

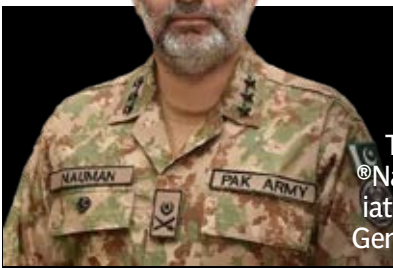


Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے آدم بن ابی ایاس نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے شعبہ نے بیان کیا، ان سے قادی نے، انہوں نے عقب بن صہبان ازدی سے سنا وہ عبد اللہ بن مغفل مرنے سے نقل کرتے تھے کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے مکتبی سے منع کیا تھا اور فرمایا تھا کہ وہ نہ شکار نہ کرتے اور نہ دشمن کو کوئی نقصان پہنچا سکتے ہیں، البتہ آنکھ پھوڑ سکتے ہیں اور دانت توڑ سکتے ہیں۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6220)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Lt. Gen. Nauman Mahmood appointed as first Secretary Gen. to Alliance General Secretariat

The Government of Pakistan, announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood, (HI-M), as the first Secretary General to the General Secretariat of the Alliance, pursuant to Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA). Secretary General will lead the General Secretariat of the Alliance being established at Riyadh.



Polio campaign vaccinates 16.4 million children in two days

The third day of the special anti-polio vaccination campaign is underway in selected districts across the country, with nearly 16.4 million children vaccinated during the first two days. More than 273,000 polio workers are participating in the campaign and visiting households to vaccinate children under five.

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Security arrangements

ISLAMABAD: A man walk past in front of wall of shipping containers placed along a road at Red-zone used to block the area ahead of upcoming PTI long march, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Security tightened in Islamabad as 1,200 Containers Deployed

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Security has been tightened across the federal capital, with around 1,200 containers placed at key roads and entry points and the Red Zone sealed as part of a comprehensive security plan.

Containers have been positioned at several locations, including Tarnol, Sangjani, Iran Avenue, 26 Number Chungi, Srinagar Highway, T-Chowk Rawat and Faizabad. Reports said more than 22,000 security personnel have been deployed across Islamabad to maintain law and order.

The city administration

said Section 144 is currently in force, prohibiting public gatherings in the capital. Restrictions on assemblies are also applicable under the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act 2024.

Authorities warned that violations of the restrictions could lead to legal action, including imprisonment of up to three years. Citizens have been urged to avoid unlawful activities and cooperate with security agencies.

The administration said the measures were aimed at maintaining public safety and ensuring security across the capital amid heightened security arrangements.

19 terrorists killed in Balochistan IBOs: ISPR



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security forces have killed 13 Indian-sponsored terrorists during a clearance operation in Shaban, Quetta district, while six others were killed in separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Kech and Quetta West, the military's media wing said on Wednesday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), intelligence agencies had reported the presence of multiple hideouts of Indian-sponsored Fitna Al-Khawarij and Fitna Al-Hindustan in Shaban, posing a threat to the local population.

Security forces launched the clearance operation in the area on September 21 to protect civilians and clear the area of terrorists.

During the operation, troops engaged and cleared multiple terrorist hideouts following intense exchanges of fire.

"Thirteen Indian-sponsored terrorists have been killed so far," the ISPR said.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered from the cleared hideouts, it added.

The military said the clearance operation would continue until the complete neutralisation of the threat in the area.

Pakistan Stands Shoulder to Shoulder with Saudi Arabia to Safeguard Its Sovereignty, Security: PM Shehbaz

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the recent Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia, reaffirming that Pakistan stands unwaveringly with the Kingdom in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and the sanctity of Islam's holiest sites.

In his message marking Saudi National Day, observed annually on September 23, the prime minister said any threat to the sanctity of the Haramain Sharifain deeply wounds Muslim senti-

ments worldwide, referencing the recent attempted Houthi drone attack on Makkah Al-Mukarramah.

Extending felicitations to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and the Saudi people, PM Shehbaz—currently in New York for the 81st UN General Assembly session—said the Kingdom's progress under the Crown Prince's leadership was a source of pride for both nations.

He said Pakistan took immense pride in its historic brotherhood with Saudi Arabia, rooted in faith



and mutual trust. He noted this bond was evolving into a stronger strategic partnership, highlighting the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement as milestones underpinned by shared commitment to regional peace, security and Muslim unity.

Concluding with the slogan "long live Pakistan-Saudi Arabia brotherhood," he prayed for the relationship to continue strengthening.

The message comes as PM Shehbaz begins a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

Mobile Services May Face Restrictions Ahead of PTI March

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Authorities are considering restrictions on mobile and internet services in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Attock amid heightened security preparations ahead of the PTI's planned September 27 march.

The Punjab Home Department has formally requested the federal government to downgrade or suspend mobile and internet services at specified locations in Rawalpindi and Attock. The request also covers selected areas along the M-1 corridor, with restrictions sought from September 27.

Reports indicate that mobile services could also be suspended in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Attock on September 26 and 27.

The measures are being taken as the PTI prepares to mobilise supporters towards Islamabad. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has inspected security arrangements at key locations in Attock, including Chachh Interchange, Haroon Bridge and Ghazi Barotha Bridge.

Officials said the proposed measures are intended to maintain law and order, manage traffic on major routes and secure sensitive entry and exit points during the planned protest.

Dar Urges OIC to Maintain Unified Position on Kashmir

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has urged Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states to maintain a unified position on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations and other international forums.

Addressing the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly session, Dar highlighted what Pakistan describes as continuing restrictions on political and civic space in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. He also referred to concerns over changes to the region's demographic, political and cultural character.

Dar thanked the OIC leadership, Contact Group members, Special Envoy and Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission for their support for the Kashmiri people. He said Jammu and Kashmir remained on the UN Security Council agenda and maintained that domestic legislation, judicial decisions, elections or demographic changes could not replace the right to self-determination.



Gilani leaves for Belarus to strengthen parliamentary, bilateral ties

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday departed for Belarus on an official visit at the invitation of Natalya Kochanova, Chairperson of the Council of the Republic.

The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations and parliamentary cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus, with a focus on expanding collaboration in political, parliamentary, economic and people-to-people areas.

During his visit, Gilani is scheduled to meet the President of Belarus, parliamentary leaders and other senior officials. Discussions will cover bilateral relations, parliamentary exchanges and regional and international developments.

The Senate chairman will emphasize the importance of regular parliamentary exchanges, institutional linkages between the two legislatures and greater interaction among parliamentarians and parliamentary committees.



Naqvi praises security forces for killing 19 Terrorists in Balochistan Operations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday paid tribute to security forces for killing 19 terrorists during intelligence-based operations in Shaban, Quetta West and Kech areas of Balochistan.

Naqvi praised the courage, professionalism and operational capabilities of the security personnel, saying their actions demonstrated the resolve to protect peace in the province. He said operations against elements seeking to disrupt peace in Balochistan would continue with full force.

The interior minister described the security forces as the pride of the nation and

commended their sacrifices in confronting militants. He also paid tribute to Subedar Muhammad Jameel, who was martyred while bravely fighting the militants during the operations.

Naqvi said Subedar Jameel



sacrificed his life while performing his duty for the country and set an example of devotion and courage. He added that the soldier's sacrifice would always be remembered.

The minister reiterated the government's resolve to continue efforts against elements threatening peace and security in Balochistan.

Federal Minister Amir Muqam visits AJK, addresses ‘Jive Pakistan’ Rally

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam arrived in Muzaffarabad on Wednesday for a two-day official visit to Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He addressed thousands at the “Jive Pakistan Rally,” organized from Kohala Bridge to Muzaffarabad by AJK Minister for Energy and Water Resources Raja Saqib Majid.

Muqam thanked AJK residents on behalf of PML-N leadership—Nawaz Sharif, PM Shehbaz Sharif, and Maryam Nawaz—for their support in recent elections. He said Nawaz Sharif had pledged to personally oversee AJK affairs, and commitments made during visits to Muzaffarabad,



including the 100-day programme, were already being implemented. He also praised Field Marshal Asim Munir and institutions for ensuring peaceful elections.

Addressing political tensions, Muqam said protests were part of democracy but shouldn't inconvenience citizens, welcoming

Jamaat-e-Islami's decision to postpone protests after PM Shehbaz's appeal. He urged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa residents to avoid disruptive activities, stressing issues should be resolved constitutionally.

Raja Saqib Majid said PML-N's outreach across all 33 AJK constituencies contributed to electoral success.

He reaffirmed AJK's continued struggle for Kashmiri rights until resolution of the Kashmir issue, reiterating the “Kashmir Banega Pakistan” slogan and expressing hope for resolution per Kashmiri aspirations.

Advocate Shafqat Ali Chaudhry, Yasir Gilani, Sardar Naid Abbasi, and others also attended.

High Alert

KOHAT: Security has been placed on high alert after drones were sent from Afghanistan. Security forces intercepted and destroyed several drones before they could reach their targets.



Photo: Online

AJK PM Iftikhar Gillani Highlights Investment and Economic Growth Strategy

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gillani has said his government is focusing on attracting investment, promoting business activity and establishing new economic zones to create employment opportunities for youth.

He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting attended by Deputy Speaker Ahmed Raza Qadri, Secretary SIFC Jamil Qureshi, Principal Secretary Adnan Khurshid and other officials.

The prime minister said interest-free loans would be provided to young people under the Asaan Karobar Finance Scheme to help them establish their own businesses. He said the proposed Special Economic Zone would attract invest-



ment, promote industrial activity and facilitate the utilization of local resources for economic development.

Gillani stressed that increased economic activity was essential for

enhancing state revenues and generating employment. He also emphasized the development of tourism, saying expansion of the sector could strengthen the local economy and

create additional job opportunities.

The Secretary SIFC briefed the meeting on the Asaan Karobar scheme and proposed Special Economic Zone.

UMT, Pakistan Kisan Ittehad Agree to Sign MoU for Agricultural Research

Bureau Report

LAHORE: University of Management and Technology (UMT) President Ibrahim Murad and Pakistan Kisan Ittehad President Khalid Mahmood Khokhar have agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to promote agricultural research and extension, transfer research-based solutions to farmers, and advance modern agricultural technologies.

The agreement followed a meeting between the two leaders, who discussed agricultural development, farmers' issues, food security, productivity and adoption of modern farming technologies.



Murad said university research must be translated into practical field solutions to directly benefit farmers, calling for stronger linkages

among universities, industry and policymakers to boost agricultural productivity and value-added products. He said modern technology

and effective policies could significantly strengthen the agricultural sector, adding that prosperous farmers were essential for a stronger

agricultural and national economy.

Khokhar emphasized reducing production costs, improving farmers' market access, and ensuring fair prices for produce. He said resolving farmers' problems required effective policies, better governance, and sustained dialogue among farmers, experts and policy-makers.

Both leaders stressed greater cooperation among universities, industry and farmers to promote modern technologies, improved farming practices and value addition, and agreed to take further steps toward formalizing their collaboration through the proposed MoU.

Administrative measures should strengthen, not weaken, democratic institutions: PPPW

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The central leadership of Pakistan Peoples Party Workers (PPPW) led by President Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi, former MNA Naheed Khan, Senior Vice President Fayyaz Khan and other office bearers, has expressed serious concern over recent arrests and detentions of opposition parliamentarians, workers and supporters, including Aleema Khan, Naureen Khan and Dr. Uzma Khan, sisters of Imran Khan, reportedly under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance. The leadership said in a constitutional democracy, administrative measures should be exercised with utmost restraint, transparency and regard for fundamental rights, including peaceful expression and assembly. PPPW said political differences should be addressed through dialogue, parliamentary engagement and due process rather than measures that widen divisions. It urged the government to show political grace, open meaningful dialogue with opposition, and review detentions in accordance with law. The party also expressed concern over hardships caused to citizens due to barricades and road closures, appealing to all stakeholders to exercise restraint and prioritize political stability and economic development.



AJK Election Commission announces schedule for Kashmir Council By-Elections

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has announced the schedule for electing four new members to the AJK Council, following the expiry of the previous members' terms on September 18, 2026.



Nomination papers will be filed on October 1 (9 a.m.–2 p.m.) at the Election Commission Secretary's office in Jalalabad, Muzaffarabad. Scrutiny will occur on October 2, with appeals against rejections accepted on October 5 and heard on October 6, with decisions announced the same day. Candidates can withdraw nominations by noon on October 7, and the final list of contesting candidates will be published by October 9. Polling is scheduled for October 12 (10 a.m.–1 p.m.) at the AJK Legislative Assembly Hall, with vote counting immediately after.

Per Article 21(4) of the 1974 Interim Constitution, eligibility criteria mirror those for Legislative Assembly candidates. Contestants must submit asset statements, obtain receipts, provide electoral roll details, and furnish affidavits confirming a separate bank account for election expenses. Each candidate's proposer and seconder must be sitting Legislative Assembly members.

During scrutiny, candidates, their proposers/seconders, and authorized agents may be present before the Returning Officer.

Makkha Defence Alliance remains intact amid regional tensions

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador and former AJK President Sardar Masood Khan has said the foundational principle of the Makkha Joint Defence Agreement remains intact despite security and diplomatic challenges arising from Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Writing in Al Jazeera Arabic, he said Pakistan is bound by the 2025 Pakistan-Saudi Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement and the Makkha Agreement involving Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. Both provide for collective defence, treating an attack on one signatory as an attack on all.

Masood Khan said the Houthi attacks have raised questions about the practical application of the agreement while Pakistan maintains close ties with Saudi Arabia and seeks a mediatory role between Iran and the United States. He stressed that the alliance is intended for collective deterrence, not aggression, and includes exercises, interoperability, procurement and joint defence production.

He noted that the precise threshold for military intervention remains strategically ambiguous. He urged diplomacy and reconciliation, saying no country would win on the battlefield.

AIOU International Conference Calls for AI-Driven Reforms in Education System



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at an international conference organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) have urged transforming the education system to align with the rapid rise of artificial intelligence and digital technology, stressing the need to equip students with critical thinking, research and problem-solving skills.

The remarks came during the concluding session of the 9th International Conference on “Research and Practices in Education,” held by AIOU's Faculty of Education under the theme “Evolving Learning Ecosystem: Connect, Teach and Grow.”

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said AI should support teachers rather than replace them, urging users to verify the accuracy and authenticity of AI-generated information. He stressed that curricula must address societal needs for the next 15–20 years, teaching students how to think and solve problems rather than just what to know.

Calling education a national responsibility rather than merely an economic tool, he said future teachers must act as mentors and facilitators, using AI to strengthen—not replace—their role. He added that learning has evolved into a lifelong “ecosystem” extending beyond classrooms. Over two days, participants from Pakistan and abroad held panel discussions and sessions on modern teaching methods, emerging technologies, and research-driven education improvements. Dr. Hina Noor and Prof. Dr. Naveed Sultana presented the conference report and thanked participants and organizers.

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:33 am
Zohr 12:00 pm
Asr 4:20 pm
Maghrib 6:04 pm
Isha 7:27 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, ... 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316

Basal Police Arrest Theft Suspect, Recover Stolen Property Worth Rs1.03 Million

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Basal Police have arrested a suspect allegedly involved in a house theft within a short period and recovered stolen property worth Rs1.03 million, police said.

According to police, on September 18, 2026, Akbar Khan, a resident of Kamilpur Sher Jung, tehsil Jand, approached Basal Police and reported that unidentified persons had broken the lock of a room in his house and stolen two gold bangles, a gold ring worth Rs1.03 million and Rs30,000 in cash from a box.

Basal Police immediately registered a case and launched an investigation. Using modern investigative techniques and professional expertise, police traced and arrested the alleged suspect, Shakeel, son of Ghulam Jilani, a resident of Kamilpur Sher Jung, within a short period.

During interrogation, police recovered the stolen gold jewellery and cash, collectively valued at Rs1.03 million, from his possession.

CM Punjab launches Green Tractor Scheme's Fourth Phase

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched the fourth phase of the Green Tractor Scheme via digital balloting on Wednesday and opened applications for phase five, with plans to distribute 19,500 tractors this fiscal

year. The first Phase IV tractor went to Masood Khan of Attock.

Phase IV offers 10,000 tractors (50-65 HP) with a Rs750,000 subsidy each, while Phase V will provide 9,500 high-powered tractors (75-125 HP) with a Rs1 million subsidy each. The government has allocated Rs17.6 billion for the



scheme; 24,000 tractors have already been distributed with Rs1 million subsidies.

Officials noted the scale of investment: only 10,000 tractors were provided over the previous 20 years, compared to 35,000 during Nawaz's two-and-a-half-year tenure, with spending rising

from Rs3 billion (20 years) to Rs20 billion recently. Punjab has also begun locally manufacturing 90-HP tractors and assembling 100-HP models for the first time.

Over 213,637 farmers applied, with 128,757 verified eligible through the Punjab Land Records Authority and

Nadra. Farmers owning five acres or more qualified, with quotas set by district based on cultivated land — Bhakkar, Jhang, Lodhran, and Vehari receiving higher shares. Agriculture Minister Ashiq Kirmani noted the scheme has boosted local tractor manufacturing and sales.

Saudi National Day

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq cutting the cake during a reception to mark 96th National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at local hotel in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Punjab Governor Attends Tent-Pegging Competition in Fateh Jang

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended a tent-pegging competition in Fateh Jang, Attock, as chief guest, where a large number of local dignitaries, political and social figures, enthusiasts and citizens participated.

The governor appreciated the impressive skills, enthusiasm and performances of the horse riders. He said tent-pegging was an ancient cultural and traditional sport of Punjab, particularly the Potohar region, and stressed the need to promote such healthy activities among youth.

Sardar Saleem Haider said sports could help protect young people from drugs and other negative activities



while developing courage, discipline, skills and physical fitness. He emphasized that traditional sports were also important for preserving the region's cultural heritage and

introducing younger generations to their historical traditions.

The governor said organizing such competitions would help revive and preserve tradi-

tional sports. He congratulated organizer Malik Aqib Khan for successfully holding the event and appreciated his efforts to promote equestrian activities in the region.

PAEC Foundation Signs Contract for 5MW Hydropower Project at Chashma

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PAEC Foundation has signed a contract for the establishment of its fifth hydropower plant, Foundation Hydel Power Plant Unit-05 (FHPP-05), a 5MW project to be constructed at the outfall of the Chashma-5 Nuclear Power Plant.

Once operational, the plant is expected to generate approximately 30.66 million kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually for the national grid.

The project will harness the available hydropower potential at the site, contributing to the efficient utilisation of water resources and sustainable power generation. Electricity generation from the plant is expected to commence by September 2029.

The contract was signed between PAEC Foundation and a joint venture comprising China Ocean Engineering Construction Corporation Ltd., Ningbo Water Conservancy and Hydro Power Planning and Design Institute Co., Ltd., and Habib Rafique Engineering



(Pvt.) Ltd. at PAEC Headquarters.

The project will complement PAEC's broader contribution to Pakistan's energy sector.

PAEC's six nuclear power plants currently generate 3,530MW of clean, sustainable and low-cost electricity for the national grid, while the new hydro-

power project will further expand PAEC Foundation's renewable energy portfolio and contribute an additional 5MW of clean electricity.

Punjab CM Felicitates Saudi Leadership on National Day

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has felicitated the leadership and people of Saudi Arabia on the Kingdom's National Day, expressing hope for continued peace, progress and prosperity.

In her special message, she said the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were pleased with the Makkah Agreement, describing it as an important step towards regional peace and stability. She said Pakistan considered the protection of Haramain Sharifain a matter of great honour and privilege.

Maryam Nawaz said Pakistanis held Saudi Arabia in the highest regard, with relations between the two countries based on mutual trust, sincerity, Islamic faith and brotherhood. She highlighted the deep and historic bonds between the two nations.

The chief minister also praised Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's vision and wisdom, saying Saudi Arabia had attained a prominent position globally. She prayed for the enduring strength of Pakistan-Saudi brotherhood and lasting prosperity for the Kingdom.

CM Maryam Praises Traffic Warden for Honesty

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has appreciated Traffic Warden Sohail Wazir Dogar for demonstrating honesty, responsibility and a strong sense of duty by returning a lost bag to its owner.

During a patrol from Timber Market towards Ravi Bridge, Sohail Dogar found an unattended bag lying on the road. He took the bag into his custody and discovered a substantial amount of cash, a driving licence and other important documents inside.

The traffic warden traced the owner, Zain-ul-Abideen, a resident of Begum Kot, and safely returned the bag along with all its contents.

During a meeting with the warden, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz commended his exemplary conduct and said his honesty and dedication were inspiring. She expressed hope that more Pakistanis would demonstrate the same values.

Hotel Association Rejects Closure Orders, Says Livelihoods at Risk

RAWALPINDI: President of Anjuman Tajran Liaquat Road Rawalpindi and Inter-City Hotel Association, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, has expressed strong concern over directives from police and administration to close hotels, calling it unacceptable.

He said closure would affect livelihoods of traders and thousands of low-income employees and their families. "When railway stations, flight operations and GT Road are open, why are hotels being ordered to close?" he asked.

He noted many middle and lower-income people come to Rawalpindi for employment and cannot afford expensive hotels, questioning what alternative accommodation would be available.

Sheikh Waheed clarified the hotel industry has no affiliation with any political party and is not a facilitator for any group. Its objective is to run businesses, provide employment and offer safe accommodation.

He said guest details are properly recorded and data is available with IG Punjab and local police, so collective closure is concerning.

He said hotels are a major tax-paying sector with 98% owners being filers. He appealed to federal, provincial governments and law enforcement not to close hotels, saying singling out the industry while other businesses remain open is unreasonable.

AKUH Highlights PMOS as a Whole-Body Health Condition

Bureau Report



KARACHI: Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) marked PMOS Awareness Month by hosting a media roundtable highlighting the condition as a comprehensive women's health

issue rather than merely a fertility problem.

Previously known as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), PMOS was proposed to be renamed Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome in 2026 to better reflect its hormonal and metabolic aspects. AKUH specialists said the condition can affect menstrual cycles, weight, skin and emotional well-being, while being associated with longer-term risks including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure and depression.

Experts cautioned against self-diagnosis, stressing that irregular periods or ultrasound findings alone cannot confirm PMOS. They urged women to seek proper medical assessment and personalised care.

Dr Asma Ahmed and Dr Sumaira Naz emphasized early attention, balanced nutrition, physical activity and regular medical follow-up. They also highlighted the emotional impact of symptoms and fertility concerns, urging women to seek credible medical advice instead of relying on online information.

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The World Must Not Let Kashmir Fade From Its Conscience

The Joint Communique issued by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, following its meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 81st session, is a timely reminder that the Kashmir dispute remains very much alive—both as a humanitarian tragedy and as an unresolved matter of international law. That five OIC member states, chaired by the Secretary-General himself, chose to reaffirm the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination speaks to the enduring relevance of a cause that global diplomacy too often treats as yesterday's news.

The communique's substance deserves close attention. It is not merely a symbolic gesture but a detailed indictment of the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The figures cited are staggering: nearly 2,800 arrests following the Pahalgam attack, the demolition of dozens of homes, and more than 3.4 million domicile certificates issued since 2019 in what appears to be a calculated effort to alter the region's demographic character. These are not abstractions but the lived reality of a population under prolonged occupation.

Equally troubling is the continued detention of Kashmiri leaders—Yasin Malik, Asiya Andrabi and Shabbir Ahmed Shah among them—the latter reportedly suffering from cancer without adequate recourse to bail. A state that claims to be the world's largest democracy should not need reminding that justice delayed for the ailing and the elderly is justice denied outright.

The Contact Group was also right to reject the notion that any electoral exercise conducted under the Indian Constitution in IIOJK can substitute for genuine self-determination. Elections held under occupation, however procedurally correct, cannot manufacture legitimacy where none exists under international law.

The reference to the May 2025 military escalation, including strikes on Pakistani and Azad Kashmir territory, is a sobering reminder of how quickly an unresolved dispute can spiral toward regional catastrophe. The ceasefire that followed was welcome, but ceasefires are pauses, not solutions. Durable peace in South Asia, as the communique rightly notes, hinges on a final settlement consistent with UN Security Council resolutions.

The request for an OIC-IPHRC fact-finding mission to Azad Kashmir and the Line of Control is a constructive step, but its value will depend entirely on follow-through. The graveyard of Kashmir diplomacy is littered with resolutions that were passed, welcomed, and then forgotten.

For Pakistan and the OIC bloc, the task now is to convert this communique into sustained diplomatic pressure—at the UN, in bilateral channels, and in global public opinion—rather than allow it to join the long list of statements that changed sentiment but not circumstance on the ground.

Trump's Hubris at the United Nations

Trump's UN address and the international rejection surrounding Netanyahu exposed a world increasingly divided between the rule of law and the unrestrained exercise of power.

The United Nations was created after the Second World War to restrain power through law, replace war with diplomacy and give sovereign countries a voice. President Donald Trump's address to the 81st General Assembly on September 22, 2026, presented a different conception of international order—one in which military dominance, economic control and national power appeared to take precedence over multilateral accountability.

Trump again credited himself with settling eight wars. Fact-checkers found the claim exaggerated: several cases involved temporary ceasefires, while at least two were not wars during his presidency. The continuing US–Iran conflict further complicated his peacemaking claim. His assertion of \$21 trillion in new investment commitments also exceeded his administration's published total of approximately \$11.2 trillion, much of it consisting of nonbinding announcements.

The most consequential passage concerned Iran. Trump offered a choice between an agreement allowing Iran to rebuild and the rapid annihilation of the Islamic Republic. He spoke of driving it into a condition with no hope of survival. These words were delivered before the institution was established to prevent aggressive war and mass destruction.

Religious and ethical traditions differ, but humility, restraint and the protection of innocent life are central to many of

them. Against that background, contemplating the destruction of an entire country represented the hubris of power, speaking as if it possessed authority over the survival of another civilization. A threat alone is not only a completed war crime, but implementing an indiscriminate campaign against Iran's population or civilian infrastructure is also a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

Trump's attack on the International Criminal Court reflected the same conflict over accountability. He called it an anti-American tribunal, described its officials in degrading language and urged all member states to withdraw. The United States is not a party to the Rome Statute, but the claim that the court can never exercise jurisdiction over Americans is incomplete. The ICC says nationals of nonmember states may fall within its jurisdiction when alleged crimes occur on a member state's territory, when jurisdiction is accepted by the relevant state or after a Security Council referral.

Trump announced that artificial intelligence should be renamed "super intelligence" and rejected international controls. Yet superintelligence already means a hypothetical system exceeding human abilities. Hundreds of researchers and executives have warned that extreme AI risks deserve serious attention. AI offers remarkable benefits, but celebrating its power while dismissing its risks is not responsible governance.

Trump also mocked predictions of

climate catastrophe. His administration withdrew from the Paris Agreement and, in January 2026, announced its departure from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Scientists' central finding is that human emissions are warming the planet and increasing serious risks. America's withdrawal weakened action on a problem no border can contain.

Other economic assertions required similar scrutiny. The official poverty rate declined to 10.2 percent in 2025, but the broader Supplemental Poverty Measure remained around 13.1 percent.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Trump described large numbers of ships moving through regularly, although shipping data recorded only 17 commodity vessels during the cited weekend—far below the prewar average of approximately 125 large commercial vessels per day. The gap between rhetoric and verifiable conditions ran throughout the address.

The most revealing issue, however, concerned Venezuela. Trump publicly said the United States was taking in "billions and billions of dollars" from that country. When asked about reports of \$13 billion, he suggested the amount might be even greater and declared that the proceeds had repaid the cost of the American military operation many times over. He further indicated that the money could support the running of the United States, including its military.

Before the House Financial Services Committee, Treasury Secretary Scott

Bessent described the broader Venezuelan arrangement as potentially "one of the largest assets ever to go on the U.S. balance sheet." He confirmed American control over multiple Venezuelan assets but did not provide lawmakers with a complete total, identify every account or disclose all ultimate beneficiaries.

The central issue is not an accounting technicality but sovereignty and propriety. Venezuela is an independent country whose oil, gold, minerals and other natural resources belong to its people. When a foreign power takes control of revenue and national assets and then describes the arrangement as an asset on its own balance sheet, the boundary between custody and appropriation becomes impossible to ignore. Calling the arrangement management, protection or administration does not erase the reality that Washington determines how the wealth is held, valued and distributed.

Consider the reaction if Britain intervened in the United States, assumed control over American oil revenue, gold or strategic minerals and placed the resulting interests on the British balance sheet. Washington would never accept such an arrangement as benevolent stewardship. Imposing it upon Venezuela establishes an alarming precedent: military superiority allows the stronger country to control the resources and sovereign functions of the weaker one.

The administration maintains that Venezuelan funds remain Venezuelan sovereign property held in American custody. Yet that explanation sits uneasily beside Trump's assertion that "we" are taking in the money, his claim that it

Continued on Page 7



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

AJK governance reflects much needed political harmony

With the completion of the presidential election, Azad Jammu and Kashmir has entered a new phase of its constitutional and political journey. The three principal constitutional offices are now held by three political figures with distinct regional and parliamentary backgrounds: Dr Najeeb Naqi as President, Barrister Iftikhar Gilani as Prime Minister and Chaudhry Tariq Farooq as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

This emerging political triad carries significance beyond the personalities involved. It brings together three constitutional offices at a time when AJK faces substantial public expectations and important responsibilities arising from its political, economic and strategic position.

The three office-holders also represent an interesting geographical configuration. Poonch, Muzaffarabad and Mirpur have historically maintained distinctive political identities within AJK. Their presence at the apex of the constitutional structure can acquire symbolic significance if regional diversity is translated into political inclusion, institutional balance and effective governance.

Yet symbolism alone will not be enough. The principal challenge before the new leadership is governance in its broadest sense. Governance is not merely about forming a cabinet, issuing notifications or announcing development schemes. Its real measure lies in performance on the ground and in the confidence and satisfaction it generates among the people.

For Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani, the

immediate task is to translate political commitments into an identifiable programme of government. The proposed first 100 days should establish clear priorities, realistic timelines, adequate resources and measurable outcomes. Roads, electricity, health, education, employment, tourism, hydropower, municipal services and economic opportunities directly affect citizens' daily lives.

The role of Chaudhry Tariq Farooq will be equally important, though constitutionally different. As Speaker, he will be responsible for protecting the dignity, neutrality and orderly functioning of the Legislative Assembly. The House should provide legislative support to the government while also remaining an effective forum for debate, representation and accountability.

The presidency carries its own constitutional responsibilities. Dr Najeeb Naqi assumes an office requiring dignity, constitutional balance and political restraint. The President is not a parallel executive, but the office can contribute significantly to institutional harmony and constitutional continuity when exercised within its defined sphere.

Personal association among the three politicians may facilitate communication, but political familiarity alone cannot guarantee institutional harmony. The essential requirement is that each office-holder respect the constitutional limits of his office while maintaining meaningful coordination with the other two.

An immediate political challenge is the completion of the electoral process in the seven remaining constituencies of Poonch and Sudhnoti, five in Poonch and two in Sudhnoti. Polling in these constituencies was post-

poned amid law-and-order concerns, while the remaining four constituencies of Poonch Division proceeded to polling. Bringing this unfinished electoral chapter to a credible, peaceful and representative conclusion will be important for political normalcy and full constitutional representation.

Beyond this immediate challenge lies the larger responsibility arising from the post-August 5, 2019 Kashmir scenario. India's constitutional and administrative changes concerning Jammu and Kashmir fundamentally altered the political environment surrounding the Kashmir dispute and added new dimensions to its constitutional, diplomatic and international context.

For AJK, governance and the Kashmir cause cannot therefore be treated as entirely separate responsibilities. The region needs institutions capable of delivering effectively at home while articulating its political position on Kashmir with credibility, consistency and constitutional maturity. Public confidence generated through good governance can strengthen AJK's ability to discharge its wider responsibilities.

The wider political context is also significant. The present AJK government is led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, whose senior leadership has maintained close political engagement with the emerging AJK leadership. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz Sharif remain important figures in the wider PML-N structure, while Senator Ishaq Dar occupies a significant position in the federal political and economic architecture.

The discussions surrounding a 100-day reform agenda, including healthcare, education, sanitation, infrastructure and other public-service sectors, have created expectations that the new government will demonstrate an early and visible policy take-off.

Continued on Page 7

The Victory of Pakistan's Stance in International Arbitration Court

The Pakistani nation has welcomed the unanimous international arbitration ruling on the Indus Waters Treaty as a major legal and diplomatic victory protecting Pakistan's economic survival, agriculture, national security, and longstanding water rights. The 1960 treaty, negotiated under the World Bank, governs the Indus river system and is vital to Pakistan as a lower-riparian country whose agriculture and millions of livelihoods depend on reliable water flows. The court affirmed that India cannot unilaterally suspend, terminate, or place the treaty in abeyance and that it remains legally binding.

It rejected India's arguments based on sovereignty, alleged Pakistani violations, terrorism, changed circumstances, armed conflict, and countermeasures, emphasizing that none permits unilateral withdrawal from treaty obligations. Any amendment or termination must instead be based on a mutually agreed new arrangement between Pakistan and India. The ruling therefore strengthens Pakistan's water rights, reinforces the supremacy of international law and treaty compliance, and demonstrates that even powerful states cannot disregard binding international commitments. Pakistan's reliance on arbitration, dialogue, negotiations, and peaceful dispute resolution rather than confrontation has consequently been vindicated as a responsible and principled approach.

The court also approved interim measures concerning India's Ratle Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River, where Pakistan had raised concerns about the project's design and poten-

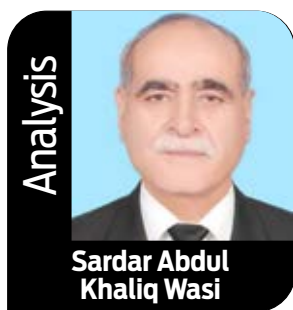
tial impact on its water supply. India has been restrained from concreting above specified levels on parts of the dam wall and power-intake structure and must report changes to the construction schedule, ensuring transparency and preventing actions that could prejudice Pakistan's rights. These restrictions will remain until 90 days after the Neutral Expert's final decision, expected in July 2027, preserving the status quo while the dispute is resolved. The outcome demonstrates that the treaty's dispute-resolution system—from the Permanent Indus Commission to the Neutral Expert and Court of Arbitration—can effectively protect the parties' rights, while India is obligated to comply with the court's orders.

More broadly, Pakistan's longstanding confidence in international law and its insistence that disputes be handled through the treaty's mechanisms have been fully justified. The unanimous ruling is especially significant because it represents complete agreement among the arbitrators, leaving little room to portray the decision as divided or ambiguous. It is therefore a strong endorsement of Pakistan's meticulously prepared legal case, a rejection of India's position, and a broader victory for the international legal order by reinforcing the principle that treaties must be respected, cannot be unilaterally suspended, and should provide stability, predictability, and peaceful means of resolving international disputes.

Pakistan's legal team, which included some of the finest international lawyers, did an outstanding job in defending the country's

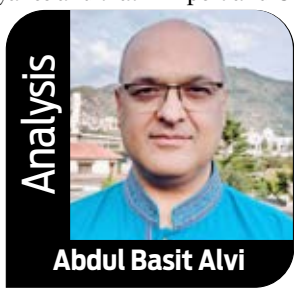
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Analysis



Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi

Naval Chief Highlights Pakistan’s Maritime Potential in World Maritime Day Message

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, on the occasion of World Maritime Day 2026, extended felicitations to Pakistan and the global maritime community, paying special tribute to sailors, fishermen and coastal communities whose services remain vital to maritime connectivity, prosperity and the national economy.

In his message, the Naval Chief said the sea held immense

economic and developmental significance for Pakistan, noting that the country’s coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone offered vast opportunities for growth through shipping, shipbuilding, ship recycling, fisheries, coastal resources, energy, tourism and other maritime economic activities. He stressed that realizing this potential required a safe and sustainable maritime environment, effective institutional oversight, responsible practices and continued

investment.

This year’s World Maritime Day theme, “From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence,” he said, underscores the importance of translating strategies, laws and global commitments into purposeful action, calling for continuous efforts to secure the maritime environment, enhance professional capacity and align maritime activities with international standards.

Admiral Ashraf said the Paki-

stan Navy remained committed to safeguarding the country’s maritime interests, ensuring a secure and stable maritime environment through continuous surveillance, protection of trade corridors and regional maritime security, while fostering conducive conditions for maritime trade and economic activity in close cooperation with maritime and international partners.

He emphasized that sustainable development of Pakistan’s maritime sector required collec-

tive national awareness, responsible use of maritime resources, and stronger linkages among government institutions, industry, academia and coastal communities. He reaffirmed the Navy’s commitment to the International Maritime Organisation’s vision of a safe, secure and environmentally sustainable sea, expressing hope that World Maritime Day 2026 would help translate Pakistan’s maritime aspirations into practical action for national progress.



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Dr. Javad Zarif, former Foreign Minister

of Iran, called for a shift from a threat-centred security paradigm to one based on dialogue, cooperation and shared prosper-

ity, while speaking at a roundtable hosted by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)’s Centre for Afghanistan,

Middle East and Africa, under its Distinguished Lecture Series.

Dr. Zarif, who served as Iran’s Foreign Minister from 2013–

Dr. Javad Zarif Calls for Regional Security ‘With’ One Another, Not ‘Against’ One Another

2021 and played a central role in the 2015 JCPOA negotiations, said the emerging “post-polar” world had distributed power across regions, markets and networks, giving middle powers greater strategic agency while permanent alliances gave way to issue-based coalitions.

Reflecting on West Asia’s history of colonialism, sectarianism and foreign intervention, he warned that dwelling in past grievances could imprison societies, urging instead an honest

reckoning with history to recover suppressed possibilities.

He elaborated on his initiative, the Muslim West Asia Dialogue Association (MWADA), envisioned as a framework involving Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt and Gulf states to replace enmity with dialogue, cultural and economic ties, and an eventual regional non-aggression framework. He described Pakistan as a vital bridge between West Asia, South Asia and Central Asia.

Praising Pakistan’s role in facilitating US-Iran dialogue, he called the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding an important framework for peaceful resolution of differences.

Concluding, Dr. Zarif said military superiority and sanctions alone could not produce lasting stability, urging a future where history does not dictate outcomes. The event was attended by former ministers, diplomats, and security analysts.

UET Lahore Holds Special Session on Internationalisation and Development of Universities

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A special session on “Internationalisation and Development of Universities” was held at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore in collaboration with Higher Education Advocacy and Development (HEAD), with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir as keynote speaker.

The event was attended by HEAD Chairman Naeem Masood, former Federal Minister Syed Javed Ali Shah, Secretary Punjab Revenue Board Shafqat Ullah Mushtaq, along with researchers, faculty, bureaucrats, political figures and civil society members.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir stressed that university development now extends beyond

conventional academics to international linkages, research collaboration and industry partnerships. Drawing on recent visits to Germany, China and Kathmandu, he said Pakistani universities must align with global standards, noting that internationalization could open opportunities for students and researchers through technology transfer, faculty development

and exchange programmes.

Naeem Masood highlighted the strategic importance of policy advocacy for sustainable growth in higher education, emphasizing academic quality, research excellence, institutional stability and coordination among stakeholders.

A question-and-answer session followed, during which participants raised queries on



internationalization, policy formulation, research and chal-

lenges facing universities, with speakers engaging in detailed

discussion on institutional development.

From Policy to Practice: Pakistan’s Maritime turn on World Maritime Day 2026

Dr. Marriyam Siddique

World Maritime Day 2026 adopts the theme “From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence.” This is the first two-year theme in the International Maritime Organisation’s history, running through 2026 and 2027. It signals a shift in global maritime governance. The era of treaty-making has matured and the era of enforcement has begun.

The 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea remains the constitution of the oceans and nearly every coastal state has ratified it. Yet ratification is not implementation and the IMO acknowledges this gap by insisting that a rule must be translated into concrete national legislation, enforcement and day-to-day operations. Paper commitments do not secure sea lanes because only practice does. This gap matters more now than in most years. Attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, a fragile Strait of Hormuz and rising war-risk premiums have shown how quickly the maritime commons turns contested. A convention does not stop a missile from hitting a tanker, only enforcement does.

Pakistan offers an instructive case. In July 2026, the Lloyd’s Market Association’s Joint War Committee removed Pakistan from its listed war-zone countries. The designation had stood since 2001 and it functioned



as a standing tax on Pakistani trade by raising insurance costs at Karachi, Port Qasim and Gwadar. Its removal is a milestone. This outcome was not automatic; it followed sustained technical engagement. A formal submission was made in March and verified data was provided. Pakistan Navy worked alongside other national stakeholders in a coordinated whole-of-government effort. The effect is measurable, since war-risk premiums have fallen, competitiveness has improved and confidence in Pakistani ports has increased. This is what implementation looks like – not a signature on a treaty but months of quiet work, evidence and follow-through.

In March 2026, Pakistan Navy launched Operation Muhafiz-ul-Bahr in response to regional escalation. The de-facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz threatened energy supplies and disrupted global energy sea lines of communication, so Pakistan acted. The operation secures national sea lines of communication, protects critical energy supplies, escorts Pakistan-flagged merchant vessels and coordinates with Pakistan National Shipping Corporation. As of late 2026, seventy-six transits have been escorted through the Gulf and the Red Sea, making Pakistan the first nation in the region to commence such escorts. This is implementation in motion. The

Pakistan Navy has also maintained a continuous presence in the North Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, which reassures international maritime traffic and contributes to regional stability. Pakistan has also joined the Saudi-led Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition, actively participating in this burden-sharing and burden-bearing effort. The Pakistan Navy’s sustained presence and escort operations have become a visible expression of Pakistan’s commitment to keeping the region’s sea lanes open and secure.

Implementation requires more than operations because it also requires awareness. Pakistan Navy is playing a key role in the Maritime Awareness Campaign Plan, which seeks to generate maritime awareness, channel efforts to reap the full potential of Pakistan’s maritime sector and promote the Blue Economy. The campaign conducts an annual Maritime Security Workshop, briefs government officials and policymakers, raises awareness about marine pollution, engages the business community and supports domain-specific research at the Maritime Centre of Excellence (MCE). These are capacity-building measures that build the human capital imple-

mentation requires.

Pakistan International Maritime Exhibition and Conference is another pillar and its second edition was held in November 2025 under the patronage of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs. It received an overwhelming response, with one hundred and thirty-three international delegations attending and forty-four countries represented. Exhibitions and conferences build networks, share knowledge, attract investment, and showcase capability. They do not by themselves build shipyards or cut port turnaround times, but they are necessary conditions, because they create the connections that later become contracts, signal intent and open doors.

Pakistan’s exclusive economic zone is a frontier and Pakistan Navy is pursuing its exploration with China Geological Survey and National Institute of Oceanography. Three expeditions have been conducted within Pakistan’s EEZ and they have mapped various zones and identified oil and gas reserves whose preliminary estimates rank them sixteenth and fifth largest in the world respectively. If fully realised, these resources could be a game changer by reshaping Pakistan’s energy import bill and anchoring a new industrial base. But identification is not extraction and estimates are not production, because a survey finding is a precondition for success rather than success itself. The task ahead is to convert potential into practice.

World Maritime Day 2026

should be read as an audit rather than a celebration. Pakistan can point to real outcomes, including the Lloyd’s delisting, Operation Muhafiz-ul-Bahr, PIMEC and scientific exploration. These are not declarations but actions. The harder half of the equation remains: regulatory enforcement must be embedded in domestic law, blue-economy potential must be converted into functioning industry, port infrastructure must keep pace with ambition, human capital must be deepened and regional stability must hold. These are long-term tasks that require sustained attention, resources and political will.

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has framed the stakes by stating that the goal is “ensuring regulations are put into action” so that global rules “lead to safer, more secure and environmentally sound shipping worldwide.” Pakistan’s 2026 record shows that it is moving in the direction from policy to practice. World Maritime Day 2026 calls on states to move beyond signature, to enforce, to build and to deliver. Pakistan has answered part of that call by showing that diplomacy can lower costs, navies can protect trade, campaigns can build awareness, exhibitions can build networks and science can map resources. The rest is work of legislation, infrastructure, industry, and time, because the theme “From Policy to Practice” is not a slogan but a standard and Pakistan’s 2026 record suggests it understands the standard while the challenge is to meet it fully.

 Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
172,232.51	171,402.08
Day's High	Day's Low
172,762.41	171,843.50
Index Value	Change
13,811,203,245	+ 830.43
Percentage	Time
+0.48%	23 Sept, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,705.26	− 3.07
Percentage	Time
−0.029%	23 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,597.11	− 266.58
Percentage	Time
−0.51%	23 Sept, 1:48 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
65,018.95	+ 882.70
Percentage	Time
+1.38%	18 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196.73	201.15
Bahrain Dinar	735.70	745.78
Canadian Dollar	196.88	201.70
China Yuan	38.25	38.97
Danish Krone	42.85	43.45
Euro	319.00	323.98
Hong Kong Dollar	34.94	35.94
Indian Rupee	2.60	2.95
Japanese Yen	1.7339	1.8337
Kuwaiti Dinar	886.75	897.65
Malaysian Ringgit	68.10	68.90
NewZealand \$	158.31	162.05
Norwegians Krone	28.35	28.70
Omani Riyal	722.85	734.85
Qatari Riyal	75.20	76.40
Saudi Riyal	73.95	74.50
Singapore Dollar	216.63	222.50
Swedish Korona	28.50	28.95
Swiss Franc	338.50	343.85
Thai Bhat	8.30	8.80
U.A.E Dirham	75.75	76.40
UK Pound Sterling	373.25	377.65
US Dollar	278.05	278.35

TCL Launches
AI-Powered Smart
Washing Machine
Series in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL has expanded its smart home appliance portfolio in Pakistan with the launch of a new washing machine lineup featuring AI-powered cleaning, advanced fabric care and smart connectivity. The range includes the TCL AI Super Drum C5 Series Washer & Dryer Pair, C2110 Front Load Series and P212TLG Top Load Model. The appliances feature a 540mm Super Drum designed to provide greater space for garments, while spin speeds of up to 1,400 RPM support efficient washing and drying.

Selected models feature Auto-Dose liquid detergent dispensing, which adjusts detergent use according to the load, while Steam Wash provides high-temperature cleaning. Direct Drive and BLDC inverter motors are designed to support quieter operation, smoother cycles and improved energy efficiency.

The new machines also offer Wi-Fi connectivity and compatibility with the TCL Home app, allowing users to access smart functions through connected devices.

TCL is offering extended warranty coverage, including 20 years for Direct Drive motors, 10 years for BLDC motors, two years for main PCB boards and one year for other spare parts.

Gold prices fall by
Rs1,800 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed a decline in the local market on Wednesday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs1,800 to settle at Rs453,936, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs1,544 to Rs389,176, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs1,416 to Rs356,757.

In the international market, the price of gold fell by \$18 to \$4,314 per ounce, the association reported. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola fell by Rs30 to settle at Rs7,008, while the price of 10 grams of silver decreased by Rs25 to Rs6,008.

Pakistan's Seafood Exports
Can Reach \$2 Billion
With Modern Technology
and Value Addition: Mian
Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and Chairman of the FPCCI Policy Advisory Board, said Pakistan's seafood exports could reach \$2 billion through a clear strategy, modern technology, and value addition. Seafood exports stood at \$568 million last fiscal year, up 38% over two years, with China absorbing 59% of the total. Yet despite a 1,000-km coastline and a 240,000-sq-km Exclusive Economic Zone, Pakistan holds just 0.29% of the \$195 billion global seafood market, ranking 34th world-wide with production growth of only 1.1%



annually — far behind India (5.8%), Peru (4.3%) and Vietnam (3.7%).

He identified key obstacles: weak traceability and certification, lack of boat registration, poor enforcement of food safety standards, overfishing, and inadequate harbours, cold storage, and financing. He urged Pakistan to move beyond traditional fishing toward a modern, export-oriented blue economy — with better federal-provincial coordination, full catch traceability, world-class certification, and easier financing. Shifting from raw fish exports to processed, frozen, and value-added products, he said, would open new global markets. FPCCI stands ready to offer policy proposals to support investment and boost exports through modernization and shrimp farming.

Repairing

FAISALABAD: A mechanic repairing an industrial motor outside his shop at Motor Market Jhang road.



Photo: Online

Zong Partners with ConnectHear to
Launch Pakistan's First AI-Powered
Sign Language Customer Service

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong has partnered with ConnectHear to introduce AI-powered sign language accessibility at its Customer Service Centers, using ConnectHear's proprietary technology, SILA. Launched on September 23, the International Day of Sign Languages, the initiative brings Pakistan Sign Language (PSL) support into customer interactions in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.

Powered by AI and PSL-native technology, SILA enables real-time sign language communication for Deaf and hard-of-hearing customers, with access to trained human interpreters when needed. The system addresses routine services like SIM-related queries, billing and account assistance, reducing customers' dependency on interpreters or family members for independent, dignified interactions.

The launch ceremony, held at Zong's Islamabad center, was attended by Zong management, ConnectHear representatives, and officials from MoITT, PTA and GSMA, including Muhammad Jahanzeb



Rahim, Rabeeya Parvez, Malahat Obaid and Zohaib Jawed.

Zong's Head of Strategy Nabila Yazdani said the initiative reflects the company's shift toward becoming a technology services enterprise focused on inclusion and accessibility. ConnectHear Co-founder and CEO Azima Dhanjee said SILA allows

Deaf customers to be independently facilitated without relying on others to communicate for them.

The launch marks the first phase of a broader accessibility roadmap, with Zong planning to expand sign language accessibility across its digital ecosystem to enable more inclusive service delivery.

MG Pakistan
Begins Deliveries
of Locally
Assembled
All-New MG ZS



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: MG Pakistan has marked the CKD line-off of the All-New MG ZS, with the first locally assembled units leaving its Lahore plant for customer deliveries.

The milestone fulfils the company's commitment to begin deliveries by the end of September and marks another step in its local manufacturing and localisation efforts.

The All-New MG ZS is offered in three variants: Vibe Petrol, Hybrid+ Excite and Hybrid+ Essence. The petrol version features a 1.5-litre naturally aspirated engine with CVT, while the hybrid variants use a 1.5-litre Hybrid+ system with a three-speed hybrid trans-

mission. The hybrid powertrain produces 158 kW of combined power and 465 Nm of torque.

Safety features across all variants include six airbags, Bosch ESP 9.3, Level 2 Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and an 81% high-strength steel body frame.

The vehicle also offers digital interfaces, smartphone connectivity, flexible storage and 443 litres of boot space, expandable to 1,457 litres with the rear seats folded.

MG Motor Pakistan CEO Jianqiang Shao said the company was proud to fulfil its delivery commitment and bring global standards of engineering, safety and technology closer to Pakistani customers.

Pak-China Friendship
Games Begin Today
in Lahore

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab has finalised arrangements for the Pak-China Friendship Games, scheduled to begin today and continue until September 28 at multiple venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex.

Teams from various divisions of Punjab have started arriving in Lahore to participate in the five-day event.

Director General Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi said competitions would be held in 11 sports disciplines, including table tennis, wushu, tai chi, gymnastics, athletics, badminton, basketball, football, tennis, volleyball and

weightlifting.

He said teams from all provinces would participate in the tai chi competition, adding that around 2,000 athletes from different divisions of Punjab would take part in the games.

Sports Board Punjab has arranged accommodation, transportation and other necessary facilities for participating athletes to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

The Pak-China Friendship Games are being organised to promote sporting activities and strengthen people-to-people ties through sports. The competitions will continue at various venues of the Nishtar Park Sports Complex through September 28.

Pakistan's Low Insurance
Penetration Creates
Opportunities for Actuaries

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's insurance penetration stands at around 0.7 percent of GDP, highlighting significant growth potential for the insurance sector and creating opportunities for actuarial professionals, speakers said at the Society of Actuaries' (SOA) Actuaries Connect event in Karachi.

The event brought together actuarial students, university faculty and industry experts from insurance, finance and consulting sectors. SOA Regional Director Zain Ibrahim said limited awareness of actuarial science remained a challenge despite increased access to education and informa-

tion. He said the SOA was working to promote the profession among students and educational institutions.

Speakers noted that actuarial expertise now extends beyond traditional insurance roles to product development, risk management, mergers and acquisitions, climate-related risks, and sustainability. Artificial intelligence is also transforming routine actuarial work and is expected to play a growing role in modelling and risk assessment.

Pakistan Society of Actuaries President Usama Dangra said actuarial training provides students with broad cross-disciplinary knowledge spanning STEM, finance and social sciences.

Daraz, Getz Pharma Sign
Strategic Partnership to Expand
Digital Healthcare Offering

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Daraz Pakistan and Getz Pharma have signed a strategic partnership to expand the availability of consumer healthcare and wellness products on Daraz and strengthen the category's digital presence.

The agreement, signed at Getz Pharma's head office in Karachi, covers product selection, digital merchandising, brand campaigns

and customer offers. The companies will work to broaden the available assortment, improve online product presentation and develop shopping experiences tailored to health and wellness needs.

The partnership follows Daraz's recent launch of its e-pharmacy, introduced in August with more than 450 products from over 20 pharmaceutical and healthcare brands. The offering includes over-the-counter

medicines, vitamins, supplements and other health-related products and operates through Daraz's licensed pharmacy facility.

Getz Pharma is already represented in Daraz's e-pharmacy assortment. Under the new agreement, both companies will work to expand its product range, improve visibility and develop campaigns targeting different consumer healthcare requirements.



For Daraz, the partnership is part of its broader effort to develop its healthcare category through closer collaboration with pharmaceu-

tical and healthcare companies on product availability, assortment planning and digital category development.

NTU Faisalabad students bring laurels to University, successfully complete internship at ISPR

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: National Textile University, Faisalabad has achieved another milestone. Three brilliant students of the Department of Computer Science have successfully completed a 6-week internship program at Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lahore with outstanding marks.

The students who completed the internship include Tasbeha Fatima (BS Software Engineering), Zainab Sajid (BS Software Engineering), and Zarnish Fatima (BS Software Engineering).

It is the first time in the history of the university that students of National Textile University, Faisalabad got an opportunity to intern at a prestigious national institu-



tion like ISPR and completed it successfully with their hard work and talent.

Today, the students called on the Rector / Vice Chancellor of National Textile University, Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood in his office and presented their internship certificates.

On this occasion, Rector / Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood congratulated the students and appreciated their hard work, talent and excellent performance. He said, This is a matter of pride not only for these girls but for the entire university. Our female students are proving their mettle in national institutions, which is a guarantee of our bright future.

On this occasion, Sardar Pervaiz Akhtar, PRO of the University was also present.

VU Brings PhD Faculty Together to Advance Research and Innovation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Virtual University of Pakistan (VU), through its Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), has launched the VU Connect & Develop Programme (VU-CDP) to strengthen faculty research, collaboration and innovation.

Held under the theme "Learn | Showcase | Collaborate," the programme is being conducted in two cohorts. The first cohort, held from September 17 to 19, involved 70 PhD faculty members, while the second is scheduled for October 1 to 3, bringing total

participation to 150 faculty members.

The three-day programme features sessions on emerging research trends, research development, academic publishing, funding opportunities, responsible artificial intelligence, academic integrity, intellectual property, commercialization and entrepreneurship. Faculty members are also presenting their research through poster displays.

VU Rector Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti stressed the importance of developing a vibrant research culture and converting research and technology into scalable solutions for Pakistan's educational challenges.

Global Turmoil & Local Relief: A decision in favour of the poor

Ihsan Narejo

At a time when the entire world is caught in the grip of an economic crisis, tensions between the United States and Iran have not only negatively affected the economies of several countries but have also severely disrupted the economic policies of many nations. While Israel's aggressive policies are creating further difficulties for Arab countries, the ongoing confrontation and tensions between the United States and Iran over the Strait of Hormuz have not only created serious risks for countries around the world but have also shaken the economic foundations of developing nations.

Due to the changing world order, markets in Europe and Asia have suffered significant setbacks, and at present there appears to be no clear sign of immediate improvement. China and Russia's apparent reluctance to directly intervene in the Middle East conflict is giving the United States greater room for aggressive action. However, if China and Russia become directly involved, the possibility of a wider global conflict

could increase significantly.

In such circumstances, it is extremely difficult for developing countries like Pakistan to continue long-term policies and reforms, because Pakistan's economy largely depends on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international financial institutions. When these institutions provide loans to developing countries, they also influence their economic policies. Since these financial institutions are largely associated with wealthy and developed countries, they may not always have a complete understanding of the ground realities of developing nations. As a result, policies influenced by them can sometimes conflict with the aspirations and needs of ordinary citizens.

If we examine the current situation closely, the IMF's influence on Pakistan's economic policies and decisions appears to be substantial. Critics argue that the IMF and other such institutions effectively function as a new mechanism through which powerful global interests influence developing countries.

Amid the latest developments in the Middle East and the changing global order, Pakistan, as an Islamic country,

faces not only new challenges but also the difficult task of protecting its national interests and making decisions based on ground realities while maintaining relations with neighboring and global powers.

Today, as the conflict between the United States and Iran has contributed to an increase in global oil prices, Pakistan has also been unable to remain unaffected by this rise. However, it would also be fair to say that Pakistan's difficult economic circumstances are linked not only to international developments but also to the influence of international financial institutions and the financial commitments made by the country.

The people of Pakistan are understandably concerned about why petroleum prices continue to rise. The issue, however, is not solely connected with the conflict between Iran and the United States. The repayment schedule of the installments agreed upon by the Government of Pakistan while obtaining loans from the IMF is also an important factor.

In the changing global environment, Pakistan is facing additional financial pressure as support from traditional

partners has become more limited. If China is not providing additional loans, Saudi Arabia is not extending dollar assistance, and the United Arab Emirates is seeking to withdraw rather than provide additional financial support, the government faces difficult choices. One of the consequences can be an increase in petroleum prices to meet financial obligations and maintain external payments.

This is one reason why the government repeatedly increases petroleum product prices in order to manage its financial commitments.

While the country's businesses and economy are facing difficulties, ordinary citizens and small business owners are also under severe financial pressure. In such a situation, the relief announced by the Prime Minister for the poorer sections of society in response to rising fuel prices appears to provide some hope amid difficult circumstances.

As part of the expansion of the Prime Minister's relief package, registered motorcycles, Qingqi rickshaws and other rickshaws have also been included. Under the package, eligible users may receive special relief of up to

Rs. 500 per week on petrol.

Motorcycles, Qingqi rickshaws and conventional rickshaws are predominantly used by lower-income and economically disadvantaged sections of society. Therefore, this decision could provide some relief to people at the lowest levels of the economic structure.

The government has also decided to provide a discount of Rs. 100 per litre on up to 30 litres of petrol per month for vehicles with engines up to 800cc. This measure is intended to provide relief to the middle class.

To enable eligible citizens to access the facility, the government has introduced the free 9771 SMS service so that people can benefit from the scheme without paying any additional charges.

There is no doubt that the government's stated intention is to provide relief to ordinary citizens and the poor. However, some petrol pump owners may attempt to create obstacles in the implementation of this relief initiative. It is therefore the responsibility of the relevant government authorities to take action, without discrimination, against petrol pump owners who violate or obstruct the implementation of this pro-poor decision.

There is strong hope that the government's petrol subsidy or relief package will prove beneficial for lower-income sections of society.

This is not the first time that Pakistan has faced such difficult circumstances. Similar challenges also emerged during the Afghan War era. Difficult times, however, do not last forever, and with the cooperation and support of the people, the government can overcome such challenging periods.

The need of the hour is not only to understand the government's difficulties in the context of the global rise in oil prices but also to avoid unnecessary travel and the excessive use of petrol.

In this regard, the government is also expected to introduce austerity measures, which could help the country cope with the current economic crisis.

At a time when both the global and domestic economic environment remains challenging, every institution and every citizen must play a responsible role. Relief measures for the poor, prudent economic management, austerity, and responsible use of fuel can collectively help Pakistan navigate through these difficult circumstances.

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AJK governance reflects much needed political harmony

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For AJK, however, political support from Islamabad can provide resources and policy coordination but cannot substitute for performance within the region. Citizens ultimately experience governance through the quality of services they receive, the responsiveness of institutions and the ease with which ordinary problems are addressed.

This makes public satisfaction and public confidence essential indicators of governance. People experience government through roads, electricity, schools, hospitals, municipal services, employment opportunities and responsive public institutions rather than through policy documents alone.

The regional dimension also deserves attention. AJK's political history demonstrates the importance of maintaining a sense of balance among Poonch, Muzaffarabad and Mirpur. Different communities and political constituencies have contributed significantly to the region's public

life. The present arrangement provides an opportunity to demonstrate that diversity can become a source of institutional balance rather than political division.

The Speaker can provide parliamentary oversight and legislative discipline. The Prime Minister can concentrate on administration, development and service delivery. The President can provide constitutional continuity and institutional dignity. If these responsibilities are clearly understood and respected, the three offices can complement rather than compete with one another.

This is where the idea of an emerging political triad becomes meaningful. It is not simply about three individuals, but about three constitutional offices working within a common institutional framework and ultimately delivering for the people.

The people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir have heard many political promises over the years. What they now seek is visible change in their daily

lives: functional roads, dependable electricity, responsive hospitals, quality education, efficient public services and greater economic opportunities for the younger generation.

The first 100 days should therefore establish a culture of measurable performance, with clear priorities, realistic timelines and progress that can be assessed by the public.

The completion of the constitutional structure marks the beginning, not the conclusion, of this political process. Dr Najeeb Naqi, Barrister Iftikhar Gilani and Chaudhry Tariq Farooq now occupy three different constitutional offices, but their collective responsibility is closely connected: to make institutions work, preserve political and regional harmony, deliver on public commitments and earn public confidence through demonstrable performance.

The political structure has been completed. The real test now begins with governance, performance and public confidence.

Trump's Hubris at the United Nations

Continued from Page 4

repaid America's war costs and Bessent's reference to the US balance sheet. The absence of a complete public accounting makes the contradiction more serious. Whatever legal terminology is ultimately applied, Venezuelans—not foreign governments, corporations or financial intermediaries—should be the beneficiaries of Venezuela's national wealth.

Trump's conflict with the press added a constitutional dimension. CNN, MS NOW and Politico journalists were denied White House access, prompting major networks to suspend pooled coverage while the excluded organizations sought judicial relief. At the UN, Trump told CNN's Kaitlan Collins that she should not be there. Viewpoint-based exclusion creates serious constitutional questions; a press free to question power remains indispensable to democratic accountability.

The widely circulated photograph

of diplomats leaving Benjamin Netanyahu's UN address tells another story. Representatives from more than 50 countries walked out as he defended Israel's Gaza campaign and rejected genocide accusations. The ICC identifies him as allegedly responsible for war crimes, including starvation as a method of warfare.

The walkout documented Israel's growing diplomatic isolation amid Gaza's devastation and the continuing denial of Palestinian statehood. Israeli measures expanding control in the occupied West Bank have since been described by one Israeli minister as "de facto sovereignty." Palestinians, Arab governments, the UN and human-rights organizations argue that settlement expansion further destroys the possibility of a viable two-state solution.

Trump and Netanyahu spoke at General Assembly sessions and faced similar controversies. What connected the two appearances was the same unresolved question: does military

superiority place leaders beyond international scrutiny? One faced a mass diplomatic walkout. The other delivered threats and disputed claims that immediately provoked international criticism.

If international law binds only weaker countries, it ceases to function as law and becomes an instrument of power. If a sovereign nation's assets can be controlled without transparent accounting, independence loses its meaning. If journalists are excluded for unfavorable reporting, democratic scrutiny narrows. The speeches and reactions surrounding Trump and Netanyahu revealed a world still struggling to decide whether power will remain answerable to law, ethics, sovereignty and humanity.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living Michigan, USA

The Victory of Pakistan's Stance in International Arbitration Court

Continued from Page 4

rights. They were able to persuade the court on every single point, and the unanimous ruling is the ultimate proof of their success. The strength of Pakistan's legal position was evident from the very beginning, and the court's ruling has now confirmed it beyond any doubt. Pakistan will continue to play an effective role at every legal and diplomatic forum to safeguard its water rights and ensure compliance with international agreements. This is not the end of the road; it is a significant milestone in a long journey. Pakistan will remain vigilant and proactive in defending its interests. It will continue to engage with international bodies and forums to

raise awareness about its water concerns and to seek support for its legal positions. Pakistan will also continue to work with the World Bank, which is the guarantor of the Indus Waters Treaty, to ensure that the treaty is implemented effectively and that all disputes are resolved in accordance with its provisions. The country's diplomatic missions around the world will actively highlight this victory and mobilize international opinion in favor of Pakistan's water rights. Pakistan's commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes is unwavering, and it will continue to use all available legal and diplomatic channels to protect its national interests.

The country's leadership has made it clear that water security

is a top priority and that no stone will be left unturned in safeguarding it. The recent ruling has given Pakistan a strong platform to build upon, and it will use this platform to further strengthen its position on water issues. India should refrain from doing illegal things, as the recent decision has concluded in a win for Pakistan and a defeat for India, and now India should follow the decision and international regulations. The ruling is clear and unambiguous, and there is no room for India to interpret it in a way that suits its interests. India must accept the ruling in its entirety and must comply with all its terms, including the interim measures. India must refrain from any actions that

could undermine the treaty or prejudice Pakistan's rights. Water is a lifeline for Pakistan, and India should not use water as a threat for Pakistan. The rhetoric of water terrorism or water blackmail is unacceptable and counterproductive. It creates an atmosphere of hostility and mistrust, which is not conducive to the peaceful resolution of disputes.

India must understand that Pakistan's water security is a fundamental issue of survival, and any threat to it will be met with a strong and united response from the entire Pakistani nation. India should engage with Pakistan in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill to address all water-related issues

within the framework of the Indus Waters Treaty. The treaty provides a sufficient framework for resolving all differences, and there is no need for India to resort to unilateral actions or illegal measures. India should also recognize that it is in its own interest to have a stable and prosperous Pakistan, as a stable Pakistan is essential for regional peace and stability. India's unilateral actions on water can have far-reaching consequences for the entire region, and India must be mindful of this. The international community also has a role to play in ensuring that India complies with the ruling and respects the treaty. The World Bank and other international organizations should monitor

the situation and ensure that India abides by its commitments. The recent ruling has sent a clear message to India that it cannot act with impunity and that international law will hold it accountable. Pakistan will continue to monitor India's compliance and will take all necessary steps to ensure that its water rights are fully protected. The nation is united in its resolve to defend its water interests, and this unity is a source of immense strength for Pakistan. The farmers, the industrialists, the common citizens, and the political leadership are all on the same page when it comes to the Indus Waters Treaty. This national consensus is a powerful asset for Pakistan, and it will continue to guide the

country's policies on water issues. The recent victory has boosted the morale of the nation and has instilled a sense of confidence that Pakistan can successfully defend its rights through peaceful and legal means. Pakistan is grateful to the international arbitration court for its just and fair ruling, and it is confident that the ruling will be respected and implemented. The path ahead may have challenges, but Pakistan is prepared to face them with the same determination and resolve that it has always shown. The nation is proud of its legal victory and will continue to work tirelessly for the protection of its water rights and for the prosperity and well-being of its people.

Meeting

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Chairman of Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency H.E. Dr. Denis Bećirović on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan Seeks Robust Partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina: PM

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to transform its historically close and fraternal ties with Bosnia and Herzegovina into a robust, broad-based partnership focused on trade and economic cooperation.

During a meeting with Chairman of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency Dr. Denis Bećirovic on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly session, the prime minister stressed that regional stability required a strong and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina. He reiterated Pakistan's support for the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations in political, economic, defence, skilled labour, education and cultural sectors, besides discussing regional and international issues.

Sharif congratulated Bećirovic on the formal opening of Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU accession talks and said Pakistan viewed the country as a potential trade and connectivity hub for Pakistani exports to European and Western Balkan markets. Bećirovic appreciated Pakistan's role in facilitating de-escalation in West Asia and the Gulf and supported Pakistan's position on the Indus Waters Treaty.

Both leaders agreed to maintain contact and promote high-level exchanges to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Islamabad braces for Sept 27 protest with major roads, entry points blocked

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Authorities have stepped up security in Islamabad and Attock ahead of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) planned September 27 protest, with major roads linking Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the federal capital ordered closed and containers placed at key entry points.

The Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway (M-1), Islamabad-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway (M-14) and parts of the Grand Trunk Road (N-5) are being closed from



Wednesday night and will remain shut until further notice, according to the National Highways and Motorway Police.

The M-1 will be closed in both directions between the Islamabad Toll Plaza and Chachh Interchange, while the

M-14 will be blocked between Hakla and Kundal. The GT Road will also be closed at Attock Khurd.

The Hazara Motorway will be blocked at the Hazara Interchange, while the Rawalpindi-Kohat Road will be closed at Khushalgarh and the Abbottabad-Hassan Abdal Road at the Jhari Kas checkpoint.

Attock, a key corridor connecting KP with Punjab and the Islamabad-Rawalpindi region, has emerged as the main focus of the security preparations.

Containers and sandbags

have been positioned at Attock Bridge and Haroon Bridge, while security has also been tightened around Chachh and Ghazi interchanges. Nearly 30,000 security personnel have reportedly been deployed across the district.

The Punjab government has also requested the deployment of Rangers in Attock, Rawalpindi, Jhelum and Mianwali until October 5. The request includes five Rangers wings for Attock, according to a letter sent by the Punjab Home Department to the federal Ministry of Interior.

US Ambassador meets Interior Minister, discusses Pakistan-US relations, investment opportunities

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday met with US Ambassador Natalie Baker in Islamabad and discussed ways to strengthen Pakistan-US relations, investment opportunities, regional security and efforts for peace and stability.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations and explored opportunities for increasing investment cooperation between Pakistan and the United States. They also discussed the latest regional situation and ongoing efforts aimed at maintaining peace and stability.



Regional security matters and Pakistan's role in promoting peace were also reviewed. The two sides agreed to strengthen mutual contacts in order to further enhance bilateral cooperation.

US Ambassador Natalie Baker appreciated Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and acknowledged the country's contributions in addressing security challenges.

Speaking on the occasion, 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 and maintaining regional security.

Pakistan, Austria reaffirm commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan and Austria on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade, investment, economic relations, education, and people-to-people ties.

The commitment was expressed during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria, Beate Meinl-Reisinger, on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory



of Pakistan-Austria bilateral relations.

They also exchanged views on regional and international developments, including the situation in the Middle East. DPM/FM underscored the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

The Austrian FM appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability and underscored the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement in addressing regional and global challenges. DPM/FM stressed the importance of full implementation of the Islamabad MoU by all parties.

Both agreed to maintain close engagement on matters of mutual interest.

Pakistan Navy, Coast Guards Foil Smuggling Attempt in Balochistan's Pishukan Area

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: In a joint intelligence-based anti-smuggling operation, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards, in coordination with the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC), thwarted an attempt to smuggle a large cache of contraband items in Pishukan area, Balochistan.

Acting on actionable intelligence, the joint operation resulted in the confiscation of a sizable quantity of liquor and illegal medicines. The seized contraband items have been handed over to Paki-

stan Coast Guards for further legal proceedings.

The successful joint operation underscores the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination in countering smuggling while highlighting the



resolve of Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards to prevent the use of Pakistani waters and land for illicit activities.