

POSITIVE POST



Greenwich University

A Publication by Department of Mass Communication & Media Studies and the Diplomatic Academy

Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2021 covering socio-economic and political outcomes of the country. Several elements complemented the prospects including successful democratic transition, efficient counter-terrorism measures leading to enhanced peace and security, and foreign direct investment inflows under CPEC, among others. Albeit, decoupling economic growth from human development suggests that the country needs to enhance its scores in health, education and standard of living by ensuring political will, equitable financing and efficient governance to ensure parallel growth for marginalized segments as well. Civil and political liberties must grow hand in hand to ensure a conducive environment for democratic dialogue and accountability which ultimately supports its nation building process.

DEMOCRACY INDEX

Pakistan was placed at the 104th spot among 167 states on the global Democracy Index 2021, compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Index from 0 (authoritarian regime) to 10 (full democracy)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Electoral process and pluralism, Civil liberties, Functioning of government, Political participation, and Political culture.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Pakistan ranked 161 out of 192 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 2022 0.562 out of 1.000 in 2018 compared to 0.560 out of 1.000 in 2017.

Index from 0 (low development) to 1 (very high development)

Compiled based on indicators covering: life expectancy, education, and per capita income

PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Pakistan's press freedom rank dropped to 145 out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index, An annual ranking of countries published by Reporters Without Borders (RWB), an international non-governmental organization dedicated to safeguard the right to freedom of information.

Compiled based on indicators covering: pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and infrastructure.

TERRORISM INDEX

Terrorism Index in Pakistan decreased to 7.83 in 2021 from 7.92 in 2020.

Index from 0 (lowest impact) to 10 (highest impact)

Compiled based on indicators covering : Total number of terrorist incidents in a given year, total number of fatalities caused by terrorism in a given year, total number of injuries caused by terrorism in a given year and the approximate level of total property damage from terrorist incidents in a given year.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

In 2021, index of economic freedom for Pakistan was 51.7 score. Though Pakistan index of economic freedom fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through 2002 - 2021 period ending at 51.7 score in 2021.

Compiled based on indicators covering: Market openness, Regulatory efficiency, Government size and the rule of law.

Positive Post is a strategic effort to project achievement and contributions of Pakistan. While showcasing Greenwich University's cultural diplomacy initiatives, it also encapsulates a compilation of different developments complementing Pakistan's socio-cultural, economic & Political outcomes

Historic September

30 September 1947: Pakistan becomes a member of the UN by a unanimous vote of the Security Council.

14 September, 1949: Khwaja Nazimuddin becomes 2nd Governor-General of Pakistan.

September 30, 1950: Afghan troops cross into the Chaman District, before they are defeated and repulsed in just six days.

21 September, 1954: Constituent Assembly unanimously passes the resolution in favour of Urdu and Bengali as national languages.

September 23, 1955: Baghdad Pact treaty among Iraq, Turkey, the U.K., Pakistan, and Iran is ratified by Pakistan.

September 30, 1955: One Unit Scheme is implemented, provinces in West Pakistan are abolished.

September 1956: Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy becomes Prime Minister of Pakistan.

6 September, 1965: Second Full-scale war erupts between Pakistan and India over Kashmir.

16 September, 1978: General Muhammad Zia ul-Haq becomes Pakistan's sixth president.

6 September, : Asif Zardari wins presidential election with 481 votes.

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Trump looks to Muslim bloc for Gaza peace deal

After an antagonistic speech at the UN General Assembly, where he opposed a growing global push towards the recognition of a Palestinian state, US President Donald Trump met Muslim leaders, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to present his plan to end Israel's war on Gaza.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the 80th UNGA at United Nations Headquarters, brought together leaders from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Türkiye and Indonesia.

Ahead of the meeting, in a televised interaction with Muslim leaders, Trump said: "We have to get the hostages back... This is the group that can do it, more than any other group in the world... so it's an honour to be with you."

"We had 32 meetings here, this is the one that's very important because we're gonna end something that should've probably never started," he said, before the start of formal consultations with world leaders.

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani thanked the president for hosting such an important meeting at such an important time, saying that they were only there to stop the war and bring the prisoners back.

"We count on your leadership as well to end this war and to help the people of Gaza," the Qatari leader said.

'Stop the war immediately'



Earlier, in his speech at the UNGA, Trump said that greater recognition for Palestine would amount to rewarding "horrible atrocities" by Hamas.

He called on world powers to focus instead on securing the release of prisoners held in Gaza.

Trump said the US wants a 'cease-fire-for-prisoners' deal that would see the return of all remaining prisoners, alive and dead.

"We have to stop the war in Gaza immediately. We have to immediately negotiate peace," he said.

Reacting to Trump's address, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the US leader's "commitment to establishing peace in the world," saying it showed he was "indeed a man of peace".

He also recalled that Trump and his team had "played a crucial role in preventing a potentially devastating war between India and Pakistan," adding: "For that we thank him from the depths of our hearts."

The remarks came ahead of the

multi-lateral meeting with Muslim leaders, where Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also accompanied PM.

When asked about the upcoming meeting by reporters, PM Shehbaz refused to comment, saying: "It is not the right time; I will speak about it only after the meeting is over."

The PM Office also released pictures showing PM Shehbaz in a meeting with Qatari emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.

Both the White House and Pakistan's mission in Washington were expected to hold a briefing after the meeting, but no formal statements were issued until going to press.

According to the White House, Trump's plan envisions a phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the deployment of regional peace-keeping troops, and an internationally supported transition and reconstruction process for the

battered enclave.

Quoting diplomatic sources, Israel's Channel 12 and US-based Axios reported that while the plan had not been drafted by Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been made aware of its outlines.

It envisages a role for the Palestinian Authority (PA), but not for Hamas, which both Washington and Tel Aviv insist must be dismantled.

Washington wants Arab and Muslim countries to agree to send military forces to Gaza to enable Israel's withdrawal and to secure funding for transition and rebuilding programs, Axios reported.

Ahead of the multilateral meeting, Secretary of State Marco Rubio told Fox News that the only way to a permanent solution to the "challenge between Palestinians and Israelis is a negotiated settlement".

Describing the possible deal, he said it would be "one in which the Palestinians are going to have a territory and they're going to govern it, but it cannot be one that's going to be used as a launchpad for attacks against Israel."

In separate remarks to CBS News, he described the multilateral meeting as "one last shot" at ending the conflict in Gaza, getting all remaining prisoners released, and putting in place a humanitarian relief programme.

Courtesy:

Ali Zafar announces fundraising concert for flood victims on September 27, 2025

Renowned singer, songwriter, and recipient of the Presidential Pride of Performance Award, Ali Zafar, has announced a special fundraising concert dedicated to helping families devastated by recent floods across Pakistan. The charity event will be held on September 27, 2025, at the Alhambra Cultural Complex in Lahore.

Alongside Ali Zafar's performance, several other well-known artists are expected to make sur-

prise appearances, with names to be revealed soon. According to organisers, all proceeds from the concert will be directed through the Ali Zafar Foundation to support rehabilitation and relief efforts for families who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the disaster. Ticket sales have already begun on the "Ticket Wala" platform, with organizers urging fans to take part in this humanitarian cause. In his message, Ali Zafar emphasized the spirit behind the



initiative: "This concert is not just about music; it is a voice of hope.

Let us stand together as a beacon

for those still waiting for help, for those who need us the most.

Courtesy:

Dar seeks steps against Israel to safeguard global order

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday called for urgent steps against Israel to “safeguard the global order”, in the wake of Tel Aviv’s strike on Qatar earlier.

Attending a ministerial meeting in the Doha, Dar delivered a speech where he highlighted that the frequency of meetings to discuss Israel’s activities in the region underlines “how Israel has become a persistent irritant and a danger to world peace and security”, according to the Foreign Office (FO).

Deputy PM Dar was welcomed in Doha by Qatari officials, ahead of a ministerial meeting of the Arab-Islamic summit, on Sept 14. He was quoted as saying that Pakistan “condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the illegal and unprovoked Israeli aggression against the brotherly State of Qatar”.

“This reckless and provocative attack constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Qatar, contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, including the UN Charter, in particular its Article 2(4) prohibiting the threat or use of force.”

Calling the attack “unwarranted, unjustified and appalling”, the foreign minister highlighted that this activity is emblematic of Israel’s rogue mindset, which disregards international law and norms.

“No state is safe from such an unhinged entity that defies all precepts of civilised behaviour, Dar stated. “The question of Israeli accountability is a test for the credibility of the global system.”



The foreign minister highlighted urgent steps that need to be taken “to safeguard the global order”. The measures suggested include accountability of Israel for war crimes and crimes against humanity, creation of an Arab-Islamic task force to monitor the Israeli designs in the region and adopt effective deterrent and offensive measures in a synchronised manner to ward off Israeli expansionist designs, pursue the suspension of Israel’s membership in the UN, additional punitive measures against Israel as a means to reinforce accountability and deter further violations of international law, unfettered, sustained and secure humanitarian access to all civilians in need, and the protection of aid workers, medical teams and UN personnel in the [occupied territories of Palestine], UNSC’s demand from Israel for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire as well as release of all prisoners, and the revival of a genuine and time-bound political process to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting two-state solution in accordance with international law and relevant UN and OIC resolutions.

Earlier, upon his arrival, the deputy premier was received by Pakistan’s Ambassador to Qa-

tar Muhammad Aamer, Pakistan’s envoy to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and senior officials of the Qatari government. On the sidelines of the foreign ministers’ meeting, Mr Dar met Egypt’s FM Dr Badr Abdelatty. “They condemned illegal Israeli strikes on Qatar and other Muslim nations, terming them blatant violations of sovereignty and international law. Both reaffirmed their unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and stressed the urgent need for unity across the Muslim ummah,” FO said in a statement.

Mr Dar also his Iranian counterpart, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, on the sidelines of the meeting. According to the FO, they strongly condemned Israel’s unprovoked strikes on Qatar and other Muslim nations, terming them grave violations of sovereignty, international law, and the UN Charter.

“Both (leaders) underscored the pivotal role of the Arab League and the OIC in uniting the Muslim Ummah at this critical juncture and reaffirmed their unwavering support for the Palestinian people’s just struggle for freedom and self-determination,” the FO statement added.

Besides, Mr Dar also met Malaysia’s Foreign Minister Dato’ Seri Mohamad Hasan on the sidelines of the meeting. “They strongly condemned Israeli strikes on Qatar and other Muslim nations as gross violations of sovereignty and international law. They reaffirmed unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. They welcomed the Arab-Islamic Summit as timely and essential for collective action at this critical juncture.”

Courtesy: Dawn

Shabana Mahmood Appointed UK Home Secretary in Starmer’s Cabinet Shake-Up

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has appointed Shabana Mahmood as the United Kingdom’s new Home Secretary. Mahmood, a lawmaker of Pakistani descent, steps into one of the country’s most powerful offices during a major cabinet reshuffle.

Her appointment followed the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner. At just 44, Shabana Mahmood now holds the distinction of being the most senior Muslim in British politics. This marks a historic moment in the nation’s political landscape.

Mahmood’s career began as a barrister. Since 2010, she has served as a Member of Parliament, taking on several shadow portfolios over the years. In recent months, she worked as justice minister in Starmer’s team. Importantly, Shabana Mahmood refused to serve under Jeremy Corbyn when he led Labour, reflecting her independent political approach.

The reshuffle came after Angela Rayner stepped down. Britain’s independent adviser had ruled that she breached the ministerial code by not paying the correct tax. Her departure forced Starmer into a broader reshuffle than anticipated. It also gave him an opportunity to reassert control after a week of political turbulence.

Along with Shabana Mahmood’s appointment at the Home Office, other key changes were made. Yvette Cooper, who previously held the Home Office brief, became foreign minister. David Lammy was elevated to deputy prime minister and justice secretary.

A Labour lawmaker admitted that Rayner was “a big beast and hard to replace.” Yet, the three appointments were described as “sound” and steady, even if not dramatic. Loyal allies and a new direction

Starmer turned to what he called his “loyal



friends” to stabilize his government. Just a week earlier, he reshaped his Downing Street team to strengthen the economic advisory unit. The addition of Shabana Mahmood as Home Secretary signals a new path for the Home Office. It also strengthens representation at the highest levels of government.

With this reshuffle, Keir Starmer aims to rebuild authority, calm political unrest, and show a fresh direction for his leadership. For Shabana Mahmood, the new role is both a personal milestone and a national landmark.

Courtesy: Khyber news

At SCO, PM Shehbaz stresses alignment with Xi's vision

As world leaders gathered in Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that all endeavours and initiatives of his government were closely aligned with Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision and philosophy, which are anchored in the progress and prosperity of China.

PM Shehbaz spent a busy day, holding bilateral meetings and attending events on the side lines of the two-day Council of Heads of State (CHS) summit.

The prime minister is leading a delegation from Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit. The SCO comprises China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus. Another 16 countries are affiliated as observers or "dialogue partners".

Leaders from Mongolia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkiye, Egypt, the Maldives, Myanmar and others, as well as the chief of the United Nations and heads of various regional and international organisations, are also attending as part of the expanded format.

Indian PM Narendra Modi, who was in China for his first visit since 2018, also met the Chinese premier, expressing a commitment to improve ties with Beijing in the backdrop of stringent US tariffs. Russian President Vladimir Putin also touched down in Tianjin on Sunday along with an entourage of senior politicians and business representatives.

At a banquet held to welcome international guests, President Xi Jinping said on Sunday that the SCO shouldered a great responsibility towards safeguarding regional peace and stability, and for boosting development of various countries in a world of increasing uncertainties and accelerated changes.

According to China Daily, he expressed confidence that with concerted efforts of all parties, the summit will be a complete success, and that the SCO is certain to play an even bigger role and achieve more progress, making greater contribution to boosting the unity and cooperation among member states, pooling the strength of the Global South and pushing for more progress of human civilisation.

Apart from President Xi, PM Shehbaz also met Russian Pres-



ident Vladimir Putin, Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko, Azeri President Ilham Aliyev, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, President of Maldives Mohamed Muizzu and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

He also attended the reception for world leaders, where he was welcomed by President Xi and First Lady Peng Liyuan.

Earlier, addressing students and faculty members of Tianjin University, PM Shehbaz lauded President Xi's visionary leadership, saying that it had conveyed to the entire globe that long-lasting friendship could be achieved through multilateralism and not through unilateralism, while

shared progress and prosperity could be conceived through joint teams' work and not through exclusive rights.

The prime minister lauded the Chinese leadership and its people for transforming the country into the second-largest economy and military powerhouse in the world through hard work, sincerity and untiring efforts.

PM Shehbaz asserted that the incumbent government in Pakistan was also committed to eradicating corruption and poverty, and went on to claim that "not a single corruption case had emerged" during the current government's tenure. "We have a shared destiny with China and should learn from the knowledge imparted by the Chinese universities to bring economic [and] agricultural prosperity to the people of Pakistan," he said.

Courtesy: Dawn,

Gulf states to form 'regional shield' against threats

GULF Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have pledged sweeping steps to bolster collective defence, including plans to increase intelligence sharing, develop new missile warning systems, and hold joint defence drills, after Israel launched a deadly strike on Doha earlier this month. Following an emergency Arab-Islamic summit, where leaders expressed alarm about Israel's attacks across the Middle East, GCC officials met in Doha to discuss military intelligence unification, UAE-based The National reported.

The GCC a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern nations: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates has agreed to expand intelligence sharing through Unified Military Command. The six-member bloc said they

would fast-track the creation of a regional early-warning system to counter ballistic missiles and share the "air situation" with all affected countries. The measures will also see joint troops and command-centre drills within three months, to be followed by live air defence exercises, the statement said.

To address all risks and challenges, continuous efforts across military and intelligence sectors will be undertaken to enhance Gulf security cooperation and integrate the security systems, the statement added.

"The priority is ensuring the security, stability and safety of all GCC countries," the council said, warning of the risks to a region already unsettled by months of conflict. The decision comes days after Israel targeted a Hamas delegation

in Doha that had been discussing ceasefire terms for the war in Gaza. The strike killed five members of the Palestinian group, including the son of exiled political leader, alongside a Qatari security officer. Qatar said it had received no prior warning before the explosions erupted in its capital and Hamas said its senior leadership survived the attack

During the meeting, the council denounced Israeli strikes as a "dangerous and unacceptable" provocation. Delegates in Doha included senior defence officials from all six Gulf states, with the Mohammed Al Mazrouei, the UAE's Minister of State for Defence Affairs; Bahrain's Minister of Defence Affairs, Lt Gen Abdullah Al Nuaimi; Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Defence, Prince Abdulrah-



man bin Mohammed; Secretary General of the Oman's Ministry of Defence, Mohammed Al Zaa-bi; Kuwait's Minister of Defence Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al Abdullah Al Sabah; and Jasem Al Budaiwi. The presence of all ministers underscored, officials said, the urgency of forging a common regional shield. While the GCC has long spoken of greater military integration, efforts have often faltered amid political rivalries and divergent threat perceptions. Thursday's agreement, amid the gravity of Israel's unprecedented strike inside Qatar, was presented as a turning point.

Courtesy: Dawn,

China's Xi pledges economic support for Pakistan

Chinese President Xi Jinping in a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday pledged support for Pakistan's home-grown capacity for development, expressing readiness to build China-Pakistan Economic Corridor 2.0 and upgrade the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, and step up cooperation in industries, agriculture, and mining sectors.

Separately, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Russia required to be enhanced and stressed on taking steps in this regard, while also extending invitation to PM Shehbaz to visit Russia in November.

The PM, who held separate meetings with President Xi and President Putin in Beijing during his visit to China to attend SCO summit, expressed gratitude to both countries for what he called 'unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty' and hope that the strong ties would add to the progress and prosperity of the region.

According to PM Office, Pakistan and China on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the iron-clad and all-weather strategic cooperative partnership through enhanced cooperation, reflecting their unique bilateral relationship.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed in a meeting between PM Shehbaz and Chinese President Xi at the Great Hall of the People, wherein they agreed that the relationship between both countries was unique and unparalleled, which should be reflected in their enhanced cooperation.

PM Shehbaz appreciated "China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and socio-economic development, as well as the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a flagship project of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to help both countries to build an even stronger

Pakistan-China community with a shared future".

He reaffirmed the desire to continue working closely with China for the successful implementation of the next phase of upgraded CPEC, with its five new corridors.

The PM Office quoted President Xi as saying that China would continue to assist Pakistan in all fields of economic growth and

security of Chinese nationals, who have been repeatedly attacked by militants while working on Beijing-funded multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects in the South Asian country.

However, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who joined the PM in China and attended the meeting with President Xi, confirmed that the Chinese head of state has raised the issue of Chinese nationals' se-

ber, the premier replied that he was looking forward to it.

President Putin said, "Pakistan has always been a traditional partner and remains as such in Asia, and we cherish these ties," adding that both sides had agreed to intensify their bilateral relations.

He noted that their bilateral trade needed to be enhanced and stressed taking steps to address the issue.

Courtesy: Dawn,



development, especially as the two countries were now ushering in second phase of CPEC that would focus on Pakistan's most important economic sectors.

PM Shehbaz renewed his "most cordial" invitation to President Xi to undertake an official visit to Pakistan next year when both countries would celebrate the 75th anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties.

Security issue

Also, President Xi said China supports Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism and hopes "effective measures" would be taken to "ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Pakistan, to create a secure environment for bilateral cooperation".

According to Reuters, China pressed Pakistan to improve se-

curity in Pakistan. "He (President Xi) said security is important," the minister quoted the Chinese president as saying.

Meeting with Putin

Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz met President Putin and expressed gratitude to the Russian president for supporting Pakistan, saying that was viewed as 'a balancing act in the region'.

Both leaders agreed to further enhance the bilateral ties and cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields.

PM Shehbaz said Pakistan respected Russia's ties with India and wanted to establish very strong relations of its own, which would be "supplementary and complementary".

Responding to Putin's invitation to attend the SCO Heads of Government Summit in Novem-

Buddhist monks' delegation visits Badshahi Mosque in Lahore

An international delegation of Buddhist monks visited the historic Badshahi Mosque in Lahore.



The visitors were briefed on the mosque's rich historical and architectural significance during the tour.

The delegation described the visit as an important step toward promoting interfaith harmony and peaceful coexistence, while also conveying goodwill messages to the people and government of Pakistan.



They expressed hope that such exchanges would further strengthen dialogue among civilizations and foster mutual understanding.

Courtesy: The Nation

Pakistan to have cancer registry; National Institutes of Health bill signed

In a bid to reform the health sector, President Asif Ali Zardari approved the National Institutes of Health (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill 2025, which aims to reorganise the institution and also set up a cancer database.

The president also approved the Anti-Dumping Duties Amendment Bill 2025 for legal clarity regarding the imposition of anti-dumping duties on projects funded by Chinese grants.

The National Assembly passed the NIH bill on August 12, 2025. "There is a dire need for establishing the national cancer registry to understand the actual burden of disease, and to implement a national action plan for cancer prevention, and management strategies to control the growing epidemic," according to the bill.

"Through this bill, the structure and governance of the National Institute of Health will be made more effective. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure the reorganisation of the institution and enhance its performance," the President Secretariat's press wing

said in a press release. It said that the approval of the bill marked a significant step toward reforms in the health sector and institutional improvement.

The NIH bill said that the centre "shall assure the registration of cancer patients in central repository" to understand the actual burden of disease and to implement a national action plan for its prevention.

It also envisaged management strategies to control the growing epidemic, collect data on the cancer cases and establish a database of the cancer patients.

Through this bill, the government also aimed to encourage awareness at the village and union council level and to work with other governmental and non-governmental agencies whose goal was the eradication of cancer.

It said the center would register the cancer cases under the 'confirmed cancer cases', 'deaths due to cancer', 'recoveries from cancer', 'hospitalised pendency of cancer', and cancer demographic informa-



tion (age, gender, location).

As per the bill, the personal particulars of a cancer patient would not be disclosed to any unauthorised person without the prior written consent of the patient.

The bill said the cancer cases were rising globally at a remarkable rate. According to the Global Cancer Observatory, the total number of cases in Pakistan was 178,388 in 2020; and these figures were provided by the Punjab Cancer Registry, which represented the population of Lahore and some parts of central Punjab.

"Considering the overall 220 million population, these figures are severe underestimation of the true cancer burden in Pakistan," the bill added. It said that several attempts at establishing a national

cancer registry in the country had failed in the past due to resource limitations.

Anti-dumping duties bill

President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the Anti-Dumping Duties Amendment Bill 2025. "Following his approval, the duties will be effective from July 1, 2020. The bill was sent to the President after (it was) adopted by the National Assembly and (the) Senate," the President Secretariat's media wing said.

It said that the bill was approved to provide legal clarity regarding the imposition of anti-dumping duties on projects, funded by China.

The decision for this amendment was made during the progress review meeting of the Gwadar projects in October 2022.

Courtesy: Dawn

Taxpayers can declare assets 'without formal valuation'

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has said that taxpayers are free to declare the market value of their movable and immovable assets at their own discretion, in tax returns for the year 2025, without requiring formal valuation or supporting documents.

But this flexibility does not apply to high-net-worth individuals, who remain subject to stricter reporting requirements under Section 7E of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001. The clarification came in the wake of misinformation, circulating on social media, regarding amendments to the income tax return form.

The FBR has so far received 2.7 million tax returns. Tax bar associations have meanwhile requested an extension of the filing deadline. According to an official statement, the income tax return form for 2025 released on July 7 explicitly requires taxpayers to declare the

market value of their assets, as outlined on page 66 of the form.

FBR says high-net-worth individuals subject to more strict reporting requirements; those who have submitted returns do not need to revise.

Recent scrutiny of filed returns, however, revealed a widespread anomaly: a significant number of taxpayers had entered zero in the asset valuation section, raising concerns over compliance and data accuracy.

To address this, the FBR has restricted the entry of zero in the asset valuation column. "All taxpayers are now required to declare the value of their assets," said FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial, stressing that no amendment had been made to the law only a technical adjustment in the system to prevent the misuse.

The FBR further explained that

asset valuation data except disclosures by high-net-worth individuals is not used to calculate tax liability. Therefore, any inaccuracies in this field will not result in tax notices.

Even so, taxpayers have been urged to declare values reasonably aligned with prevailing market conditions, as a matter of transparency and good faith.

The statement added that individuals who have already filed their returns will not be required to revise or refile them. Asset valuation entries are neither considered in tax assessments nor in the reconciliation of wealth statements.

It also confirmed that the IRIS system is fully operational, and taxpayers are urged to file their returns before the September 30 deadline.

The FBR also rejected misleading



claims circulating on social media regarding amendments to the return form, clarifying that no SRO had been issued in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Tax Bar Association and Karachi Tax Bar Association have written to Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, calling for an inquiry into the technical issues affecting return filings.

They have also formally requested an extension of the deadline to ensure taxpayers receive adequate support in submitting their returns.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistani student blends aerospace innovation with musical passion in China

Rana Shahid, a 2023 PhD candidate at China's Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (NUAA), is drawing attention both for his research on solar-powered aircraft design and for his growing presence as a musician – showing that science and creativity can thrive together. The Pakistani student recently impressed audiences at the semi-finals of the Asia New Singer competition in Nanjing with a performance mixing Urdu and English lyrics. His musical talent has made him a familiar figure at university events, where he often shares Pakistani musical traditions with international students. As vice president of the university's guitar club, he is also learning Chinese songs and has already mastered the popular ballad Qing Hua. He is now working on his own Chinese-language composition, which he hopes to release

soon. Alongside his artistic pursuits, Shahid is engaged in innovative research on designing small aircraft powered by solar cells for uses such as delivery services and short-distance transport. "We're creating practical ways to tap into solar energy – it's a sustainable approach to aviation," he said. His team has already submitted a prototype in a national competition, China Economic Net reported. Shahid's interest in aircraft design began in childhood. While searching for a university specializing in aerospace engineering, he discovered NUAA and contacted a professor whose work matched his research interests. "My professor has been incredibly supportive, both in research and in helping me adapt to life in China," he said. Music has long been a parallel passion. Inspired by Pakistani pop legend Atif Aslam, Shahid taught himself guitar through online tu-



torials. Before moving to China, he co-produced a music video titled Corona Awareness, which gained recognition in Pakistan. His music is now also available on Chinese platforms such as Tencent and NetEase Cloud Music.

He often performs at local cultural spots such as the Confucius Temple in Nanjing, and enjoys exploring the city's historic sites, including Purple Mountain and the Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum,

to deepen his understanding of Chinese culture. Looking ahead, Shahid says he intends to contribute further to solar energy and aircraft design in both China and Pakistan. At the same time, he remains committed to music – a pursuit he believes complements his scientific career, balances his life, and helps build bridges of cultural exchange between the two peoples.

Courtesy: The Nation

Pakistan to establish first-ever Buddhist cultural, information centre at Lok Virsa

Pakistan is set to establish its first-ever Buddhist Cultural and Information Centre at Lok Virsa in Islamabad, a landmark initiative aimed at promoting inter-faith harmony, religious tourism, and cultural preservation. The announcement was made by Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, who said the project reflects Pakistan's commitment to showcasing its pluralistic heritage and welcoming international visitors. He explained that the center will provide facilities such as meditation spaces and cultural resources, while serving as a hub to highlight Pakistan's Buddhist history. "Just as Sikh and other religious tourists visit our country, we want to extend the same welcome

to the global Buddhist community. Pakistan is home to sacred sites that deserve global recognition and respect," he said. The initiative comes as part of a broader cultural revival, anchored in the National Culture Policy, which will be launched soon following the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "This policy is a national mission to preserve our identity, empower our artists and writers, and project Pakistan's true image of peace, creativity, and ancient civilizations," Khichi emphasized. He said suggestions from all provinces are being incorporated into the policy to ensure inclusivity. "We want to tell the world that Pakistan is not defined by conflict. From Mehrgarh to Harappa, Mohenjodaro to Taxila, our culture spans thousands of years," he added. The minister revealed that Pakistan has submitted applications to UNESCO for the inclusion of four new heritage sites, as no site has been added since 1998. He noted that Buddhist landmarks, including the Shah Allah Ditta Caves, are being developed with upgraded facilities to make them world-class tourist attractions.

Courtesy: The Nation

Film 'Kalisa Mere Agaye' officially launches trailer song



Kalisa Mere Agaye, a Canadian-Pakistani art film written and directed by Rubina Faisal, is all set to leave a mark on the international film circuit. Produced under the banner of One \$ Production, the film features Hamza Ellahi in the lead role and explores the struggles, identity crises, and emotional challenges faced by Pakistanis living in Western societies.

The much-anticipated trailer song was officially launched recently at an exclusive ceremony in Toronto, attended by members of the film fraternity, media representatives, and members of the Pakistani diaspora. The event offered audiences their first glimpse of the film's raw storytelling and heartfelt performances.

Speaking at the launch, director Rubina Faisal said Kalisa Mere Agaye is more than just a cinematic project; it is a mirror of the lived experiences of countless overseas Pakistanis who grapple with questions of belonging, cultural adjustment, and resilience in unfamiliar lands.

With its powerful narrative, artistic vision, and cultural authenticity, the film is expected to resonate not only with South Asian communities but also with global audiences who value stories rooted in human struggle and identity. The film is scheduled for release later this year, with additional promotional events to be held in both Canada and Pakistan.

Courtesy: The Nation



4th CNS All Pakistan Hockey Tournament kicks off in Lahore

The 4th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) All Pakistan Hockey Tournament 2025 commenced at the iconic National Hockey Stadium, Lahore. Commander Central Punjab of Pakistan Navy, Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie, officially inaugurated the prestigious event by hitting the ball to mark the opening. The tournament, scheduled from September 25 to October 4, features eight leading departmental teams, including Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, Mari Petroleum, Rangers, Police, Port Qasim, and National Bank of Pakistan. Matches will be supervised by technical officials of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF).



Addressing the opening ceremony, the chief guest welcomed all participating teams and emphasised the importance of sports, particularly hockey, which holds the status of Pakistan's national

game and carries a glorious legacy. He noted that the championship will not only provide players with an excellent platform to showcase their skills but also revive interest in hockey among youth while of-

fering thrilling contests for fans. Summer clearance sparks shopping spree as winter wear rolls out in branded and local outlets: report

In the opening match, Pakistan Navy registered a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Port Qasim to set the tone for the competition. First introduced in 2016, the CNS All Pakistan Hockey Tournament has grown into a permanent and prominent fixture on the national hockey calendar. Pakistan Navy has consistently played a leading role in promoting and supporting sports at both national and international levels.

Courtesy: The Nation

Zainab, Sudais claim titles at Inter School Squash Championship



Zainab Naveed (APS School) and Sudais Pracha (Beaconhouse Discovery Centre) clinched titles at the Inter School Boys & Girls Squash Championship 2025 that concluded on September 23-24 at the Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan-Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, Karachi. In all, 35 promising players from eight schools showcased their skills and passion for the game. In the girls' junior category, Zainab Naveed (APS School) emerged champion with a commanding 3-0 victory over Syeda Anabiya (The Smart School), securing the title with scores of 11/6, 11/7, 11/8. In

the boys' junior category, Sudais Pracha (Beaconhouse Discovery Centre) battled past Tahoor Tahir (AMI School) in an exciting four-set final, winning 3-1 (11/9, 7/11, 11/8, 11/8). Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Umar, Manager of Roshan Khan-Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, highlighted the significance of such tournaments in nurturing talent at the grassroots level. He applauded the winners and runners-up for their commitment and passion, calling the event a vital platform for the future of squash in Pakistan.

Courtesy: The Nation

Contenue launches as the next-generation creative powerhouse

Contenue, a company dedicated to reshaping entertainment in the region and beyond, has officially launched.

Founded by Usman Malik, the force behind bringing and executing Shark Tank Pakistan and a driving figure in reviving the country's international formats market, Contenue is setting out to blend storytelling, technology, and global partnerships to create world-class content for both local and international audiences.

"Contenue is not your average media company. We approach every piece of content as a science, where every investment and return is measured. Every acquisition and IP development will be backed by data — and our proprietary media tech engine, currently under development, will power it all," said Usman Malik, Founder & CEO of Contenue.

The company's upcoming slate will feature the world's top scripted and non-scripted content,

alongside original IP development and digital-first projects. Launching first in Pakistan, where a young, digitally engaged population is driving demand for premium entertainment.



With a focus on the region's untapped creative potential, Contenue seeks to redefine what entertainment from the region looks like on the global stage.

Courtesy: The Nation

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