

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Point of no return?

Is this the end? The state, as envisioned in the Constitution, is being dismantled in real-time.

Social media and television channels have begun broadcasting open attacks on the judiciary, without any worry for the consequences.

The government seems not to care that it has very little legitimacy in the eyes of the public.

Meanwhile, parliament has demeaned itself by allowing itself to be used to uproot the established division of power.

To top it all off, the main opposition party remains so obsessed with its leadership's troubles that it has found little time to connect with ordinary citizens.

It is within this context that the public had looked to the Supreme Court to act as a final arbiter in one of the key politico-legal disputes of our time.

Now, no matter where he personally stood on the matter, it is the chief justice's responsibility to ensure his institution and its edicts' respect.

When he was appointed chief justice, he was simultaneously burdened with an immense responsibility. He must demonstrate he is worthy of bearing it.

Constitutional breakdown

Rida Hosain

It was in 19th-century Britain that A.V. Dicey wrote that the British parliament is sovereign, and no person or body has the right to override legislation of parliament.

While our constitutional dispensation is wholly distinct, the present government is adopting Diceyan concepts of sovereignty.

The Constitution creates and establishes a balance between the role of the judiciary, executive, and legislature.

The unique part of our Constitution is the status afforded to fundamental rights and judicial independence.

Fundamental rights and an independent judiciary work together, a judiciary that is not independent cannot protect and enforce fundamental rights.

In 2015, the Constitution was amended to allow the trial of civilians by military courts.

Qazi Faez Isa (as he was then) struck down the constitutional amendment, and held: "the people made it absolutely clear that they did not want their representatives to dilute their fundamental rights".

On the 1973 Constitution, he held that unlike the ones before it, the Constitution endures: "the 1973 Constitution has grown in stature and its found acceptance in the hearts and minds of the people of Pakistan so much so that even the onslaughts on democracy and the judiciary by Gen Ziaul Haq and Gen Pervez Musharraf could not dislodge it."

At that time, Justice Isa was not swayed by the fact that two-thirds of both Houses had passed the amendments.

Despite express and specific directions, implementation of the reserved seats order is being obstructed.

In granting PTI reserved seats, the court interpreted constitutional provisions. This cannot be undone through ordinary legislation.

Then, through a

rushed ordinance which was approved by the cabinet, the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, has been amended.

During hearings regarding the validity of the law, Justice Munsir Akhtar said the effect would be to make parliament 'master of the roster'.

Finally, the proposed constitutional amendments have been partly defended by the law minister.

The idea of one centralised constitutional court is also a Kelsenian one, and he championed a single exclusive institution to deal with all constitutional questions.

The legislature, in the words of Quaid-i-Azam, has the "gravest responsibility" as to how it takes decisions.

Agents of terror

Mahir Ali

Over the past week, the Netanyahu regime may have succeeded in its endeavours to provoke a wider war.

Yet even admiration for the technical ingenuity of the Mossad has not prevented some commentators from acknowledging the terrorist aspects of a tactical success that qualifies as a war crime under international protocols to which Israel is a signatory.

The US State Department notoriously maintains a list of 'state sponsors of terrorism' that currently features Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria.

No one bothers to deny that the formidable Israeli war machine has been sponsored by the US for the past half-century or more.

Israeli excesses have rarely elicited any objection from Washington, never mind the terrorist antecedents of at least two of its prime ministers, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir.

able definition. Quite apart from the terrorist routinely perpetrates or sponsors in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Israeli military and its offshoots have also created or encouraged terrorist movements or actions across its neighbourhood.

Back then, far-right US president Ronald Reagan ordered Begin to halt the 'holocaust' in Beirut.

No one bothers to deny that the formidable Israeli war machine has been sponsored by the US for the past half-century or more.

That accusation remains valid, but the transcontinental bloodshed conducted by the US has frequently been supplemented by the violence of its local auxiliaries or mercenaries.

The very nation that purports to be an arbiter of international disputes and a key to their resolution in fact qualifies as the world's most formidable perpetrator and sponsor of terrorism through much of the 20th century, and into the 21st.

It is not alone but its record — from the Philippines to Italy, Iran, Guatemala, Congo, Cuba and Indonesia as well as Timor, Vietnam, Chile, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Iraq — is unmatched in modern history.

Unlike almost all of his predecessors, Benjamin Netanyahu does not have a storied military past; his terrorist tendencies have surfaced largely during his extended prime ministerial tenure.

It remains to be seen whether Hezbollah or Iran will wisely continue to ignore Israel's repeated provocations or disastrously trigger some kind of mutual assured destruction.

Both sides agreed to collaborate on a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) project to protect cattle, as well as on the capacity building of agricultural engineers in machinery design.

Commerce News

16 sectoral council to be reactivated for industrial promotion: Jam Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, here on Wednesday, said that the Ministry of Commerce is reactivating 16 sectoral councils to prepare comprehensive plans and policies for industrial development and trade promotion in the country.

He added that each sectoral council would have its own secretariat to determine ways and means and take measures to enhance trade and industrial activities in the country, noting that such initiatives would also help promote the local pharmaceutical sector.

Addressing the 7th Pharma Export Summit and Award 2024, the minister mentioned that the suggestions from the sectoral councils would be presented to the export development board, headed by the Prime Minister, for their swift implementation.

He emphasized that the pharmaceutical industry plays a pivotal role in the country's economic growth and development, and the government is fully committed to supporting the sector's development, adding that sufficient resources were available for economic progress and social prosperity in the country.

The government is formulating comprehensive policies to address the issues faced by the local pharmaceutical sector. He highlighted that public-private partnerships are vital for making the local pharmaceutical industry more competitive in the international market.

He noted that local pharmaceutical exports registered about 13 percent growth during the last financial year, underscoring the industry's critical role.



ISLAMABAD: The delegation of Belarus called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Dar reviews progress on transfer of OGDCL shares to Sovereign Wealth Fund

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Transfer of OGDCL Shares with the Privatization Commission.

The committee discussed the transfer of Oil & Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) shares to the Sovereign Wealth Fund and measures for operationalization of the Fund.

NTDC successfully launches SAP Finance Module

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has achieved a significant milestone in its digital transformation journey with the successful implementation of the SAP Finance Module, a key component of its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

A ceremony marking this achievement was held at NTDC's office in Shaheen Complex, where the Information Technology department team initiated the Go-Live for the Finance Module, signaling a major step towards modernizing the company's operations, said a press release.

The Deputy PM emphasized that the Advisory Committee envisaged under the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Act 2023, would consist of leading experts in finance, economics or other relevant fields to achieve the objectives under the Act.

NTDC successfully launches SAP Finance Module

for the Finance Module, signaling a major step towards modernizing the company's operations, said a press release.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 764 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 764.28 points, a positive change of 0.94 percent, closing at 82,247.92 points against 81,483.64 points on the last working day.

A total of 422,163,158 shares were traded during the day as compared to 369,620,812 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 18,380 billion against Rs. 17,062 billion on the last trading day.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, MSC Maeva, Bentley-I, Al-Deebal and Scarabe carrying Container, Palm oil, LNG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Engro Elengy Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Pakistan, Belarus discusses JVs to set up tractor plant in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Belarus agreed on Wednesday to extensively discuss different options for a joint venture (JVs) to establish a joint tractor plant in the country to uplift the local agriculture sector and enhance productivity.

Consensus on this initiative was reached during a meeting between Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain and Belarusian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Vadam Shagoiko, said a news release.

Pakistan's exports to US increase by 1.62% in 2 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United States (US) witnessed an increase of 1.62 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding months of last year.

The overall exports to the US were recorded at US \$949.855 million during July-August (2024-25) against exports of US \$934.666 billion during July-August (2023-24), SSB data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to the US decreased to \$473.838 million in August 2024 against the export of \$494.774 million in August 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-to-month basis, the exports to the US witnessed a nominal decrease of 0.45 percent during August 2024 as compared to the exports of \$476.017 million in July 2024, the SSB data revealed.



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director, PTDC Aftab ur Rehman Rana addressing a meeting regarding celebration of "World Tourism Day" organized by FPCCI Central Standing Committee on "Tourism Economy" at FPCCI office.

