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Pezeshkian says Iran will not surrender in war with US, but believes in diplomacy



ANI

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations on Wednesday that Iran would not surrender in the war with the United States, but believed in diplomacy to try to end the conflict.

Pezeshkian said that the Iranian people had been the "victims of terrorism", rejecting US President Donald Trump's description of Iran as "terrorists".

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Pezeshkian displayed images of victims of an American strike on a school in Minab at the start of the war, along with images

of a sports hall in Lamerd destroyed by US bombardment.

"The United States, by using weapons with multiple warheads, targeted that sports hall. They martyred and assassinated our scientists, our men, women and children. Innocent children who in truth had committed no crimes, no sins," he said. Pezeshkian stressed that while Iran had responded to strikes by the United States and Israel, it had not targeted civilian areas.

The United States delegation walked out at the start of Pezeshkian's speech. The US mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "Yes, they did hit us,

but we did not bend the knee. We did not bow our head," he said. "We responded, but we did not hit civilian populations.

"They came into surrounding territories and targeted our universities, our healthcare centres, our schools, our hospitals, our infrastructure; all of it against international law," Pezeshkian added. He also said that Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh had been assassinated in Tehran by Israel on the day of his inauguration as president. "Israel targets any neighbourhood in any city in any province, commits assassinations like a true terrorist," he emphasised. "Those who are terrorists, and train and protect terrorists,

describe us as such," he added. "We have only defended ourselves; we are not terrorists." In the first part of his speech, the Iranian leader held up an image of the Islamic Republic's late supreme leader Ali Khamenei, who was killed in an airstrike on his compound in Tehran on the first day of the US-Israeli assault on Iran. A UN fact-finding mission on Iran said earlier this month that it had reasonable grounds to believe that the US was behind two military strikes on a school and a sports facility in Iran, and that these constituted war crimes. Pezeshkian addressed the 193-member General Assembly a day after US President Donald Trump spoke.

Lt Gen (retd) Nauman Mahmood appointed first secretary general of Makkah pact

ANI

The government on Wednesday appointed Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood, Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military), as the first Secretary General of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA), according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In a statement, the Foreign Office said Lt Gen Mahmood would lead the general secretariat of the alliance, which is being established in Riyadh. The appointment marks the formal establishment of the MJDA's secretariat and its administrative leadership, the statement added. The government had earlier announced the MJDA as a framework for enhanced defence cooperation among the participating countries. The appointment came less than a month after Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye agreed in Istanbul to establish a permanent secretariat for their joint defence pact in Riyadh, with Pakistan set to provide its first secretary general. The decision was taken at the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee, held under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, which brought together the foreign and defence ministers and military chiefs of the three countries in Istanbul on August 31.

Under the arrangement agreed in Istanbul, the secretary general would head the alliance's General Secretariat, based in the Saudi capital and tasked with overseeing implementation of the agreement, coordinating joint activities among the three militaries and supporting expanded defence-industrial cooperation. Pakistan was designated to hold the post for an initial three-year term.

In August, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a landmark "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement", declaring that "any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both". On August 7, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye formalised their longstanding strategic relationship through the newly signed "Makkah Joint Defence Agreement", a trilateral security framework that its proponents describe as a defensive arrangement aimed at strengthening collective deterrence, enhancing military cooperation and promoting regional stability. The MJDA was the latest step in longstanding military and strategic cooperation between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. Signed in Makkah, the pact established a framework for collective deterrence and stipulated that an armed attack on any one of the three countries would be considered an attack on all three, while providing for wider cooperation across defence.



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The agreement followed nearly a year of negotiations and came amid heightened instability across the Middle East. Türkiye and Pakistan had sought closer regional security cooperation, while Saudi Arabia had faced growing security concerns as conflicts spread across the region, threatening its territory, energy infrastructure and ambitious economic development plans.

For Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the trilateral pact is built on their Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement signed in September 2025. That agreement stated that "any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both" and committed the two sides to strengthening defence cooperation and joint deterrence.

The three countries already had extensive military links. Pakistan had provided training and technical assistance to Saudi forces for decades, while Islamabad and Ankara had maintained close defence ties through military training, naval cooperation and defence equipment. In 2023, Saudi Arabia agreed to purchase Turkish drones in what Ankara described as its largest defence export contract.

Pakistan had also expanded its military and security cooperation with the kingdom, deploying about 8,000 troops, fighter jets, drones and an air-defence system to Saudi Arabia, according to Reuters. Pakistan deploys troops to Saudi air base under defence pact.

11 terrorists killed in two separate operations in Balochistan: state media



ANI

Eleven terrorists were killed in separate intelligence-based operations in Balochistan on Wednesday, in Turbat and Mastung, while one security personnel was injured in an exchange of fire, state-run Radio Pakistan said, citing security sources.

Nine terrorists belonging to the Fitna al-Khawarij were killed in an operation by security forces in the Kanak Valley area of Balochistan's Mastung, while one security personnel member was injured during the exchange of fire, Radio Pakistan said. The term Fitna al-Khawarij is used by the state to refer to terrorists

affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Citing security sources, state media said that the operation was carried out under the forces' ongoing Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3. The sources added that the Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists had made a cowardly attempt to attack a checkpoint in the area; however, they were pushed back by security forces.

Taking prompt and effective action, the forces killed two of the terrorists while the rest attempted to flee. However, security forces pursued the fleeing terrorists and killed seven more of them.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the terrorists. During the exchange of fire between security personnel and terrorists, one soldier of the security forces was injured and later shifted to hospital, the sources said.

They added that security forces' operations will continue until the elimination of the last terrorist from Balochistan.

Meanwhile, two more terrorists, belonging to Fitna-al-Hindustan, were killed by security forces during an intelligence-based operation in the Jausak area of Turbat, Balochistan, Radio Pakistan said, citing security sources.

Staging protests a legal and constitutional right, says KP CM ahead of PTI's Sept 27 long march



ANI

Ahead of the PTI's planned long march to Islamabad on Sept 27, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi said on Wednesday that staging a protest was a legal and constitutional right. Addressing a cabinet meeting in Peshawar, CM Afridi alleged that for the past three to four days, "plainclothes individuals" had been targeting PTI workers, office-bearers and elected representatives. He alleged that an assassination attempt was made on Communications and Works Minister Shakil Khan, who also managed to evade an attempt to abduct him.

CM Afridi further alleged that Minister for Public Health Engineering Fazal Shakoor was abducted by plainclothes individuals, who also opened fire on his car. "If a minister, a provincial cabinet

member is not safe from these thugs, then what about the common man?" he asked. The chief minister emphasised that the treatment being meted out to provincial cabinet members was "unacceptable". "These people are afraid of the power of the people.

No sane person would take such measures," he asserted. He also assailed PML-N's Rana Sanaullah's reported remarks labelling the people of KP as terrorists and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz remarks regarding the terror threat from other provinces.

He said that from today, the province would be cut off from the rest of Pakistan and all routes to it would be closed.

"The rest of Pakistan will remain open, but no one will be able to enter or leave KP," he said. "What should we make of cutting KP off from the rest of Pakistan and closing all routes? Is there a conspiracy underway? Is an attempt being made to repeat the East Pakistan tragedy?" he asked. "Whatever conspiracy is being hatched, and whoever is behind it, our clear message to them is: Pakistan belongs to us," the chief minister said. He asserted that KP was and will continue to be a part of Pakistan. "Goons dressed in plain clothes are intimidating and threatening our bureaucracy, police, deputy commissioners and district police officers," he further alleged.

Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with KSA to safeguard its sovereignty, security: PM

DR WAHEED M KHAN

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on Wednesday reiterating strongest condemnation of the recent Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia, reaffirmed that Pakistan stood unwaveringly, shoulder to shoulder, with the Kingdom in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and the sanctity of Islam's holiest sites.

The prime minister, in his message on the Saudi National Day annually observed on September 23, said that any threat to the sanctity and security of the Haramain Sharifain deeply wounds the sentiments of Muslims across the world, referring to the recent reprehensible attempted drone attack by Houthis on the Holy City of Makkah Al-Mukarramah.

Extending his warmest felicitations to the



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), and the brotherly people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said that the Kingdom's remarkable journey of progress and transformation was a source of pride and admiration not only for

the Saudi nation, but also for Pakistan. The prime minister, who is currently in New York to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, said that under the dynamic and visionary leadership of the crown prince, Saudi Arabia continued to make impressive strides towards greater prosperity, modernisation and innovation. He said that Pakistan took immense pride in its historic and time-tested brotherhood with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

rooted in faith, mutual trust and an abiding bond between our peoples. "Today, under the patronage of MBS, this brotherhood is growing into an even stronger strategic partnership, underpinned by our shared commitment to peace, security and the unity of the Muslim Ummah.

PTI founder meeting day: 6 names submitted to jail authorities

ANI

RAWALPINDI: PTI founder Imran Khan's associates are scheduled to meet him, with a list of six individuals submitted to jail authorities by Chaudhry Owais Younis. The list includes Ghulam Farooq Awan, Sohail Gardizi, Ziaullah Khan, Ubaid Kazmi, Farzana Safeer and Asma Raja. Also, two sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi, have been detained for 30 days under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) on the orders of the Lahore deputy commissioner.

The detention was carried out on a police recommendation amid concerns over a possible threat to public order. Sources said police detained Uzma and Noreen, along with their nephews, from the residence of their sister Aleema Khan. They were reportedly transferred in an armoured vehicle.

The detentions come as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prepares for nationwide demonstrations, including a planned march towards Islamabad on September 27.

Eight drones shot down after entering Pakistan from Afghanistan: security sources

ANI

Pakistan's air defence system shot down eight drones after they entered the country's airspace from Afghanistan on Wednesday morning, security sources said.

"Four of the drones were brought down in areas adjoining the Torkham border, while another four were shot down in mountainous areas near the border with Kohat," the sources said.

The sources said the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force (PAF) had thwarted the attempt by the Afghan Taliban regime to target public places, adding that the country's "active and alert air defence system" had detected and brought down all



eight drones. The sources described the incursion as "further evidence" of what they said was the Afghan Taliban regime's direct support and patronage of terrorists. "The Pakistan Armed Forces remain fully prepared at all times to defend Pakistan and its people," the sources said. The sources said that the assessment and defence systems monitored by the PAF along

the Pakistan-Afghanistan border remained operational and on alert at all times. It said the downed drones further demonstrated that the PAF were fully determined and capable of thwarting any ground, aerial or terrorist incursion by the Afghan Taliban regime.

The wreckage of the destroyed drones was also being taken into custody, the sources said. The sources said that the developments reflect the Afghan Taliban's "severe panic".

The sources added that the PAF's surveillance and defence systems along the border remained fully operational to detect and respond to any further incursions.



Islamabad :Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with European Parliamentary delegation led by Ms. Mary Khan Member of European Parliament at Parliament House.

PM Seeks Stronger Pakistan-Bosnia Partnership

ANI

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterating the importance Pakistan attached to its historically close and fraternal ties with Bosnia and Herzegovina, reaffirmed his desire to elevate these relations into a robust, broad-based partnership anchored in trade and economic cooperation. The prime minister, in a meeting with Chairman of Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency Dr. Denis Becirovic on the sidelines of 81st session of the UN General Assembly, stressed that regional stability depended on a strong, stable and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina, and reaffirmed Pakistan's strong support for its sovereignty and territorial integrity.



The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including political, economic, defence, skilled labour mobility, education and cultural

spheres, and held a frank exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. Congratulating Dr. Becirović on the for-

mal opening of Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU accession talks, the prime minister said that Pakistan viewed the country as a potential regional trade and connectivity hub for Pakistani goods entering European and Western Balkan markets. Dr. Bećirović praised Pakistan's mediation role in facilitating de-escalation and normalisation in West Asia and the Gulf region, and fully supported Pakistan's position on the illegality of holding the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance. The two leaders agreed to remain in contact to work together for the further advancement of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina, including through exchange of high-level visits between the two countries in the time ahead.

KP government urged improvement in governance, transparent probe into financial scams

ANI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N MNA Babar Nawaz on Wednesday said the leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf were misleading the nation and pursuing the politics of unrest instead of focusing on the uplift of people. Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club Islamabad along with ANP leader Samar Bilour and PML-N leader Saeeda Jamshed, Nawaz highlighted that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was indulged in corruption in areas public welfare. Babar Nawaz mentioned that the medical and education services in KP needed attention of the provincial government. He pointed out that several hospitals in KP were in unsatisfactory condition while hundreds of schools had no teachers available. He said that public money in KP was being squandered and the many hospitals in the province had turned into dispensaries. Babar Nawaz said there should be no leniency with the people who were trying to create unrest in the country. He referred to the statements by KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi reaching Islamabad on September 27 and bringing everything to a standstill, and questioned that how legal action after such statements could be considered wrong. ANP leader Samar Bilour said there was no real governance in KP and people were facing difficulties. She pointed out the corruption and irregularities in KP government including the award of contracts worth billions in contracts.

Gilani departs for Belarus to further strengthen parliamentary, bilateral relations

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday departed for the Republic of Belarus on an official visit at the invitation of his counterpart Natalya Kochanova, Chairperson, Council of the Republic. The visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations and parliamentary cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus. The visit carries particular significance in view of the growing momentum in Pakistan-Belarus relations and the shared desire to expand cooperation across political, parliamentary, economic and people-to-people domains. During the visit, the Chairman Senate is scheduled to hold meetings with the President of Belarus, the leadership of the Belarusian Parliament and other senior officials, during which matters relating to bilateral relations, parliamentary exchanges and regional and international developments will be discussed. The Chairman will underscore the importance of regular parliamentary exchanges, institutional linkages between the two Parliaments and greater interaction among parliamentarians and parliamentary committees.

Afghanistan has become hub of terrorism: Ayaz Sadiq

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday said that Pakistan has been grappling with the menace of terrorism, as neighbouring Afghanistan has become a hub of terrorism in the region. Sophisticated weapons left behind by NATO forces in Afghanistan were being used against innocent Pakistani citizens and the country's security forces. The Speaker expressed these views during a meeting with the European Parliamentary delegation led by Mary Khan, Member of the European Parliament, at Parliament House, a news release said. He said that Pakistan had demonstrated considerable restraint in response to recent Indian aggression. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with the European Union and its member states. He expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen parliamentary relations with the European Union and proposed the establishment of a Pakistan-European Union Parliamentary Friendship Group. He said enhanced parliamentary contacts



would provide opportunities for exchanging experiences, information and best practices between the two sides. Ayaz Sadiq also said that terrorism emanating from Afghan territory remains a major challenge for Pakistan. He recalled that Pakistan had hosted Afghan refugees for four decades and reiterated that Pakistan desired peace and stability in the region. He said that Pakistan wanted regional disputes to be resolved peacefully through dialogue and engagement. Ayaz Sadiq has also said that Pakistan

had demonstrated restraint in response to unprovoked Indian aggression and played a responsible role for regional peace and stability. He said Pakistan remains committed to peaceful resolution of Kashmir. The NA Speaker said that the world appreciated the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and CDF Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for promoting global peace, dialogue and stability. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that although Pakistan contributes less than 1 percent in ghg emissions yet Pakistan was severely affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, which emerged as a major challenge for the country. He urged the international community to play its role in addressing climate-related challenges. The Speaker also said that Pakistan's Parliament is the world 1st green Parliament. He said that the use of solar energy in Parliament is an environment-friendly initiative and reflects Pakistan's commitment to sustainable and green development. The speaker said that the Women Parliamentary Caucus is playing an active

role in protecting and promoting the rights of women. He added that the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, SDGs Secretariat and Young Parliamentarians Forum of the National Assembly are also playing an active role for the betterment and welfare of the people of Pakistan. Ayaz Sadiq said that minorities in Pakistan enjoy freedom and constitutional rights. He appreciated the role of minority parliamentarians in the Parliament and said that all relevant institutions of the state are working for the protection of minority rights. The Speaker reiterated that Pakistan desires to further enhance parliamentary cooperation with the European Union. He said that stronger parliamentary linkages would help promote mutual understanding, exchange of experiences and closer relations between Pakistan and EU member states. The members of the European Parliamentary delegation appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting peace and stability in the region. They said that Pakistan was a geographically important country and said that the European Union highly values its relations with Pakistan.

Public hearing on Gulberg housing schemes' environmental impact on Oct 15

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) will hold a public hearing on Oct 15 on the environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports of two housing schemes in Gulberg. The hearing will examine the EIA reports of the revised and extended layout plan of Gulberg Residencia in Zone-V and the revised and extended layout plan of Gulberg Green's Farm Housing Scheme in Zone-IV, according to a Pak-EPA notice issued on Sept 21. The hearing will be held at 11 am at Altaf Sultan Lodge (ASL), Street 9, Block B, Gulberg Greens, Islamabad. The EIA reports were submitted by Allah Rakha Nasir, Joint Secretary of the IB Employees' Cooperative Housing Society (IBECHS) under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 and the IEE/EIA Regulations, 2000. According to Pak-EPA, the reports con-

tain details of existing environmental conditions, baseline data, potential impacts of the projects and proposed mitigation measures during their execution. The agency said the project proponent and consultant would present details of the projects, their anticipated environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures during the public hearing. The public notice for the hearing had appeared in leading English and Urdu newspapers on Sept 15, inviting comments from the public and other stakeholders. Copies of the EIA reports are available at the office of the Director (EIA/Mont), Pak-EPA, Islamabad, and the office of the Joint Secretary, IBECHS. The reports are also available on the Pak-EPA website. The hearing will also provide an opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to participate in the environmental assessment process and submit their views on the proposed developments.

SECP briefs ABAD members on corporatization, REIT opportunities

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Wednesday briefed members of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) on the benefits of corporatization and opportunities for registering Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). SECP Commissioner Muzzafar Ahmed Mirza led the Commission's delegation at the session, hosted at ABAD's head office which was attended by ABAD Chairman Mohammed Hassan Bakshi, Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz Memon and representatives of the builder and developer community, said a news release. Mirza briefed participants on SECP's reforms to simplify business incorporation, improve regulatory clarity and encourage informal businesses and partnerships to adopt formal corporate structures.

Hiswa Welfare Provides Goats to Lightning-Affected Family Near Chhachhro

By: Nareender Hemnani/ANI

THARPARKAR --Hiswa Welfare has provided goats to a labourer's family in village Keeta Bajir near Chhachhro after 14 goats belonging to Mubarak Bajir were killed by a lightning strike. The incident caused significant financial loss to the family. After learning about the incident, Hiswa Welfare Patron-in-Chief Haji Rafiq Bukhari expressed sympathy and announced assistance to help compensate for the loss. Following the announcement, Hiswa Welfare Chairman Haji Ghulam Ali Sethar visited the affected family, purchased goats and handed them over to the family.



The assistance provided some relief to the family and helped partially offset the financial loss caused by the incident. Local residents appreciated Hiswa Welfare for extending humanitarian support to the affected family and praised its efforts to assist people in need.

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

ANI

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.

NCCIA DG Rizvi visits NFA, seeks faster forensic analysis in cyber Crimc cases

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, on Wednesday, visited the National Forensics Agency (NFA), Islamabad and discussed measures to speed up forensic analysis of evidence and strengthen investigations in cyber crime cases. An official told APP on Wednesday that Rizvi met Additional IGP/ Director General NFA Jawad Ahmed Dogar and Director Crime Scene Unit (Retd) Colonel Shehzad Shafiq during the visit. The officials discussed closer coordination between the two agencies for the analysis of evidence in cyber-crime cases and ways to make the investigation process faster and more effective. The NCCIA chief Rizvi also inspected different sections of the National Forensics Agency, including its Digital Forensics Laboratory,



and reviewed the facilities and technology being used for forensic examination. Rizvi said the use of modern technology and stronger institutional coordination would help improve efforts to prevent and inves-

tigate cybercrimes. He stressed closer cooperation between NCCIA and NFA to strengthen evidence-based investigations and improve the handling of cybercrime cases.

Shaista Malik visits ICB in connection with SDG Youth Campaign

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Shaista Pervaiz Malik, MNA and Convener of the Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), visited Islamabad College for Boys (ICB), G-6/3, on Wednesday in connection with the Hum Hain Pakistan-SDG Youth Campaign. During her visit, she was accompanied by Dr Sultan Azam Temuri, Founding Director and CEO of the International Governance and Sustainability Institute (IG-SI) and a proud alumnus of ICB. Dr Yaseen Aafaqi welcomed the distinguished guests on behalf of the college. Syed Nadeem Ahsan,

Focal Person for the SDGs Programme at ICB, briefed them on the SDG activities and initiatives under way at the college during the campaign's first phase. The MNA was apprised that so far, 1,114 students have registered and completed the SDG Pre-Assessment Test, and 30 SDG awareness sessions, lectures and seminars have been held. In September, the college marked International Literacy Day and the International Day of Peace, and student groups have been formed to carry out SDG Impact Projects (QIPs). After the briefing, the guests toured the college, including its classrooms, library and podcast studio, before moving to the historic Old Hall to meet the students taking part in the campaign.

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Opinion

3

From Kashmir to the Indus: India’s Expanding Challenge to Rights, Water and International Law

BY: Qurat ul Ain Ali Khawaja
Published by ANI

As world leaders gather for the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, South Asia is confronting a crisis that extends beyond the India-Pakistan rivalry. The disputes surrounding Jammu and Kashmir are increasingly intersecting with human rights, international law and one of the world’s most strategically important trans-boundary river systems.

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), signed in 1960, has survived wars, military confrontations and prolonged diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan. Its latest and most consequential challenge emerged after India announced in April 2025 that it was placing the treaty “in abeyance.”

On August 31, 2026, the Court of Arbitration constituted under the treaty issued an award concerning the status of the Indus Waters Treaty and an order on interim measures concerning India’s 850-megawatt Ratle Hydroelectric Plant. The Permanent Court of Arbitration records the proceedings as pending. India has rejected the tribunal’s jurisdiction and maintains that the decision does not affect its position.

The dispute therefore raises a fundamental question of international law: can a state unilaterally place a treaty in abeyance while rejecting the authority of the treaty’s agreed dispute-resolution mechanism?

Pakistan’s Water Vulnerability Pakistan’s dependence on the Indus Basin makes the issue particularly significant. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2025–26, the country receives an average of 138.4 million acre-feet (MAF) of water annually from its western and eastern rivers.

Pakistan’s surface irrigation infrastructure extends across nearly 64,000 kilometres and irrigates approximately 47 million acres. The three major reservoirs—Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma—have a combined live storage capacity of about 13.44 MAF. The Economic Survey also notes that per-capita annual water availability has fallen below 1,000 cubic metres.

During 2025–26, surface-water availability stood at 92.0 MAF, compared with average system usage of 103.5 MAF. This represents a gap of approximately 11.1 per cent compared with average system usage.

These figures demonstrate why changes in river flows, upstream infrastructure and access to reliable hydrological information can have direct implications for agriculture, food security and energy generation.

Reuters has described the Indus Waters Treaty as crucial to a water system serving about 80 per cent of Pakistan’s farms.

A Treaty Based on Division and Predictability

The treaty was designed as a framework for managing a shared river system rather than giving either country unrestricted control over the entire Indus Basin.

Under the agreement, the eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas and Sutlej—were allocated principally for India’s use, while Pakistan received the principal use of the western rivers—Indus, Jhelum and Chenab—subject to specified Indian uses.

This distinction is central to the current dispute. India retains treaty-based rights to develop certain hydroelectric projects on the western rivers. The legal questions concern whether particular projects and their design and operational features comply with the treaty.

The Ratle Hydroelectric Plant on the Chenab has consequently become an important focal point. The August 31 order concerning interim measures placed restrictions on specified construction activity while treaty-compliance issues continue to be examined through the treaty’s mechanisms. The broader proceedings remain pending.

The controversy surrounding an 850MW project therefore represents a larger test of whether technical safeguards contained in a decades-old treaty retain practical force dur-



ing periods of severe political tension.

Kashmir and the Human-Rights Dimension

The water dispute is unfolding alongside continuing international attention to developments in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir.

The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir met in New York on September 22, 2026, on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly. According to the OIC’s news agency, the group reaffirmed support for the Kashmiri people’s right to self-determination and expressed concern about the humanitarian, human-rights and security situation in the territory.

The Contact Group also called for respect for the territory’s international status and greater international efforts toward human-rights documentation and transparency. India rejects the OIC’s characterisation of Jammu and Kashmir and maintains its own position on the territory.

The figures cited by the OIC regarding arrests and domicile certificates also require attribution. The Contact Group has cited the arrest of around 2,800 people following the Pahalgam attack and said more than 3.4 million domicile certificates had been issued in the territory since 2019. These are figures presented by the Contact Group and should not be treated as independently verified measurements without further documentation.

Kashmir and the Indus: Connected but Distinct

The Kashmir dispute and the Indus Waters Treaty should not be conflated. They are separate legal and political questions. However, their geographic relationship cannot be ignored.

The western rivers covered by the treaty originate in or pass through the wider Himalayan region, meaning that developments upstream can have strategic significance for Pakistan’s downstream water security.

That does not mean that every Indian hydropower project constitutes a treaty violation. Rather, it highlights why the treaty’s technical requirements, information-sharing arrangements and dispute-resolution mechanisms remain important as upstream infrastructure expands and climate and hydrological conditions become more unpredictable.

Pakistan’s water challenge already exists independently of the bilateral dispute. The Economic Survey identifies limited storage capacity, climate change, glacier melt, ground-water stress, conveyance losses, population growth and increasing demand among the factors placing pressure on the country’s water resources.

The International-Law Question

The August 31, 2026 proceedings have now placed the disagreement over the treaty’s status firmly within the international legal record.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration lists the case as an interstate arbitration between Pakistan and India under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty. Its case record includes the August 31 award concerning India’s decision on abeyance as well as the order on interim measures concerning Ratle.

India, however, has rejected the tribunal’s jurisdiction and its conclusions. Reuters reported that New Delhi maintains that the ruling does not affect its sovereign decisions or

ongoing hydroelectric projects.

The resulting disagreement is therefore not simply about one hydroelectric project. It concerns the wider principle of whether treaty-based institutions can continue to function when relations between the parties deteriorate sharply.

That question has significance beyond South Asia. Rivers cross political borders across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, while population growth, climate variability, agriculture, energy requirements and urbanisation are increasing pressure on shared water resources.

UNGA 81 and the Need for Transparency

The renewed diplomatic activity around Kashmir at the United Nations demonstrates that the issue remains part of international diplomacy. The OIC Contact Group has reiterated its position on self-determination and called for greater attention to human-rights concerns, while India continues to reject the group’s position.

Competing diplomatic statements alone cannot resolve these differences. Greater transparency is essential.

For Kashmir, this includes credible documentation of arrests, detentions, political restrictions, property demolitions and conditions affecting journalists and civil society.

For the Indus Basin, it means reliable hydrological information, technical cooperation, functioning treaty institutions and respect for agreed procedures for resolving disputes.

A 66-Year-Old Treaty at a Critical Moment

The Indus Waters Treaty has survived for 66 years, including periods when India and Pakistan were at war or faced severe diplomatic confrontation. Its longevity demonstrated that technical cooperation over water could continue even when political relations were deeply strained.

Its present crisis therefore deserves international attention.

Pakistan’s exposure can be measured through concrete figures: nearly 47 million acres of irrigated land, an average annual water supply of 138.4 MAF, 92.0 MAF of surface-water availability during 2025–26 and an irrigation network extending roughly 64,000 kilometres.

India’s position is that its security concerns and objections to the treaty’s dispute-resolution process justify its present stance. The international arbitration process has reached a different conclusion regarding the treaty’s continuing status.

The central question for the international community is therefore not which country wins a diplomatic argument. It is whether international law and treaty mechanisms can continue to provide predictable rules when bilateral politics become most hostile.

If shared-water agreements are to remain meaningful, their text, technical procedures and dispute-resolution mechanisms must retain practical relevance. The future stability of the Indus Basin will depend not only on water management and infrastructure, but also on whether India and Pakistan can preserve institutional mechanisms capable of managing their differences. The consequences of failure would extend beyond the Chenab, Jhelum and Indus—to a wider international system in which millions of people depend on rivers that cross national borders.

When Screens Become the Playground: How Too Much Screen Time Is Affecting Young Learners



By: Quratulain Mughal
Published by: ANI

A child who once rushed to the picture-book table, building blocks or playground may now head straight for a mobile phone or tablet. Screens increasingly fill breakfast time, quiet moments and periods when children need entertainment. For parents and teachers, this shift is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

Children are growing up in a world where entertainment is instantly available at the click of a button. Yet the early years of life are among the most important periods for brain development, requiring conversation, movement, imagination and exploration of the real world. The concern is not that every screen experience is harmful, but that excessive screen use can replace the activities and interactions that are essential for early learning and development.

Research supports this concern. A 2024 systematic review and meta-analysis published in JAMA Pediatrics found associations between certain forms of screen exposure, including program viewing and background television, and poorer cognitive or psychosocial outcomes among children under six. An earlier review involving 42 studies and nearly 19,000 children similarly found that greater screen time was associated with poorer language skills, while educational program-

ming and screen use alongside caregivers were associated with better language outcomes.

These findings suggest that the quantity, quality and context of screen time matter. A cartoon or digital game is not necessarily harmful to learning, but excessive or passive screen use can reduce opportunities for children to communicate, explore and engage in meaningful activities.

The effects can also become visible in the classroom. Children accustomed to fast-moving games and rapidly changing videos may find slower activities less immediately engaging. Some may struggle to sit patiently while completing a task, while others may prefer talking about games, YouTube-style videos or favourite cartoons instead of participating in imaginative play with classmates.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has highlighted concerns about problematic digital-media use in early childhood, including associations with unhealthy sleep and fewer opportunities for language development, movement, exploration and learning with caregivers.

The issue, therefore, is not simply what children are watching, but what they may be missing while watching it. Time spent on screens can take away from reading, drawing, outdoor play, conversation, creative activities and hands-on learning. The World Health Organization recommends no screen time for infants under one year and no more than one hour of sedentary screen time for children aged 2–4. Its guidance also emphasizes active play, adequate sleep, and reading and storytelling with caregivers.

A year of Palestinian defiance

DR. RAMZY BAROUD

The year 2025 started and finished with declared ceasefires in Gaza, both almost instantly and brutally shattered by Israel, which has operated with absolute, unquestioned impunity.

The operational definition of a ceasefire, from an Israeli perspective, is a de facto one-sided campaign in which the opposing party – be it the Palestinians or the Lebanese – is forcibly stripped of the right to fight back or defend itself. For Israel, the operation of its relentless war machine is always framed as an act of self-defense, even when the primary victims of these campaigns, as clearly evidenced by the two-year Gaza genocide, are women and children. More than 70,000 Palestinians have now been killed in Gaza, as well as 170,000 wounded and thousands more missing beneath the rubble.

The year, however, did not begin with such a gloomy outlook. Many had desperately hoped that the Jan. 19 ceasefire would bring the Palestinian agony to a decisive end. The agreement briefly halted the genocide to allow prisoner exchanges and limited aid entry amid a rapidly spreading famine.

The respite for Palestinians proved tragically temporary, as Israel began violating the ceasefire almost immediately. By early March, Israel had suspended humanitarian aid, triggering acute food shortages and a crippling medical crisis. Even during the purported halt, Palestinians perished in massive numbers from engineered starvation and disease.

On March 17, Israel officially re-engaged the conflict, commencing with intense military strikes and expanded ground operations. Palestinians mounted fierce resistance across the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of thousands who had returned to northern Gaza during the ceasefire were displaced once again and thousands were killed.

Israel’s deadly wrath did not spare the West Bank in 2025, yet the territory’s tragedy went largely unreported due to the catastrophic scale of the killing in Gaza. The occupied region nonetheless endured a tremendously high casualty toll, along with the expulsion of entire communities in the northern West Bank and the razing of whole refugee camps.

The West Bank simultaneously endured a parallel campaign of calculated collective punishment and aggressive territorial seizure. Starting in January, the refugee camps of Jenin, Balata and Nur Shams, among other areas, were subjected to repeated, large-scale military incursions, leaving critical infrastructure pulverized and hundreds dead. In other areas, like Ein Shibli and the southern Hebron Hills, entire Bedouin communities were violently expelled, their homes deliberately demolished, effectively formalizing the annexation process under the guise of “security” operations.

The year saw extreme Israeli violence and a record number of newly approved settlement units. Despite international condemnation and the firm rejection of Israel’s obvious attempts at colonizing and annexing large parts of the West Bank, the Israeli onslaught remained utterly undeterred.

The war’s scope in Gaza also grew rapidly, reaching every last part of the Strip, where forced displacements returned with the same, and at times even greater, ferocity than in the first year of the genocide.

In May and July, the Israeli Cabinet approved phases one and two of Operation Gideon’s Chariots, respectively, both aimed at fully occupying northern Gaza, a mission Israel had repeatedly failed to achieve since the war began.

The protracted, calculated Israeli siege eventually culminated in August in the formal declaration of famine, extending its grip not only over Gaza City but across the entire north of the Strip. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization, among others, confirmed that famine conditions had been met. Despite international alarm, no forceful, substantive pressure was placed on Israel to break its deadly siege.

The relentless slaughter in Gaza and the West Bank rendered hollow the wave of Palestinian state recognition by Western capitals. France, the UK, Canada and Australia, among others, officially recognized the state of Palestine in September. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scathingly dismissed this move as a “grave mistake.” “You are giving a huge reward to terrorism,” he said. Following the announcements, he and his extremist ministers, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, vowed to accelerate the annexation of Area C in the West Bank and pass legislation establishing sovereignty over the Jordan Valley.

The Palestinian Authority of Mahmoud Abbas clutched at the rush to recognize Palestine, attempting to utilize it as a means of reviving its increasingly marginal role in

While intense talks mediated by the US and several Arab and Middle Eastern countries continued, global protests erupted in early October. Millions demonstrated across Europe, demanding an end to the war and an immediate arms embargo on Israel.

Palestinian politics. Other Palestinian political factions saw the recognition as a necessary, albeit late, acknowledgement of the agency and fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. International solidarity, meanwhile, escalated dramatically. In Italy, which is governed by a pro-Israeli right-wing government, several general strikes were declared. The first major strike, on Sept. 22, was called by grassroots trade unions. The strike directly targeted the government’s complicity with Israel through its continued authorization of arms flows to the Israeli army.

Later that month, on Sept. 29, US President Donald Trump’s Gaza plan was unveiled and presented as a comprehensive peace framework divided into three phases.

While intense talks mediated by the US and several Arab and Middle Eastern countries continued, global protests erupted in early October. Millions demonstrated across Europe, demanding an end to the war and an immediate arms embargo on Israel.

Such recommendations are important because early learning extends far beyond letters and numbers. Children develop patience while completing puzzles, language skills through conversation, problem-solving abilities while building with blocks, and empathy through interaction and play with others.

Digital games and mobile devices can provide rapid stimulation and immediate rewards, whereas learning through real-world experiences often develops more gradually. Children need opportunities to wait, listen, persevere, solve problems and cope with small frustrations. These abilities develop through repeated experiences and meaningful interaction away from screens.

The answer is not to remove technology from children’s lives altogether. Age-appropriate, purposeful digital activities, particularly when supported by engaged adults, can contribute to learning. The key is balance.

Families can establish technology-free mealtimes, bedtime routines and periods of play. Schools can ensure that digital tools complement rather than replace books, art, physical activity, conversation and hands-on discovery. Adults also have an important role in modelling healthy technology habits.

For young learners to become curious, attentive and socially confident, they need frequent opportunities to look beyond the screen. Childhood may include pixels and programs, but people, play, questions, stories and real-world experiences remain fundamental to building strong foundations for learning and development.

The ceasefire was finally declared on Oct. 10. It was followed by the release of all Israeli captives and nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. Some prisoners stayed in the West Bank, while others were deported outside Palestine or returned to Gaza.

On Oct. 13, an international summit convened in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, chaired by Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The summit endorsed the newly declared ceasefire, established a roadmap for reconstruction in Gaza and controversially established a so-called International Stabilization Force.

Eventually, UN Security Council Resolution 2803 was approved in November, despite early protests from China and Russia. The resolution confirmed the ceasefire and called for the establishment of a Board of Peace in Gaza, a governing body to be led by Trump himself. Though desperate to end a war that had claimed the lives of countless civilians, Palestinians rejected any return to mandate-style governance, insisting Gaza would be ruled by its own people.

These diplomatic overtures did not quell the acts of international solidarity. Spanish trade unions and youth organizations declared a general strike on Oct. 15, insisting on the demand of holding Israel accountable. More protests followed on last month’s International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, with millions rallying in the streets of cities across the world, marking a decisive global paradigm shift against Israel and in solidarity with Palestine.

The year concludes with some somber numbers, but also much hope and the legendary “sumud” (steadfastness) of ordinary Palestinians.

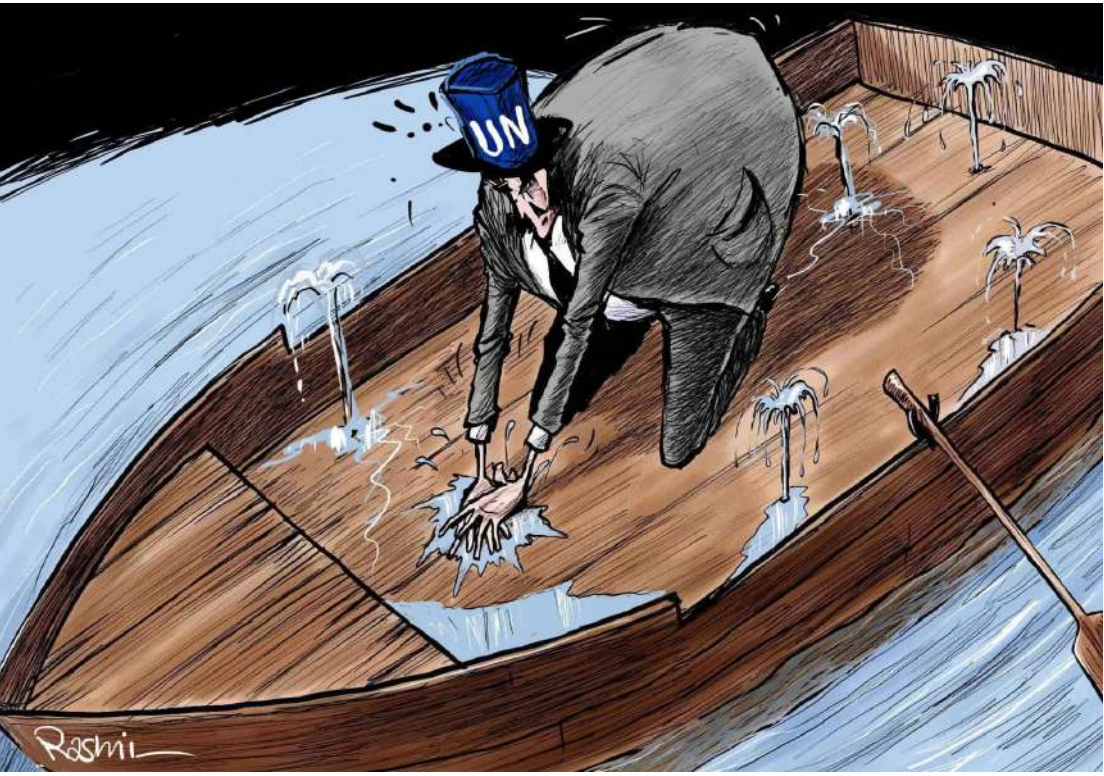
The UN Conference on Trade and Development last month released a report warning that Gaza’s gross domestic product had collapsed by an “unprecedented and catastrophic” 80 percent since 2023. Researchers from the Germany-based Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research and the Spain-based Center for Demographic Studies also found that life expectancy in Gaza fell by 47 percent in 2024 compared with what it would have been without the war. This sharp drop reflects a catastrophic increase in mortality.

Yet, despite the overwhelming destruction, refugees in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza organized a football match. Played amid pulverized concrete and upturned earth, the game marked the defiant return of football to Gaza. Before kickoff, players and excited fans observed a moment of silence to commemorate the 320 athletes and sports personnel killed during the genocide.

While Israel measures its success or failure in wars based solely on the body count of its enemies, Palestinians employ a different type of measurement: the indomitable spirit of a people that refuses to die despite the total and utter destruction resulting from Israeli wars.

The last few years have brought some of the most painful experiences in Palestinian collective memory. We hope that the coming year will bring a lasting and just peace, that Israel will be compelled by global force to respect the ceasefire, and that the profound sacrifices of the Palestinian people will finally usher in a long-awaited age of justice and accountability.

—Arab News



UMT, Pakistan Kisan Ittehad to Collaborate on Agricultural Research

Report: ANI Correspondent:

LAHORE -- University of Management and Technology (UMT) President Ibrahim Murad and Pakistan Kisan Ittehad President Khalid Mahmood Khokhar have agreed to sign an MoU to promote agricultural research, modern farming technologies and research-based solutions for farmers.

During a meeting, the two leaders discussed farmers' issues, agricultural productivity, food security and the adoption of modern farming practices.

Ibrahim Murad stressed that university research should be translated into practical solutions for farmers, while Khalid Mahmood Khokhar



emphasized reducing production costs, improving market access and ensuring fair prices for agricultural produce. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation among universities, farmers and industry and move forward with formalising the proposed collaboration through the MoU.

Pakistan Highlights Global South’s Role in Digital Finance at UN

Report: ANI

NEW YORK: Chairman PVARA and Minister of State Bilal bin Saqib has called for greater participation of developing countries in shaping the future of global digital finance.

Speaking at the Social Business, Youth and Technology Forum during the 81st UN General Assembly, he said technology should benefit underserved populations and governments must keep pace with rapid technological developments.

Pakistan also co-hosted a UN policy



dialogue on tokenization, highlighting the Global South's role in emerging financial technologies. Bilal bin Saqib said Pakistan had moved from an

eight-year banking ban to a regulatory framework for virtual assets within six months.

He identified remittances as a key area for tokenization, noting that Pakistan received a record \$41.6 billion in workers' remittances last fiscal year. He also highlighted potential applications in sovereign debt, Sukuk and SME financing.

He said developing countries' large populations and growing digital economies could create new opportunities for financial inclusion, innovation and access to modern financial services.

Aqab School for the Blind Mirpur Achieves 100% Success in Intermediate Exams

BY: FT Correspondent:

MIRPUR -- Aqab School for the Blind Mirpur has achieved a 100% success rate in the 2026 Intermediate examinations conducted by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Mirpur.

According to the results, Owais Tasleem secured first position with 908 marks, Haider Ali stood second with 807 marks, while Samavia Rani secured third position with 703 marks.

Despite visual impairment, the students demonstrated exceptional dedication and academic ability. They appeared in the examinations with the assistance of scribes in accordance with board rules.

Aqab School Patron-in-Chief



Professor Muhammad Ilyas Ayub congratulated the students, teachers, parents and administration, saying that providing quality education to visually impaired children is a collective responsibility.

Secretary Housing & Works Conducts Detailed Visit to FGEHA Sectors G-14, G-15/3 and F-14/F-15

Report: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD -- Secretary Housing & Works Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Mahmood, accompanied by FGEHA Director General Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, visited G-14, G-15/3 and F-14/F-15 to review development works, land acquisition and civic facilities.

In G-14/2/3, he directed timely provision of electricity, gas, roads, horticulture and rainwater harvesting facilities, while ordering early completion of the G-14/1 development tendering process. The legal status of unauthorized mosques was also directed to be clarified with the Aqaf Department.

In G-15/3, the Secretary ordered removal of illegal encroachments and priority measures to improve connectivity with G-14 and G.T. Road, along with installation of streetlights and signboards.

Reviewing F-14/F-15, he directed effective rainwater drainage, construction of check dams, water conservation and modern rainwater harvesting sys-



tems to prevent wastage and improve groundwater levels. He also ordered early possession of remaining plots and completion of rain-affected development works.

Later, a meeting on the Green Enclave-I Project was held at FGEHA Headquarters. A team comprising officials from the Ministry of Housing & Works, FGEHA and NESPAK was constituted to submit comprehensive, feasible and cost-effective recommendations within two days.

The Secretary said provision of quality residential facilities to federal government employees remains among the government's priorities. DG FGEHA said development activities would be completed according to prescribed targets.

Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon Visits Pakistan Mission in New York to Discuss Kashmir Diplomacy

Report: ANI

NEW YORK --Federal Minister and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, visited the Pakistan Mission in New York, where he met senior Pakistani diplomatic officials and discussed Pakistan's parliamentary and diplomatic efforts on the Kashmir issue.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Consul General Aamir, Minister at the Embassy of Pakistan Bilal Akram Shah, Deputy Consul General Sajidullah and other senior officials of the Embassy and Consulate. Malik Afzal Awan was also present.

Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon



discussed ways to further strengthen parliamentary and diplomatic efforts to highlight the Kashmir issue and the right to self-determination of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) at the international level.

He appreciated the efforts of Pakistan's diplomatic missions in the United States to highlight Pakistan's position on Kashmir and emphasized stronger coordination among Parliament, the government and Pakistani missions abroad.

The meeting also discussed matters of mutual interest, strengthening engagement with the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities in the United States, and joint efforts to promote greater international awareness of the Kashmir issue.

Shehbaz Sharif Meets Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa at UNGA 2026

Report: ANI

NEW YORK -- Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met President of the Syrian Arab Republic Ahmed al-Sharaa on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to its historic and fraternal relations with Syria and reiterated support for Syria's sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and political independence. The two leaders discussed measures to strengthen bilateral relations through enhanced high-level exchanges, institutional mechanisms and cooperation in trade, investment, education and information technology.

Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to contribute to Syria's reconstruction and economic recovery, while emphasizing the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and respect for the UN Charter in



promoting regional peace and stability. The two leaders also exchanged views on the regional situation. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and a just and lasting resolution of the Palestine issue in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and international law.

Ayaz Sadiq Hails Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Brotherhood at Saudi National Day Ceremony

BY: Hurish Shah FT :

ISLAMABAD -- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq attended a ceremony marking Saudi Arabia's 96th National Day as the chief guest and cut the National Day cake.

The Speaker congratulated the Saudi leadership and people on the occasion and expressed his best wishes for their continued progress and prosperity. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Saudi Arabia was progressing under the leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, adding that the country's remarkable development was a source of pride for its people.

He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy longstanding brotherly relations based on shared faith and historic ties, adding that both countries have stood by each other during difficult times.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan



The Speaker highlighted the importance of parliamentary relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in promoting mutual cooperation and understanding. He said stronger links between Pakistan's Parliament and the Saudi Shura Council would further consolidate bilateral ties.

highly values Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and security and noted that the friendship between the two countries contributes to peace and stability in the region.

He also highlighted the importance of the defence agreement among Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, describing it as significant for regional security.

Ishaq Dar Meets Azerbaijan Foreign Minister in New York

Report: ANI :

NEW YORK --Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The two foreign ministers held a



productive exchange on further strengthening the close and brotherly Pakistan-Azerbaijan relationship and discussed bilateral matters of mutual interest.

They reaffirmed mutual support and commitment to expanding multifaceted bilateral cooperation and agreed to maintain close contact.



Islamabad: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses a press conference.

Maldivian Parliamentary Delegation Holds Talks with Pakistan’s Parliamentary Forums

By FT Correspondent

ISLAMABAD --A parliamentary delegation from the People's Majlis of the Republic of Maldives held discussions with Convenors and Members of the Parliamentary Forums of the National Assembly of Pakistan at Parliament House, Islamabad, focusing on parliamentary cooperation and the exchange of legislative experiences.

The meeting covered women's political participation, youth empowerment, child rights, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, water governance, renewable energy and parliamentary oversight.

Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Dr. Shahida Rehmani, briefed the delegation on Pakistan's experience of cross-party parliamentary cooperation, gender-responsive budgeting, women's political participation and legislative scrutiny.

President Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, highlighted initiatives to strengthen youth participation in democratic processes, including legislative studies, digital transformation, internships and engagement with educational



institutions.

Convenor Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, Shaista Pervaiz, outlined Pakistan's parliamentary mechanisms for supporting SDG implementation, with particular focus on water governance, climate resilience, renewable energy and youth engagement.

Federal Coordinator of the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, Danyal Chaudhary, briefed the delegation on parliamentary efforts relating to child protection, education, nutrition, polio eradication, child labour and early marriage.

The Maldivian delegation also shared its experiences in women and youth participation, child protection, education, climate resilience, water resources and renewable energy. Both sides exchanged views on parliamentary oversight, legislative processes and institutional cooperation.

The delegation appreciated the initiatives of Pakistan's Parliamentary Forums and expressed interest in strengthening parliamentary collaboration between the two countries on issues of mutual interest.