



Military throws its weight behind call for governance reset

• ISPR chief says an overhaul is overdue, but leaves it up to politicians • Insists four-province structure should be reviewed against present-day realities • Maintains AJK issues should be resolved through Constitution, rule of law • Rejects claims that Balochistan security situation deteriorating • Blames elitism, external backing, Afghan sanctuaries for unrest

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: The military on Friday urged political parties to consider an administrative reset for improving governance, arguing that the country's security and stability depended on adapting its governance structure to the requirements of modern times and a growing population.

The remarks came a day

after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the governance system in the country had "collapsed" and argued that the country needed new administrative units, or provinces, to improve service delivery, accountability and access to justice.

Speaking at a news conference, Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said governance had long been identified by the mili-

tary as a prerequisite for national security, while insisting that any decision on restructuring the administrative system rested entirely with politicians and had to be pursued through constitutional means.

"We have been saying this earlier also as a primary stakeholder in security that good governance is due for the security and stability of Pakistan," Gen Chaudhry said. "Without this, none of our issues could be resolved."

Murders in Balochistan: Editorial on Page 6

Echoing the central theme of Mr Naqvi's speech, while simultaneously distancing himself from the interior minister's remarks as his personal view, Gen Chaudhry said Pakistan's existing administrative structure deserved a serious political review.

Recalling the National Action Plan adopted after the 2014 Army Public School attack, he said its 14-point agenda, unanimously endorsed by political parties, had also rested on effective governance.

"The National Action Plan, with its 14-point agenda and consensus of all political parties, was dependent on good governance for its implementation," he said. "Good governance is quintessential for Pakistan."

When asked how that

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Naqvi's remarks ignite fresh debate in political circles

By Amir Wasim, Mohammad Hussain Khan and Wajih Ahmad Sheikh

ISLAMABAD / HYDERABAD / LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's call for an overhaul of the country's governance structure and the carving out of new administrative units has ignited an animated debate across the country, with the PPP referring the question to its top decision-making forum, the Sindh chief minister flatly rejecting it, Lahore's lawyers terming it unconstitutional and Sindhi nationalist groups demanding the minister's resignation.

Addressing the Pakistan Economic Summit in Islamabad on Thursday, Mr Naqvi said the present system of governance had collapsed and was fundamentally incapable of resolving the country's problems.

He urged all political parties to sit together and settle every outstanding issue, including the creation of new units and provinces, warning that without structural change the same

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RLNG prices rocket to highest level in a decade

• LPG rates for August increased to Rs254.32 per kg • Ogra says five spot cargoes had to be procured after no shipment secured from Qatar • Regulator finally reveals lower prescribed prices for gas utilities, finalised on June 23 • Rs50bn savings from lower gas rates to be used for circular debt adjustment

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: In a major price shock, Ogra on Friday notified a record 32pc increase in regasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG) prices for August, fixing the rate at \$25.83 per mmBtu for Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and \$25.09 per mmBtu for Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL), while denying consumers about Rs50bn in savings from lower natural gas rates.

This translates into a retail price of around Rs7,204 per mmBtu.

The revised price is based on five imported LNG cargoes procured from the spot market, as no shipment could

be secured from Qatar due to the US war on Iran. This is the biggest-ever increase in RLNG prices in the commodity's decade-long history.

PM calls for Ogra overhaul to curb fuel hoarding: Page 9

The latest increase comes on top of around a 15pc rise in RLNG prices last month, when the rate was fixed at \$19.52 per mmBtu (Rs5,446 per mmBtu) for SNGPL and \$18.63 per mmBtu for SSGCL.

Compared with the February price of \$10.45 (Rs2,916) per mmBtu, the RLNG rate for August is around 148pc higher. The sharp increase is expected to

significantly raise fuel costs for power generation.

The impact is already visible, as the fuel cost for RLNG-based power generation rose to Rs31 per unit in May, compared with Rs13.72 per unit in April.

Meanwhile, Ogra also notified a 5.4pc (Rs12.89 per kg) increase in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices for August. It fixed the LPG price at Rs254.32 per kg with effect from Aug 1, compared with Rs241.43 per kg in July.

In a belated disclosure, Ogra has revealed that it reduced the prescribed prices for gas utilities by Rs134 per unit (7.4 per cent), resulting in savings of around Rs50 billion

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LAHORE: Volunteers form a chain in knee-deep floodwater as they distribute food items among residents stranded in Rana Town.—APP

Parts of Punjab, Sindh face urban flooding risk

• Tarbela, Mangla levels continue to rise amid monsoon rains • Medium-flood at Guddu and Sukkur barrages; Chenab may reach high-flood at Marala • PDMA says 45 killed in Punjab

By Khalid Hasnain and Imran Gabol

LAHORE: As the River Indus continues to flow at a medium flood level at Guddu and Sukkur barrages, water levels in the country's major reservoirs — Tarbela and Mangla dams — have risen significantly over the past 15 days due to torrential rains in their catchment areas.

According to reports issued by the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), the water level at Tarbela dam increased from 1,504.31 feet on July 16 to 1,537 feet on July 31, a rise of 32.69 feet. The reservoir is now just 13 feet below its maximum conservation level of 1,550 feet.

Also, the water level at Chashma Lake, which has a total capacity of 649 feet, rose to 648.50 feet on Friday from 646.80 feet on July 16.

Similarly, the water level at Mangla dam rose from 1,173.20 to 1,195.55 feet over the same period, while its maximum conservation level is 1,242 feet.

Officials attributed the rise in reservoir levels mainly to heavy rainfall in the catch-

ment areas, although snow-melt also contributes significantly to filling Tarbela dam.

According to the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) of the Met Office, the River Indus at Sukkur would remain at a medium flood level, while flows at Guddu were expected to recede from medium to low flood level over the next 24 hours.

Heavy rain floods low-lying areas, roads in Rawalpindi, Islamabad: Page 4

India braces for below-average August monsoon: Page 12

It said the Jhelum, Ravi and Sutlej rivers were currently flowing below low flood level.

The FFD forecast that the Chenab at Marala, Khanki and Qadirabad would fluctuate between low and medium flood levels and could reach a high flood level at Marala during the forecast period.

"Medium to high flows are expected in the nullahs of the Jhelum, Chenab (Dora, Dotta, Dowara, Bhimber, Halsi, Aik and Palkhu) and Ravi (Bein,

Basantar, Deg and Sakki).

Urban flooding

"Flash flooding is expected in the hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan, streams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern Balochistan, while urban flooding is expected in Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Gujrat, Narowal, Lahore, Okara, Sahiwal and Faisalabad," the FFD report said.

It also warned of urban flooding, waterlogging and prolonged ponding in Badin, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Khairpur, Matiari, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tharparkar, Thatta and Umerkot.

According to Wapda's daily water report issued on July 31, inflows and outflows at Tarbela on the Indus were 241,000 and 184,300 cusecs, respectively. At Mangla on the Jhelum, inflows were 45,100 cusecs and outflows 7,400 cusecs, while at Marala on the Chenab, inflows were 80,600 cusecs and outflows 66,500 cusecs.

Separately, the Provincial

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Trump vows harder strikes as Iran says Hormuz shut

• US president says he is 'losing patience' with Tehran; tells cabinet 'we just want to win' • Only four vessels clear Hormuz as IRGC claim strikes on two tankers moving under US escort • Baghdad says it was not told of US-Saudi strikes on its territory • Iran distances itself from Egypt port attack

TEHRAN / WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has dismissed the prospect of an early ceasefire with Iran, saying "we just want to win" and warning Americans to expect further strikes across the Middle East.

Speaking at a televised cabinet meeting at Camp David, Trump said the campaign against Tehran was succeeding and would intensify. "We'll be hitting them, we'll be hitting them very hard," he said when asked what the coming four weeks might bring. "At some point they're going to say 'we just can't take it anymore.'"

Pressed on a military proposal to "go big" against Iran within two weeks, he replied: "We're going big, we've already gone big."

He compared the war to Vietnam to argue it

had been swift, contrasting five months of US operations against Iran with 20 years of American involvement in the earlier conflict. "We have obliterated their military capacity."

Maritime alliance: Editorial on Page 6

Again, they've got some left, but soon they won't have some left," he said, adding that Iran's manufacturing capacity was "almost gone".

On the prospects for negotiations, Trump was dismissive. "They always want to talk, but they break their word so often," he said. "I'm losing faith in them, because they do lie. The five

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SC orders early hearing of Imran's appeal for hospitalisation

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday accepted a chamber appeal filed by former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan and ordered the early fixation of the case before an apex court bench.

Mr Khan, who is incarcerated at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail, filed a petition before the Supreme Court, requesting that he be shifted to Islamabad's Shifa International Hospital and granted access to his family and personal physicians.

Through the chamber appeal, Mr Khan challenged the SC registrar's order returning petitions seeking his transfer to Shifa International Hospital, as well as access to his personal physicians, family and counsel, and the provision of medical details to his family.

The SC registrar had returned the petition on the grounds that no signed power of attorney had been attached to it.

On Friday, Advocate Uzair Karamat Bhandari appeared before the chamber of Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi

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TODAY'S FUEL PRICE	
Petrol	Rs336.03 ↓
Diesel	Rs392.38 ↓
Source: Petroleum Division	

ON OTHER PAGES



No survivors in Quetta mine tragedy

All 34 miners trapped after an explosion in a coal mine near Quetta have died, officials confirmed on Friday. Thirty-two bodies have been recovered, while rescue teams continue efforts to retrieve the remaining two. The tragedy devastated Shangla in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as 23 of the victims hailed from a single village, including three brothers. **Page 3**



Hamas agrees to disarm under US plan

Hamas said on Friday that it had agreed to a deal announced by US President Donald Trump to end its war with Israel, under which it would hand over its weapons to a Palestinian governing committee and Israeli forces would gradually withdraw from Gaza. President Trump said that Israel was 'very happy' with the agreement reached by his so-called Board of Peace. **Page 12**



Three bodies found as Broad Peak search suspended

• Remains of Oman's Nadhira Ahmed Abdullah Al Harthy, Nepal's Pur Bahadur Gurung and American Mallory Geis recovered • Presence of more bodies also confirmed through drone footage • Search operation may resume today when weather improves

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: Three bodies were found on Friday as a search operation to locate climbers who went missing on Broad Peak a day after an avalanche struck was suspended due to bad weather.

The Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) said the 10-member team included six Nepalese climbers, a Pakistani, an Omani, an American and a Chinese climber. The Nepalese climbers were identified as renowned mountaineer Nirmal Purja, Pur Bahadur Gurung, Kili Pemba Sherpa, Nima Sherpa, Nawang Thindu Sherpa and Gyalu Sherpa.

The ACP identified the remaining climbers as Nadhira Ahmed Abdullah Al Harthy from Oman, Pakistani climber Sohail Sakhi,



NEPALESE mountaineer Nirmal Purja

Wang Zhong from China and Mallory Geis from the United States.

According to a press release issued by the Baltistan Division commissioner, a search and rescue operation

was launched on the formal request of the tour operators.

A three-member civil rescue team, led by Sarbaz Khan, was airlifted to Broad Peak Base Camp by Pakistan Army Aviation helicopters.

The rescue team identified three of the missing climbers as Oman's Nadhira Ahmed Abdullah Al Harthy, Nepal's Pur Bahadur Gurung and Mallory Geis from the United States.

The recovered bodies were shifted to the Combined Military Hospital in Skardu by Pakistan Army Aviation helicopters.

The statement said the presence of more climbers had also been identified through drone footage during the search operation.

It added that the search and rescue operation had been temporarily suspended on Friday due to adverse weather conditions and would

resume on Saturday (today) when the weather improved.

Earlier, various media outlets had reported that four bodies had been found during the operation.

Trekking company Seven Summit Treks (SST) had three Sherpa guides among the missing climbers, Chhang Dawa Sherpa, a board director, told *Reuters*.

Mr Chhang said the team members' last tracked location at the time of the suspected avalanche was at 6,600 metres (21,653 feet) and they "fell down straight from there".

In a statement issued earlier, ACP Senior Vice President Karrar Haidri said two Pakistan Army Aviation rescue helicopters, carrying rescue personnel and additional specialised equipment, had been dispatched to support the ongoing search and rescue operation.

ACP General Secretary Ayaz Shigri told *Dawn* that several expedition teams had jointly begun their summit push before the incident.

He said GPS locations received from some of the missing climbers indicated that the avalanche had swept the group about 1,000 metres downhill, leaving them trapped.

Meanwhile, Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Amjad Hussain Advocate directed all relevant departments to remain on high alert and expedite the search and rescue operation in coordination with the Pakistan Army, according to a statement.

GB Minister for Tourism, Sports and Culture Naiknam Karim also expressed sorrow over the incident and said the provincial government was making every possible effort to

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