

# Pakistan SC extends Army chief's tenure

Lawmakers will have to pass legislation on the terms of service of the top general in six months

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LAHORE

The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday allowed a conditional extension of the Army chief's term for six months, during which Parliament will have to legislate on the terms of service of the top general.

On Tuesday, the court had temporarily suspended a government notification granting a three-year extension to Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa. A three-member Bench, comprising Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, heard the case and gave a short order on Thursday.

"...We, while exercising judicial restraint, find it appropriate to leave the matter to Parliament and the federal government to clearly specify the terms and conditions of service of the COAS [Chief of Armed Staff] through an Act of Parliament and to clarify the scope of Article 243 of

the Constitution in this regard," said the court.

Therefore, the court stated, the current appointment of the Army chief "shall be subject to the said legislation and shall continue for a period of six months from today, whereafter the new legislation shall determine his tenure and other terms and conditions of service".

### President's prerogative

Article 243 of the Constitution deals with the President and the federal government's authority over the armed forces. In its latest notification, the government has said that Gen. Bajwa is being reappointed as Army chief in accordance with Article 243, which vests the power to appoint the supreme command of the armed forces with the President. The Supreme Court, however, said in its order that it could not find any provision relating to the tenure or reappointment of the Army chief "under the Consti-



General Qamar Javed Bajwa

tution or the law". It wants the new legislation to remove the legal ambiguities in the reappointment or extension of the Army chief.

Faisal Chaudhry, Additional Advocate General-Punjab, doesn't think that there is a need to amend Article 243 for the new legislation. "The terms and conditions of the service of the Army Chief can be regulated by passing a new enactment if the federal government decides so or the Pakistan Army Act 1952 can be amended to that extent and the lacu-

nas - if there are any - can be filled by amending the persisting law," Mr. Chaudhry told *The Hindu*. He said the reason is that unlike other constitutional offices, like the judges of the superior court and the President of Pakistan, the Constitution does not envisage the tenure of the Army chief and therefore, there is no requirement to bring an amendment in it.

There was some confusion regarding the tenure of the Army chief but former federal Law Minister Farogh Naseem, who had resigned from his Ministry to represent the Army chief, addressed a press conference a few hours after the court order and clarified that his new tenure will begin from Thursday night. Mr. Naseem said the government will bring a law in six months to decide the chief's tenure as it is the right of Parliament.

Prime Minister Imran Khan took to Twitter to give his reaction. "Today must be a great disappointment to

those who expected the country to be destabilised by a clash of institutions. That this did not happen must be of special disappointment to our external enemies & mafias within. Mafias who have stashed their loot abroad and seek to protect this loot by destabilising the country," he tweeted, taking a veiled dig at Opposition.

### General faced flak

Since taking power, Gen. Bajwa and the military have been criticised for continuing a crackdown on civil society while also being accused of helping engineer Mr. Khan's victory in the 2018 elections.

The government is facing anger as it struggles to prop up Pakistan's economy after decades of mismanagement.

The debate over the Army chief's tenure has raised questions over Mr. Khan's ability to stay in office in a country where not a single PM has ever completed his term. (With AFP inputs)

# China threatens to retaliate after U.S. passes Hong Kong law

Beijing summons U.S. envoy; agitators hold 'thanksgiving' rally

REUTERS  
HONG KONG/BEIJING

China warned the U.S. on Thursday that it would take "firm countermeasures" in response to U.S. legislation backing anti-government protesters in Hong Kong, and said attempts to interfere in the Chinese-ruled city were doomed to fail.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed into law congressional legislation which supported the protesters, despite angry objections from Beijing, with which he is seeking a deal to end a damaging trade war.

Protesters in Hong Kong responded by staging a "thanksgiving" rally, with thousands, some draped in U.S. flags, gathering in the heart of the city. "The rationale for us having this rally is to show our gratitude and thank the U.S. Congress and also President Trump



In gratitude: People taking part in a 'thanksgiving' rally in Hong Kong on Thursday. \*AFP

for passing the bill," said Sunny Cheung, 23, a member of the student group that lobbied for the legislation.

The law requires the State Department to certify, at least annually, that Hong Kong is autonomous enough to justify favourable U.S. trading terms that have helped it become a world financial centre.

The Chinese Foreign Mi-

nistry said the U.S. would shoulder the consequences of China's countermeasures if it continued to "act arbitrarily" in regards to Hong Kong.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng summoned U.S. Ambassador Terry Branstad and demanded an immediate halt to interferences in China's domestic affairs.

# U.S. to cut spending on NATO budget, Germany to pay more

Berlin to match Washington's contribution of 16.35%

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRUSSELS

The U.S. is to cut its contribution to NATO's operating budget, officials said on Thursday, with Germany increasing payments as the alliance tries to appease President Donald Trump ahead of a summit next week.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly criticised European members for free-loading on the U.S., singling out Germany - the continent's economic

powerhouse - for lagging behind on an alliance commitment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence.

While most of Mr. Trump's anger has been focused on European national defence budgets, American officials have also grumbled about how much Washington contributes to NATO's running costs. "Under the new formula, cost shares attributed to most European allies and Canada will go up,

while the US share will come down," a NATO official said.

Washington currently pays 22.1% of the NATO budget - which totalled \$2.5 billion in 2019 - and Germany 14.8%, under a formula based on each country's gross national income.

Under the new agreement, the U.S. will cut its contribution to 16.35% of the total, Germany's will rise to the same level and other allies will pay more.

# Students entrapped in Farmington case: Warren

Homeland Security officials arrested 90 more students after offering them seats in 'fake' university

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

Reacting to a report that an additional 90 students had been arrested in the University of Farmington immigration operation in Michigan over the past few months, presidential candidate and senator, Elizabeth Warren, said the operation was "cruel" and the students were "entrapped".

"This is cruel and appalling," Ms. Warren tweeted. "These students simply dreamed of getting the high-quality higher education

America can offer. ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] deceived and entrapped them, just to deport them."

The operation, conducted by Homeland Security agents, between 2017 and 2019, offered students the chance to enroll at the fake university, so that they could be seen as making progress to a degree in order to maintain their visa status in the U.S. and get curricular practical training permits on which to work. U.S. agents said the students were in on

the scam. *The Hindu* had reported in February that 129 of the 130 arrested were Indians. The Farmington story was first reported by the *Detroit Free Press*, which reported again on Wednesday that an additional 90 students had been arrested in the March-July period, causing Ms. Warren to react.

### Entrapment operations

"Entrapment" is a legal concept and refers to a situation in which law enforcement induces a crime that the defendant would not have other-

wise committed. Ms. Warren's reference to students being "entrapped" resonates with the angle Indian embassy officials had taken on the Farmington case earlier this year.

The officials had tried impressing upon the U.S. authorities that the legal environment and law enforcement practices in India did not support such operations, so the students were perhaps unfamiliar with the concept. U.S. officials had, as per Indian diplomats, taken a more lenient view based on

this argument. The Indian embassy in Washington DC has contacted the U.S. Department of State and Homeland Security after reading the report, an embassy spokesperson told *The Hindu*.

"It will be recalled that the Indian Embassy and consulates were proactive in securing consular access to the students detained in connection with the Farmington case in February 2019. Subsequently, as the article indicates, most students were allowed to return to India."

## ELSEWHERE



### North Korea fired two 'projectiles', says Seoul

North Korea fired two "unidentified projectiles" on Thursday Seoul said. Pyongyang fired two projectiles eastwards from South Hamgyong province which came down in the Sea of Japan. \*AFP

### 16 killed in blast in northern Afghanistan

A roadside bomb struck a civilian vehicle headed to a wedding on Wednesday evening, killing at least 16 people, including six women, six girls, two infants, as well as the male driver, according to the Interior Ministry. \*AP

# 28 Iraqis killed after Iran's consulate torched

Attack shows intense anti-Iran sentiment

REUTERS  
BAGHDAD/NAJAF

Iraqi security forces shot dead at least 28 protesters on Thursday after demonstrators stormed and torched an Iranian consulate overnight, in what could mark a turning point in the uprising against the Tehran-backed authorities.

At least 24 people died when troops opened fire on demonstrators in the southern city of Nassiriya.

Four others were killed in the capital Baghdad.

Iraq is witnessing an uprising that began in October with anti-corruption demonstrations that have since swelled into a revolt against authorities seen as

stooges of Tehran.

In Najaf, a city of ancient pilgrimage shrines that serves as seat of Iraq's powerful Shi'ite clergy, the Iranian consulate was reduced to a charred ruin after it was stormed overnight. Protesters accused the Iraqi authorities of turning against their own people to defend Iran.

"All the riot police in Najaf and the security forces started shooting at us as if we were burning Iraq as a whole," a protester who witnessed the burning of the consulate said.

Another protester, Ali, described the attack as "a brave act and a reaction from the Iraqi people."

# Maldives ex-President sentenced to five years in corruption case

Yameen was arrested in Feb. on charges of money laundering

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MALE

Disgraced Maldives ex-President Abdulla Yameen was sentenced to five years in prison for money laundering on Thursday after a corruption probe into the former strongman's rule of the luxury tourist destination.

Yameen, 60, who ran the Indian Ocean archipelago with an iron fist before his shock election loss in 2018, was accused of illegally transferring one million dollars from one of his bank accounts during an ongoing graft investigation.

He was arrested in February on charges of bribing



Abdulla Yameen

witnesses in the ensuing money laundering trial.

Authorities also froze bank accounts belonging to Yameen that held around \$6.5 million at the end of last

year following accusations he had taken illicit payments. Investigators believe Yameen could have stashed millions abroad and are trying to repatriate the cash.

Yameen's government regularly jailed opponents or forced them into exile during its five years in power, and the leader relied heavily on China for political and financial support as his human rights record faced criticism.

Current leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's won elections last year on a pledge to end corruption. Dissidents have since returned to the country.

# Sri Lanka to probe Swiss employee's detention

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan authorities on Thursday said they are probing a recent incident of a Swiss embassy staffer's detention in Colombo, a day after the Swiss envoy raised the matter with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

"The Police and CID are conducting an investigation into the alleged incident and the authorities are hopeful of the fullest cooperation of the Swiss embassy," said Ruwanthi Delpitiya, spokesperson at Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sri Lanka takes "serious note" of the incident, a statement from the Ministry said.

On Wednesday, the Swiss

Foreign Ministry issued a statement about a "serious security incident" involving a staff member at the Embassy of Switzerland in Colombo.

"We can confirm that a local employee of the embassy was detained against her will on the street and threatened at length by unidentified men in order to force her to disclose embassy-related information," the Ministry spokesperson said.

Observing that Switzerland regarded the incident "a very serious and unacceptable attack" on one of its diplomatic representations and its employees, the Swiss authorities had sought an immediate investigation by the Sri Lankan authorities.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12793

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting points for clues.

(set by Arden)

- 12 Russian gets amorous, said to be crackers (8)
- 13 Cancel private equity, stop money (6)
- 15 Missing line, it's child's play (8,4)
- 18 Second Airport announcement, going down a slippery slope (12)
- 21 Camaraderie of an elfin from bottom to top (6)
- 22 One's on hand, two on lease (8)
- 24 Kind of triangle which is organic (8)
- 25 Gold, get an arm over first (6)
- 26 Rating a small saw (8)
- 27 Fixed war casualties reported (6)
- 3 Cornering old spy, dealt with appropriately (15)
- 5 Unrest, port city's tense (4)
- 6 Fire protection? (6,9)
- 7 A very soft instep, used to dump (6)
- 8 Provoke girl about ledger line (6)
- 11 Island accepted in a state down under (7)
- 14 Forces grab our weapons (7)
- 16 Medicine meant for the elderly looted (8)
- 17 Cross - it cuts stone with diamonds (8)
- 19 Uproar in Foreign Ministry about holy city (6)
- 20 CIA takes time - it hurts (6)
- 23 Regularly play, win a piece (4)

## SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in.

Solution to puzzle 12792 and solution to yesterday's Sudoku.

## FAITH Cultivate detachment

The way to cultivate detachment to worldly attractions and attachment to one's duty is to lead life with the view that the whole universe is the temple of God in which each one is fortunate to live. Every moment, be it tense, pleasant or sad, lived and savoured with the perception that God is not someone inapproachable but the constant witness and overseer of all, leads to equanimity, pointed out Swami Mukundananda in a discourse.

The Lord comes out of only one pillar in response to Prahlada's faith. But till date He is present in each and every innumerable animate and inanimate aspects of the entire universe. Realised souls see divinity everywhere. With utmost devotion they dedicate whatever they eat, speak and do to God and the Lord willingly accepts their offer. Saint Tukaram exemplifies the truth that the secret of spiritual success is to view even calamities as opportunities to cultivate detachment and vairagya towards this world. He is a householder whose wife is concerned about everyday life while he is constantly engaged in singing the glory of the Lord. Despite valid reason for reacting to her nagging nature, he sees this as a precious chance to never get attached to the world.

As a corollary to this, is the lesson that when there is reason to be attached it is wise to remain detached. Samarth Ramdas shows how each one has his swadharma defined. His way of life is that of a bikshu who depends on the alms he receives from others everyday. It is said that Shivaji who regards Samarth Ramdas as his master is upset on seeing him seeking alms on the roads. He immediately offers him the whole kingdom. But Samarth Ramdas gives it back to Shivaji with the command to rule the kingdom on his behalf.

QR code and text: To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code