



PHOTO: AFP  
The INS Kurusura is put on display as a part of the INS Kurusura Submarine Museum at Rama Krishna Beach in Visakhapatnam, some 800km from Hyderabad, on Saturday. The Russian-built Foxtrot-class submarine, commissioned on December 18, 1969 and served in the Indian Navy until 2001, now serves as a museum ship on display. India's first Nuclear-powered submarine, the top-secret Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project, was launched by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday at the Visakhapatnam naval dockyard.

## Indo-US talks on atomic fuel re-processing begins

ANI, Vienna

The first round of talks between India and the United States regarding re-processing of used US atomic fuel on Indian soil has begun here.

US diplomats from both sides met to discuss and chart out rules for reprocessing the nuclear fuels for electricity at designated civilian reactors according to UN guidelines.

The meeting is being seen as a significant step towards operationalisation of the civil Indo-US nuclear deal inked last year.

The talks are likely to continue for two months.

"We expect the consultations to be over in two months so that the implementation of 123 agreement can start within the timeframe given in the agreement," a top official of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) said.

"The consultations were strictly based on Article 6 (III) of the 123 agreement between India and the US and few more meetings are expected to take place," he added.

The civil nuclear deal gives India access to nuclear equipment and materials from the United States and other major supplier powers, which were banned following the nuclear tests conducted by India in 1974.

## Homage to Kargil martyrs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Srinagar

Homage was paid to the martyrs of the 1999 Kargil conflict at the Drass war memorial in Ladakh Sunday.

Officers and jawans, as well as families of many of the martyrs, laid wreaths at the war memorial in the morning.

More than 500 Indian soldiers were killed in the Kargil conflict of 1999 when heavily armed intruders, aided by Pakistan army, crossed the line of control in Kargil, Drass, Batalik and Turtok.

## Nato, Afghan soldiers among 22 killed in unrest

AFP, Kabul

A wave of Taliban-linked violence across Afghanistan over the weekend has killed 22 people including insurgents, a foreign soldier and two Afghan troops, authorities said yesterday.

Clashes and attacks have surged this month, with Nato-led offensives in the south leading to record foreign military casualties and the Taliban insurgency at its fiercest since the 2001 US-led invasion toppled their government.

In the Bargi Matal district of Nuristan, a mountainous province near Pakistan, Afghan forces backed by foreign troops pounded Taliban positions with artillery, killing 16 militants on Saturday, the defence ministry said.

"The enemy launched several rockets on a military outpost. The troops responded and killed 16 enemy fighters," it said.

Dozens of Taliban-linked militants stormed and briefly captured Bargi Matal district centre in the first week of July. Afghan and foreign forces recaptured the area days later in an

assault, which saw several rebels and police killed.

One foreign soldier with the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) has also been reported killed in southern Afghanistan, a hotbed of Taliban unrest and the target of recent military offensives.

An Isaf statement said the soldier "died of wounds suffered in a hostile incident" on Saturday but did not reveal the nationality of the trooper.

Also in the south, three local security guards were killed when a mine exploded in Helmand province, an attack the Ministry of Interior blamed on "enemies of peace and stability" -- a reference to the insurgents.

The defence ministry, meanwhile, said two Afghan soldiers were killed when their vehicle struck a mine planted by the Taliban in eastern Paktika province, another insurgency-hit region on the Pakistan border.

Four Italian soldiers were also wounded Saturday in a roadside bomb blast in the western province of Herat, local officials said.

## I hope Supreme Court will do justice, says Musharraf

ANI, Lahore

Expressing full faith in the judiciary, former Pakistan president General Pervez Musharraf has said he hopes the Supreme Court would do justice with him.

In an interview with a private television channel, Musharraf said: "I don't know what will come my way in the future, but hope the Supreme Court will do justice."

Musharraf, who has been summoned by the Supreme Court to explain the legality of imposing emergency in the country on November 3, 2007, said he has no personal grudge against Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

The former military ruler also criticised the PPP-led government for abolishing the local government system, saying the step has 'disappointed' him, The Daily Times reported.

## Gilani invites PML-N to join government

ANI, Lahore

In a significant move, Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has reportedly invited the Nawaz Sharif led Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to join the federal government.

According to a private television channel, Gilani called Sharif to discuss the current political scenario of the country, including the military operation against the Taliban and other extremist groups being carried out in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Sources said it was decided that the two leaders would be discussing the replacement of nazims with administrators later.

Meanwhile, Member of the British Parliament Lord Nazir Ahmed, Zubair Gul and Barrister Abid Hussain also called Nawaz Sharif on Saturday.

## Rationality and ants

PTI, Washington

Ants are more rational than humans when faced with "very challenging decisions", a study has suggested.

Humans and animals often make irrational choices when faced with very challenging decisions, said Stephen Pratt and Susan Edwards, the main researchers of the study published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Another protester dies in Iran jail

AFP, Tehran

An Iranian student arrested in protests against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's re-election has died in jail, a newspaper said on Sunday, the second such death reported in two days.

Amir Javadifar, "a student of industrial management in Qazvin (city) died in prison," the reformist Etemad newspaper said, adding that his family has been asked to come for the body on Sunday morning.

Etemad said Javadifar had been arrested in July 9 protests and had suffered injuries to his arm and nose, but it did not elaborate on the cause of death.

### Mayor shot dead in Philippines

AFP, Pagadian

A town mayor and a former mayor were shot dead in separate attacks in the Philippines on Sunday, police said.

Abdul Ayon, mayor of Malangas town in the southern Philippines, was gunned down outside a shopping mall in Pagadian City by a man who fled with his accomplices on motorcycles, said city police chief Senior Inspector Michael Palermo.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Pakistan stretched thin for Mehsud battle

AFP, Islamabad

Consolidating military gains in Swat and worries about Taliban spillover from south Afghanistan are clouding Pakistan's offensive against the country's most wanted warlord, analysts say.

In mid-June, the military said it had received orders and was preparing to launch an offensive against Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud and his network in the South Waziristan tribal district bordering Afghanistan.

Troops have sealed off much of the eastern border between South Waziristan and areas under government control, and carried out air raids in what the military calls softening up for a full-scale ground operation.

Pakistan says it has eliminated the Taliban in a military offensive launched last April in northwestern districts Buner, Dir and Swat, which rendered nearly two million people displaced.

But deadly skirmishes continue, raising fears that the Taliban escaped into the mountains and might return, as after previous offensives.

Signs of battle were visible on the road winding up to Swat at the weekend. South of the valley at Bathkela, two bodies were dumped by the road. Residents said they were Taliban killed by the army.

Another body lay in the Swat town of Marghazar. Residents identified him as a local Taliban commander who was captured and killed as a warning.

"The army has to consolidate Swat and help maintain security so that IDPs (internally displaced persons) return without any fear that the Taliban would come back," former interior minister Hamid Nawaz told AFP.

"My assessment is that the army will remain in Swat until the civilian set-up is also consolidated and an intelligence network is in place," added Nawaz, who is also a retired lieutenant general.

Last week US regional envoy Richard Holbrooke heard concerns in Pakistan that 4,000 US Marines operating further south in Afghanistan will push Taliban across the border and inflame in insurgency in Baluchistan.

## BJP against resumption of talks with Pakistan

ANI, Hyderabad

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday advised the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government against resumption of talks with Pakistan till India's foreign policy on Baluchistan was made clear unequivocally.

On Saturday BJP spokesperson Prakash Javadekar criticised the UPA Government for committing a diplomatic blunder by mentioning Baluchistan in the Indo-Pak joint Statement that was issued during the 15th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit held at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt.

Javadekar said that India lost an opportunity of putting international pressure on Pakistan to take action against terrorism.

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## No sanctuary to Mullah Omar, Taliban: Qureshi

PTI, London

Pakistan will no longer provide sanctuary to top militant commander Mullah Omar and the Afghan Taliban and will not allow its territory to be used against anyone, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmud Qureshi has said.

"We are clear we have to deal with all elements that are challenging the writ of the government and making Pakistan or other places insecure," Qureshi told the Sunday Times.


"We don't want our soil, our national territory, to be used against anyone."

Qureshi also said they are "no more differentiating between good terrorists and bad terrorists."

"They've created havoc, made our environment insecure, and wherever they are, we'll take them on," he said.



PHOTO: AFP  
British actress and Gurkha campaigner Joanna Lumley waves to supporters as she arrives at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu yesterday. Nepali Gurkhas gave Lumley a hero's welcome when she landed in Kathmandu on her first-ever visit to the Himalayan nation.



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