



'Muslims not allowed in this school', Kerala headmistress denies admission

WEB DESK

New Delhi

A headmistress in Kerala has denied admission to about 30 Muslim students, exposing how Muslims are facing discrimination in even India's educational institutions.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the headmistress of Dr CT Eapen Memorial RHS School in Sasthamcotta, Kollam, told parents "Muslims are not allowed in this school... children who come dressed in white clothing will not be admitted."

Around 30 students, including some from a dars in Chakkuvalli, were denied admission despite requests from teachers. Complainants said no action was taken even after complaints to school management and the District Educational Officer. The school currently has only 63 students from Classes 5 to 10, with just one Muslim student enrolled in high school. PTA vice-president said, "The issue was that the children who came were Muslims... even the clothes they wore were a problem."



APHC expresses concern over Hurriyat leaders'

WEB DESK

Srinagar

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has expressed serious concern over the continued illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders and activists languishing in different jails in India and the territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement issued in Srinagar, said that All Parties Hurriyat Conference Chairman Masarat Aalam Butt, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Aasiya Andrabi, and other Hurriyat leaders, activists and youth had been languishing in different jails in India and the territory.

He deplored that the Indian BJP rulers had deliberately arrested Hurriyat leaders on false charges to create an atmosphere of fear and terror and to silence the political voice of the Kashmiri people. Continued cordon and search operations, house raids and harassment of people are violations of human rights, he added.



Operation Blue Star reminds of dark chapter of human rights violations against Sikhs

Staff Reporter

Amritsar

As Sikhs across the world observe the 42nd anniversary of Operation Blue Star, painful memories of the Indian Army's military assault on the Golden Temple in 1984 continue to haunt the Sikh community, widely regarded as one of the most glaring examples of state-sponsored human rights violations in India.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Sikh groups and independent accounts say, the operation launched on June 2, 1984, resulted in the killing of thousands of Sikhs, including men, women, and children. Estimates by Sikh organisations put the death toll above 10,000. Worshipers and innocent pilgrims trapped inside the sacred Golden Temple complex were caught in heavy crossfire with little to no regard for civilian lives. The Indian Army's assault caused extensive damage to the Akal Takht and other holy structures within the Golden Temple complex. Prominent Sikh leaders, including Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and General Shabeg Singh, were among those killed during the operation.



Pakistan Strongly Rejects Comments Concerning Azad Jammu and Kashmir

● 'Come Back to the Negotiating Table': AJK PM Rathore Addresses Protesters, Congratulates PPP on GB Win

Mudassar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD

The Foreign Office has rejected what it called "unnecessary and baseless statements" regarding Azad Jammu and Kashmir, terming them misleading and detached from facts.

According to the Foreign Office spokesperson, certain UK-based individuals and groups have made comments on Kashmir that ignore historical realities and are not based on accurate information.

The spokesperson said Pakistan and Azad Kashmir's internal matters should not be subjected to external interference, adding that such remarks distort facts and reflect a lack of understanding



of the region's historical context.

He further stated that Pakistan is a sovereign and democratic state that firmly believes in the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The spokesperson added that Pakistan expects the same principle of non-interference to be respected by others, and urged the British government to discourage individuals

supporting proscribed organisations from making such statements. He also called on the UK authorities to caution such elements and ensure they refrain from activities that could undermine diplomatic understanding and bilateral relations.

Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Chaudhry Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has urged protesting

groups in AJK to return to the negotiating table and resolve ongoing disputes through dialogue, while also extending congratulations to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on its impressive victory in the Gilgit-Baltistan elections. Speaking after high-level meetings in Islamabad with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, senior party leaders, and members of the federal cabinet, Rathore said extensive discussions were held regarding the prevailing situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The AJK Prime Minister emphasized that the protesters are part of the region's own population and (Continued on Page-4)

AJK Election Commission Issues Code of Conduct for General Elections 2026

Staff Reporter

Muzaffarabad

The Election Commission of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has formally issued the Code of Conduct for the General Elections 2026, imposing a series of restrictions aimed at ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections across the region. According to a press release issued by the Election Commission spokesperson, a complete ban has been imposed on the recruitment, transfer, and posting of government employees, as well as the creation of new posts. In unavoidable circumstances, prior approval from the Election Commission will be required before any such administrative action can be taken. The Code of Conduct also prohibits ministers and members of the Legislative Assembly from distributing government funds or announcing financial assistance schemes during the election period. Likewise, the distribution of electricity poles, water supply pipes, commercial and construction timber, and forest trees has been strictly banned. The Election Commission has further barred the launch of any new development schemes within Azad Kashmir. However, routine and ongoing development projects may continue

through the relevant government departments. Candidates and their supporters will not be allowed to inaugurate any development project or public welfare scheme during the election campaign. To maintain neutrality within the state machinery, government employees, except those specifically assigned to law and order duties, have been prohibited from participating in political rallies, public gatherings, or organizing election-related events. The use of government resources, including official vehicles and public facilities, for election purposes has also been banned. Additionally, all allotments and leases through the Board of Revenue, development authorities, and organizations including the Mangla Dam Housing Authority have been suspended until the completion of the electoral process. The Election Commission warned that strict disciplinary action will be taken against anyone found violating the Code of Conduct. Such action may include the suspension of government employees and, in serious cases, the disqualification of election candidates. The Commission reiterated its commitment to ensuring a level playing field for all political parties and candidates contesting the 2026 elections.

Rising cases of women and girls reported missing in Kathua

WEB DESK

Srinagar

The growing number of women, including young girls and married women, who have reportedly gone missing has raised concern among residents in different parts of Kathua district in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the growing number of women, including young girls and married women, who have reportedly gone missing from different parts of Kathua district over the past year, with a majority of cases emerging from the Billawar subdivision, has raised concern among residents and prompted calls for a closer investigation.

According to a report, several missing complaints have been registered in recent months at police stations in Billawar, Kathua, Basohli and Hiranagar. Police have also issued multiple Look Out Notices (LONs) through newspapers seeking public assistance in tracing the



missing women.

The report said fresh cases continue to surface every month, with local residents saying that six to seven new incidents are being reported regularly. The missing persons belong to different communities and age groups, including unmarried girls and married women from rural and hilly areas.

Local residents expressed concern over the recurring incidents and demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the pattern of disappearances.

Some villagers said that vulnerable young women from remote areas could be getting exploited or lured by anti-social elements.

APHC expresses concern over Hurriyat leaders' illegal detention

■ All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter held a prayer session in Islamabad today with Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi in chair.

Mudassar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD

All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter held a prayer session in Islamabad today with Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi in chair.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the participants of the meeting condoled the deaths of the mothers of Hurriyat leader Syed Ijaz Rehmani and Kashmir freedom movement leader Taj Ali Shah and expressed solidarity with



the bereaved families.

They paid tribute to the services of the deceased and said that they were very virtuous, soft-hearted and dignified

women. These families have had a deep and long-standing connection with the Kashmir freedom movement and have always shown steadfastness and perseverance in the struggle for the right to self-determination, they added.

On this occasion, Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi and other Hurriyat leaders expressed their heartfelt condolences and sympathy to Syed Ijaz Rahmani and Taj Ali Shah on the

deaths of their mothers and said all the workers associated with the Hurriyat leadership and the Kashmir freedom movement share equally with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. They said that the deceased played an important role in the intellectual, moral and national education of their children. It is because of their education and prayers that Syed Ijaz Rahmani and Taj Ali Shah are playing a full role in the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

In the meeting, prayers were offered for the complete forgiveness of the deceased, a high place in paradise, high ranks and special blessings of Allah Almighty.

AJK Police say 3 JAAC members killed in Rawalakot clashes, several injured



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Police on Monday said that three individuals linked to the newly proscribed Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) were killed during the protests on Sunday, with additional injuries reported, according to a press release by the AJK police.

The statement follows deadly clashes in AJK's Rawalakot, where the JAAC had been holding a sit-in outside CMH Rawalakot hospital. AJK police allege that armed JAAC members opened fire on deployed law enforcement in a planned attack, leaving four personnel dead and around 20 injured. JAAC, however, disputes this account, claiming security forces used tear gas and fired shells toward the hospital.

According to the statement, law and order had been restored in Rawalakot after what it described as violent and armed actions by elements linked to JAAC.

The AJK police said armed individuals attempted to disturb peace in the area on the evening of June 7 by launching a planned firing attack on law enforcement personnel. The attackers later besieged CMH Rawalakot, severely disrupting hospital services and medical operations. The police said that miscreants also set fire at multiple locations and caused damage to both public and private property.



A carpenter busy in carving different designs on wooden sheet at his workplace.

Secretary Housing & Works Visits F-14/F-15, Emphasizes Timely Completion of Development Projects

■ Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Mahmood Reviews F-14/F-15 Progress, Seeks Faster Execution of Development Works

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Works, Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Mahmood, paid a detailed visit to FGEHA Sectors F-14/F-15 to review the progress of ongoing development activities. Housing Secretary reviews F-14/F-15 progress, directs swift completion of development works, resolution of land issues

He was accompanied by Director General FGEHA, Captain (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal, senior officials of FGEHA and NLC. During the visit, Senior Project Manager NLC, Israr-ul-Haq, briefed the Secretary on the current status of the project and ongoing development works.

Housing Secretary reviews F-14/F-15 progress, directs swift completion of development works, resolution of land issues

Emphasizing the need for expeditious



resolution of pending land-related issues and Built-Up Property (BUP) cases, it was decided that separate teams would be constituted to deal with routine and priority cases to remove impediments to development activities at the earliest.

With the vision of transforming

Sectors F-14/F-15 into one of Islamabad's most modern and exemplary residential developments, it was agreed to incorporate advanced landscaping, value-added features, environmentally sustainable infrastructure, and high-quality urban planning into the project.

The Secretary also stressed the importance of preparing a comprehensive horticulture plan, focusing on the preservation of indigenous trees and green areas to provide the sectors with a unique and attractive identity.

Promoting the concept of sustainable development, it was recommended that environmentally friendly initiatives such as cycle tracks, solar power generation facilities, rainwater harvesting systems, and sustainable check dams be incorporated into the project to ensure efficient utilization of energy and water resources.

It was further decided that the horticulture plan would be reviewed on a monthly basis, while progress on development works, civic amenities, and land-related matters would be reviewed every fortnight. In addition, weekly progress reports will be submitted regularly to ensure effective monitoring of the project.



Punjab to launch e-bike rental service with 10,000 bikes

News Desk

LAHORE

The Punjab government has decided to introduce an electric bike rental service for the first time as part of its efforts to promote environmentally friendly and modern transportation facilities across the province. Under the first phase of the project, 10,000 electric bikes will be deployed, while 300 docking and charging stations will be established across the city to support the service. The Punjab Housing Authority (PHA) will provide land for the docking and charging stations. The initiative aims to improve connectivity by enabling residents to travel easily between major residential and commercial areas and nearby public transport points.



Pakistan issues visas to 737 Indian Sikh pilgrims

News Desk

NEW DELHI

The Pakistan High Commission has issued visas to 737 Sikh pilgrims from India to enable them to participate in the annual commemorative events of Guru Arjan Dev Ji in Pakistan.

According to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, the religious ceremonies will be held from June 10 to June 19, 2026. During their visit, the pilgrims will also travel to various Sikh holy sites across Pakistan.

The High Commission stated that the visas were issued as part of Pakistan's commitment to promoting religious tourism and interfaith harmony, allowing members of the Sikh community to perform their religious obligations and participate in sacred rituals. Pakistan regularly issues visas to Indian Sikh pilgrims for major religious occasions, including celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and hosts them as part of its efforts to facilitate religious pilgrimages.

Punjab Rangers Muharram Security Plan Activated in Punjab



News Desk

LAHORE

Punjab Rangers Muharram Security has been formally requested by the Punjab Home Department, which has written to the interior ministry seeking army and Rangers troops for the upcoming month of Muharram.

The letter, dated June 4, was sent on the directions of the Punjab police chief. It clearly states that the current security environment demands a foolproof plan to stop any terrorist or criminal activity during Muharram.

A total of 137 companies have been requested. This includes 61 Pakistan Army companies and 76 Rangers companies. These troops will be spread across at least 37 districts of Punjab.

Both army and Rangers deployment has been requested for major cities including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, and several other districts. Only one army company has been sought for Vehari. Rangers-only deployment has been requested for Sialkot, Jhelum, Mianwali, Lodhran, and Rahim Yar Khan. The troops will remain on duty between Muharram 1 and 12, covering the most sensitive days of the month.

The Home Department has also released a seven-page guideline document for all police and civil administration. It calls for strong security measures even in remote areas. It also demands timely intelligence sharing between all law enforcement agencies.

NAB chairman says fraudsters' photos will be published in newspapers

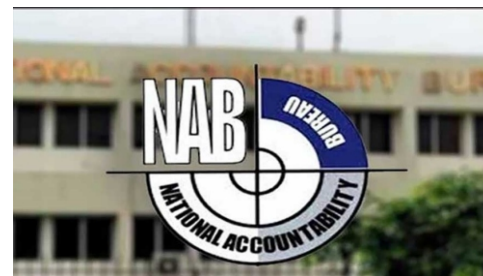
News Desk

LAHORE

Chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Lieutenant General (retired) Nazir Ahmed, announced tougher measures against fraudsters on Monday, saying that individuals accused of deceiving the public would now have their photographs published in newspaper advertisements.

Addressing a ceremony in Lahore, the NAB chairman said the accountability watchdog believes in practical measures rather than symbolic agreements and stressed that fraudsters would face increased public exposure and legal action.

He said the business community had not been given the status and recognition it deserved despite its contribution to the economy. According to him, around 20 cases related to chambers and business forums were brought before NAB, out of which 19 had been resolved.



Speaking about reforms in the real estate sector, Nazir Ahmed said NAB had developed a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving transparency and reducing fraud. He announced that future property transactions would involve only three stakeholders and claimed that cash-based property dealings would be eliminated.

He further stated that the existing system of property files would gradually lose relevance within the next four to five months, while each plot would receive a barcode-based identification number to reduce fraudulent practices.

Punjab launches major school upgrade programme, says education minister

■ Punjab has launched a major school upgrade initiative, including 25,000 new classrooms, IT labs, and improved facilities.

News Desk

Lahore

Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat has announced the launch of a large-scale programme aimed at upgrading government schools across the province under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

During a visit to Multan, the minister inaugurated development projects at Government Aam Khas High School and reviewed ongoing education sector initiatives. He said the School Education Department had accelerated the construction of new classrooms and IT laboratories in public schools.

Provincial Secretary School Education Mudassar Riaz Malik accompanied the minister during the visit, where the foundation stone for additional classrooms was also laid.



Speaking on the occasion, Rana Sikandar Hayat said that 25,000 new classrooms were being constructed across Punjab at a cost of billions of rupees. He added that upgrading school boundary walls, establishing IT

laboratories, and improving sports facilities remained key government priorities.

The minister said record development projects had been launched to provide students with modern and quality educational facilities. He also announced that the per-student subsidy for learners enrolled in PEF-supported schools had been doubled.

He emphasized that increased investment in education would further improve the standard of government schools and help ensure access to quality education for every child. Rana Sikandar Hayat said the Punjab

government was focusing on strengthening educational infrastructure under its education-friendly policies and directed officials to complete development projects within the stipulated timeframe.

PSX opens week lower amid rising Middle East tensions

PSX fell 1,446 points as KSE-100 closed at 169,032 amid global tensions. Brent oil rose over \$3 to \$96.24 on Middle East conflict and supply concerns

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a decline on the first trading day of the business week as selling pressure dominated the market amid rising tensions in the Middle East.

During intraday trading, the benchmark KSE-100 Index dropped by 1,446 points, bringing it down to 169,032 points. The index also touched an intraday low of 168,432 points, while the day's high stood at 169,254 points.

The market had closed the previous week at 170,478 points, indicating a notable decline at the start of the new trading session.



Meanwhile, Brent oil prices jumped more than \$3 a barrel on Monday, initially spooked by Israel's launch of renewed strikes on Lebanon a day earlier, but also gaining further steam after sounds of explosions

were heard in Iran. Sounds of blasts were heard - in Tehran, Tabriz and Isfahan, local media reported early on Monday, eroding hopes for an imminent end to the wider war and a restart to crude flows through the

Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude futures rose \$3.20 or 3.39% to \$96.24 a barrel while U.S. crude futures were up \$2.87 or 3.17% at \$93.41 per barrel as of 0333 GMT.

Those gains erased Friday's losses, when prices fell on hopes of a de-escalation in the U.S.-Iran conflict, which has seen oil prices rise over 50% since March.

Though Iran on Sunday fired a salvo of missiles at Israeli targets in retaliation, U.S. President Donald Trump insisted that an agreement to end the wider war remains well within reach.

Trump also reportedly told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to refrain from further attacks.

"It's not going to have any impact on the deal," Trump told the Financial Times. "I call the shots. I call all the shots. He doesn't call the shots."

Pakistan 'considers' changing federal budget 2026-27 presentation date

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The federal government is reportedly considering a change in the previously announced date for the presentation of the 2026-27 federal budget, with the possibility of shifting it from 10 June to 12 June. According to official sources, consultations are currently underway and a final decision on the revised schedule is expected within the next 24 to 48 hours. Speaking informally to journalists in Parliament, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said that discussions regarding the budget schedule are still ongoing and no final decision has been taken.

Oil Prices Surge Amid Escalating Middle East Tensions

Brent Crude Jumps As Regional Conflict Fuels Supply Fears



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Brent crude futures surged by more than \$3 per barrel, while US crude also recorded significant gains after reports of fresh military developments in the region. Market sentiment was initially shaken by renewed Israeli strikes in Lebanon, with further support for prices emerging after reports of explosions in several Iranian cities, including Tehran, Tabriz and Isfahan.

Brent crude rose to \$96.24 per barrel, up 3.39 percent, while US West Texas

Intermediate (WTI) crude advanced to \$93.41 per barrel, reflecting a gain of 3.17 percent during early trading.

Israel Lebanon Ceasefire Broken as Oil Prices Jump \$2 a Barrel

The latest increase erased losses recorded at the end of last week, when expectations of a potential diplomatic breakthrough between Washington and Tehran had temporarily eased concerns about supply disruptions.

Energy markets remain highly sensitive to developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes through which a significant share of global crude exports passes. Ongoing uncertainty regarding regional security has raised fears that disruptions could continue to impact global supply chains.

World Accreditation Day: Here's how SMEDA's landmark certification drive is gaining momentum across Pakistan

SMEDA's SME Certification & International Accreditation Grant Programme gains traction as over 125 applications are received, supporting businesses to achieve global



Web Desk

LAHORE

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) has intensified efforts to help small and medium enterprises secure internationally recognised certifications through its flagship SME Certification & International Accreditation Grant Programme.

The initiative is drawing renewed attention as World Accreditation Day 2026 is being observed on June 9 under the theme "Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation". The global observance, established by the International Accreditation Forum and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, highlights the role of accreditation in strengthening trust in products, services and systems while supporting trade and sustainable growth. SMEDA, in line with the government of Pakistan's focus on strengthening the SME sector, is supporting businesses to meet global standards, improve competitiveness and enhance export potential. Through the programme, enterprises are being assisted in overcoming financial and procedural barriers that often delay international certification.

strong, with applications received from businesses across diverse sectors and regions, reflecting growing awareness of compliance and quality standards.

According to officials overseeing the project, more than 125 applications have been received so far from SMEs across the country. After scrutiny, 36 applications have been approved by a committee, with most beneficiaries expected to receive support shortly.

The initiative places special emphasis on women-led enterprises, start-ups and businesses operating in underserved regions. Officials noted that the programme is being implemented through a transparent mechanism, with applications processed on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to eligibility requirements. SMEDA has also stepped up awareness and outreach activities, including training sessions, media engagement and digital campaigns, aimed at highlighting the importance of certification and compliance for business growth. More than 1,100 entrepreneurs have already been facilitated through capacity-building initiatives conducted in collaboration with the National Compliance Centre (National Compliance Centre).

Dollar climbs to two-month peak as Fed hike bets ramp up

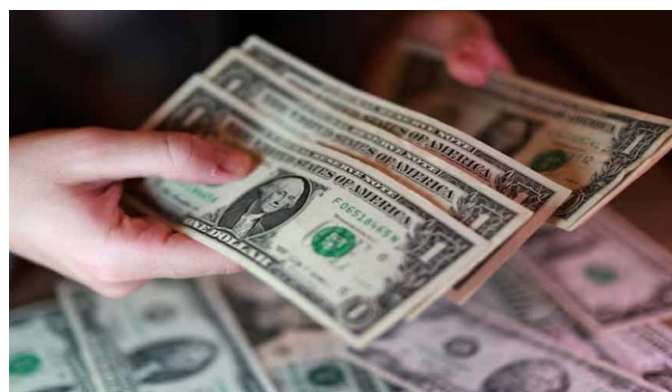
Dollar stays near a two-month high after strong U.S. jobs data boosted expectations of Fed rate hikes. Yen weakens toward intervention levels, while bitcoin and ether rebound.

Web Desk

SINGAPORE

The dollar was perched near a two-month high on Monday after a blowout U.S. jobs report sent traders ramping up bets on a Federal Reserve rate hike this year, while the yen teetered further into the intervention zone. Early moves in currencies were largely muted with markets in Australia closed for a holiday, though the dollar held to its strong gains made in the wake of the report which showed nonfarm payrolls increased by 172,000 jobs last month, far exceeding estimates.

Against the dollar, the euro fell to a two-month low of \$1.1507,



while sterling struggled at a three-week trough of \$1.33165.

The Australian and New Zealand dollars similarly slid to their lowest in two months at \$0.7016 and \$0.5779, respectively.

"The U.S. payrolls report

released... paints a picture of a U.S. labour market that is strengthening despite the ongoing energy price shock," said Jonas Goltermann, chief markets economist at Capital Economics. "That combination makes policy

tightening by the Fed later this year increasingly probable... we now expect the FOMC to deliver two 25-basis-point rate hikes later this year, in response to the energy supply shock and the re-acceleration of the U.S. labour market."

Prior to the release of the jobs report, traders had been gradually adding to bets on a Fed hike this year, as the global energy crisis tied to the Iran war threatens to stoke inflation.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he would tell Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to strike back after Iran fired a salvo of missiles at Israeli targets in retaliation for an attack on the outskirts of Beirut, news outlet Axios reported.

Yen under pressure as focus turns to BOJ after Fed holds

Yen hovers near 2-year low as strong dollar, Fed's cautious stance, and Middle East tensions weigh. Markets await Bank of Japan decision.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to launch a large-scale crackdown from October 1 of the next fiscal year against non-filers who display signs of wealth and luxury on social media but do not submit tax returns.

According to sources, the FBR is compiling lists of individuals who regularly showcase lavish lifestyles on social media, including expensive cars, motorcycles, boats, bungalows, apartments and farmhouses, despite not being registered tax filers.

Sources said such individuals will



be issued notices by tax authorities and asked to provide details regarding their income, assets and financial resources.

FBR officials revealed that comprehensive data on people displaying wealth on social media

has already been collected during the current fiscal year. The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has also assisted the tax authority in identifying and gathering information about these

individuals. According to sources, information regarding the individuals' expenditures, banking transactions, credit card usage and ATM card activities has also been obtained. The collected data will be used to initiate action under relevant tax laws.

FBR sources further stated that individuals displaying wealth on social media have until September 30 to file their tax returns. Formal action against non-filers will begin after the deadline expires.

According to officials, the initiative is aimed at expanding the tax net, reducing the size of the undocumented economy and ensuring more effective enforcement of tax laws across the country. Browse Topics



Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, meets H.E. Mervin N. Chedumbarum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Mauritius, to discuss strengthening bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Mauritius.

Pakistan's Education Budget at a Crossroads: Meeting the Challenges of 2026-27



By: Zahid Mushtaq Qureshi



Pakistan's education sector continues to face a severe funding crisis despite repeated commitments by successive governments to improve literacy, human capital development, and research capacity. As the federal and provincial governments prepare for the fiscal year 2026-27 budget, economists and education experts argue that Pakistan must substantially increase investment in education and research if it hopes to compete in an increasingly knowledge-based global economy. According to Pakistan's Economic Survey 2024-25, total public expenditure on education by the federation and provinces remained approximately 0.8 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), among the lowest levels in the world. Education spending during the first nine months of FY2024-25 declined significantly to around Rs899.6 billion compared with Rs1.25 trillion during the same period of the previous fiscal year. Literacy stands at approximately 60.6 percent, with a substantial gender gap, as male literacy is estimated

at 68 percent while female literacy remains around 52.8 percent. Pakistan's economy is estimated at approximately US\$411 billion, equivalent to about Rs115 trillion at current exchange rates. Economic growth for FY2024-25 has been estimated at 2.68 percent, reflecting a gradual recovery after years of economic instability. The federal budget for FY2025-26 totals Rs17.57 trillion. While the budget includes development allocations and funding for social sectors, education continues to receive a relatively small share compared with debt servicing, defense, pensions, and subsidies. Development funding for the Higher Education Commission (HEC) projects has been allocated approximately Rs39.5 billion in FY2025-26, which many analysts consider insufficient for a country of more than 240 million people. International organizations have repeatedly emphasized that countries should allocate at least 4 to 6 percent of GDP and 15 to 20 percent of total public expenditure to education in order to achieve sustainable development

goals and improve educational outcomes. UNESCO identifies the 4 to 6 percent of GDP benchmark as the minimum level required for meaningful progress in education systems. Applying this benchmark to Pakistan's economy highlights the magnitude of the challenge. If Pakistan were to allocate 4 percent of GDP to education, annual education spending would need to reach approximately Rs4.6 trillion. At 5 percent of GDP, spending would rise to about Rs5.75 trillion, while a 6 percent target would require nearly Rs6.9 trillion annually. These figures are several times higher than current expenditure levels. Education experts argue that a realistic medium-term target for FY2026-27 would be an allocation of at least Rs3 trillion to Rs3.5 trillion for the education sector, representing a major increase but still below the internationally recommended threshold. Such funding would be needed to address the country's estimated millions of out-of-school children, improve teacher training, modernize curricula, expand digital learning infrastructure, and rehabilitate thousands of public schools lacking basic facilities. Research and development (R&D) presents an equally serious challenge. Pakistan spends less than 0.3 percent of GDP on research and innovation, far below emerging economies and advanced nations. Countries such as South Korea invest more than 4 percent of GDP in R&D, while China invests over 2.5 percent. The United States, Germany, and Japan consistently devote between 3 and 4 percent of GDP to scientific research and technological innovation. To meet global challenges related to artificial intelligence, climate

change, biotechnology, food security, energy transition, cyber security, and industrial competitiveness, Pakistan would need to gradually increase R&D spending to at least 1 percent of GDP over the next decade. Based on the current size of the economy, this would require annual research funding of approximately Rs1.1 trillion to Rs1.2 trillion. For FY2026-27, a practical target would be an initial R&D allocation of Rs300 billion to Rs500 billion focused on universities, innovation centers, technology parks, scientific laboratories, and industry-academia collaboration. Such investment could strengthen domestic technological capacity, reduce dependence on imported technologies, and create high-skilled employment opportunities for Pakistan's growing youth population. Economists emphasize that education and research should not be viewed merely as social expenditures but as long-term investments. Countries that transformed their economies during the last three decades, including South Korea, Singapore, China, and Malaysia, achieved sustained growth through large-scale investments in education, science, and innovation. Pakistan's demographic profile presents both an opportunity and a challenge. With more than 240 million citizens and one of the youngest populations in the world, the country possesses significant human capital potential. However, without substantial increases in educational funding and research investment, this demographic advantage may not translate into economic productivity and global competitiveness.

By: Muhammad Fayaz Khan

Shan Masood and Pakistan Test Cricket: Stability or Another Reset?

Pakistan Test cricket once again finds itself at a familiar crossroads where emotion, results and long-term planning rarely align. Following the recent series defeat against Bangladesh, questions over leadership have resurfaced with Shan Masood placed firmly at the

centre of debate. It is within this context that Shan Masood's profile becomes relevant. His experience in English conditions, built through extensive county cricket exposure, is a significant factor. His performances for Derbyshire, including a prolific run of scores and a double century, alongside

Leadership transitions are only meaningful when a clear and better option exists. While Babar Azam was reportedly considered for a return to Test captaincy, he declined, a decision that itself reflects the burden and instability associated with repeated leadership changes.

Global examples offer useful context. Australia have invested long-term in Pat Cummins. England have backed Ben Stokes through rebuilding phases. India allowed Virat Kohli an extended run to establish a defined culture. In each case, continuity was prioritised over reaction.

Pakistan cricket, in contrast, has often struggled with consistency in leadership decisions. Captains are frequently judged on isolated series rather than full cycles, creating an environment where long-term planning is constantly disrupted.

The central issue, therefore, is not whether Shan Masood is the perfect captain. It is whether he should be given the opportunity to complete a full World Test Championship cycle before a final judgment is made. Immediate changes may provide short-term satisfaction but risk long-term instability.

For the Pakistan Cricket Board, this is not merely a selection decision but a test of strategic direction. Whether to continue with reactive decision-making or to commit to a structured and sustained leadership plan.

Test cricket has never rewarded haste. It demands patience, planning and persistence. Leadership stability is not a luxury in this format; it is a necessity.

The debate around Shan Masood will continue. But the larger question remains unchanged: will Pakistan cricket finally choose continuity, or remain trapped in its cycle of constant reset?

centre of debate.

Over the past two weeks, cricketing circles have been dominated by a single question: should Shan Masood be removed from Test captaincy? The discussion, however, reflects less about one series and more about Pakistan cricket's recurring tendency to react under pressure rather than build through continuity.

The real question is whether this is genuinely the right moment for another leadership change or simply another impulsive response that could cost Pakistan dearly in the months ahead.

A closer look at Pakistan's upcoming Test calendar highlights the scale of the challenge. A tour of the West Indies is followed by a demanding series in England and then a difficult assignment in Australia. These are not routine engagements. They require stability, clarity of roles and leadership familiarity with challenging conditions.

his leadership stint at Yorkshire where he guided the side towards promotion, offer evidence of a player accustomed to demanding environments.

Leadership in Test cricket, however, is never solely defined by individual statistics. It is measured through structure, consistency and the ability to maintain direction across all departments. A captain does not win matches alone but creates the framework within which a team performs.

Reducing Pakistan's recent defeat to a question of captaincy alone risks overlooking deeper issues. The bowling unit struggled to maintain discipline in line and length. The spin department failed to exert sustained pressure. The top order batting lacked consistency, with only sporadic resistance from a few individuals. In such circumstances, attributing collective failure to a single leader presents an incomplete picture.

There is also the unavoidable question of alternatives.

Leh Boils: BJP's Policy of Divide And Rule Backfires

Cricket is often described as a game of glorious uncertainty. On any given day, anything can happen—and perhaps that unpredictability is exactly what makes it the most captivating sport in the world. Over the years, the game has witnessed extraordinary individual milestones, some of which appear almost untouchable. Sachin Tendulkar's iconic record of *1,894 ODI runs in a single calendar year (1998)* still stands tall after 27 years, untouched by modern batting giants.

Similarly, Pakistan's legendary off-spinner *Saqlain Mushtaq* left an indelible mark on ODI cricket. He holds the record for the most wickets in a calendar year twice—first taking 65 wickets in 33 matches in 1996, and then surpassing himself with 69 wickets in 36 matches in 1997. His dominance in that era remains unmatched, with fellow Pakistani spinner *Saeed Ajmal* also featuring prominently on the list with 62 wickets in 2013. But this piece focuses on a rarer and even more remarkable individual achievement in ODI cricket: Consecutive 5-Wicket Hauls in ODIs Across Matches

Taking five wickets in an ODI is a match-winning performance on its own. Doing it in back-to-back matches—or more—elevates a bowler into a truly elite category. In the entire history of ODI cricket, this extraordinary feat has been achieved only *17 times*.

The journey begins in 1975 with Australia's *Gary Gilmour*, who delivered one of the most iconic World Cup

spells in history, producing devastating performances against England in Leeds and the West Indies at Lord's during the semi-final and final stages of the tournament. In 1983, Sri Lanka's *Ashantha de Mel* showcased his brilliance with back-to-back five-wicket hauls against Pakistan and New Zealand in Leeds and

the greatest ODI bowlers of all time. Australia's *Ryan Harris* and Zimbabwe's *Brian Vitori* later joined the list in 2001 and 2011 respectively, continuing the tradition of pace and precision. The modern era brought renewed intensity. Australia's *Mitchell Starc* achieved the feat in 2013, while Bangladesh's *Mustafizur Rahman* repeated it twice—in



Derby respectively.

Pakistan's legendary fast bowler *Waqar Younis* then stamped his authority on this rare record multiple times. In 1990, he produced consecutive match-winning spells against Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Sharjah, followed by another dominant sequence across Peshawar, Sialkot, and Karachi—becoming the first bowler in history to take five-wicket hauls in three consecutive ODIs.

The late 1990s saw a golden period for Pakistan fast bowling. *Aaqib Javed* (1997), *Saqlain Mushtaq* (1997), and *Azhar Mahmood* (1999) all entered this exclusive club with match-defining performances on the international stage.

In 2001, Waqar Younis once again delivered world-class bowling displays against England and Australia, reinforcing his status as one of

2015 against India and again in 2019 against India and Pakistan—cementing his reputation as one of the most deceptive left-arm pacers of his generation.

More recently, Pakistan's young fast bowling duo added to this legacy. *Shaheen Shah Afridi* delivered back-to-back brilliance in 2019, while *Naseem Shah* replicated similar dominance in 2022-23 with consecutive match-winning spells against the Netherlands and New Zealand.

Sri Lanka's all-round sensation *Wanindu Hasaranga* made headlines in 2023 with a remarkable run of performances, further etching his name into this rare statistical category. His inclusion also highlighted two significant milestones: becoming only the second spinner after Saqlain Mushtaq to achieve this feat, and equalling Waqar Younis' long-standing record of consecutive five-wicket hauls across ODIs.

Pakistan rejects baseless remarks on Kashmir, urges UK to curb interference

should not be labeled as agents or traitors. However, he noted that some groups had adopted an inappropriate and confrontational approach in pursuing their demands. Referring to concerns surrounding the 12 refugee seats in the AJK Legislative Assembly, Rathore acknowledged that the grievances raised were not

entirely without merit and deserved serious consideration. He stated that the issue of refugee seats should be resolved through consultation and consensus, adding that patience and flexibility were necessary to achieve a mutually acceptable solution. Rathore expressed concern over recent tensions and the loss of security personnel who died in the line of duty, stressing the need to prevent further escalation. Calling upon protest leaders to reduce their aggressive rhetoric and avoid repeated ultimatums, the Prime Minister invited them to engage in constructive negotiations. He assured all stakeholders of complete safety, security, freedom of movement, and a level playing field during and after any dialogue process. Meanwhile, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore congratulated President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Faryal Talpur, and PPP Gilgit-Baltistan President Amjad Hussain Advocate on the party's electoral success in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said the victory reflected the confidence of the people in democracy, development, and public service. Rathore praised the dynamic election campaign led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, describing it as a key factor behind the party's success. The AJK Prime Minister further stated that the result represented public trust in democratic values, better governance, and the vision of Bhuttoism. He expressed hope that the newly elected leadership would play a significant role in the progress and

THE DESTINATION

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Chief Editor

Tahir Chudhary
Resident Editor Lahore



Korea-Pakistan Education Corridor (KPEC) initiative and Expo launched by the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Xi Jinping Visits North Korea To Strengthen Ties

Xi Jinping Reaffirms Strong China-North Korea Partnership In Pyongyang

WEB DESK

PYONGYANG

Xi received a ceremonial welcome upon arrival in the North Korean capital, where military officials lined a red carpet and banners celebrated the longstanding relationship between the two neighboring countries. The visit marks his first trip to North Korea since 2019 and comes at a time of significant geopolitical developments in East Asia.

China has long been North Korea's largest trading partner and a crucial source of economic and diplomatic support, particularly as Pyongyang continues to face extensive international sanctions.

The visit follows a series of high-profile diplomatic engagements in Beijing, where Xi recently hosted US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Discussions surrounding regional security, including North Korea's nuclear program, have remained a major focus of international diplomacy.

In an article published by North Korean



state media ahead of the visit, Xi emphasized the enduring strength of bilateral relations and pledged to deepen cooperation between the two countries despite shifting global circumstances. Analysts believe the visit reflects China's desire to maintain close ties with North Korea amid evolving regional dynamics, including growing military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow and ongoing tensions involving the United States and its allies in the region. North Korea has repeatedly maintained that its nuclear weapons program is non-

negotiable, while efforts to revive denuclearization talks with Washington have remained stalled since the collapse of previous negotiations. Observers suggest Beijing's primary objective remains preserving stability on the Korean Peninsula while ensuring North Korea remains aligned with China's broader regional interests.

The visit also comes amid increasing strategic competition in East Asia, where issues involving Taiwan, regional security alliances and great-power rivalry continue to reshape diplomatic relations. Political analysts view Xi's trip as a significant signal of China's commitment to strengthening its partnership with North Korea while reinforcing its influence in a region experiencing growing geopolitical uncertainty.

Taliban Arrests Women in Herat Over Hijab Rules

Taliban Arrests Women in Herat Hijab Crackdown Sparks UN Alarm

WEB DESK

Afghanistan

Taliban arrests women in Herat over hijab rules have shocked the world after at least 21 women and girls were detained in Herat province for not following Taliban dress code orders. The United Nations mission in Afghanistan, known as UNAMA, has raised serious concerns over these arrests. The UN reminded Taliban authorities that all people, both men and women, deserve equal treatment under the law. The Taliban issued a new directive last week. It banned women from appearing in public without what they called a proper hijab. Women showing their faces or wearing makeup were warned they would face punishment. UNAMA posted its concern on X, calling the detentions a serious human rights issue. The UN also stressed that every person has the right to move freely without fear of arrest. The Afghan Taliban did not respond when asked for comment by



international media. Since taking control of Kabul in 2021, the Taliban has placed heavy restrictions on women across Afghanistan. Women and girls have lost access to schools, jobs, and even sports, drawing sharp criticism from around the world. A UNICEF report from April warned that over 25,000 female teachers and health workers could be lost by 2030 if these restrictions continue. The Taliban claims it respects women's rights under its own reading of Islamic law. However, human rights groups and the international community strongly disagree.

Pakistan issues visas to 737 Indian Sikh pilgrims

The religious ceremonies will be held from June 10 to June 19, 2026

WEB DESK

CHENNAI

The Pakistan High Commission has issued visas to 737 Sikh pilgrims from India to enable them to participate in the annual commemorative events of Guru Arjan Dev Ji in Pakistan.

According to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, the religious ceremonies will be held from June 10 to June 19, 2026. During their visit, the pilgrims will also travel to various Sikh holy sites across Pakistan. The High Commission stated that the visas were issued as part of Pakistan's commitment to promoting religious tourism and interfaith harmony, allowing members of the Sikh



community to perform their religious obligations and participate in sacred rituals.

Pakistan regularly issues visas to Indian Sikh pilgrims for major religious occasions, including celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and hosts them as part of its efforts to facilitate religious pilgrimages.

Iran Israel Attack Today: Both Nations Exchange Air Strikes, Rattling Ceasefire

Iran Israel Attack Today Shakes Fragile Truce As Diplomacy Stalls



WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Israel launched air strikes deep inside Iran on Monday, marking a dramatic escalation in the Iran Israel attack today. Explosions were heard in three cities including the capital Tehran. The Israeli military confirmed it hit targets in western and central Iran.

The strikes came after Iran fired 11 missiles at Israel on Sunday. All were intercepted and no one was hurt. Israel called Iran's move a grave mistake and wasted no time in hitting back.

US President Donald Trump tried to stop Israel from retaliating. He reportedly called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and told him not to strike back. Trump said both sides had already exchanged blows and there was no need for more. But Israel went ahead anyway.

British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper also urged both sides to stop. She said resumed conflict between Iran & Israel serves no one's interest and called for diplomacy to take over.

Iran had warned earlier that any new Israeli attack on Beirut would restart the war in full. Tehran struck after Israel hit a command centre in

Beirut's Dahiyeh district. That raid killed two people and wounded 20 others.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards described their missile attack as a warning. They said if Israel strikes again, the response will be far bigger and will target all US and Israeli assets in the region.

The crisis also pushed oil prices higher. The Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil and gas, remains shut due to the conflict. Markets reacted with concern as the situation grew worse.

Pakistan is playing a role in trying to bring both sides to the table. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Tehran carrying a special letter from Pakistan's army chief for Iran's supreme leader. Pakistan's military chief has been actively mediating between Iran and the United States.

Iran's chief negotiator said the US-Iran talks are deadlocked. He called on Trump to release around 24 billion dollars in frozen Iranian assets. Trump refused, saying Iran must show good behaviour before any money is released.

Ordinary Iranians are feeling the pressure. A fitness trainer from Ahvaz told reporters that life feels like a joke and that people are simply trying to survive amid rising prices and constant uncertainty.

Mindanao Earthquake Tsunami Warning Issued After 7.8 Quake

Mindanao Earthquake Tsunami Warning Prompts Mass Evacuations Across Southern Philippines

WEB DESK

Philippine

A strong 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit off the southern Philippine island of Mindanao on Monday, prompting officials to issue a Mindanao earthquake tsunami warning for the Philippines, Indonesia, and the wider Pacific region. One person has died and authorities are still checking for more damage. Tsunami warnings went out quickly after the quake hit. People living near the coast were told to move to higher ground right away. The US Tsunami Warning System also issued an alert, making it a region-wide emergency. Radio station DZBB, based in General Santos city about 15 kilometres from the



epicentre, reported furniture falling, broken televisions, and damaged appliances. Many residents left their homes immediately after the shaking began. The General Santos disaster office confirmed that aftershocks are still being felt. Teams are on the ground checking reports of damage and injuries across the affected areas. In Sarangani province, which is closest to

the epicentre, power and phone lines went down. Schools were shut and local disaster chief Rene Punzalan said teams were working to assess the damage. No collapsed buildings have been reported so far.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said the national government was moving fast to respond. He promised Mindanao would not be left without support during this crisis. The Philippine agency Phivolcs warned of tsunami waves above one metre that could last for several hours. Indonesia's BMKG agency reported waves of around 0.19 metres detected along its coastline.

Police chief Benjie Ancheta from Alabel town said the quake was the strongest his community had ever felt. It struck during a flag-raising ceremony and caused cracks in the police building.



President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, members of the federal cabinet and parliamentarians at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore are also present.

Mehwish Hayat Shares Fitness And Lifestyle Moments

Actress Mehwish Hayat Invites Fans Into Her Everyday Journey

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Mehwish Hayat has given fans a fresh look into her personal and professional life through a vibrant new Instagram post that highlights everything from fitness routines to travel experiences.

The actress shared a collection of candid photographs featuring workout sessions, stylish athletic outfits, travel moments, fashion highlights, food experiences and behind-the-scenes snapshots from her career. The post offered followers a more personal perspective on her life away from



the spotlight.

From gym selfies and casual ponytail looks to travel diaries and lifestyle updates, the photo carousel showcased the many dimensions of Mehwish's day-to-day routine while reflecting her active and energetic lifestyle.

Accompanying the images was a

playful message directed at her fans. Referring to them as her "MVPs," Mehwish thanked followers for their continued support and asked whether they would like to see more workout content and behind-the-scenes glimpses from her

daily life.

Rawalakot Police Martyred as Banned JAAC Opens Fire in AJK Her caption hinted at the possibility of sharing additional fitness updates, wellness routines and exclusive moments from upcoming projects, giving fans a chance to

connect with her beyond her on-screen appearances.

The post quickly gained attention on social media, with admirers filling the comments section with compliments and encouragement. Many praised the actress for maintaining a healthy balance between work, fitness and personal interests while remaining closely connected with her audience.

Mehwish's latest update reflects the growing trend of celebrities using social media to share authentic moments from their everyday lives, allowing fans to engage with them on a more personal level.



Zoya Nasir's vibrant kaftan look steals the spotlight

In the photos, Alizeh kept it casual yet eye-catching, wearing a fitted orange short-sleeved V-neck T-shirt paired with light-wash denim bottoms.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress Hina Tariq has shared her views on maintaining modesty while working in the entertainment industry.

In a quote shared by a social media page, the actress said that she always wears a dupatta in dramas because she wants her future husband and children to see that she worked with dignity and respect. Hina said: "Main dramon mein hamesha dupatta leti hoon takay kal ko mera shohar aur bachay dekhein ke maine izzat se kaam kiya" The actress emphasized that the

choices she makes on screen today are something she wants to look back on proudly in the future. Her statement attracted attention online, with many fans praising her commitment to her personal values. Hina Tariq is among the emerging faces of Pakistan's television industry. After gaining popularity as a social media influencer and digital content creator, she switched to acting and built a growing fan base through her television appearances.

She gained recognition with projects such as Bharam, Nafrat and Naqaab, where her performances helped establish her as a promising young talent.

Sufi-opera star Saira Peter praised for London performance

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi expressed deep appreciation for the star.

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

- Historic performance of Pakistan's Sufi-opera star Saira Peter at London's Royal Albert Hall got appreciation.

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi expressed deep appreciation for the star.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said the achievement is a moment of pride for the entire nation, highlighting Pakistan's growing presence in global cultural and classical music arenas.

The Minister stated that Saira Peter's groundbreaking performance before a 5,000-strong audience at the Royal Albert Hall has not only elevated Pakistan's cultural image but has also demonstrated the power of music in bridging Eastern and Western traditions. He noted that her fusion of Sufi music with



Western opera represents a unique artistic identity that reflects Pakistan's diversity and creative strength.

He further praised her collaboration with international musicians and choirs, calling it a

at the Royal Albert Hall Royal Albert Hall.

He expressed confidence that her future international engagements will continue to bring honour to Pakistan and inspire emerging talent to pursue excellence in the creative arts.

"remarkable example of cultural diplomacy." According to him, such performances help project a soft and positive image of Pakistan globally and open new avenues for young artists in the fields of music, arts, and cultural exchange.

Concluding his statement, the Minister congratulated Saira Peter and her team for this historic milestone

Hundreds of Charlie Chaplin lookalikes gather in Switzerland

The unusual rally, drawing Chaplin fans of all ages, took place at a museum dedicated to the legendary filmmaker at his former home in Corsier-sur-Vevey in western Switzerland

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

More than 400 people donning black bowler hats, toothbrush moustaches and canes gathered in Switzerland on Sunday seeking to break the record for the biggest ever assembly of Charlie Chaplin lookalikes.

The unusual rally, drawing Chaplin fans of all ages, took place at a museum dedicated to the legendary filmmaker at his former home in Corsier-sur-Vevey in western Switzerland.

Timed to mark the 10th anniversary of the museum's opening, the gathering in the end drew 429 Chaplin lookalikes, falling short of the world record set there in 2017, when 662 people took part.

But that did not dampen the mood. Under a blazing sun, the Chaplins crowded together to form a giant number 10 on the lawn stretching before the large manor where the English movie icon spent the last 25 years



of his life.

"I am sincerely the happiest man alive," said Anthony Champeil, a dapper 36-year-old Frenchman who looked the spitting image of Chaplin, explaining that he was an actor who often played the film legend on stage.

"We are at Chaplin's place with people who are passionate about Chaplin," he told AFP. Suggesting that Chaplin had wanted to

encourage people to maintain a childlike capacity for wonder and play for as long as possible, he mused that the actor would have enjoyed having hundreds "of big kids gathered here today".

"I find it marvellous."

The museum is set on the vast estate of Manoir de Ban, about 26 kilometres (16 miles) from Lausanne, where Chaplin lived with his wife Oona and their

eight children until his death in 1977, at age 88.

He had moved to Switzerland after being barred from the United States in the 1950s over suspicions that he had communist sympathies, at the height of Cold War paranoia about Soviet infiltration.



MPA Saqib Chadhar Files complaint against Momina Iqbal

Areeba Habib Impresses Fans With Elegant Festive Style Statement

SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

The case involving actress Momina has taken a new turn after Saqib Chadhr also submitted an application seeking the registration of a case. According to reports, Saqib Chadhr has filed a complaint at Bhowana police station, stating that Rimsha Iqbal allegedly received money from him for the purpose of travelling to Australia and deposited it into a bank account. In his application, Chadhr alleged breach of trust, claiming that the

amount was transferred online from his account to Rimsha Iqbal's account. He further stated that a cheque worth Rs 3.9 million was deposited into Rimsha Iqbal's bank account. He added that the money was placed in her account temporarily to prepare financial statements required for her visa process to Australia.

On the other hand, police have confirmed receiving the application filed by PML-N MPA Muhammad Saqib Khan Chadhr against Rimsha Iqbal regarding allegations of breach of trust.

Sarah Khan supports husband Falak Shabir's dress code view



WEB DESK

KARACHI

ctor Sarah Khan, wife of singer Falak Shabir, took to social media to support her husband's remarks on women's attire, while sharing her

perspective on what feminism means to her. Khan's remarks, however, received mixed reactions online. Shabir became embroiled in an online controversy after requesting Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to "make a law against those who wear short dresses in public places, bazaars, and streets."

In response to the backlash, Khan defended her husband through a series of Instagram stories, arguing that his comments were not directed solely at women but at both genders.

Health Minister Launches Crackdown on Pakistan Nursing Council

HEALTH DESK

ISLAMABAD

Speaking during a visit to the Pakistan Nursing Council, the minister highlighted the urgent need to strengthen the nursing workforce, stating that Pakistan requires nearly 900,000 nurses to effectively support its healthcare system. He added that the international market currently has demand for around 2.5 million nurses. Marium Malik Islamabad Suicide After Online Trading Loss

Mustafa Kamal noted that several neighboring countries have successfully placed approximately 600,000 nurses in overseas markets, generating substantial foreign exchange. In comparison, he said only about 6,000 Pakistani nurses are currently employed abroad.

Describing nurses as the foundation of healthcare delivery, the minister said years of inadequate attention to the sector had contributed to a severe shortage of qualified nursing professionals across the country.

He alleged that an organized network had been operating within the Pakistan Nursing Council, negatively affecting the institution's performance and credibility. The minister further claimed that the council's former

president held office on the basis of a fake degree and that multiple legal disputes were associated with the appointment.

According to Mustafa Kamal, nearly 80 percent of council members had taken legal action against the former president and other officials, which he said reflected serious governance challenges within the organization.

The minister also accused certain officials, including the deputy registrar, of involvement in unlawful activities. He alleged that large amounts of money were collected from investors and citizens in exchange for approvals and registrations of nursing colleges, creating a culture of bribery that violated established regulations.

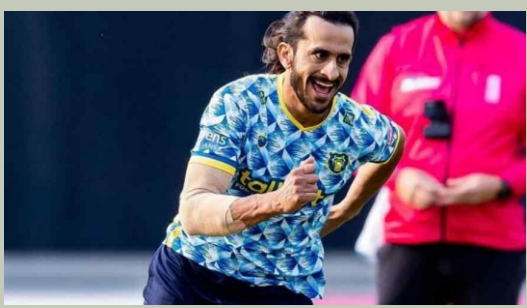
Announcing immediate corrective measures, Mustafa Kamal said the government would introduce reforms focused on transparency,



accountability and merit-based governance within the Nursing Council.

He added that efforts were underway to modernize Pakistan's nursing sector according to international standards, expand employment opportunities and enhance the country's competitiveness in the global healthcare workforce.

The health minister expressed optimism that these reforms would help overcome the nursing shortage, improve healthcare services nationwide and create greater opportunities for Pakistani nurses in international markets.



Hasan Ali sets world record for quickest 350 T20 wickets

WEB DESK

England

Pakistan fast bowler Hasan Ali has set a new world record in T20 cricket by becoming the fastest player to reach 350 wickets in the format.

The experienced pacer achieved the milestone during a Vitality Blast T20 match against Leicestershire, where he also picked up four wickets in the game.

Hasan Ali reached the landmark in just 243 matches, surpassing Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan, who previously held the record by completing 350 wickets in 251 matches.

The 2017 ICC Champions Trophy-winning bowler continues to add to his achievements with consistent performances in franchise cricket around the world.



Naqvi congratulates Tamim Iqbal on being electing BCP president

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal on being elected unopposed as the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

In his message, Naqvi extended best wishes to Tamim Iqbal and described his appointment as a positive development for the promotion of cricket in the region.

He expressed hope that under Tamim Iqbal's leadership, the Bangladesh Cricket Board would play an effective and constructive role in the growth and improvement of the game.

The PCB chairman's remarks highlight optimism for stronger cricketing ties and development across the region following the former international cricketer's new administrative role.

India Thrash Afghanistan by Innings and 300

● India Seal Massive Innings-and-300-Run Win Over Afghanistan

Sports desk

NEW CHANDIGARH

India secured a commanding innings-and-300-run victory over Afghanistan in the one-off Test on Monday, producing a dominant all-round performance at the Maharaja Singh PCA Stadium.

After winning the toss and choosing to bat, India posted a massive first-innings total of 564 for 8 declared, with several batters making significant contributions.

Shubman Gill led the charge with a superb 126 off 177 deliveries, striking 15 boundaries and a six. KL Rahul added a composed century, scoring 100 from 165 balls, while Rishabh Pant played an attacking knock of 81. Sai Sudharsan also made 81, and Washington Sundar remained unbeaten on 52 to strengthen India's grip on the match.

For Afghanistan, Mohammad Saleem was the most successful bowler, taking six wickets for 140 runs. Ziaur Rahman and Hashmatullah Shahidi claimed one wicket each.

PCB Considers Major Overhaul of National Team Management



WINNERS

In response, Afghanistan struggled against India's disciplined bowling attack and were dismissed for 152 in their first innings, conceding a deficit of 412 runs. Rahmat Shah showed resistance with a patient 60, while captain Hashmatullah Shahidi

contributed 20. Test debutant Manav Suthar made an immediate impact, claiming impressive figures of 6 for 33. Prasidh Krishna picked up three wickets, while Washington Sundar chipped in with one. Enforcing the follow-on, India

continued their dominance as Afghanistan were bowled out for just 112 in the second innings. Opener Sediqullah Atal top-scored with 42, while Rahmanullah Gurbaz added 24, but the visitors failed to mount any meaningful challenge.

PCB likely to drop ODI Captain Shaheen Afridi from Test plans permanently

● PCB has reportedly excluded Shaheen Afridi from Test plans, leaving him out of the red-ball camp while focusing on white-ball cricket structure.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has reportedly decided to permanently exclude ODI captain Shaheen Shah Afridi from the Test setup, with the fast bowler not included in the national Test camp.

According to the reports, the PCB think tank has not selected Shaheen Afridi as part of a major restructuring plan. He has, however, been placed in the white-ball group, which includes 27 players.

The PCB, according to the reports, has invited a total of 49 players to a training camp in Lahore, out of which 22 players have been shortlisted for the red-ball (Test) camp, while 27 players are included in the ODI and T20 camp.

Officials said the white-ball camp is scheduled to begin on September 18, while the red-ball camp will continue until July 10. The camp for the upcoming West Indies tour is expected to start from July 15.

Reports confirmed that Shaheen Afridi, who leads Pakistan's ODI side, has not been included in the Test camp squad. He is expected to report for the white-ball camp on June 15 along with other selected



players. Shaheen Afridi, 26, made his Test debut in December 2017 against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi and played his last Test in May 2026

against Bangladesh in Mirpur. In his Test career spanning 34 matches, he has taken 126 wickets. During Pakistan's last Test against Bangladesh, he picked up 3/113 in

the first innings and 2/54 in the second innings, but the team suffered a 104-run defeat. He was later dropped for the second Test in Sylhet.

Trump visit brings tight security for NBA Finals game

■ The New York Knicks host the San Antonio Spurs in game three of the best-of-seven championship series on Monday, with game four on Wednesday.



SPORTS DESK

LIVERPOOL

US authorities announced Monday tight security measures in New York to accommodate President Donald Trump's visit for game three of the NBA Finals at Madison Square Garden.

Unlike previous games, a sprawling security perimeter will be established around the Manhattan venue above Penn

Station, where six people were wounded in a stabbing late Sunday.

There will be no watch parties directly outside the venue for supporters without tickets due to the presidential visit -- a break with the past two NBA Finals games, which have seen jubilant scenes. New York City Police Chief Michael LiPetri told reporters that hundreds of officers are assigned to the transit hub, but said the deployment there "will not

have tickets for the game or some other valid reason to be there tonight," said NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch.

The Secret Service, responsible for protecting the US president, will be performing security alongside the NYPD.

"These visible security measures are designed to provide both protection and reassurance to everyone attending the NBA finals," Special Agent Matt McCool said at a news conference.

change in light of the incident yesterday."

The New York Knicks host the San Antonio Spurs in game three of the best-of-seven championship series on Monday, with game four on Wednesday.

As part of the heightened measures, authorities have told ticket-holding fans to arrive at Madison Square Garden at least two hours before tip-off at 8:30 pm (0030 Tuesday) to pass through airport-style security scanners.

"The message is simple: celebrate the Knicks, but avoid the MSG area tonight if you do not

Maaz Sadaqat ruled out for two weeks after appendicitis surgery

■ Maaz Sadaqat has been ruled out for at least two weeks after undergoing appendectomy in Lahore. He missed the National T20 Cup final and will join PCB



SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Left-hand batter Maaz Sadaqat has been ruled out of action for at least two weeks after undergoing Laparoscopic Appendectomy in a local hospital in Lahore today, the Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed. As a result, he was also ruled out of the ongoing final match of the ABS Developers National T20 Cup 2025-26 at the Gaddafi Stadium.

He trained with the Abbottabad squad on Saturday night, whom he joined as a replacement player for

advised for an immediate surgery for acute appendicitis.

His surgery took place successfully and he is vitally and hemodynamically stable with the PCB's medical team taking care of him. Maaz, who also opened for Pakistan against Australia in the recently concluded ODI series, was named among the 27 players for a white-ball camp in National Cricket Academy starting from Monday, 15 June. He will now join the camp upon recovery and due clearance from PCB's Medical Panel.

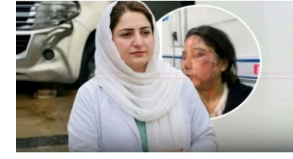


Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council and Prime Minister's Coordinator on National Paigham Aman Committee addressing religious scholars of Lahore Division regarding matters related to law & order and general conduct during the upcoming month of Muharam ul Haram at Town hall.

Doctors' Strike Continues Over Acid Attack Incident

■ Medical Services Disrupted As Quetta Doctors Demand Justice And Security

Staff Reporter
QUETTA



The protest, organized by the Young Doctors Association (YDA), was launched following the shocking attack on the 29-year-old doctor, who sustained serious injuries after allegedly being targeted with acid inside the hospital premises on Saturday. As a result of the strike, outpatient departments (OPDs) remained closed, causing significant difficulties for patients seeking medical treatment. Elective surgeries and non-emergency healthcare services were also affected,

while emergency departments continued to operate. The protesting doctors strongly condemned the incident and demanded immediate action to improve security for healthcare professionals. They called for the removal of the health secretary, the medical superintendent and the security in-charge of Civil Hospital Quetta, holding them responsible for security lapses. The YDA also demanded the formation of an independent

judicial commission to conduct a transparent investigation into the attack and ensure accountability for those involved. Doctors urged both the federal and provincial governments to introduce comprehensive measures to guarantee the safety and protection of medical staff working in public healthcare institutions. The acid attack on Dr Mahnoor Nasir has sparked outrage across the country, with political leaders, civil society representatives and medical professionals condemning the incident and calling for strict punishment of those responsible.

Four Security Personnel Martyred as Authorities Restore Order in Rawalakot

● The blockade reportedly disrupted routine medical services and patient care at the hospital.

SPECIAL REPORTER
Rawalakot

Authorities in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) have restored law and order in Rawalakot following a targeted overnight operation to clear the siege of the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), according to an official statement issued by AJK Police. The statement alleged that on the evening of June 7, armed members of a proscribed Action Committee attempted to disrupt public order by opening fire on law enforcement personnel and subsequently laying siege to CMH Rawalakot. The blockade reportedly disrupted routine medical services and patient care at the hospital.

Officials further claimed that



violent protesters set fires at multiple locations and damaged both public and private property during the unrest. Law enforcement agencies conducted what authorities described as a "well-coordinated, targeted and limited operation" during the night between June 7 and June 8 to end the hospital siege. According to the statement, the safety of civilians, patients,

medical staff and public property remained the top priority throughout the operation. The police said the hospital has now been completely cleared, and all medical services have resumed normal operations. According to official figures, four law enforcement personnel have been martyred since June 6, including three officers from AJK Police and one member of the

Frontier Constabulary. Several other security personnel were injured in the violence. The statement also claimed that three members of the banned Action Committee were killed as a result of indiscriminate firing by their own armed associates, while several others sustained injuries. One of the deceased was reportedly killed during the night of June 5-6. Authorities stated that the violent elements have been dispersed, peace has been restored, major highways have reopened to traffic, and markets and commercial centers have resumed normal activity. AJK Police praised the efforts of law enforcement agencies, describing their services in protecting lives, property and maintaining the writ of the state as commendable.



Rain forecast for Lahore revealed amid ongoing heatwave

■ Rain and thunderstorms are expected on June 11-12 in parts of Islamabad

STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE

Severe heat conditions are expected to persist across much of Pakistan, while several parts of Punjab, including Lahore, may receive rain and thunderstorms on June 11-12, according to weather and disaster monitoring authorities. The National Disaster Management Authority's National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) has warned that from June 7 to 12, southern parts of the country will continue to experience intense heat, while northern and mountainous regions may see intermittent rain and storm activity. The advisory also highlights an increased risk of landslides and flash floods due to accelerated glacier melting in upper regions. Authorities say Sindh, southern Punjab and low-lying areas of Balochistan are likely to remain under severe heat stress, with above-normal temperatures expected to persist in central and southern Punjab. Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad and northern Punjab are also forecast

to experience unusually hot weather between June 7 and 10. Rain and thunderstorms are expected on June 11-12 in parts of Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern Punjab, including Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Sialkot and Lahore. Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir may also receive scattered rainfall, while light rain with thunderstorms is possible in parts of northeastern Balochistan such as Zhob and Musa Khel. Most areas of Sindh, including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas and Tharparkar, are likely to remain hot and dry. The NEOC further cautioned that rising temperatures are speeding up glacier melt in northern regions, increasing the risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), flash floods and landslides in downstream valleys. Authorities have urged relevant departments to strengthen preparedness measures and advised the public to avoid unnecessary travel and follow official safety guidelines.

Rawalakot Civilian Killed: 7 Dead in AJK Police-JAAC Clash

■ At Least Seven Rawalakot Civilian Killed as Police Clash With JAAC Protesters in AJK

Staff Reporter
Rawalakot

Rawalakot civilian killed count has risen to at least seven after a deadly clash broke out between police and Joint Awami Action Committee protesters in Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. Four law enforcement personnel were also martyred during the violence. Poonch Commissioner Sardar Waheed Khan confirmed the death toll to Dawn. He also said that 30 people were arrested and 23 policemen were injured during the clashes. The trouble started on Friday night when a local trader was allegedly shot during a confrontation with law enforcement. His



death sparked massive outrage in the area. His family initially planned to bury him on Saturday. But they later brought the body back to the Combined Military Hospital in Rawalakot for a post-mortem. The funeral was delayed until Sunday. Even though the body was placed in the hospital mortuary, no post-mortem was carried out.

Scores of people gathered outside the CMH and started a sit-in protest. When police arrived to break up the crowd, tensions exploded. Riot police used batons and tear gas. Protesters responded by throwing stones. Officials say the demonstrators also attacked the CMH building. The family refused to bury the trader until the government withdrew its notification banning the JAAC. AJK authorities had declared JAAC a proscribed organisation on Friday, just days before a major protest the group had planned for June 9. The government accused it of terrorism and threatening peace in the region. On Saturday, police arrested scores of JAAC leaders and activists across AJK. The group's head office was also sealed.

Rawalakot Police Martyred as Banned JAAC Opens Fire in AJK

■ Rawalakot Police Martyred in Banned JAAC Attack in Azad Kashmir



WEB DESK
Rawalakot

Four Rawalakot police martyred and over 20 security personnel injured after activists of the banned Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee opened fire on law enforcement in Azad Kashmir on Monday. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Inspector General of Police condemned the attack. A spokesperson said the banned group deliberately targeted security personnel in the firing. The incident happened just days after the AJK government declared the JAAC a

proscribed organisation under anti-terrorism laws. The group had been planning a protest on June 9. The JAAC has a long history of organising large demonstrations over economic issues and political rights in the region. Several of those protests turned violent, including deadly clashes with police in May 2024 and September 2025. Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Sunday accused the banned group of creating instability. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had formed a high-level committee to hold talks with the group and a monitoring committee to ensure agreements were followed. The minister confirmed the government had fulfilled all its commitments. It had implemented agreed clauses, supported families of those killed and injured in earlier protests, and withdrawn 170 cases registered during demonstrations.



Youngsters jumping and bathing in canal to get some relief from hot weather in city.