





# Naqvi imposes ban on cleaning of schools by students across Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted a comprehensive inspection at the Government Junior Model High School Model Town. The conditions observed were deeply concerning; several classrooms lacked furniture, forcing students to study on the bare floor. The washrooms were unclean and devoid of water, and the electric water coolers were malfunctioning. Broken furniture, damaged whiteboards, dilapidated doors and windows without glass and grilles

further contributed to the dismal state of the classrooms. Similarly, there was only one sweeper available for a student population of 750. In addition to these issues, sports activities were suspended, classrooms exhibited peeling paint and cobwebs, lighting was inadequate, and some fans were inoperable. Both the computer and science labs were found to be non-functional and in poor condition, respectively. The CM went to every classroom, engaging with the students to understand their concerns.

The students voiced grievances about the absence of clean drinking water, insufficient water in washrooms, broken furniture, and damaged whiteboards. They also highlighted issues such as dim lighting, non-functional fans, the absence of sports activities, and the necessity to purchase textbooks from the market. The chief minister also interacted with nursery class children, expressing his commitment to providing them with essential educational facilities and instructing for their prompt provision.

The CM expressed dissatisfaction upon witnessing the deplorable conditions and summoned Education Minister Mansoor Qadir, secretary schools, secretary C&W and the CEO district education authority to the school to rectify these issues. Acknowledging the gravity of the situation, CM Naqvi took stringent action and prohibited students from undertaking the responsibility of cleaning schools across Punjab, directing the secretary school education department to issue a notification for strict compliance today.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants of 7th International Health Professions Education Conference at University of Lahore.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurates main campus site of the University of Technology adjacent to motorway near Rashkai Interchange in Nowshera.

## Governor lays foundation stone of APS Martyrs University of Technology

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Thursday visited Nowshera and laid foundation stone of APS Martyrs University of Technology Nowshera. The foundation stone laying ceremony among others was attended by Caretaker minister for Industries, Amir Abdullah, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Zafar Khan, Vice Chancellor Swabi University, Dr. Nasir Jamal and Rector Pak Austria University, Dr. Muhammad Mujahid.

Addressing the ceremony, the governor said that he was pleased to inaugurate the varsity that would prove to be milestone in educating youth in new emerging fields of technologies. He said that location of university in proximity to Rashakai Industrial Zone would provide students ample chances to experience working of various types of technologies practically. Ghulam Ali also directed to complete the project at the earliest and said that the design should be modern.

## First phase of Raiwind Tablighi Ijtimah begins

LAHORE (APP): The first phase of the annual congregation, 'Raiwind Tablighi Ijtimah' started on Thursday, amid tight security arrangements. The Ijtema 2023 will continue from Nov 2 to November 5. According to Ijtimah administration, districts and areas participating in the first phase are Kark, Bannu, Lucky Marwat, Dir, Bajaur, Timargarah, Chitral, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Attock, Tala Gang, Chakwal, Sargodha, Khushab, Bhakkar, Mianwali, all districts of Kashmir and all districts of Sindh province, except for Karachi.

## World cannot remain indifferent to the plight of Palestinians: Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that all human beings are connected to one another. The world can not remain indifferent to the plight of Palestinians.

The way innocent men, women and innocent children are being martyred in Gaza by bombing at refugee camps, hospitals, and civilian population is not only sad but shameful. The international

community should play a role in stopping the oppression of innocent Palestinians. He expressed these views while speaking as a special guest at the Health Professionals Education Conference at University of Lahore today. In the conference, the Caretaker provincial Health Minister, Prof. Dr. Javed Akram and vice chancellors of medical universities and foreign delegates were present.

## Smog may cause throat, lungs, respiratory system complications: Minister

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir has warned that smog can lead to diseases of throat, lungs, and respiratory system, and urged the public to take preventive measures. He advised citizens to wear masks to protect themselves from smog and also recommended frequent hand, face, and eye washing to mitigate its harmful

effects. In case of a scratchy throat, he suggested gargling with lukewarm water. The Punjab government has taken action to combat smog by making it mandatory to spray water near construction sites and development projects. Furthermore, farmers have been encouraged to refrain from burning crop residues and dispose of them in an environmentally friendly manner.

## PUC appeals to observe 'Children's Martyrs Day of Palestine' nationwide

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Thursday appealed for the observance of 'Children's Martyrs Day of Palestine' throughout the country on Friday, underscoring the importance of addressing the Palestinian issue through the establishment of a free and independent state. Addressing a press conference at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islamia, PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, clarified to the United Nations that the issue of

Palestine would not be resolved through ceasefire and aid but rather through the establishment of a self-determined Palestinian state. He said in a notable meeting with the Palestinian ambassador, Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir affirmed Pakistan's commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian people, emphasizing that the government, armed forces, and the general populace of Pakistan were resolute in their support for the Palestinian people.

He commended the Saudi government's initiative to establish official funds for aiding the Palestinian population, reflecting the strong stance of Saudi Arabia in supporting their Palestinian brethren. He urged Pakistan to follow suit and establish special funds at the government level to assist the Palestinian people. Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Islamic Countries.

## Brother in law shoots Basharat Dogar

BUREWALA (APP): Well-known political and social personality Basharat Ali Dogar was allegedly shot dead by his brother-in-law over financial matters in the limits of Sheikh Fazal police station on Thursday. Police sources said that the accused managed to escape from the scene after shooting his brother in law. According to the details, Sardar Basharat Ali Dogar, a well-known political and social figure resident of Chak no 104/E-B was present at his house.

## KP Minister pledges financial support to Mental and General Hospital

MANSEHRA (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Transport, Communications, and Construction, Ahmad Jan Khan Thursday has pledged to contribute 50,000 rupees from his monthly salary to the Mental and General Hospital in Daddar, Mansehra. This financial support is aimed at enhancing the hospital's services and

providing better healthcare to the public. The minister expressed these views during his visit to the Mental and General Hospital in Mansehra, where he inaugurated several essential facilities. These facilities included a solar system, a labor room, a dental clinic, and a new X-ray machine, all funded by the hospital management committee.

# International News

## Red hands raised in Congress as US seeks more funds for wars

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: As US secretaries of state and defence began to brief the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday on the Biden administration's request for more money to fund the wars in Israel and Ukraine, a line of anti-war protesters got up and raised red-stained hands in the air. They shouted: "Ceasefire Now, Protect the Children of Gaza and Stop Funding Genocide" before they were removed from the room. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin testified to the Senate Appropriations Committee

on the Biden administration's request for an additional \$106 billion, which includes \$14.3 billion for Israel, \$9 billion for humanitarian relief—including for Israel and Gaza. A press release sent to various media outlets said the protesters were from an organisation called CODEPINK. The organisation said multiple members, including 29-year US Army veteran and former diplomat Col. Ann Wright and peace activist David Barrows, were arrested for their actions. CODEPINK said the red-painted hands of the silent audience members were meant to symbolise blood.

The protesters also said they attended the hearing to denounce the Biden administration's support for "genocide" against Palestinians in Gaza. Secretary Blinken did not respond to the protesters, but when he was asked later about the possibility of a ceasefire, he said that would only help Hamas regroup. A pause, however, for humanitarian reasons can be considered, he added. Also on Tuesday, a prominent Jewish intellectual and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote in his column, "Israel, it's time to consider a ceasefire".



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin testifies as protesters calling for a ceasefire in Gaza raise their hands, painted in red, during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Austin.

## Saudi Arabia tells US it still wants 'normalisation' with Israel, but links talks to 'ceasefire'

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Saudi Arabia has reassured the Biden administration that it's still interested in pursuing a potential agreement to normalise relations with Israel after the crisis in Gaza ends, the White House said. The visiting Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman met White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on Monday and their talks focused on the crisis in Gaza as sides affirmed the urgent need to increase humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, the White House said. "Without getting into specifics — we came away from those discussions confident that we have a path to get back towards

normalisation and that there is an interest on the Saudi side to pursue that," US National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby told reporters in Washington on Tuesday evening. The Saudi defence minister, however, said in a tweet that he stressed for Mr Sullivan the need for an immediate 'ceasefire' in Gaza, protection of civilians, allowing humanitarian aid and resuming the peace process. Mr Kirby acknowledged that the Gaza situation makes it harder to discuss long-term peace plans but said "we are still committed to it, and it is clear to us that the Saudis are still committed to it." The White House said that the Saudis also

"emphasised the importance of working towards a sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians, building on the work that was already underway between Saudi Arabia and the United States over recent months." The recent talks between the United States and Saudi Arabia have revolved around the ongoing crisis and the pursuit of potential normalisation of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. The later part of the talks is based on the 2020 Abraham Accords, which marked a historic diplomatic breakthrough, normalising relations between Israel and several Arab nations, including the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco.

## Iran, Turkiye call for 'regional conference' to avert spread of unrest

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkiye and Iran on Wednesday called for a regional conference aimed at averting the spread of unrest into the Middle East. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan met counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian a day after Iran's top diplomat met Hamas leaders in Qatar. Fidan said Turkiye was pushing for an immediate ceasefire because "it is not difficult to predict that this spiral of violence will grow" without a permanent solution to the Israel-Palestine issue. "We do not want the human tragedy in Gaza to turn into a war that affects

the region's countries," Fidan said. The Iranian foreign minister "shared with us that there are strong indications that other armed elements in the region may intervene in the conflict if conditions do not change", Fidan said. "A ceasefire and peace have become more essential," Amir-Abdollahian said a peace conference involving "Muslim and Arab" countries should be held "as soon as possible". Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Muslim countries to halt trade with Israel, including oil exports, in response to its bombardment of Gaza.



A man reacts as Palestinians search for casualties a day after Israeli strikes on houses in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip.

## Sheikh Mohamed orders treatment of 1,000 Palestinian children at UAE hospitals

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates said on Thursday it planned to treat 1,000 Palestinian children from Gaza, without saying how they would leave the Israeli-besieged enclave for the Gulf state. Israel has tightened its blockade and bombed Gaza for nearly four weeks in retaliation for the Oct 7 attack by Hamas that Israeli authorities say killed 1,400. The Gaza health ministry says 8,796 Palestinian, including 3,648 children, have been killed in Israeli strikes since Oct 7.

Gaza's border with Egypt — the only exit point apart from the closed border crossings with Israel — has largely been shut since Oct 7, although several hundred foreign nationals and a small number of injured Palestinians, to be treated in Egyptian hospitals, have crossed into Egypt since Wednesday. Qatar brokered that deal to allow some people to leave Gaza, and a diplomatic source has said some 7,500 foreign passport holders would leave Gaza over the course of about two weeks.



Brazil's president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva looks on during a press conference at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia, Brazil.

## Over 400 evacuated to Egypt from Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISMAILIA: Seventy-six wounded Palestinians and 335 foreigners entered Egypt from the Gaza Strip on Wednesday in first such crossing since the Oct 7 Hamas raid that triggered an ongoing episode of hostilities by Israeli forces in the besieged enclave. A day after an Israeli air strike killed about 50 people and wounded 150

others in Jabalia, another blast shook Gaza's largest refugee camp on Wednesday. Ambulances transported the 76 wounded Palestinians into Egypt and six buses took 335 foreign passport holders who were stuck in Gaza since Israel placed a "total siege" on the Palestinian territory after Hamas's raid early last month, an Egyptian official at the Rafah crossing said.

## United States troubled by imminent attack on North Darfur

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States is troubled by reports of an imminent attack on El Fasher, North Darfur, and is calling on the warring parties in Sudan to immediately cease further attacks, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday. "The United States calls on the warring parties to immediately cease further attacks."

