.

The members of delegation apprised the Governor about the issues being faced by the Pashto Academy. They also sought the role of Governor for increasing the grant for the Academy and land for its museum.

Shahbaz Sharif says: Conviction of darling suspended, not abolished

LONDON (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 received from superior court

that subordinate court should not do this then it should do what.

He went on to say monitoring judge was appointed to ensure conviction of Nawaz Sharif and Chief Justice himself became monitoring judge to save the darling.

This role of justice system will be written in black chapter of history.

He said tilting scale and justice system hurting the justice is not acceptable.

Law is helpless before the one who has sold out watch. If thief and state terrorist is facilitated then the justice will be administered to common man from where.



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

Govt meddling in judiciary affairs, says CJP Bandial

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.

The remarks were 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 twice to review the Act, causing delays in legal

proceedings. He also expressed concerns about the government's interference in the scope of the apex court.

Justice Ijaz pointed out that the government itself admitted to the flawed legislation, which led to the suspension of proceedings under the Act by court order. 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 Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act is unconstitutional and interferes with the independence of the judiciary.

The CJP declared that only the three-member bench would hear the NAB amendments case, and adjourned further hearing of the case until today.

DG, ANF briefs Interior Minister on narcotics control

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (DG) Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Major General Aneequr 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 important.

He appreciated the recent raids of the force and

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

The minister also directed 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 society.

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



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

Shares video on his social media account: CMDomki 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 work on 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 Kakar.

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

Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki hoped that the National Highway Authority would complete the project at the earliest.

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 authorities to start work on it.

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 Ateeq Al-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 Tuesday.

During the visit, he inaugurated the Facilitation Desk in the UAE Consulate. Upon his arrival in the Consulate, the UAE Consul General based in Karachi, Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi warmly welcomed the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan.

While briefing the care-

taker Chief Minister, the 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 establishing Happiness

counter in the UAE Consulate.

He said that the counter is an important progress for promotion of mutual relations between the two brotherly countries.

Meanwhile, there was also a formal meeting between the caretaker Chief Minister and Consul General of UAE.

During the course of meeting, the matters were discussed pertaining to boost the investment of UAE in Balochistan and promotion of mutual cooperation in different sectors.

Balochistan delegation praises PM's efforts for restoring economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Balochistan comprising Sardar Aslam Bizenjo, Mir Khalid Langu, Mir Asim Kurd Gailo 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 Tuesday.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi was also present in the meeting.

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.

The dead bodies and injured were shifted to Sibi hospital for medico-legal formalities.



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

Cabinet unable to decide on relief in bills

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Caretaker government could not give any relief to the people who came out on the streets against the increase in electricity bills.

The federal cabinet meeting was held last day under the chairmanship of caretaker prime minister Anwarul Haq Kakar.

Owing to the terms and conditions of the IMF agreement, 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 consumers 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 possible to provide relief to the people in the form of subsidy on electricity due to the IMF agreement.

The Energy Division presented various options

to provide relief to the people in the cabinet meeting. According to the sources, it was agreed in the meeting that the bills will be collected in installments during the next six months from the consumers using up to 400 units of electricity, but this will be possible only with the consent of the IMF.

The Cabinet directed the Energy Division to fix the procedure. While, WAPDA could not decide on the free electricity units given to employees of distribution companies and related institutions. According to the sources, the issue of outsourcing of Islamabad Airport was entrusted to the steering committee. According to the sources, the federal 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 understanding between Pakistan and Belarus.



QUETTA: Iranian Consul General Hassan Darvishvini meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Muhammad Achakzai

Wednesday 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 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 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 authorities.

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 again being faced by the vulnerable populations of the Global South. With COP28 just a few months away, Pakistan, 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.



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 them.

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 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-

tance of winning over the 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 Afghan Taliban in 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 situation.

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 large-scale operations to eliminate militants. Indeed, the residents are fearful of the

threat the TTP can pose, 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 the PTM.

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 area.

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 journalist put it, the people feel abandoned and are sceptical 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

share, which was to be 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 country.

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-

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 Perviz Khattak, who is rumored 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, 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. -- Courtesy Dawn

'For want of a nail...'



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 Africa).

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 the further expansion of BRICS and de-dollarization.

On the subject of expansion, South African officials have reported that more than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining BRICS, while about 20

applications for membership 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

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 itself in.

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 system.

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 de-dollarization 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 de-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 incidents.

The invitation to oil-exporting 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 huge chance of acceptance into the BRICS to end the dollar's dominance.

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-importers, 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 yuan or

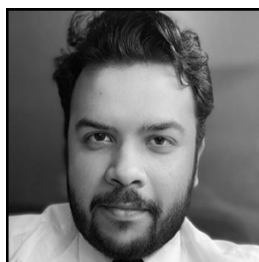
any other currency.

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 desecration of churches and the homes of its minority Christian community by its own brethren.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's minorities have had to live their lives in fear — 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 highest, if not the highest, number of blasphemy cases reported anywhere in the world, despite the overwhelming majority of its population calling itself Muslim.

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 politic o-/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 religion.

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 Fatima, a 10-year-old girl in 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 state.

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 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

Skeletons in your closet



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 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 better.

But what if it transpires that our friend isn't too innocent? Say, if the other side alleges unspoken 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 either.

In April this year, the 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

break-up with its East. The stories they tell are so dark, anyone with a heart would shiver.

But let's assume for a moment that they're a pack of lies. That these war-surviving old women are conning 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 sins?

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. Seventy-nine years ago. Did these countries lose anything by acknowledging a mistake? Did some humility and self-reflection 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-

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 anti-hero". 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 Islamabad 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 questioning our friend with unquenching, unconditional love and support. Surely, he'd never turn on us. -- Courtesy Dawn-- Courtesy Dawn

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Tuesday emphasized the need for collective efforts to promote the country's development, prosperity and peace.

He said that those with intentions of weakening the state and spreading negativity, 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 provincial minister Shafiqullah Khan, convened.

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

The delegates discussed issues concerning the region's population,

particularly related to notifications in Dir Central District, education, healthcare, gas supply, municipal representative powers, funds, and other challenges.

The delegates appreciated the Governor's receptive 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 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 belief.

The Governor acknowledged that engaging with the people and institutions dedicated to social

service brings him immense joy.

He assured the delegates that the problems faced by local governments would be resolved soon, allowing them to initiate developmental activities in their areas.

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 Governor.

The delegation discussed matters concerning institutional improvement and exchanged ideas for enhancement.

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 solutions.



PESHAWAR: 45-members Qaumi Jirga consisting of tribal elders from Dir Bala meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Governor Punjab orders renaming of Bahawalpur zoo

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab 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 the old animals should be well taken care of.

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

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 improved.

Balighur Rehman directed to turn Sherbagh into a modern zoo with state of the art facilities.

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 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.

KP caretaker minister chairs meeting on tourism, culture, archaeology

PESHAWAR (APP): A 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 economy. He said that the

security of the tourists is 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 inform them about their history.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman briefed by officials 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 records, it will not be possible to make any fabrication 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 amount of challan will be credited to the KMC's account, he added.

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

HYDERABAD (APP): The Federal Ombudsman 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-

served.

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 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 fee wanted to ensure that the services meant for the people reach them," he ob-

served. 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 distribution companies can't serve detection bills without establishing theft," he underlined.

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 the Chair.

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 (retired) Arshad Hussain 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): 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 surcharge, GST, TV fee, electricity duty and other taxes are being charged to consumers 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 unprecedented hike in electricity bills has made the life of people miserable.

ECP seeks proposals for transfer/posting of key officials in Sindh

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 Inspector General of Police to suggest transfers/postings of key provincial government officials.

In a meeting, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, it was emphasized that ensuring transparency and impartiality in the elections was the foremost duty of Sindh government's top officials. "As an initial mea-

sure, the transfers and appointments of crucial officials are necessary to ensure non-controversial elections. Subsequently, the process will involve the appointment of district returning officers, returning officers, assistant returning officers, and monitoring officers," it was further stressed. The Election Commission extended its full support and protection to the Sindh Chief Secretary and IGP.

Earlier, both the Chief Secretary and IGP apprised the meeting of their preparedness for the upcoming general elections.

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 Tuesday.

The two new ministers Engineer Aamir Nadeem Durrani and Engineer Ahmad Jan were administered oath by the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali here at Governor's House.

Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan also attended the oath-taking ceremony.

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 term.

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.

However, Parvez 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 September 2.

French CG calls on Mayor Karachi

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

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 fields.



GILGIT: Minister Law & Prosecution Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Sohail Abbas, Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and IGP GB Afzal Mehmood Butt inaugurating the Public library at old Jail Kashrote.

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr. Jamal Nasir said that according to the latest census results, Pakistan had become the fifth most populous country in the world after India, China, America and Indonesia.

He was addressing as the chief guest at a seminar on "Alarming population growth rate and family planning" held in collaboration with the District Population Welfare Department Rawalpindi at the Punjab Arts Council (PAC) titled here on Tuesday.

The minister said that this year, the total popula-

tion of the world was increased by eight billion people while the current rate of population growth in Pakistan was about 2.7 percent which was very high compared to international standards. He further said that the Punjab government was taking all necessary steps to prevent over-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, illiteracy, gender inequality, environmental pollution, maternal and child mortality.



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 Jamshoro.

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 robust measures.

The conference was participated by key education stakeholders, including Additional Secretary Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi,

Deputy Secretaries Khawaja Mazharul Haque Saifur Rahman Khan, DPI (Secondary) South Punjab Zahida Batul, DPI (Elementary) Parvez Iqbal, and other officials.

The Secretary emphasized 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.



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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): The Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement 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 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

all phases of disaster management. The collaborative initiatives encompass rapid response strategies, anticipatory actions, capacity-building 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 collaboration, 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, "I 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."

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Water Resources Ahmed Irfan Aslam on Tuesday said the country during the 2022 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

through informed forecast which is not possible without modern flood telemetry 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 government 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,

the recurring floods had incurred 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.

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

He felicitated all stakeholders on the success of the intervention.

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 Kashmir.

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 to achieve their cherished goal of freedom.

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 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

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 with absolute determination and dedication.

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 hospitals.



ISLAMABAD: Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Yevgeniy Zhukov presenting a souvenir to Caretaker Federal Minister for Water Resources, Ahmed 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): Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Husse in 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 Assistant said that Indian armed forces had been committing heinous 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 women in order to demoralize them and suppress Kashmiris' 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 Kashmiri women.

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



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

Caretaker CM visits Mazar-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 fatcha for the departed soul of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister said that he is feeling immense pleasure and satisfaction by visiting the Mazar-e-Quaid.

He said that we have to create spirit of love and service to Pakistan by our heart and soul by 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 legacy.

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 history, who spent three days and three nights in Quetta after.

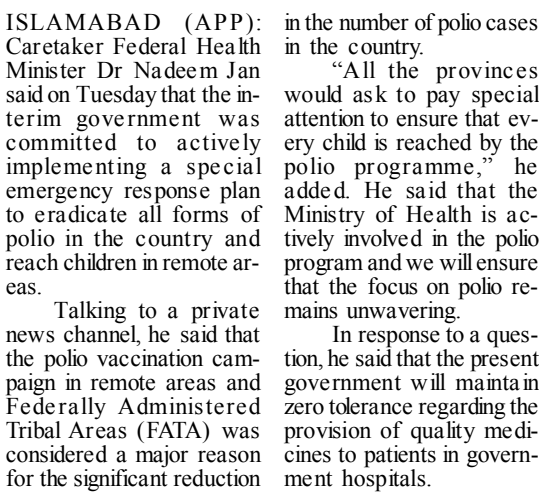
He commended that the caretaker Prime Minister kept on holding meetings about the development of province and resolution of the issues of people dur-

ing his stay.

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.

In addition to this, it is also our responsibility to ensure timely completion of the development projects so that the general public may get relief, he maintained.



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



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

The PTI plea stated that Supreme Court 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) Superintendent of Police (SP) Shirani Mir Manzoor Ahmed Bukedi on Tuesday said that on special directive of IG of Police Balochistan and DIG General Police Zhub 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

truck drivers could not present any official permit to the staff on the spot and 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 public.

QESCO 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, Sariah 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 be suspended supply electricity from 10 am to 1 pm.

Asghar condemns incident of burning of goods' trawler

Independent Report CHAMAN: The Provincial president of Awami National Party (ANP), Asghar Khan Achakzai has strongly condemned the incident of burning of a goods' trawler by unknown miscreants in Loralai area couple of days back.

Mr. Achakzai asserted that we would not accept such incidents at all nor would sabotage the Pak-Afghan trader.

He assured his every possible cooperation to the Chaman Chamber of Commerce saying that his cooperation would always remain with them.

He also asked the government to compensate the losses caused due to the incident and take solid steps for prevention of such untoward 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 response for taking the culprits to task.

On this, the ACS Home contracted the Deputy Commissioner Loralai and directed him to take action against the culprits.



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

ATC approves 3 days physical remand of Imaan Mazari

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

Judge Abul 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 Raja 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.

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 province.

The highways of National Highway Authority as well as the Special Secretary Irrigation Department, Nadeem Samal 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 province.



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



ISLAMABAD: PIO/MDAPP, 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 mid-term summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), scheduled to take place 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 goals.

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 session was attended by representatives from various ministries, provincial governments, 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 implementation in light of the challenges faced.

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.

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, co-sponsored 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 become 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 Jaramillo said that transitioning to clean and renewable energy sources was essential to face current environmental and socioeconomic challenges and guarantee human survival and well-being on the planet.

The US representative said her delegation joined the consensus.