

INTERNATIONAL

THE NEWS

Wednesday

May 8, 2013

Jamadius Sani 27, 1434 A.H.

Democracy can solve all problems: governor

By Our Correspondent

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He was addressing at the 6th Annual Report on "The State of The Economy: From Survival To Revival" launched by a private

university on Tuesday. The governor said that the existing economic condition of the country demanded that prudent policies should be chalked out for the improvement and progress of industry, trade, agriculture and other economic sectors. He said that, for the first time, an elected government had completed its tenure and the new government would come into part with the commitment to resolve pending issues of the country like load shading, unemployment etc.



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Pakistan to meet all needs of army: Sartaj

Says Islamabad not in arms race with Delhi; can't move forward without Kashmir issue resolution; army supporting govt in evolving foreign, security policies

From Jawwad Rizvi

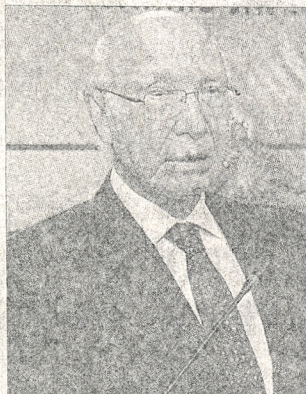
LAHORE: Prime Minister's Adviser on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz has said that Pakistan is not in an arms race with India.

However, it knows how to meet its defence needs in order to strike a balance in the warfare technology and maintain peace in the region.

"Imbalance in conventional or non-conventional weaponry is not good for peace, so Pakistan will meet all requirements of its army to keep Indian spending on defence in equilibrium," Sartaj said in reply to a query about Indian war hysteria and the increase in its annual defence spending by eight per cent, announced by New Delhi a day earlier.

He was talking to reporters after the launch of Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) here on Sunday.

About Indian foreign secretary's Pakistan visit, Sartaj said New Delhi had suspended talks at the Composite Dialogue



Process, and Pakistan had made it clear that only India would resume it as it had halted it. He welcomed that India has resumed it by announcing its foreign secretary visit to Pakistan.

However, Sartaj refused to comment on the expected outcome of Indian foreign secretary visit to Pakistan. "It is impossible for me to tell about the outcome of Indian foreign secretary level talks with Pakistan in the next week."

However, he hoped that chances of a decision regarding

resumption of Composite Dialogue were bright in the upcoming or the follow-up meeting. Normalisation of relations is urgently needed to reduce the tension on the Line of Control, he added. But all kinds of issues could not be raised in the talks as various sectors would be part of talks, Sartaj said, adding that Pakistan could not move forward without resolving the Kashmir issue. "Kashmir is top priority for Pakistan and it will remain so ever," he assured.

About Taliban issue, Sartaj said after reaching consensus on an operation, there was no division of good or bad Taliban. The government and military are on the same page to eradicate the menace of terrorism from Pakistan.

About improvement in relations with Afghanistan, he said the two countries are coordinating with each to combat terrorism and the Taliban at political, security, military and intelligence

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Pakistan to meet all needs

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agencies levels. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have launched operations against the Taliban in their respective territories to eradicate terrorism and they have committed that their respective soils would not be used against each other. "Continuation of operation Zarb-e-Azb shows Pakistan's commitment to it," he added.

About army's control over foreign policy affairs, the adviser dispelled the impression and stressed that implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) could not be achieved without due support of the armed force. So, the army, as an important institution of Pakistan, is supporting the government in evolving foreign and security policies. He said the government and the army were jointly evolving the security policy. Earlier, speaking at the launching cer-

excellence and the first one would be set up as the Dr Afaf Centre for Science. Dr Afaf was a close companion of Dr Abdus Salam. He also appreciated the idea of placing the BIPP at the NetSol Technologies, saying that science and technology is going to play a major role in future. Sartaj said it a strange coincidence that the West had high stakes in the region as and when the military regimes ruled the country.

Rashid Amjad, Vice-Chairman, Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy, in his welcome address, said the institute had already published seven annual reports on the state of economy of Pakistan. Naming the institute after Shahid Javed Burki is an endeavour to professionalize the policy process, transfer the institute into substantial paradigm to ensure transformative change in the life of people of Pakistan. He said

environmental issues and to achieve synergy in research, think tank, learning and training and management.

Dr Zubair Khan, former federal minister, recalled his long association with Shahid Javed Burki and said he was proud of part of a team starting a number of initiatives on the public policy. He said he was in the cabinet some 20 years back and feels sorry to note that the country was yet facing similar challenges with minor improvement on some fronts. At the end, Chairman Shahid Javed Burki said purpose of his effort was to bring about some change and bring down the disappointment level among the people of Pakistan. He said Pakistan had neither a government nor money to run the state in 1947, but still the locals accommodated 24 million migrants. He said population size has increased seven times

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