



A camel rests at the Giza Pyramids scenic spot in Giza, Egypt

Israel is committing the crime of apartheid, rights watchdog says

London, April 28 : Human Rights Watch has accused Israeli officials of committing the crimes of apartheid and persecution, claiming the government enforces an overarching policy to "maintain the domination by Jewish Israelis over Palestinians". In a report released on Tuesday, the New York-based advocacy group became the first major international rights body to level such allegations. It said that after decades of warnings that an entrenched hold over Palestinian life could lead to apartheid, it had found that the "threshold" had been crossed. "This is the starkest finding Human Rights Watch has reached on Israeli conduct in the 30 years we've been documenting abuses on the ground there," said Omar Shakir, the group's Israel and Palestine director. Shakir said his organisation had never before directly accused Israeli officials of crimes against humanity. Responding to the claims, Israel's foreign ministry accused Human Rights Watch of a "longstanding anti-Israeli agenda" and said the report was a "propaganda pamphlet" that had "no connection to facts or reality on the ground". "The fictional claims that HRW concocted are both preposterous and false," it said. The report drew on years of human rights documentation, analysis of Israeli laws, a review of government planning documents, and statements by officials. Human Rights Watch compared policies and practices towards nearly 7 million Palestinians in the occupied territories and within Israel with those concerning roughly the same number of Jewish Israelis living in the same areas. It concluded there was a "present-day reality of a single authority, the Israeli government ... methodologically privileging Jewish Israelis while repressing Palestinians, most severely in the occupied territory." First used in relation to South Africa's racist segregation against non-white citizens, apartheid - which is Afrikaans for "apartness" - is a crime against humanity under international law. Under the 1998 Rome statute that established the international criminal court (ICC), apartheid is defined as an "institutionalised regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other" with the intent of "maintaining that regime". Persecution, which is also a crime against humanity, is defined as "the intentional and severe deprivation of fundamental rights" of a group of people. Human Rights Watch said that inside Israel - where about a fifth of the 9 million citizens are Palestinians - and in the occupied territories, authorities had sought to maximise the land available for Jewish communities and concentrate most Palestinians in dense population centres. "The authorities have adopted policies to mitigate what they have openly described as a demographic 'threat' from Palestinians," it said, referencing concerns expressed by Israeli politicians that a majority Palestinian population would endanger the Jewish state. "In Jerusalem, for example, the government's plan for the municipality ... sets the goal of 'maintaining a solid Jewish majority in the city' and even specifies the demographic ratios it hopes to maintain." It said Israeli authorities "systematically discriminate against Palestinians". This was most extreme in the occupied territories, it said, including the West Bank, which Israel captured in the six-day war in 1967. Several hundred thousand Israeli settlers now live there as citizens while about 2.7 million Palestinians are not and live under military rule. Human Rights Watch's executive director, Kenneth Roth, said this was not simply "an abusive

occupation". "These policies, which grant Jewish Israelis the same rights and privileges wherever they live and discriminate against Palestinians to varying degrees wherever they live, reflect a policy to privilege one people at the expense of another," Roth said. When similar allegations have been raised in the past, Israel has taken particular offence to the claim it discriminates against Palestinian citizens of the country, also known as Arab Israelis. It cites equal rights laws and the fact that Arabs are represented in government and the judicial system. Regarding the occupied West Bank, Israel points to agreements signed in the 1990s that afforded Palestinians limited self-rule there. However, Human Rights Watch says the Israeli government still "retains primary control over many aspects" of their lives, including borders, natural resources and movement of people and goods.

Australian defence minister says conflict over Taiwan involving China 'should not be discounted'

Beijing, April 28 : The Australian defence minister, Peter Dutton, has said a conflict involving China over Taiwan cannot be discounted but he insists the government's focus remains on having "good relations" with Beijing. Dutton was on Sunday asked about the prospect of a "battle over Taiwan" following remarks from the former defence minister, Christopher Pyne, and the ex-prime minister, Tony Abbott, about China's expansionist plans in the region. "China has been very clear about the reunification and that's been a long-held objective of theirs. They have been very clear about that goal. People need to be realistic about the activity. There is militarisation of bases across the region. Obviously, there is a significant amount of activity and there is an animosity between Taiwan and China," Dutton said. Australia wanted to continue being "a good neighbour in the region" that worked with its partners and allies. "Nobody wants to see conflict between China and

Taiwan or anywhere else," he said. The minister stressed Australia was focused on continuing "good relations" with China. "We have good relations with a number of countries, including China, a very important trading partner. We have an incredible diaspora community here in Australia, people who have contributed to our country over generations that are incredibly important Australians. But we do have a difference of opinion with the ideals of the Communist party of China. Let's be very frank about it." Dutton said Australia was prepared for any conflict and while it planned to stay in "peacetime" the ADF was ready to meet potential threats. "There is a high level of preparedness, as there should be, as there always will be, for our Australian defence force to meet the threats that we see in our region toward our country, against our allies," he said. The outbreak of a war over Taiwan would be "disastrous" for the region, the chief of the Australian defence

force warned earlier in April. General Angus Campbell at the time indicated Australia would keep pushing for peaceful dialogue and urged countries to "all work to avoid" conflict over the future of Taiwan. The newly appointed defence minister, who was promoted to the portfolio in a reshuffle last month, also again defended his decision to reinstate the medals stripped from 3,000 SAS soldiers who served in Afghanistan in the wake of the damning Brereton inquiry. Dutton said the "vast majority" of ADF personnel had done the right thing and he did not believe the actions of a few should diminish their service - despite the allegations being "very confronting." "I believed it was in the best interests of our defence personnel and of the organisation, and I also believe very strongly that for the 3,000 who were recognised during this process, that the vast majority of them have done the right thing," Dutton said. "They have acted with distinction, they have served our country with pride, we're incredibly proud of that service." Australia has announced it will bring home its remaining troops from Afghanistan by September following a similar announcement by the United States. Dutton said on Sunday he thought it was "very unlikely" that Australian forces would be redeployed in the short term - even if the Taliban was resurgent.

Order (EIO), which empowered countries to call upon a member state to lead an investigation, place wiretaps, or track a suspect. "Italy and the UK will sign agreements to continue such efforts," Cafiero said. "However, in practice, the collaboration will be different." "Imagine two investigators from two different EU member states who are looking, at the same time, into a wiretap from two different screens and while in two different countries," added Cafiero. "Non-EU countries will have more difficulty participating in a team of this sort." It is a view the UK disputes, saying its deal with the EU allows for extradition as



the assistance of Italian investigators. "When the UK was part of the European Union, it benefited from the effective sharing of data in the fight against organised crime," Italy's national anti-mafia prosecutor, Federico Cafiero De Raho, told. "Now that it has left the EU, problems will start to emerge. London will not be absent, but things will change and even the best post-Brexit cooperation will be less effective than within the EU. Today's mafias are moving among countries and continents, and where they find weakness in international cooperation, they exploit that opportunity." Among the consequences of Brexit are the UK leaving the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), a provision that allowed for fast extradition, as well as the European Investigation

effective as the EAW, bilateral information sharing, arrangements to simplify asset confiscation and full participation in investigatory teams with EU member states. "The agreement the UK reached with the EU delivers a comprehensive package of capabilities which ensures we can work with partners in Europe, including Italy, to tackle serious crime and terrorism - protecting the public and bringing criminals to justice," said Kevin Foster, the UK minister for future borders and immigration, in a statement. "It includes streamlined extradition arrangements, continued exchange of data for law enforcement purposes and arrangements enabling close and effective cooperation with Europol and Eurojust. We are committed to working together with European partners, including Italy, to counter the threats we all face, within Europe and beyond. The UK will continue to be a global leader on security and one of the safest countries in the world." Of the Italian fears, Tim O'Sullivan, a former crown prosecutor and chair of the Law Society's EU committee, said: "These concerns are certainly shared because at the moment there is still uncertainty on how the new arrangements will work. The EU mechanisms give law enforcement a legal basis on which to operate. [But] This doesn't mean that in the new cooperation agreement there aren't the means to address these concerns." In the meantime, to make things worse, Covid-19 and the financial crisis generated by the pandemic have amplified the risk that the 'Ndrangheta could deepen its involvement in international markets. Giuseppe Lombardo, the deputy prosecutor of Reggio Calabria, warned that "in a phase of very scarce global liquidity, the goal of the 'Ndrangheta will be to create a banking system parallel to the legal one", as all the eyes are on the City. Federico Varese, a professor of criminology at the University of Oxford, believes Brexit is forcing the UK government to rethink the fight against transnational organised crime. "Criminals consider borders an opportunity and will make the most of it," said Varese. "It is just another price of Brexit."

Two women tortured in latest sorcery-related attack in Papua New Guinea



London, April 28 : Two women have been brutally attacked in Port Moresby by up to 20 men after being accused of witchcraft, in the latest instance of sorcery-related violence in Papua New Guinea. The women were tortured and burnt with hot irons for hours on Sunday in a settlement at 5 Mile in the capital. One woman managed to escape and ran down a hill before she was rescued by police. She said she was being interrogated by the male perpetrators and pressured to admit to the killing of another woman who died earlier in the

week. Police found the second woman badly wounded and bound with ropes, lying in a garden. Both had very severe injuries. Community leader Elliot Raphael said the incident was shocking and that a solution needed to be found to address the issue of violence against women immediately. "All we know was that the ladies were picked up in the morning and interrogated, and from there we don't know what happened before they were tortured and now this," said Raphael. The women were treated on the scene and taken to hospital. St John Ambulance chief executive Mathew Cannon confirmed the women were being treated for serious head and leg injuries. They will receive counselling support. National Capital District (NCD) Metropolitan Supt Gideon Ikumu said up to 20 men fled

before police arrived at the scene, but that the identities of the men were known to them. "I strongly condemn these crimes and request the families and relatives of the two victims to come forward and provide their statements," he said. Sorcery violence - known as Sorcery Accusation Related Violence, or SARV - is persistent in PNG. This latest attack prompted outrage among senior police officers and politicians. "People must change their mindset as we are living in a modern growing city. Police will ensure those responsible are brought to justice," said Anthony Wagambe Jr, divisional commander NCD and central assistant commissioner. NCD governor, Powes Parkop said: "I am totally disgusted and disappointed by the actions of the men who tortured the two women in the nation's capital. I am appalled that men continue to believe and practice such barbaric practices in this day and age. The fact that it could still happen in the capital city shows we are a long way away from ending

gender-based violence, and sorcery accusatory violence in particular." He said there was an urgent need to fund the National Gender Based Violence Secretariat and allocate funds to get the National Gender Based Violence strategy 2016-2026 rolled out as soon as possible. "The strategy has been developed and these barbaric acts are allowed to continue because we have not funded the implementation of the strategy. It means we must multiply our efforts ... to stop such violence and change behaviour and attitude. We are too slow at all levels."



People walk past a restaurant in Rome, Italy

<p>BENGAL TEA & FABRICS LIMITED CIN: L51909WB1983PLC036542 Regd. Off: Century Towers, 45 Shakespeare Sarani, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700 017 Telefax : 91-33 2283 6416/17, e-mail: investor@bengaltea.com Website: www.bengaltea.com</p> <p>NOTICE OF REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY Notice is hereby given that the General Power of Attorney (POA) dated 18th February, 2008 given by Bengal Tea & Fabrics Limited, having its registered office at Century Towers, 4th Floor, 45 Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata 700017 ("the company") relating to the Company's Ananda, Pathalipam and Bordeobam Tea Estates, in favour of Shri Anil Kumar Tiwari, son of Late Bihari Lalji Tiwari, resident of 32/62 Park Street, Swarn Path, Mansarovar, Jaipur 302020 (Rajasthan) stands terminated and the Company hereby withdraws, revokes, and cancels the aforesaid POA granted by it to the said Shri Anil Kumar Tiwari with immediate effect.</p> <p>Henceforth, all or any of the acts done or executed by aforesaid Shri Anil Kumar Tiwari, under or in pursuance of the aforesaid POA shall not be deemed to be Company's acts nor done in the name and on behalf of the Company. Shri Anil Kumar Tiwari cannot enter into any agreement with third party nor can execute any documents on behalf of the Company or represent the Company in any manner, whatsoever. Any transaction that may place on the strength of the said POA, which has been already revoked, would not be binding on the Company.</p> <p>For Bengal Tea & Fabrics Limited Adarsh Kanoria Managing Director DIN: 00027290</p> <p>Place : Kolkata Date : 28.04.2021</p>
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● NEP 2021

Govt seeks stakeholders' views on national electricity policy

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, April 28

THE UNION POWER ministry has asked states and industry associations to submit their suggestions for framing the national electricity policy (NEP), 2021 within the next three weeks. The government has constituted a committee, led by former chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission Girish Pradhan, to come up with NEP, 2021. The committee will submit its suggested draft NEP, 2021 within two months. The last NEP was formulated in 2005, and since then, per capita power consumption has nearly doubled to the current level of 1,208 units. Share of renewable electricity has increased to 10% of overall consumption from 0.75% in the same period.



The new policy will focus on improving the health of electricity distribution companies (discoms), implementing cost reflective tariff structures, and setting up adequate infrastructure through hydro and gas-based power plants to accommodate the rising share of intermittent renewable energy in the system. The new policy will also aim to improve the quality of electricity supply and increase the share of indigenous equipment used across the power value chain. To allow more renewable en-

ergy based power supply, the power ministry has suggested higher use of storage technologies through hydro power plants, battery storage and other emerging technologies such as hydrogen storage. It has also suggested retrofitting existing coal-based power plants to make them more flexible so that they can easily start up or shut down according to generation from solar and wind plants. Acknowledging that coal-based power is still the cheapest source of electricity, the ministry's resolution to the upcoming policy stated that upcoming coal plants should only use the most efficient technologies. The policy will also likely bat for a differential tariff regime for end consumers, where power prices will be higher during hours of peak demand. Differential pricing will also support the

construction of more expensive pumped hydro storage plants, which can be crucial for the smooth integration of renewable energy in the system. The resolution also talks about speeding up the installation process of conventional hydro plants. To improve discoms, the government has pushed more private participation in the sector and increase competition by removing the monopolies of state-run firms. The resolution also recommends mandatory installation of smart pre-paid meters to control pilferage. It also advocates 100% metering of distribution transformers within three years from the current level of 37%. The power ministry has reiterated Centre's stance which advocates states to provide subsidy to legitimate consumers through direct benefit transfer.

Niti Aayog suggests govt to provide incentives on EV purchase apart from FAME-II subsidy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 28

GOVERNMENT THINK-TANK NITI Aayog has said the government should provide incentives on electric vehicle (EV) purchase over and above the existing subsidy under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and EV (FAME-II) scheme. The Niti Aayog in its status quo analysis of electric mobility in India also said the government should include EVs and associated businesses in the priority sector lending category. "The government should give EV purchase subsidy over and above FAME-II subsidy along with interest subvention on loan amount taken for EV purchase," the Aayog said. It further pitched for creation of non-financial incentives, including priority lanes and exclusive parking for EVs in commercial complexes. The Aayog also recommended providing interest sub-

Limited incentives unlikely to drive scrappage: Crisil

LIMITED INCENTIVES and poor cost economics for trucks in the Vehicle Scrappage Policy, coupled with lack of addressable volumes for other segments is unlikely to drive freight transporters to replace their old vehicles with new ones, a report said on Wednesday. Though the scrappage volume of buses, PVs and two-wheelers is expected to be limited as well, the policy's impact on new commercial vehicle (CV) sales could be sizeable, based on addressable volume, ratings agency Crisil Research said in its report. —

vention on loan taken for EV purchase. It also said green zones should be demarcated within cities that permit only EVs, and heavy taxes should be charged on conventional fuel vehicles. "Green corridors should be earmarked on which only e-buses are provided permit to operate," the Aayog said adding that a national-level policy should be formulated for incentivising distribution utilities on investing in development of EV charging

infrastructure. It also emphasised that financial institutions should be encouraged to extend their lending facility to the electric mobility sector. "Allow charging infra developer to use certain percentage of allotted land to open public amenities, such as cafeteria and food zones, to have additional revenue stream to ensure sustainability of business (Madhya Pradesh EV policy has made similar provision)," it said. The Aayog also suggested

that the electricity regulator should be mandated to provide mechanism for approval of rate-basing of utility investments in building EV charging infrastructure. It also pitched for providing opportunity to battery swapping stations to participate in real-time and ancillary service markets. The government had notified the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020, which seeks to enhance national energy security and boost domestic manufacturing capabilities for EVs. In addition to this, the government has notified the FAME-II scheme to stimulate the country's EV market, de-licensed the charging infrastructure business, and specified guidelines and standards for charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. Currently, the overall share of EVs and low-carbon road transport technology in the total vehicle sales in the country stands at less than 1%.

Assam earthquake: PM, Shah, FM assure all help

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 28

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Wednesday assured all possible Central help to the earthquake-hit state of Assam, as he took stock of the situation there twice during the day. Union home minister Amit Shah, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman were among a host of Central leaders who spoke to Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal and assured him all possible help to the state after the Wednesday morning earthquake. An earthquake of 6.4 magnitude, followed by a series of aftershocks, hit Assam this morning, causing widespread damage in the Northeast state. "Spoke to Assam CM Shri

@sarbanandsonwal ji regarding the earthquake in parts of the state. Assured all possible help from the Centre. I pray for the well-being of the people of Assam," Modi tweeted. Later Sonowal tweeted, "PM @narendramodiji is taking regular updates about the situation after the earthquake at Dhekiajuli this morning. Got a 2nd call from the Hon'ble PM within a span of few hours. I have apprised him about the latest situation." The chief minister also visited the epicenter site near Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur district. Shah also spoke to Sonowal and said the Central government stands firmly behind the people of the state. Sitharaman also assured the chief minister all possible help from the Central government.

Agri infra fund: Govt receives 8,665 applications seeking loan worth ₹8,216 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 28

THE CENTRE ON Wednesday said it has so far received 8,665 applications seeking subsidised loan worth ₹8,216 crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme launched to augment post-harvest infrastructure in the country. Under the AIF scheme, implemented in 2020-21 for ten years, about ₹1 lakh crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE (Credit Guarantee



Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises) for loans up to ₹3 crore. "Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has crossed the ₹8,000 crore mark, after receiving 8,665 applications worth

₹8,216 crore," the agriculture ministry said in a statement. Out of this, over ₹4,000 crore has been sanctioned so far, it said. Maximum applications have been received from Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) followed by agri-entrepreneurs and individual farmers, it said. These investments are for a wide range of projects which will unlock value for farmers across the country. States leading the front are Andhra Pradesh (2,125 applications), Madhya Pradesh (1,830), Uttar Pradesh (1,255), Karnataka (1,071) and Rajasthan (613), it added.

L-G in-charge of Delhi as MHA notifies Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, April 28

DELHI'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR has become the effective in-charge of the national capital with the Centre notifying a new law making it clear the city's elected government will now have to seek the opinion of the L-G before any executive decision. The Union home ministry's notification giving effect to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 came on Tuesday night, as the city battles a ferocious Covid-19 wave and its healthcare system is stretched to breaking point. The provisions of the Act came into effect from April 27, according to the notification issued by the ministry of home affairs (MHA). Three key subjects in Delhi — public order, police and land —

are already in the hands of the central government, while sectors such as health, education, forest and transport are with the

city government. The MHA notification seals the primacy given to the L-G, a nominee of the Central government.

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For Bengal Tea & Fabrics Limited
Adarsh Kanoria
Managing Director
DIN: 00027290

Place : Kolkata
Date : 28.04.2021

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