



'India cannot set aside int'l obligations when inconvenient': Dar raises IWT issue at OIC meeting



Finance minister advances energy, aviation, healthcare, climate goals at UNGA



Govt to audit DISCOs to identify causes of power theft, losses

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



Thursday 24 September 2026

Rabi-us-Sani 11, 1448 A.H VOL No: 06 Issue No. 204 Pages 4 Rs. 20

PM Shehbaz, Bill Gates discuss efforts to eradicate polio in Pakistan

PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Bill Gates in New York on Wednesday to discuss Pakistan's efforts to eradicate polio, as he was in the US to attend the UN General Assembly session, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. According to the statement issued by the PMO, PM Shehbaz reiterated Pakistan's commitment to completely eradicating polio and thanked the Gates Foundation for its longstanding support for the country's efforts. Bill Gates praised Pakistan's ongoing efforts to eliminate the disease under Shehbaz's leadership, saying eradication was crucial to protecting future generations from polio, the PMO said. Gates also appreciated PM Shehbaz's personal guidance to provincial

governments on the nationwide polio vaccination programme. The prime minister also discussed the Gates Foundation's recent visit to Pakistan and its cooperation with the country in areas including polio eradication, maternal and child health, nutrition, immunisation, digitalisation and financial inclusion, according to the PMO. PM Shehbaz welcomed the foundation's role as a trusted partner in Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed interest in expanding cooperation in public health, agriculture, digital innovation and artificial intelligence. He also briefed Gates on reforms in Pakistan's agriculture sector, with a focus on innovation, biotechnology, climate resilience, research, and improving farmers' capacity.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met Mr. Bill Gates, chair of the Gates Foundation on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 2026) Session.

8 drones launched by Afghan Taliban shot down near Torkham border, Kohat: security sources

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: Armed forces on Wednesday morning shot down eight drones launched by the Afghan Taliban near the Torkham border and Kohat city.

According to security sources, eight drones entered the Pakistani airspace, all of which were shot down by "active and vigilant" air defence systems of the armed forces.

"The armed forces and the 'Shahens' of the Pakistan Air Force professionally thwarted the Afghan Taliban regime's cowardly attempt to target public areas," security sources said.

Four of the eight drones were shot down in areas adjacent to the Torkham border, while the rest were downed near Kohat, as per the sources. Earlier, the security sources said two "rudimentary" drones were shot down by "soft skill" seven kilometres away from Kohat city and reaffirmed that the armed forces' air defence systems' vigilance and professionalism are active around the clock "against all threats from the Kharjistan". "This incursion serves as yet another proof of the Afghan Taliban regime's direct.

US, Iran's delegations hold three-hour long meeting in New York

MAHPARA ZAMAN



NEW YORK: A three-hour long meeting was held in New York between the US and Iran's delegations on the sidelines of the United Nations' General Assembly (UNGA) session.

US President Donald Trump's Special Representative Steve Witkoff held a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Araghchi and members of his delegation. Trump confirmed the meeting, and said it was a good one. "Both sides also decided to hold another meeting in near future," the president said, adding that it was in Iran's interest to strike a deal with the US.

Later, in a post on X, Witkoff said that a detailed meeting was held with the Iranian delegation through interlocutors.

Making a conditional offer to the USA, Iran has said it is ready to open the Strait of Hormuz within one week provided the latter lifts its blockade on its ports. According to the foreign media, the country has also laid down the condition that its frozen assets should be immediately released and that war on all fronts should come to a halt.

The concerned officials have said that this condition has been conveyed to the US. On the other hand, US President Donald Trump has said that progress has been made in talks with Iran for an agreement. "I hope that soon both sides will reach a settlement," he said while talking to Arab and Islamic leaders in New York.

Pezeshkian says Iran will not surrender after Trump's annihilation threat

PEAK POINT



TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a speech at the United Nations on Wednesday that Tehran would never surrender to the United States but still believes in diplomacy, a day after US President Donald Trump used the same forum to threaten to "annihilate" Iran. The duelling speeches at the annual UN General Assembly in New York book-ended the first shuttle talks between the US and Iran for months, which appeared to have yielded no concessions in the public stance of either side towards ending the Middle East war. In his speech, Pezeshkian defended Iran's military actions as defensive, and insisted Iran was not seeking nuclear weapons.

The president struck a defiant tone speaking at the UN for the first time since Washington and Israel launched an all-out war on his country, vowing Tehran would never "bend at the knee". Pezeshkian accused Washington of "terrorism" for assassinating former supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at the start of the war.

Nine terrorists killed as forces foil attack on checkpoint in Mastung

PEAK POINT

BALUCHISTAN: Nine terrorists belonging to the Fitna al-Khawarij were killed in an operation by security forces in the Kanak Valley area of Balochistan's Mastung, while one personnel of the security forces was injured during the exchange of fire, security sources said on Wednesday. According to the sources, the operation was carried out under the forces' ongoing Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3. The sources added that the Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists had made a cowardly attempt to attack a checkpoint in the area; however, they were pushed back by security forces. Taking prompt and effective action.

Pakistan Navy, Coast Guards foil smuggling attempt in Balochistan's Pishukan

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Navy and Coast Guards in coordination with the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC), confiscated "a sizeable quantity" of liquor and illegal medicines in the Pishukan area of Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday. According to the military's media wing, the joint intelligence-based operation "thwarted an attempt to smuggle a large cache of contraband items" in the area. The operation was carried out on "actionable intelligence," the ISPR said, adding that the "seized contraband items have been handed over to the Pakistan Coast Guards for further legal proceedings."

The military's media wing noted that the "successful joint operation



underscores the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination in countering smuggling while highlighting the resolve of the Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards to prevent the use of Pakistani waters and land for illicit activities." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the Navy and Coast Guards for "successfully foiling a

major smuggling attempt in the Pishukan area of

tutions is of utmost importance for uprooting the menace of smuggling from the country."

The prime minister also praised the "professional capabilities, alertness, and preparedness of the personnel who took part in the operation," the PMO's statement noted. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also commended the Pakistan Navy and Coast Guards for foiling the smuggling attempt, appreciating "the professional expertise of the entire team involved in the joint operation." "The joint operation proved fruitful for eliminating smuggling through effective mutual communication and cooperation between the institutions," he said, according to the Interior Ministry in a separate post on X.

Nauman Mahmood appointed first head of Makkah defence alliance secretariat

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) announced on Wednesday that Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood had been appointed as the first secretary general of the Makkah Defence Alliance between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. "The government of Pakistan is pleased to announce the appointment of Lt Gen Nauman Mahmood, Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military), (retired), as the first secretary general pursuant to the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement," the FO said in a handout, referring to the alliance's initial name. "The secretary general will lead the general secretariat of the alliance being established at Riyadh," the FO said. The agreement — signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye on August 7 — empowers member states to treat an attack against one of them as an attack against all its inaugural meeting was held on Aug 31.





SPORTS



Hesson says Pakistan preparing for possible India clash at Asian Games



MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson on Wednesday said his side were preparing "as best we can" for a possible clash with India at the Asian Games, but stressed that there was plenty of cricket to be played before the two sides could meet.

India and Pakistan are on opposite sides of the men's Asian Games draw and cannot face each other in the semi-finals. A meeting is possible in either the gold-medal match or the bronze-medal play-off on Oct 3, provided the two sides negotiate the earlier stages successfully.

"India are the benchmark in white-ball cricket at the moment, and our challenge is to catch up to that," Hesson told reporters on the sidelines of Pakistan's pre-departure training camp at the National Bank Stadium.

"If we get an opportunity to play them, we can certainly put them under pressure, like we were able to in the final of the Asia Cup."

Hesson, however, said neither side could afford to look that far ahead.

"There's a lot of cricket to be played between now and being able to play in a final for both

sides. So we're not getting too far ahead of ourselves," he said.

The Asian Games squad is a combination of players from the Pakistan Shaheens and the national side, Hesson said, making the tournament an opportunity to assess some new players.

"They certainly won't be the same squad from a selection point of view," he said.

Hesson also played down suggestions that Sahibzada Farhan's appointment as Pakistan captain for the Asian Games necessarily indicated a longer-term leadership role.

The tournament was a "good Pakistan cricket.

opportunity" for Farhan to gain experience, he said, but whether he continued in the role would be decided by the selection committee and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

"That's a discussion for down the line. But at the moment, I'm really looking forward to working with Sahibzada Farhan. I've enjoyed the last three days," he said. Asked about Pakistan's performances across formats, Hesson urged against grouping the Test, ODI and T20 sides, saying the T20 team's record over the past 15 months did not justify describing

PCB advertises for bowling coach after Noffke's Netherlands appointment



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has advertised for a new bowling coach for the national men's team shortly after the Netherlands Cricket Board announced the appointment of Ashley Noffke as its head coach on Wednesday.

Noffke, who is currently Pakistan's white-ball bowling coach, has been appointed by the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) on an initial two-year contract until the end of 2028. He will take charge of the Netherlands side for its qualification campaigns for the 2027 ODI and 2028 T20 World Cups.

There had been no indication in recent days that Noffke was set to step down from his position with Pakistan, but the Netherlands announcement on Wednesday was followed by the PCB advertising the position for men's national team bowling coach.

Noffke is part of the Pakistan contingent for the upcoming Asian Games cricket competition, for which the men's national side is set to depart from Karachi on Thursday.

The PCB advertisement does not mention Noffke or his departure, but seeks an experienced coach with a minimum Level III Cricket Coaching Accreditation and at least five years' experience in a similar role.

Pakistan squash duo cruise into last-16 as kabaddi suffer first defeat in Asian Games



PEAK POINT

Asian Games.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's No. 1, routed Van Aero Dalida of the Philippines 11-2, 11-4, 11-3 in 20 minutes at Wednesday as Noor Zaman and Mohammad Ashab cruised into the men's singles last-16, though the country's kabaddi team tasted defeat for the first time at the

Noor, ranked 29th took the next two, in the PSA standings, before faces Ammar Boushehrizadeh halt-Altamimi in the ed her progress by round-of-16 on claiming the final two Thursday, while world games.

No. 49 Ashab takes on Earlier, Asim Mohammad Al Khan and Mehwish Alnafs of Saudi Ali dispatched Arabia for a spot in Nepal's Arhant Simha and Bipana Bhlon 11-6, 11-10 in 19 minutes

The women could not emulate that success, with both mixed doubles round-Mahnoor Ali and Sana of-16.

Bahadur ousted in the Pakistan's kabaddi team were handed their first defeat of the round-of-32 after contrasting defeats.

The 13-year-old Games, going down Mahnoor lost to Wai 48-45 to Thailand in a Yahn Au Yeong of Group B thriller at the Singapore 11-9, 11-3, Tokai Citizen

11-8 in 23 minutes, while Sana, 20, fell in It looked business a thriller against Iran's as usual when N a j m e h Pakistan led 23-16 at Boushehrizadeh 11-9, half-time, but

6-11, 10-12, 11-8, 11- Thailand launched a stunning second-half comeback, scoring 32 6 in a 35-minute encounter. Jason Karam in 18 minutes. Sana lost the first, points to Pakistan's.

Asim Khan secures Pakistan's first Asian Games medal in MMA



Quevedo completes stunning comeback to win first WTA title



Pakistan women clinch Asian Games bronze as teen stars dominate in Nagoya

PEAK POINT

NAGOYA: Pakistan's women's cricket team secured a bronze medal at the Asian Games on Tuesday, defeating Bangladesh by 31 runs in the third-place play-off as the Aichi-Nagoya

Games continued to produce record-breaking performances across several sports. Pakistan's medal came on a day when Japan's 17-year-old swimming sensation Yumeki Kojima captured the spotlight by winning the men's 400-metre individual medley in a Games-record 4:07.02. Kojima also set a new world junior record, surpassing the previous Asian Games mark held by Japanese great Kosuke Hagino. French Olympic champion Leon Marchand, who was conducting a swimming clinic at the venue, watched the teenager's impressive performance.

China's 13-year-old Yu Zidi remained another major

attraction in the pool after winning her second individual gold of the Games. Her compatriot Peng Xuwei added another swimming title by taking the women's 200m backstroke in an Asian-record 2:05.77. China also

Lanka by 147 runs in the T20 final, with veteran opener Smriti Mandhana scoring 79. Afghanistan also celebrated a landmark moment when Fariba Hashimi won silver in the women's road cycling event, securing the country's



produced a world record in shooting, with Olympic champion Sheng Lihao and Wang Zifei combining for 507.1 to win the 10m air-rifle mixed team gold. Sheng collected his third gold of the Games. India, meanwhile, ended their wait for a first gold medal as their women's cricket team defeated Sri

first cycling medal won by a woman. Earlier, Pakistan kabaddi and men's hockey teams registered their second consecutive victories. The kabaddi team defeated Nepal 58-43 in Group B, following a 65-22 rout of Malaysia in its opening match. The hockey side also made it two wins from two, beating Uzbekistan.



TWIN CITIES

Daily Peak Point, September 24, 2026

DAILY PEAK POINT ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Tech Sector Showcases Innovation at 22nd P@SHA ICT Awards

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The Pakistan Software Houses Association has successfully concluded its highly anticipated 22nd Annual P@SHA ICT Awards, marking a monumental evening for the nation's rapidly expanding digital economy and exported growth initiatives. Held against the backdrop of Pakistan's vital push toward macroeconomic stability through technological innovation, the ceremony brought together the brightest minds, leading enterprises, and transformative government entities to celebrate a year of unparalleled achievements in software development, digital services, and community inclusion. The comprehensive showcase of talent underscores the sector's pivotal role in driving trade balance dynamics, expanding the national tax base, and attracting global investment, proving that Pakistan's tech

nology ecosystem is maturing into a formidable player on the international stage. Taking center stage for their immense contribution to the country's trade footprint was Systems Limited, which secured the prestigious Gold award in the Services category for Top Exporter, specifically recognizing their Technology Export Operations. This accolade highlights the critical importance of export-oriented economic strategies in strengthening the national economy, positioning Systems Limited as a central pillar in driving foreign exchange earnings and elevating the perception of Pakistani technological prowess worldwide. Their continuous growth and expansion into global markets serve as a blueprint for scalability, demonstrating how a focus on premium service delivery and strategic global positioning can yield massive dividends for both

the enterprise and the broader national exchequer. Parallel to the triumphs in the private export sector, the awards heavily spotlighted the ongoing digitalization of the public sector, with NADRA emerging as a dominant force in government service transformation. NADRA's sweeping success included a highly coveted Gold award in the Public Sector for Government and Citizen Services, awarded for their widely adopted Pak ID Mobile App. Reinforcing their commitment to secure and streamlined public infrastructure, the organization also earned vital Merit recognitions for their Multi Biometric Verification System within the Inclusions and Community category, alongside their Proof of Life Certificate in Digital Government. These achievements reflect a broader institutional drive toward creating a frictionless, digital-first

relationship between the state and its citizens, establishing governance frameworks that are highly efficient, secure, and technologically advanced. The evening also served as a massive triumph for corporate innovation, heavily driven by the remarkable performance of Jazz and its digital development arm, The Software Factory, representing JazzWorld. Cementing their status as a premier engine of consumer and enterprise solutions, The Software Factory captured a staggering total of five accolades. Their dominance in the Consumer category was solidified with two Gold awards, winning for ROX, Pakistan's Digital-First Mobile Lifestyle Platform, in Media and Entertainment, as well as for the FikrFree Digital Insurance Ecosystem in Banking, Insurance, and Finance. Showcasing an incredible depth of technical versatility, JazzWorld also

secured Merit awards for advanced AI-driven enterprise platforms, including the Onboarding Buddy and Whispr platforms in Business Services, along with the Meridian AI-Powered Geospatial Intelligence Platform in the Technology Big Data Analytics category. Beyond these heavyweights, the ceremony highlighted an incredibly diverse and competitive landscape of digital innovators who are actively solving complex domestic and global challenges. Technologies SMC Pvt Ltd mirrored the top tier of success by also taking home an outstanding five awards, including Gold for their QuickComm Earpiece Personal AI and Quickcomm Table Top solutions. Similarly, DynaSys Networks demonstrated exceptional leadership in the Inclusions and Community categories, capturing four

total awards highlighted by Gold recognitions for their Automated Flood Warning System and Smart Water Metering initiatives. These victories illustrate a profound commitment to leveraging technology for environmental sustainability, community welfare, and enhanced retail distribution, proving that the ecosystem's growth is both economically lucrative and socially responsible. As the premier benchmark for technological excellence in the country, this year's ceremony not only celebrated current achievements but also set the stage for future regional and global APICTA recognition, ensuring that local innovators are fully prepared for broadcast-ready international exposure. The rigorous evaluation process ensures that only the most resilient and scalable solutions rise to the top of the industry roster.

Gender Committee seeks early appointment of NCSW, Punjab Women Commission heads

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Special Committee on Gender Mainstreaming, Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA, has expressed serious concern over the continued delay in the appointment of Chairpersons of the National Commission

on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women. Chairing a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House, Dr. Nafisa Shah observed that prolonged vacancies at the leadership level undermined the effective

functioning, institutional authority and continuity of the important statutory bodies. The Committee stressed that the appointments should be made without further delay in accordance with the applicable legal framework to enable the Commissions to effectively

discharge their mandates and provide strong institutional leadership for the promotion and protection of women's rights. The Committee also expressed concern over the acute shortage of staff and vacant sanctioned posts in the NCSW and other Women's

Commissions, besides the lack of basic facilities, pensionary benefits and appropriate incentives for employees. It emphasized that adequate financial, human and institutional resources were essential for the Commissions to effectively perform their statutory respon-

sibilities. Dr. Nafisa Shah paid tribute to the Chairpersons of the NCSW and Provincial Commissions for their commitment to advancing and protecting women's rights, acknowledging their dedication, courage and resilience in pursuing the national cause.

Opinion & Editorial

ISLAMABAD
DAILY PEAK POINT
ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN
Group Editor: 0333-5366814
SAMRA ATHAR KAKAKHEL
Resident Editor
NADIM TANOLI
Joint Editor: Mob-0301-7777874
Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
www.peakpoint.pk

A thought for de-escalation

There is a breath of fresh air as de-escalation moves onto the agenda of the warring sides. The contention from Tehran that it is willing to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, provided Washington eases military pressure and lifts the blockade of Iranian ports, is a welcome development. For many, it is déjà vu. Both the US and Iran had reached a similar understanding following their agreement in Islamabad, and global supply chains were heaving a sigh of relief as oil prices had slumped back to \$80 a barrel. This development has luckily coincided with Secretary of State Marco Rubio hinting at a possible meeting between President Trump and his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly. That, however, is a utopian thought as far as the Islamic Republic is concerned. Iran's military brass has recently upped the ante by saying it is ready for a long war, and this time around, all American interests in the region would be its targets. Iran's demand - that the US should agree on a timeline for how the process will move forward - can be worked out. This demand, incidentally, has come a day after Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with high-ranking Iranian officials in his earnest efforts to iron out a deal to end the stalemate.

Process becomes punishment

Tahsin Shah

A STATE does not demonstrate its strength by the number of its critics it can imprison. Its strength is measured by its willingness to tolerate dissent, submit executive power to law and allow courts to protect even those whom the state considers troublesome. Pakistan today faces a troubling test on all three counts.

The cases of Baloch activist Dr. Mahrang Baloch and lawyers Maqsood Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha are different in their facts and legal foundations. Yet, taken together with the treatment of political opponents and other dissenting voices, they raise a larger question: is the criminal justice system increasingly being used not merely to prosecute alleged offences, but to manage dissent?

Mahrang Baloch emerged as a prominent voice against enforced disappearances and alleged extrajudicial killings in Balochistan. In June, an antiterrorism court sentenced her and another activist to life imprisonment in a case arising from the death of a security official during the 2024 Baloch Raji Machi. Amnesty International criticised the proceedings as an expedited secret trial, stating that no direct evidence linking her to the violence had been presented. Her case has consequently become emblematic of wider concerns about due process and the treatment of Baloch dis-

sent. The state is entitled — indeed obligated — to prosecute violence. Human rights advocacy or political activism cannot confer immunity from criminal law. But the converse is equally important: allegations of disloyalty or association with hostile organisations cannot substitute for evidence establishing individual criminal responsibility. The graver the charge, the greater the need for transparent proceedings and scrupulous due process.

Exceptional powers created against today's adversary may become tomorrow's weapon against those who created them.

The experience of Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, raises another disturbing issue. Both lawyers and human rights activists, they were sentenced in January to 17 years' imprisonment under multiple provisions of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act in relation to social media posts. On Sept 17, the Supreme Court suspended their sentences and ordered their release. Within hours, they were arrested in another case and sent back to jail. Whatever the ultimate merits of that second case, the sequence raises a fundamental rule-of-law concern. If obtaining bail in one case merely opens the door to detention in another, judicial relief risks becoming theoretical. Liberty cannot meaningfully depend upon how many FIRs remain available

after a court orders someone's release. This phenomenon has implications far beyond individual defendants. Arrest becomes punishment before conviction; multiplicity of proceedings becomes a mechanism for prolonged detention; and appellate delay can make eventual acquittal an inadequate remedy. A person who spends years incarcerated before a conviction is overturned cannot be given those years back.

HRCP's 2025 report described a severe contraction of civic space and raised concerns about erosion of judicial independence. It documented the increasing use of cybercrime, sedition and antiterrorism laws against journalists, political workers, activists and lawyers, alongside continuing reports of enforced disappearances and restrictions on expression.

These developments occur against a persistent public perception that unelected institutions — particularly the security establishment — exercise influence over political and accountability processes. Both the establishment and government have rejected various allegations of political persecution. Such competing claims cannot be resolved by assertion. That is precisely why visibly independent courts, transparent trials and faithful compliance with judicial orders are irreplaceable.

Courtesy Dawn

AI is already in the office

Mohsin Saleem Ullah

Artificial intelligence is no longer something organisations are preparing for. It is already inside the workplace. Employees are using generative AI platforms to summarise lengthy documents, draft correspondence, review contracts, analyse data, prepare presentations and carry out research. Work that once consumed several hours can now be completed in minutes. The attraction is obvious. The problem is that, in many organisations, the technology has arrived before the rules governing its use.

Consider a fairly ordinary situation. An employee receives a hundred-page confidential document and needs to prepare a summary before the next morning. Uploading it to an AI platform may appear to be the most efficient solution. Within seconds, the system produces a neat summary. But a more important question is often never asked: was that employee authorised to place the organisation's information on an external platform in the first place?

This is where Pakistan's conversation about AI needs to become more practical. The Federal Cabinet approved the National AI Policy 2025, providing a much-needed national direction for innovation, data protection, cybersecurity, responsible AI and domestic capacity. The policy is an important beginning. But national policy alone cannot determine how a bank, regulator, hospital, law firm, university or company should manage AI inside its own workplace.

Every organisation now needs its own rules. Employees should know which AI systems they are permitted to use; what information may be entered into them and what material must remain completely outside public AI platforms. Confidential contracts, personal data, internal investigations, legal advice, financial information and sensitive government records cannot be treated in the same way as a publicly available newspaper article.

Courtesy Tribune

‘India cannot set aside int’l obligations when inconvenient’: Dar raises IWT issue at OIC meeting



PEAK POINT

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Wednesday that India could not set aside its international obligations when they became inconvenient, stressing that the status of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) had been reaffirmed by a court of arbitration.

India unilaterally suspended the accord in April last year — a move that was followed by a brief military conflict between the two sides in May 2025.

In August, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), in a setback to New Delhi, declared that the treaty between the two countries remained fully in force, as India had no justification for ending or suspending the agreement. In his address at the ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Dar said: “The treaty is a binding international agreement and contains

no provision permitting its unilateral suspension.

“International obligations can’t be set aside when they become inconvenient.”

Recalling the conflict between Pakistan and India in May last year following a deadly attack in occupied Kashmir’s Pahalgam, Dar said it “provided a stark reminder of the consequences of leaving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute unresolved”.

The foreign minister also mentioned that following the Pahalgam incident, India levelled baseless allegations against Pakistan without credible investigations and embarked upon military aggression.

“Pakistan exercised its inherent right to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter in a measured and proportionate manner while acting responsibly to prevent further escalation,” he stated. DPM Dar emphasised that the “lessons from [the] dangerous.

Finance minister advances energy, aviation, healthcare, climate goals at UNGA

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held high-level meetings on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to advance partnerships in key economic sectors. Accompanying the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the second day of his official visit, the Minister engaged international stakeholders to secure strategic cooperation in energy security, aviation development, healthcare delivery, and climate finance.

According to a press release issued by finance minister here, the minister participated in a high-level dialogue hosted by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on “Powering Growth in the New Economy”, where he highlighted that the global focus had shifted



from energy transition to the more immediate challenge of energy security, particularly amid ongoing geopolitical conflicts and disruptions to fuel supplies.

He noted that Pakistan had experienced a significant, largely private-sector-led expansion in solar energy, demonstrating the potential of renewable energy to reduce dependence on imported fuels. He also emphasised that difficulties in securing energy supplies had wider economic consequences, as energy security was closely linked to food security and overall economic.

Govt to audit DISCOs to identify causes of power theft, losses

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The government on Wednesday decided to undertake a comprehensive technical audit of all power distribution companies (DISCOs) to determine the scale, causes and geographical concentration of electricity theft and technical and commercial losses, and devise measures to improve their performance.

The decision was taken during the meeting of the committee constituted under the Prime Minister’s directive on inefficiencies and electricity theft in DISCOs. It was co-chaired by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division, Senator Ahad Cheema and Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari.

The committee received detailed briefings from the Power Division, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan Digital Authority and other relevant institutions on power theft, distribution losses, recoveries and technology-based interventions in the

power sector. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication was assigned responsibility for providing technological assistance and facilitating the technical audit through a transparent and credible mechanism. An Expression of Interest will be issued shortly to engage suitably qualified technical experts for the exercise. The Committee further decided that the Terms of Reference for the technical audit would be finalised by next week. Senator Ahad Cheema stressed that the audit must include a comprehensive diagnostic analysis of the underlying causes of power theft and losses and produce credible and actionable findings. “The government is fully focused on reducing electricity theft. Under no circumstances will the burden of power theft or inefficiencies within the distribution system be shifted to the people.”

Overbilling is completely unacceptable,” Senator Ahad Cheema said.

He added that the findings of the technical audit would enable the government to take targeted and evidence-based measures to reduce power theft and distribution losses. He reiterated that every possible step.

Gilani congratulates Saudi leadership, people on Saudi National Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Wednesday extended his heartfelt greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Saudi leadership and the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia on the 96th National Day of the Kingdom.

In his message, the Chairman Senate said Saudi National Day was a significant occasion to celebrate national unity, pride, progress and the Kingdom’s remarkable development.

He expressed his best wishes for Saudi Arabia’s continued peace, stability, prosperity and success.

He said Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations were rooted in shared faith, brotherhood, history, mutual respect and strong people-to-people ties.

Describing Saudi Arabia as a trusted and steadfast friend of Pakistan, he noted that the recent strategic mutual defence agreement further reflected the depth and enduring.

Mohsin Naqvi, US envoy discuss stronger ties, investment and regional security

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met US Ambassador Natalie Baker in Islamabad on Wednesday, with the two sides discussing measures to deepen Pakistan-US relations, expand investment cooperation and address regional security concerns.

The meeting covered ways to strengthen bilateral engagement and create more opportunities for investment between Pakistan and the United States. The two also exchanged views on the latest regional developments and efforts to promote peace and stability.

Regional security and Pakistan’s role in supporting peace were also discussed, with both sides agreeing to maintain closer contact to further improve



cooperation between the two countries.

US Ambassador Natalie Baker acknowledged Pakistan’s sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and appreciated its efforts to tackle security challenges.

Speaking during the meeting, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan stands as a strong wall between the world and terrorism.

He highlighted Pakistan’s continued efforts and sacrifices in combating terrorism.

WUM Biotechnology scholar successfully defends M.Phil thesis

PEAK POINT

MARDAN: The Department of Biotechnology, Women University Mardan (WUM), successfully conducted the M.Phil. thesis defense of Ms. Kainat Arzoo in the field of Environmental Toxicology, under the supervision of Dr. Rakhshinda Sadiq. The scholar successfully defended her research titled “Mycological Analysis of Dry Fruits Sold in Markets of Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.” The study highlights the importance of identifying fungal contamination in commercially available dry fruits for improving food safety, quality control, storage practices, and reducing spoilage and economic losses. The research findings were presented



before Dr. Mohsin Jamal, Department of Biotechnology, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM), as External Examiner, Dr. Hina Jabeen, Head, Department of Biotechnology, WUM, faculty members, and university officials. The defense provided an academic platform for evaluating the scholar’s research findings and contributions in the field of Environmental Toxicology.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema and Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Leghari co-chair a meeting of the Committee vide PM Directive on Inefficiencies and Electricity theft in DISCOs.

Pakistan urges stronger EU Parliamentary ties as NA Speaker raises terrorism and regional peace concerns

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for stronger parliamentary relations between Pakistan and the European Union, while raising concerns over terrorism from Afghan territory, regional security, climate change and minority and women’s rights during a meeting with a European Parliamentary delegation led by Ms. Mary Khan. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with the EU and its member states and pro-

posed establishing a Pakistan European Union Parliamentary Friendship Group. He said stronger parliamentary contacts could help both sides exchange experience, information and best practices. Speaking about security, the NA Speaker said Pakistan continues to face terrorism and alleged that neighbouring Afghanistan has become a hub of terrorism in the region. He said sophisticated weapons left behind by NATO forces in Afghanistan were being used against Pakistani civilians and secu-

rity forces. Sadiq said Pakistan had hosted Afghan refugees for four decades and continued to seek peace and stability in the region. He said regional disputes should be resolved through dialogue and engagement. The Speaker also said Pakistan had shown restraint in response to what he described as unprovoked Indian aggression and maintained that Pakistan remained committed to the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the international community appreciated the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif and CDF Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in promoting peace, dialogue and stability. Climate change was another major issue discussed during the meeting. The Speaker said Pakistan contributes less than one percent of global greenhouse gas emissions but remains among the countries severely affected by the consequences of climate change. He urged the international community to support countries facing serious climate related challenges. He also highlighted Pakistan Parliament’s envi-

ronmental initiatives, saying it is the world’s first green Parliament. He said the use of solar energy at Parliament House represents an environment friendly initiative and reflects Pakistan’s commitment to sustainable development. The Speaker further highlighted the work of parliamentary bodies dealing with social issues. He said the Women Parliamentary Caucus was working to protect and promote women’s rights, while the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, SDGs Secretariat and Young

Parliamentarians Forum were contributing to public welfare and development. On minority rights, Sadiq said minorities in Pakistan enjoy constitutional rights and freedom. He appreciated the contribution of minority parliamentarians and said state institutions were working to protect minority rights. The NA Speaker reiterated Pakistan’s desire to expand parliamentary cooperation with the European Union, saying stronger institutional links could promote mutual understanding and closer relations between Pakistan.