

The 'Minority' label

It was most disappointing to see a photograph captioned "Minority community takes part in rafting" on page 7 of the Dawn newspaper of 19th March 2018. It seems that the fallout of the recent Islamabad High Court judgment requiring declaration of religion / sect mandatory for seeking government jobs is viciously spreading into every aspect of our public life.

The High Court ruling is essentially divisive and dangerous. It takes away our right as equal citizens and divides us into labels that have nothing to do with the business of the state. It is demeaning and discriminatory for minorities. It reduces them to unequal citizens of Pakistan. Will they now be addressed as 'minority', instead of their names and nomenclatures. Will the word "Minority" be their only recognition.

While it may be appropriate for the Supreme Court to take a suo moto notice on this judgment, it may be equally pertinent for the Dawn to print an apology to all minorities of Pakistan for choosing a thoughtless, irrelevant and insensitive caption.