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## Criticising army IK constitutional right, says Asad

By Our Staff Reporter

**ISLAMABAD:** Hours after an important presser was held by the top brass of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), PTI Thursday said it was former prime minister Imran Khan's "constitutional right to criticise the Pakistan Army."  
"You can disagree with Khan's criticism, but whatever he says is for the betterment of the army and the country. It is his constitutional right to criticise the army," Asad Umar said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad, flanked by PTI Vice-Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Senior Vice-President Fawad Chaudhry. Umar said that a chunk of the presser held

by the Director-General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lieutenant Gen Nadeem Anjum and Director-General of the ISPR Lieutenant-General Babar Iftikhar "focused on PTI."  
The PTI leader said Khan has, time and again, expressed his views on the armed forces' role, "he believes that a strong army is crucial for Pakistan, given its strategic position."  
Umar said the PTI chairman owns the armed forces and the nation and he has "never" maligned the armed forces abroad — whether in the UK or the United States. "But Imran Khan does not agree with every decision of the armed forces. Are there some decisions or actions of the armed forces that he criticises? Yes, he definitely does that."

## PSX turns around, gains 62 point

**ISLAMABAD:** The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to slight bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 62.83 points, a negative change of 0.15 percent, closing at 41,602.86 against 41,540.03 points on the last working day.  
A total of 203,560,788 shares were traded during the day as compared to 265,421,430 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 6.364 billion against Rs 7.713 billion on the last trading day. Some 337 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 150 of them recorded gains, and 168 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 19 companies re-

mained unchanged.  
The three top trading companies were World-Call Telecom with 22,933,500 shares at Rs 1.40 per share, Dewan Motors with 16,813,000 shares at Rs 9.3 per share, and TRG Pak Ltd, 12,545,539 shares at Rs 114.88 per share.  
Sapphire FiberXD witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 68.69 per share price, closing at Rs 1,177.54 whereas the runner-up was Colgate Palm with a Rs 44.36 rise in its per share price to Rs 2,068.18. Bata (Pak) witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 134.88 per share closing at Rs 2,100, followed by Archroma Pak with a Rs 35.06 decline to close at Rs

## You meet COAS at night and call him traitor in day: DG ISI

**DG ISI slams Imran Khan; seeks full-fledged probe to reveal facts**

**ISLAMABAD:** Director General (DG), Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lt General Babar Iftikhar and Director General (DG), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Lt General Nadeem Ahmed Anjum on Thursday brushed aside fake and orchestrated narrative on Arshad Sharif's killing while seeking a full-fledged probe to bring out facts before the nation.  
Taking the lead during the joint presser flanked by DG ISI, Lt Gen Babar said rather Pakistan Army and Arshad Sharif had cordial relations. Arshad used to cover ISPR media-related activities and he even conducted numerous programmes on Shuhada (martyrs) and the institution. General Babar said his institution held no grudge against senior journalist Arshad Sharif despite the fact that he carried an extreme narrative on cipher controversy. Arshad Sharif made strong comments regarding the army during this time, but "We did not have any negative sentiments about him and we don't



have such feelings now."  
DG ISPR while shedding light on the killing of journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya and the circumstances surrounding it, said this press conference is being held in the context of presenting facts so that "facts, fiction and opinion can be differentiated." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had been "specially informed" about the sensitivity of the press conference as well, he said, adding, it is quite imperative to determine the factors due to which a particular narrative is being built and people are being misled.  
Terming the death of Arshad Sharif as a "very tragic incident," Lt Gen Iftikhar said Sharif was an icon of Pakistani journalism, a martyr's son and a martyr's brother. His programmes will be seen as a role model for other journalists, he added. General Iftikhar went on to say that Sharif's popularity was based on being an investigative journalist and when the cipher surfaced, he conducted several programmes on the issue.  
Talking about the cipher, Gen Iftikhar said that the army chief had discussed it with Imran on March 11 when the latter had termed it to be "not a big thing." "It was surprising for us when

on March 27 a piece of paper was waved and an attempt was made to build a narrative that was far from reality."  
He said that several facts had come to light regarding the cipher revealing the "baseless and unfounded" narrative surrounding it. The DG ISPR informed the National Security Committee that no proof was found regarding the conspiracy against the PTI government, he said, adding that the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) also did not find any evidence regarding the conspiracy. "This is all part of the record. We wanted to bring this to the public. And we left the decision to the then government." However, this did not happen and more rumours were spread to gain political mileage, he said, adding that the Pakistan Army was also targeted.  
Gen Babar Iftikhar said that the army was expected to intervene in domestic politics. "The word neutral and apolitical was turned into abuse. To all this baseless narrative, the army

chief and the institution showed restraint and we tried our level best that politicians should sit together and resolve their issues through dialogues."  
The DG ISPR clarified that today's presser was to inform the media about facts related to killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif. He said the access to facts linked to cipher controversy and Arshad Sharif's killing was necessary to avoid ambiguity and hearsay so that the nation could know the truth.  
"All these findings of the ISI related to cipher were presented before the NSC and we wanted it to be made public for the nation's knowledge. But we left this decision on the previous government to make the ISI findings public. But on the contrary, fake news and rumours were perpetrated to gain political benefits and to propagate that the no-confidence motion was part of the regime change operation."  
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## Dastgir lays down foundation stone of Switching Station

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Power Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan laid foundation stone of 500 kV Maira Switching Station near Kahuta on Thursday. While addressing the ceremony, he said that the present government is fully committed to provide affordable electricity to the end consumer.  
The Switching Station would cost around PKR 7 billion and will be constructed over an area of 80 acres land. This will be the second such switching station to be added to the system in the last three years. Moro Switching Station was commissioned in March-2019. The Switching Station has a completion period of 20 months and it will help evacuation of clean, reliable and affordable energy to the National Grid. It would also reduce load shedding in the

country and bring basket price of electricity down.  
The project will serve as an interconnection for evacuation of power from Neelum Jhelum (969 MW), Karot (720 MW), Mahl (640 MW), Azad Pattan (700.7 MW) and Kohala (1124 MW) hydropower projects.  
He also appreciated the efforts of NTDC Management for pursuing the project efficiently. During the ceremony, CEO CET, the contractor company, Ms Zhang Li, said that her company will complete the project well before deadline.  
MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan also addressed the ground breaking ceremony and said that the project site was handed over to the contractor on October 4, 2022. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is the financier of this project. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt H.E Tarek Mohamed Dahroug calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Punjab taking a lead in investment, says Elahi

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** CEO of Punjab Board of Investment and Trade and Secretary Special Economic Zones Authority Jalal Hasan met CM Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at his office and presented the Punjab Investment Catalog, 2022 to the CM. Jalal Hasan also briefed about steps to encourage foreign investment.  
The CM appreciated the work done by PBIT to compile the catalogue and noted that Punjab is taking the lead in investment and other sectors by providing facilities under one roof. Increased investment will create new employment opportunities; he said and regretted that the PML-N government had not taken any steps to promote investment.  
Punjab is the safest and best province for investors today. One window operation has been started for the convenience of investors and the government is facilitating the investors and public at all lev-

els; he mentioned and appreciated PBIT for attracting foreign direct investment through rapid industrialization and special economic zones. Provincial Minister Raja Basharat and Principal Secretary Muhammad Khan Bhatti were also present.  
**CM holds a meeting with parliamentarians**  
CM Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi chaired a meeting of MNAs and MPAs of Gujranwala and Sahiwal divisions to discuss the political situation, constituency-related development schemes and long march. Speaker of Punjab assembly Sibtain Khan was also present.  
The CM deplored that the imported government has destroyed the economy while the chairman PTI Imran Khan is struggling to save Pakistan. The nation stands with Imran Khan and an incompetent government will not be able to stand in front of the sea of people, he said. The CM assured of the early reso-

lution of public issues and said that the ongoing projects will be completed soon.  
He directed to release funds to Sialkot women university and added that matters pertaining to Sialkot THQ hospital be disposed of without any delay.  
Similarly, he ordered that measures be taken to facilitate the visitors at the shrine of Hazrat Baba Farid Masood Ganj Shakar (RA) in Pakpattan.  
**Punjab CM urges world to take notice of Kashmiris' plight**  
Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, while expressing complete solidarity with the oppressed people of Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, has called upon the world community to take notice of the inhumane treatment being meted out to the people of the occupied valley.  
In his message on Black Day, being observed by the people of occupied

## Arshad laid to rest at Islamabad's H-11 cemetery

**ISLAMABAD:** Renowned journalist and television anchorperson Arshad Sharif has been laid to rest after receiving last salutations from his family, friends and fans.  
The journalist's funeral prayers were offered at the Shah Faisal Mosque Islamabad, where security was on high alert. He was buried at the H-11 cemetery near the graves of his late father and brother in the federal capital. The funeral prayers of the slain journalist were attended by a high number of people, prayers in absentia were also held in Lahore. Following his murder in Kenya, Arshad Sharif's body was taken to Pakistan. A flight carrying his body landed at the Islamabad airport in the early hours of Wednesday. Members of his family received the body at the Islamabad airport. —APP

## 'Khan to face consequences if not follow rules'

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif on Thursday said Imran Khan would face consequences if he would not follow rules and regulations in conducting long march in federal capital as he was misleading the public. Talking to a private news channel he said, "Imran Khan is trying to create chaos in the country through different tactics and hurling threat of launching a long march towards Islamabad."  
"Imran Khan is not above the law," he added. He said Pakistani law would be applied equally for every citizen and in case of violation. To a question about the U-turns of Imran Khan, he said that PTI leader had made contradictory statements on many occasions.

## Gold rates rise by Rs 800

**ISLAMABAD:** The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs 800 on Thursday and was sold at Rs 151,000 against its sale at Rs 150,200 the previous day. The price of 10 gram 24 karat also increased by Rs 686 and was sold at Rs 129,458 against Rs 128,772; whereas that of ten gram 22 karat went up to Rs118,670 against its sale at Rs118,041, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. —APP



LAHORE: CEO of Punjab Board of Investment and Trade and Secretary Special Economic Zones Authority Jalal Hasan presents investment catalogue to CM Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi.

## Sana assures full support for promoting trade activities

**ISLAMABAD:** Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said on Thursday that the government was determined to facilitate private sector in promoting business activities for achieving sustainable economic development and social prosperity in the country.  
He said this while talking to president, ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, who along with a delegation called on the minister, said a press release issued by ICCI. The minister assured his co-operation for the ICCI's representation in the Board of Capital Development Authority to resolve the related issues of the business community.  
He said that the private sector was playing a vital role in the economic

development and the government was committed to facilitate it in promoting business activities. The economy of the country was facing many challenges and the business community should accelerate efforts to promote exports that would help revive the health of the economy, he added.  
Rana Sana shared the government's strategy to save the businesses from any problems during the possible long march and reaffirmed that ICT Administration, CDA and Islamabad Police would cooperate with ICCI in facilitating the growth of business activities.  
Hanif Abbasi, former SAPM said on this occasion that the government

was serious in resolving the issues of the business community to facilitate them. He said Rana Sanaullah played excellent role in resolving the Centaurus Mall issue and added that he would play a similar role for resolving the other key issues of the business community. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, president ICCI thanked the govt on behalf of the businessmen for de-sealing the Centaurus Mall as its sealing had created concerns in the private sector and the potential investors.  
He also lauded the very supportive role of Hanif, former SAPM in de-sealing the Centaurus Mall, which has created goodwill in the business-