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Journalism is the Fourth Pillar of the State:

President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari

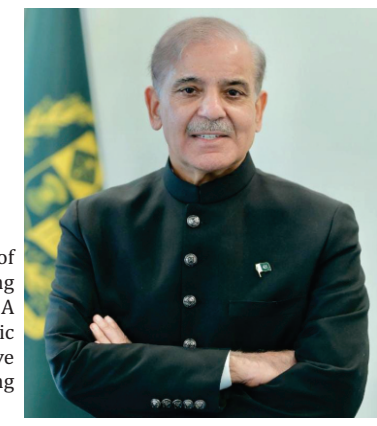


Journalism is the fourth pillar of the state, playing a vital role in keeping the public informed, shaping public opinion, and monitoring government actions. It is not only a source of information but also a means of seeking truth, giving voice to the oppressed, and holding the powerful accountable. A free and responsible press is the foundation of any democratic society. In Pakistan, journalists have upheld the flag of truth and integrity despite facing challenges, pressure, and threats. The press has made significant contributions to national unity, judicial justice, public welfare, and the promotion of democratic values.

These views were expressed by President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, in his congratulatory message on the 13th anniversary of Daily Financial Times, Islamabad. He congratulated Financial Times and emphasized that journalism plays a fundamental role in free societies. He expressed hope that Financial Times will continue to fulfill its duty as a responsible institution while representing the voice of the people.

Journalism is a noble and responsible profession which, as the fourth pillar of the state:

PM of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif



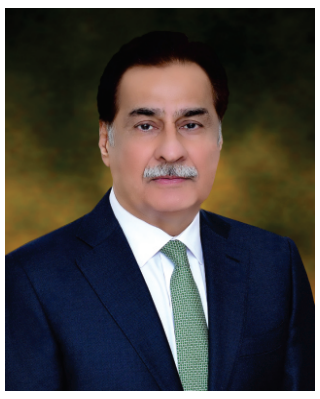
Journalism is a noble and responsible profession which, as the fourth pillar of the state, plays a crucial role in keeping the public informed with truth, shaping public opinion, and keeping an eye on the performance of the government. A conscious, free, and courageous press is the foundation of any democratic system. It not only ensures the flow of information but also plays an effective role in promoting social justice, highlighting public issues, and safeguarding national interests.

Journalists in Pakistan have always carried out their duties with courage, honesty, and a sense of national responsibility, even in difficult circumstances and under various pressures. Journalism has played a vital role in strengthening national unity, intellectual awareness, and public consciousness.

These views were expressed by Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

MESSAGE ON THE 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF FINANCIAL TIMES

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq



On the auspicious occasion of the 13th anniversary of Financial Times, I extend my warmest congratulations to its editorial board, management, journalists, and the entire team on completing thirteen successful years of dedicated service to journalism.

A vibrant, independent, and responsible media is indispensable to a strong democratic dispensation. Conventional media platforms play a vital role in strengthening democratic institutions and fostering national unity through accurate, balanced, and evidence-based reporting, constructive dialogue, and informed public discourse. Over the years, Financial Times has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and a steadfast commitment to ethical journalism, earning the trust and respect of its readers.

As Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, I deeply appreciate the role of the press in highlighting issues of public importance, promoting transparency, and strengthening democratic values. Responsible journalism not only keeps citizens informed about national and international affairs but also enhances public accountability, supports good governance, and contributes to the country's overall progress and prosperity.

I commend the entire Financial Times family on achieving this significant milestone and wish them continued success in their pursuit of excellence. May the years ahead bring even greater achievements as they continue to serve the nation with integrity, dedication, and professionalism.

Pullain Baloch Cuts Cake at the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times Islamabad, Calls Responsible Media a Pillar of Democracy





BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD: Member of the National Assembly and Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting, Pullain Baloch, attended the 13th Anniversary celebrations of Daily Financial Times Islamabad, where he joined Chief Editor Dr. Waheed M. Khan, Executive Editor Naseem Hassan, Dir ctor News Horesha, Yasmeen Asad, Ikram Joya, members of the editorial team, and distinguished guests in cutting the anniversary cake. The ceremony was attended by journalists, political leaders, business personalities, social figures, and representatives from various walks of life.

Addressing the gathering, Pullain Baloch congratulated Dr. Waheed M. Khan and the entire team of Daily Financial Times Islamabad on completing thirteen successful years of professional journalism. He said the newspaper has earned a respected place in Pakistan's media landscape through its commitment to credible journalism, objective reporting, and insightful coverage of economic, financial, business, and national affairs.

He stated that a free, responsible, and professional media is one of the strongest pillars of a vibrant democracy. The media not only keeps citizens informed but also promotes transparency, strengthens democratic institutions, and builds public confidence. He praised the Daily Financial Times for maintaining high standards of professionalism, journalistic ethics, and responsible reporting on issues of national importance.

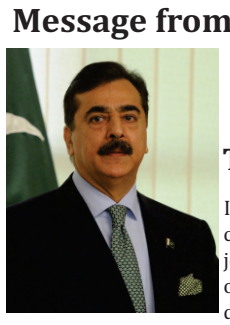
As Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting, Pullain Baloch said he firmly believes that the media serves as a vital bridge between the people and state institutions. He reaffirmed Parliament's commitment to supporting an environment where the media can perform its constitutional responsibilities with freedom, responsibility, and respect for the national interest.

Concluding his address, Pullain Baloch once again congratulated Dr. Waheed M. Khan, Executive Editor Naseem Hassan, Director News Horesha, Yasmeen Asad, Ikram Joya, the editorial board, reporters, contributors, and the entire Daily Financial Times team. He expressed confidence that the newspaper would continue to strengthen its legacy of excellence while making meaningful contributions to Pakistan's economic development, democratic values, and an informed society.

Message from Hon. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani

Chairman, Senate of Pakistan

On the 13th Anniversary of The Financial Times (Islamabad)

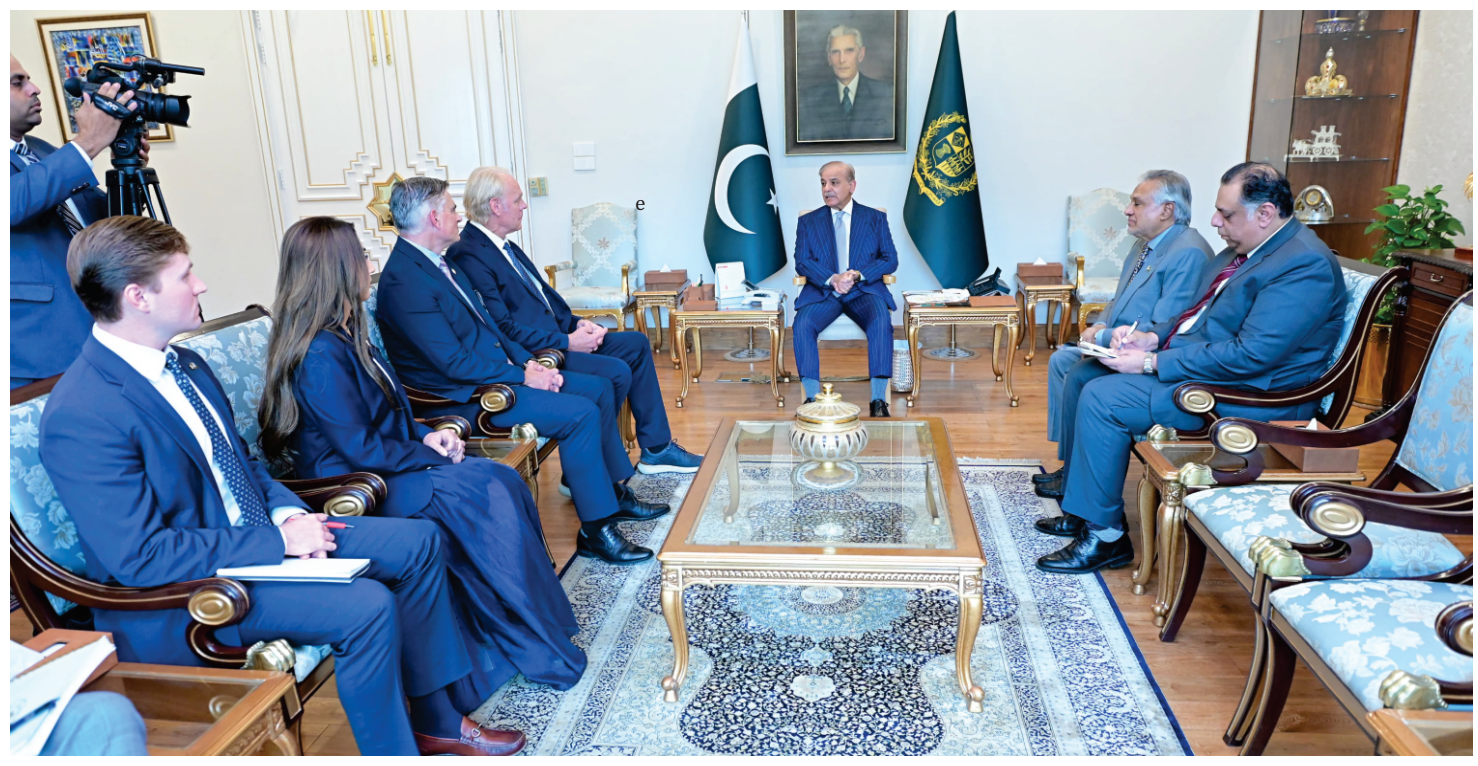


It gives me great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the management, editorial team, journalists, and staff of The Financial Times (Islamabad) on the successful completion of thirteen years of dedicated service to journalism.

At a time when information travels with unprecedented speed, the role of responsible journalism has become more vital than ever. Credible, timely, and fact-based reporting not only strengthens democratic institutions but also promotes transparency, fosters informed public discourse, and reinforces public trust. I encourage media professionals to continue upholding the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and ethical journalism by ensuring that the information they disseminate is accurate, balanced, and duly verified.

I commend The Financial Times (Islamabad) for its valuable contribution to Pakistan's media landscape over the past thirteen years and for its commitment to responsible journalism. I am confident that the publication will continue to uphold these values while serving the nation with excellence and dedication.

On this significant milestone, I once again extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to everyone associated with The Financial Times (Islamabad). I pray for its continued success and its enduring contribution to strengthening democratic values, promoting informed public dialogue, and advancing a vibrant and responsible media in Pakistan.



Islamabad: A Delegation of the businessmen from the United States of America meet with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif .

Journalism is the Fourth Pillar of the State

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party



Journalism is the fourth pillar of the state, and a free, responsible, and independent media is the foundation of every strong democratic society. The primary purpose of journalism is to provide the public with accurate, credible, and timely information, shape informed public opinion, and safeguard the public interest.

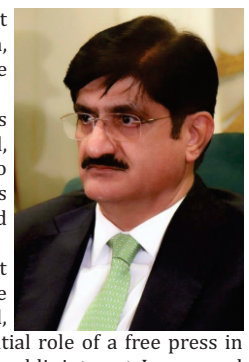
A free press not only promotes transparency, accountability, and the rule of law but also strengthens public trust between the people and state institutions. Responsible journalism plays a vital role in fostering national unity, democratic values, social harmony, and constructive public dialogue.

Despite numerous challenges and difficult circumstances, Pakistani journalists have consistently carried out their professional responsibilities with courage, integrity, and a deep sense of national duty. Their contributions to strengthening democracy, raising public awareness, and promoting national development deserve the highest appreciation.

I extend my best wishes to the entire journalistic community and remain confident that Pakistan's media will continue to uphold the highest standards of ethical journalism, professionalism, truth, and public service, while making a meaningful contribution to the country's democratic development and informed public discourse.

SYED MURAD ALI SHAH CHIEF MINISTER, SINDH On the 13th Anniversary of The Daily Financial Times





It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the management, editorial team, journalists, and staff of The Daily Financial Times on the successful completion of its 13th anniversary.

For the past 13 years, The Daily Financial Times has upheld the highest standards of professional, ethical, and responsible journalism. Their commit-ment to credibility, impartiality, and public service has strengthened the news-paper's reputation as a trusted source of news and analysis across Pakistan.

The Financial Times has made a significant contribution to promoting in-formed public discourse by balancing the coverage of economic, business, social, and national issues. Its dedication reflects the essential role of a free press in strengthening democratic institutions and serving the public interest. I commend Dr Waheed M. Khan, Javed Siddiq, and the entire editorial, re-porting, and management team for their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and perseverance. Their collective efforts have enabled The Daily Financial Times to emerge as a respected voice in Pakistan's media landscape. On this memorable occasion, I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to everyone associated with The Daily Financial Times.

May The Daily Financial Times continue its journey of excellence for many years to come. With warmest congratulations and best wishes,

Shah Ghulam Qadir President, Pakistan Muslim League (N), Azad Jammu & Kashmir Message on the 13th Anniversary of The Financial Times



On the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of The Financial Times, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chief Editor Dr. Waheed M. Khan, Editor Javed Siddiq, Executive Editor Naseem Hassan, Director News Ms. Hurish Shah , and the entire editorial, reporting, management, and support staff.

Over the past thirteen years, The Daily Financial Times has demonstrated a strong commitment to responsible, balanced, and professional journalism. Through credible reporting and objective analysis, the newspaper has made a valuable contribution to informing the public, highlighting national issues, and promoting constructive public discourse.

Journalism is the fourth pillar of the state, and a free, responsible, and independent press is the foundation of every vibrant democracy. By upholding the principles of truth, integrity, and public interest, The Daily Financial Times has consistently fulfilled its professional responsibilities with distinction.

I highly appreciate the dedication, professionalism, and hard work of the entire team and am confident that The Daily Financial Times will continue to play its important role in strengthening democratic values, promoting national unity, and serving the people of Pakistan with excellence.

I extend my best wishes for the continued success, growth, and prosperity of the entire organization in the years ahead.

Heartfelt Congratulations on Financial Times' 13th Anniversary It is my great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone at Financial Times on the occasion of its13th Anniversary



For thirteen years, your unwavering dedication, professionalism, and commitment to responsible journalism have made a meaningful difference to your readers and contributed positively to Pakistan's media landscape. May Financial Times continue to grow from strength to strength, achieving even greater success in the years ahead.

Sumblina Hassan
Former Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto
In-charge, Office 10 UK, RCC Bilawal Bhutto.

It gives me great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the management, editorial team, staff, and readers of Financial Times (Islamabad) on the occasion of its 13th Anniversary

Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi
Governor of Sindh



Over the past thirteen years, the publication has made a valuable contribution to promoting responsible journalism by providing timely, credible, and informative reporting. A vibrant and independent media plays a vital role in strengthening democratic values, promoting transparency, and creating public awareness on issues of national importance.

I appreciate the dedication and professionalism of the Financial Times team in maintaining high journalistic standards and fostering informed public discourse. In an era of rapid technological transformation and evolving media landscapes, the commitment to truth, integrity, and balanced reporting remains more important than ever.

I am confident that Financial Times (Islamabad) will continue to uphold the highest principles of journalism while serving the nation with honesty, objectivity, and a strong sense of public responsibility.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my best wishes for the continued success and growth of the publication. May, the years ahead bring greater achievements and continued excellence in serving Pakistan and its people.

On The 13th Anniversary Of The Daily Financial Times

Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry
Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting



It gives me great pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the management, editorial team, journalists and all associates of The Daily Financial Times on the successful completion of its 13th anniversary. Over the last thirteen years, The Daily Financial Times has remained committed to credible reporting, thoughtful analysis and balanced opinion. By focusing on economic, business and national affairs, the newspaper has become a trusted source of information and a valuable platform for constructive debate.

A free and responsible press plays a vital role in building an informed society and strengthening democratic values. The Daily Financial Times has consistently upheld these principles with professionalism, integrity and a clear sense of public responsibility. Its contribution to informed public discourse is both purposeful and commendable.

I wish to appreciate Mr. Waheed M. Khan, Mr. Javed Siddiq and the entire editorial, reporting and management teams for their dedication, hard work and perseverance in maintaining high journalistic standards and earning the trust of readers across the country.

On this important milestone, I extend my warm felicitations and best wishes to everyone associated with The Daily Financial Times. May you continue to grow from strength to strength and serve the nation with the same dedication and excellence in the years ahead.

Wishing you many more successful years in the service of journalism and the public.

Message by Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, MNA, Chairperson, Standing Committee on National Heritage & Culture Division & President, Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), on the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times



I warmly congratulate the editorial board, management, journalists, and the entire team of Financial Times on the successful completion of thirteen remarkable years of excellence in journalism.

Over the past thirteen years, Financial Times has distinguished itself through responsible reporting, professional excellence, and steadfast adherence to the principles of ethical journalism. Its commitment to presenting factual, balanced, and meaningful news has made it a respected voice in Pakistan's media landscape.

I highly appreciate the newspaper's comprehensive coverage of the proceedings of the Standing Committee on National Heritage & Culture Division, which has helped enhance public awareness about parliamentary oversight and legislative initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural and national heritage.

I also commend Financial Times for its extensive and responsible coverage of the meetings, seminars, conferences, and initiatives organized by the Young Parliamentarians Forum. By highlighting issues affecting the youth of Pakistan, promoting constructive dialogue, and connecting young citizens with their elected representatives, the newspaper has played a meaningful role in encouraging youth engagement and fostering democratic participation.

As Financial Times celebrates this important milestone, I extend my best wishes for its continued growth, greater achievements, and enduring success. May it continue to serve the nation with professionalism, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to truth and public interest.

Congratulations once again on this remarkable journey, and best of luck for the years to come.

Message by the Convenor of the Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, MNA, on the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times



"On the occasion of the 13th anniversary of Financial Times, I extend my congratulations to its editorial team, management, and staff for over a decade of dedicated service to journalism and public discourse.

A free, responsible, and forward-looking media plays a vital role in promoting transparency, informed decision-making, and sustainable development. Through credible reporting and thoughtful analysis, Financial Times has contributed to raising public awareness on economic, social, and national issues of significance.

As Convenor of the Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals, I recognize the important role of the media in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals by fostering public engagement, encouraging accountability, and amplifying conversations on inclusive and sustainable progress.

I commend the entire team of Financial Times on this milestone and wish them continued success in upholding the highest standards of professional journalism. May the years ahead bring even greater achievements in their service to the nation."

Message on the Occasion of the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times (Islamabad)



On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and in my own personal capacity, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the staff of the Financial Times (Islamabad), as well as its readers, on the 13th Anniversary of this prestigious publication.

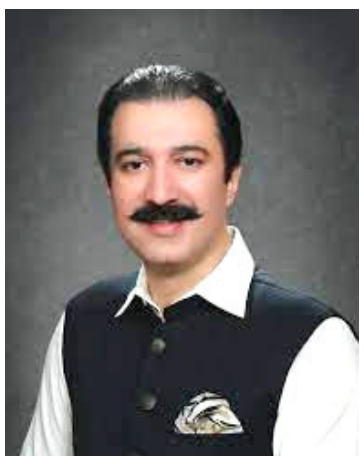
Over the course of its work, the Financial Times has established itself as a trusted source of professional journalism, objective information dissemination, and public discourse. The qualities that have enabled the Financial Times to occupy a special place in the hearts of its readers and have earned it respect among contemporaries are conducive to building mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships.

The media serves as a vital bridge between nations, cultures, and peoples. The Republic of Tajikistan highly values its longstanding friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and appreciates the important role that responsible media organizations such as Financial Times (Islamabad) play in fostering dialogue, strengthening cooperation, and bringing our peoples closer together.

Many best wishes to the staff of the Financial Times (Islamabad) newspaper to continue its contribution to the development of professional journalism, as well as effectively performing their duty as trusted messengers and analysts for many more years to come.

H.E. Mr. Yusuf Sharifzoda
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Republic of Tajikistan.
Islamabad.

Message from Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir



Journalism is a noble, responsible, and honourable profession that serves as the fourth pillar of the state. It plays a vital role in informing the public with accurate, timely, and credible information, shaping informed public opinion, and strengthening democratic values. A free, responsible, and independent press is the cornerstone of every democratic society. It not only promotes transparency and accountability but also highlights public issues, advances social justice, and safeguards national interests.

The journalists of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir have consistently fulfilled their professional responsibilities with courage, integrity, and a deep sense of national duty, even under difficult circumstances and immense challenges. Their invaluable contributions have strengthened national unity, enhanced public awareness, and reinforced democratic institutions.

On the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Financial Times team, including its editors, journalists, correspondents, and staff members. I sincerely hope that the organisation will continue to uphold the highest standards of ethical, objective, and responsible journalism while making meaningful contributions towards public awareness, national development, and the progress of our society.

Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore
Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Rana Qasim Noon Congratulates Financial Times on 13 Years of Journalism

Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon
Federal Minister/Chairman



I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the management, editorial board, and staff of Financial Times (Islamabad) on the successful completion of thirteen years of dedicated service to journalism. Your commitment to responsible reporting and informed public discourse is a valuable contribution to Pakistan's democratic and media landscape.

On this occasion, I also wish to draw attention to the unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which remains one of the oldest issues on the agenda of the United Nations. The people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir continue to face grave human rights violations and are being denied their fundamental right to self-determination as guaranteed by the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

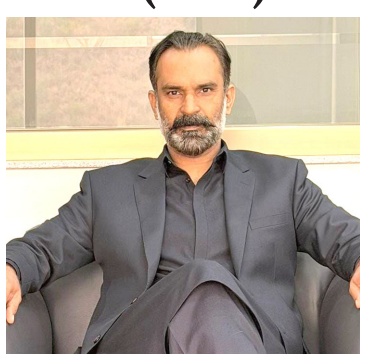
Since India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019, including the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, the situation in the occupied territory has further deteriorated. These measures have no legal standing under international law and have intensified the suffering of the Kashmiri people while undermining regional peace and stability.

I pay tribute to the exemplary leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, whose steadfast leadership and national resolve strengthened Pakistan during Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos (Marka-e-Haq). Their commitment to safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty, defending the country's vital interests, and maintaining a principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has reinforced national unity and demonstrated Pakistan's determination to pursue peace with dignity while remaining fully capable of defending itself.

Pakistan remains steadfast in its unwavering political, diplomatic, and moral support for the just struggle of the Kashmiri people. The Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir will continue to raise the Kashmir issue at every national and international forum and work closely with parliamentarians, civil society, academia, media, and the international community to ensure that the voices of the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir are heard. The media has a vital responsibility to uphold truth, promote justice, and amplify the voices of those who remain unheard. I appreciate the role of Financial Times (Islamabad) in fostering informed dialogue and hope that it will continue to highlight issues of human rights, peace, and justice, including the plight of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

I once again congratulate the entire team of Financial Times (Islamabad) on this significant milestone and wish them continued success in their pursuit of excellence in journalism.

Message from Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich, Central Information Secretary, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Farmers Wing



On the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Financial Times team. Over the past thirteen years, the organisation has made a valuable contribution to responsible, professional, and credible journalism by keeping the public informed with accurate and timely news.

I sincerely hope that Financial Times will continue to uphold the highest standards of ethical, objective, and public-interest journalism, while playing a meaningful role in promoting public awareness, democratic values, and national development.

I wish the entire Financial Times team continued success, progress, and many more years of excellence in serving the nation through quality journalism.

***Khalid Nawaz Sadhraich**
Central Information Secretary
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)
Farmers Wing*

Message by Syeda Shahida Rehmani, MNA, Secretary, Women's Parliamentary Caucus, on the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times



On the auspicious occasion of the 13th anniversary of Financial Times, I extend my sincere congratulations to its management, editorial team, journalists, and staff for their dedication and remarkable contribution to the field of journalism.

For thirteen years, Financial Times has consistently upheld the values of responsible, credible, and professional journalism. Its commitment to factual reporting and public service has strengthened informed public discourse and reinforced confidence in the media.

I particularly appreciate the newspaper's comprehensive coverage of the meetings, seminars, conferences, and engagements organized by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus. Through its thoughtful reporting, Financial Times has helped raise public awareness of initiatives aimed at promoting the welfare, empowerment, and protection of women, children, and families, while highlighting parliamentary efforts to advance equality, inclusion, and social development.

The newspaper has also played an important role in connecting the public with the proceedings of parliamentary committees, National Assembly sessions, and joint sittings of Parliament, thereby enhancing transparency and strengthening citizens' understanding of the legislative process.

As Financial Times marks this significant milestone, I commend its unwavering commitment to journalistic excellence and ethical reporting. I wish the entire team continued success, greater achievements, and many more years of distinguished service to the nation.

Congratulations on thirteen successful years, and my very best wishes for an even brighter future.

Dr. Sardar M Tahir Tabassum Meets Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Discusses Kashmir and National Affairs

BY: FT Correspondent:



ISLAMABAD--- Head of the Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD) and former Adviser on Human Rights to the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Sardar Muhammad Tahir Tabassum, met prominent PML-N leader and Secretary General of the World Muslim Congress Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq.

During the meeting, both sides held detailed discussions on the situation in Kashmir, national and regional political developments, and matters of mutual interest. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, who had been unwell for some time, is now recovering. His son and former Member of the Punjab Assembly Raja Muhammad Ali Khan Advocate was also present on the occasion.

PM orders faster implementation of Apna Ghar Scheme

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed authorities to accelerate the implementation of the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Scheme, reaffirming the government's commitment to expanding affordable housing opportunities for low- and middle-income families. The directive came during a review meeting in Islamabad to assess progress on the housing initiative, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office. Addressing the meeting, the prime minister said providing every citizen with access to safe and affordable housing remains one of the government's foremost priorities. He said the Apna Ghar Scheme was launched to help low-income and middle-class households achieve the dream of owning a home. Shehbaz Sharif instructed officials to expedite work on the programme and urged both public and private sector banks to increase financing under the scheme to ensure its successful implementation.

SC rules plaint cannot be rejected before trial if it discloses cause of action

ANI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ruled that a plaint cannot be rejected under Order VII Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) merely because the court believes the plaintiff may ultimately fail to prove the allegations. The court held that where a plaint contains the essential facts constituting a legally recognizable cause of action, it cannot be dismissed without recording evidence and conducting a proper trial. A three-member bench comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui announced the verdict on a petition filed by citizen Nisar Ahmad Afzal. The majority judgment was authored by Justice Shahid Waheed, while Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui wrote a dissenting note. The apex court set aside the judgments of the Islamabad High Court and the trial court.

FC Balochistan (North) continues Rescue, Relief Operations amid severe weather

ANI

QUETTA: FC Balochistan (North) continued rescue and relief operations in District Naseerabad amid severe weather conditions.

As part of the ongoing relief efforts, FC Balochistan evacuated affected families to safer locations and ensured the timely delivery of assistance to flood-affected communities across the district.

During the operation, relief teams distributed food, clean drinking water, medical assistance, and other essential items are distributed among the affected people. Rescue and relief activities are continuing uninterrupted through the coordinated efforts of FC Balochistan (North) and the district administration. FC Balochistan (North) said it is taking all possible measures to protect the lives and property of residents in the flood-affected areas.

4 Commodores promoted to rank of Rear Admiral

ANI

ISLAMABAD: As many as four Commodores including Tasawar Iqbal, Muhammad Umair, Shahid Wasif, and Rao Ahmed Imran Anwar of Pakistan Navy have been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. Rear Admiral Tasawar Iqbal was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1995, said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy).

The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore and National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also completed Inter Services Staff Course from France.

The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments including Commanding Officer PNS ALAMGIR, Commander 25th Destroyer Squadron, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy and Senior Pakistan Navy Officer at Riyadh, KSA. Rear Admiral Tasawar Iqbal is currently serving as Commander West. In recognition of his meritorious service, the Admiral has been awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Rear Admiral Muhammad Umair was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1996.

Pakistan eyes $20b trade with US within five years, says Ishaq Dar

ANI



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday expressed confidence that bilateral trade between Pakistan and the United States could reach $20 billion over the next five years, citing growing economic cooperation and investment opportunities.

Dar made the remarks while addressing a delegation of US lawmakers and business leaders in Islamabad. The visiting delegation included US Congressmen Ryan Zinke and Michael Baumgartner, who are currently in Pakistan to strengthen bilateral engagement.

The foreign minister described robust economic cooperation as the cornerstone of a strong and enduring Pakistan-US partnership. He noted that the United States remains Pakistan's largest single-country export destination, with two-way merchandise trade reaching $9.4 billion during the last fiscal year.

He said the existing trade volume demonstrated significant potential for expansion and expressed optimism that stronger commercial ties and complementary economic strengths could help double bilateral trade to $20 billion within five years.

Highlighting the depth of economic relations, Dar said Pakistan is one of the major importers of US cotton and is becoming an increasingly important market for American energy products. At the same time, he said Pakistan's rising demand for advanced technology, industrial machinery, and capital equipment presents substantial opportunities for US businesses.

The deputy prime minister also pointed to the presence of more than 80 American companies operating in Pakistan, describing it as a sign of international confidence in the country's economy and long-term growth prospects. He said Pakistan's improving macroeconomic indicators, ongoing structural reforms, and competitive US tariff environment make the country an attractive destination for fresh investment. Dar highlighted the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in providing a streamlined, one-window platform for investors and encouraged the visiting delegation to work closely with the council to explore business opportunities and develop long-term partnerships.

He invited the US delegation to engage with government officials and potential business partners to identify new investment opportunities that would benefit both countries. Emphasizing the importance of stronger economic ties, Dar said expanding trade and investment would create jobs, encourage innovation, and generate shared economic growth while further strengthening bilateral relations. He added that closer Pakistan-US cooperation would also contribute to regional stability and global peace during a period of increasing international uncertainty. The foreign minister also thanked US President Donald Trump and his administration for supporting efforts that helped secure a ceasefire between Pakistan and India following heightened tensions in May 2025.

Cabinet approves amendments to Oil Refining Policy for Euro-V fuel rollout

ANI



The Cabinet Committee on Energy on Tuesday approved amendments to the Pakistan Oil Refining Policy 2023 that will enable the modernisation of Pakistan's existing oil refineries to produce Euro-V compliant petrol and diesel, while reducing the production of furnace oil and other low-value petroleum products, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the cabinet committee meeting at the Prime Minister's House, where members reviewed refinery upgrades, energy sector reforms, and progress on implementation of the refining policy.

The prime minister said upgrading existing oil refineries was an urgent national requirement and a key pillar of Pakistan's energy security framework. He added that modernised refineries would not only better meet the country's energy needs but also help reduce reliance on imported fuels while increasing the supply of environmentally friendly petroleum products. The meeting was informed that upgrading existing refineries was essential to enhance production capacity. Officials said the production of Euro-IV and Euro-V compliant fuels was necessary to meet Pakistan's international environmental commitments, reduce air pollution, and provide consumers with higher-quality fuel.

PM Shehbaz directed authorities to introduce reforms to improve the performance of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) and better meet market requirements in order to promote competition, transparency, and investment in the energy sector. He stressed that the amended policy must be implemented effectively and without delay, warning that negligence or unnecessary delays would not be tolerated.

Instructing relevant ministries and institutions to accelerate the reform process while maintaining close coordination with all stakeholders, PM Shehbaz reaffirmed the government's commitment to pursuing sustainable reforms in the energy sector, promoting modern technology, and creating a conducive environment for investment.

Bilawal accuses PML-N of 'stealing mandate' in AJK polls, demands inquiry

ANI

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday accused the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of benefiting from alleged electoral manipulation in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly elections, calling for a judicial inquiry into



reported polling-day incidents. Addressing a PPP workers' convention in Muzaffarabad, Bilawal thanked voters in Mirpur for supporting his party and said the PPP had secured a majority of votes in several constituencies. He said it was now the party's responsibility to safeguard the public mandate. According to unofficial and provisional results from the first phase of the AJK Legislative Assembly elections, the PML-N won nine of the 13 constituencies in Mirpur, while the PPP

Islamabad Court Designates Judge Afzal Majoka's Bench as GBV Court

ANI

ISLAMABAD: A key change has been introduced in the Islamabad Session Court system as the court of Judge Afzal Majoka has been officially designated as a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Court.

Following the decision, all cases related to gender-based violence would now be transferred to and heard by this court under a centralized mechanism.

The Islamabad High Court Registrar issued a formal notification announcing the change after approval from Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar.

Under the new arrangement, all cases involving violence and crimes based on gender would be placed before Judge Afzal Majoka's court. The move was aimed at ensuring that such cases were heard through a dedicated judicial forum.

PML-N sweeps Mirpur as ministers hail public mandate

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers Rana Sanaullah and Engineer Amir Muqam on Tuesday hailed Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) strong performance in the Mirpur Division elections of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, saying the party's victory reflected public confidence in Nawaz Sharif's leadership and policies.



Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, they credited the success to a year long election campaign, party unity, high voter participation, and the peaceful conduct of polls with the support of state institutions, the Election Commission, security agencies, and the federal government.

Amir Muqam thanked Allah Almighty for the party's success in Mirpur Division and described the outcome as a victory not only for PML-N but also for democratic institutions.

He said the peaceful conduct of elections under challenging circumstances was a positive development for the democratic process.

He said the people of Azad Kashmir had demonstrated their trust in democracy by turning out in large numbers to vote. According to him, voter turnout in several constituencies ranged between 40 and 60 per cent.

CM Maryam tells Bilawal to focus on performance instead of allegations after AJK polls

ANI

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said allegations would achieve nothing, urging Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to work harder on his party's narrative and performance following the Azad Jammu and Kashmir local elections.

Congratulating PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and party workers on the party's victory in the Mirpur Division, she thanked Allah for what she described as the public's strong vote of confidence in the party.

Maryam said the success was the result of the leadership's guidance and the tireless efforts of party workers, adding that they deserved full credit



for the electoral outcome.

Criticising the PPP, she said the party had used inappropriate language during the election campaign and claimed its public rallies witnessed poor attendance.

Addressing Bilawal Bhutto directly, the chief minister said he should focus on improving his political narrative and performance rather than criticising others.

She argued that despite ruling Sindh for the past 17 years, the PPP had failed to present any major development project to the public.

Maryam said voters based their decisions on performance, adding that PML-N's electoral success reflected public confidence in its governance.

She maintained that the people of Azad Kashmir wanted relief from damaged roads and inadequate healthcare facilities and were seeking development projects and public services similar to those introduced in Punjab.

The chief minister said the era of artificial intelligence demanded facts and performance rather than allegations, adding that voters had already judged political parties on their record.

PML-N secures strong lead in AJK polls, wins 9 of 13 seats in Mirpur as unofficial results pour in

ANI



The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) emerged as the dominant party in the first phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly elections, securing nine of the 13 seats contested across Mirpur Division, according to unofficial and unconfirmed results, while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) won the remaining four seats in the division, which comprises the districts of Mirpur, Kotli and Chaksawari, Express News reported on Tuesday.

Polling was held on Monday across 13 constituencies in the three districts from 8am to 6pm, after the Election Commission extended voting by one hour from the scheduled closing time of 5pm. The elections are being held in three phases under a revised schedule announced by AJK Chief Election Commissioner Ghulam Mustafa Mughal on July 21. The first phase covered all 13 constituencies in Mirpur Division, while polling in Muzaffarabad Division and the 12 refugee constituencies would be held on August 2, followed by Poonch (Rawalakot) Division on August 10.

According to unofficial results, PML-N's Azhar Sadiq won LA-1 Mirpur-I with 15,427 votes, defeating PPP's Muhammad Afsar Shahid, who secured 9,832 votes. PPP's Qasim Majeed won LA-2 Chaksawari with 12,904 votes, while PML-N's Azeem Bakhsh Chaudhry received 8,182 votes. In LA-3 Mirpur-III, PPP's Chaudhry Yasir Sultan secured victory with 11,676 votes, ahead of PML-N's Chaudhry Muhammad Saeed, who polled 9,832 votes. PML-N's Chaudhry Rukhsar Ahmed won LA-4 Mirpur-IV with 20,172 votes, defeating PPP's Chaudhry Sohaib Arshad, who received 13,865 votes.

Pakistan, Qatar pledge deeper security partnership as Mohsin holds key talks in Doha

ANI



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Qatar have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding bilateral security cooperation, strengthening institutional ties between their interior ministries, and working together to promote regional peace and stability during a high-level meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Qatar's Interior Minister and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

The meeting focused on enhancing collaboration across a wide range of security-related sectors, with both ministers holding detailed discussions on ways to deepen their strategic security partnership. They also reiterated their resolve to further strengthen cooperation between the interior ministries of the two countries, emphasizing the importance of sustained engagement in addressing shared security challenges. Regional developments and the broader security environment also featured prominently in the discussions. Both sides exchanged views on the prevailing situation in the region and underscored the need for continued cooperation in promoting peace, stability, and collective security.

The two ministers agreed to reinforce mutual collaboration and partnership in matters relating to internal security, reflecting the growing strategic convergence between Pakistan and Qatar.

Speaking on the occasion, Naqvi said Pakistan remains firmly committed to expanding cooperation with Qatar in the fields of security and other areas of mutual interest, adding that closer institutional coordination would further strengthen the longstanding relationship between the two friendly nations.

During the meeting, Naqvi also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to his Qatari counterpart on the passing of his father, former Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

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Opinion 4

Pakistan Peoples Party and the Role of Responsible Media in Strengthening Democracy



BY: Sumblina Hassan Former Secretary to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto In Charge of Office 10 UK, RCC Bilawal Bhutto (Published by: ANI News Agency)



The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has remained one of Pakistan's most influential political parties since its founding in 1967 by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Since its inception, the party has championed democracy, constitutional supremacy, social justice, and equal opportunities for all citizens. Throughout its political journey, the PPP has played a significant role in shaping Pakistan's democratic landscape while consistently advocating democratic governance, public welfare, and the protection of fundamental rights.

Following the martyrdom of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto in 2007, the party entered a new phase under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. During this period, the PPP has continued to emphasise the strengthening of democratic institutions, political dialogue, youth engagement, women's empowerment, climate resilience, quality education, accessible healthcare, and sustainable economic development.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was not only an internationally respected democratic leader but also a passionate advocate of responsible journalism and freedom of expression. Before assuming the mantle of political leadership, she worked as a journalist and fully appreciated the indispensable role of a free and responsible press in safeguarding democracy. She believed that journalists were essential partners in informing the public, promoting transparency, and strengthening democratic institutions.

During my time serving as her Secretary, she encouraged me to report not only on her own public engagements and initiatives but also on the activities of the Pakistan Peoples Party. She understood that accurate, balanced, and factual reporting was fundamental to maintaining public confidence and preserving democratic accountability.

Benazir Bhutto firmly believed in the enduring power of the written word. The timeless principle that "the pen is mightier than the sword" reflects the ability of truth, knowledge, and reason to inspire change more effectively than force. The significance of the pen is also highlighted in the Holy Qur'an, where Allah Almighty swears by the pen and what it records, emphasising the value of knowledge, learning, and truthful testimony. This serves as a lasting reminder of the noble responsibility entrusted to those who write and report the truth.

Among the party's most recognised achievements is the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), which has provided financial assistance to millions of deserving families across Pakistan. The PPP also regards the 18th Constitutional Amendment as a historic milestone that strengthened provincial autonomy, reinforced Pakistan's federal structure, and enhanced democratic governance.

At a time when Pakistan faces complex economic, social, and governance challenges, the PPP maintains that political stability, constitutional continuity, and national unity remain essential for achieving long-term national progress. The party continues to participate actively in parliamentary politics while advocating that political differences should be resolved through democratic dialogue, mutual respect, and adherence to the Constitution.

Equally vital to a healthy democracy is the presence of a responsible, professional, and independent media. A free press serves as a bridge between the government, political parties, state institutions, and the public by promoting transparency, accountability, and informed public discourse. Constructive journalism enables citizens to better understand national issues, encourages civic participation, and strengthens democratic institutions.

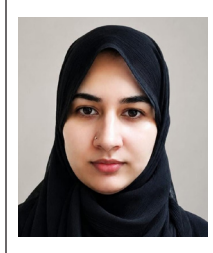
Journalists often perform their duties under difficult and, at times, extremely dangerous circumstances. In Pakistan, many media professionals have risked—and in some cases sacrificed—their lives in pursuit of truth and the public's right to know. Their work carries immense responsibility, not only in holding institutions and those in authority accountable, but also in ensuring that citizens receive accurate, balanced, and reliable information. Their dedication deserves recognition and respect, as responsible journalism remains one of the strongest pillars of any democratic society.

In this regard, the Daily Financial Times has established itself as an informative and influential newspaper committed to credible journalism, balanced reporting, and informed analysis. Through comprehensive coverage of politics, business, diplomacy, economic affairs, public policy, education, healthcare, and social development, the newspaper contributes to enhancing public awareness and encouraging meaningful national dialogue.

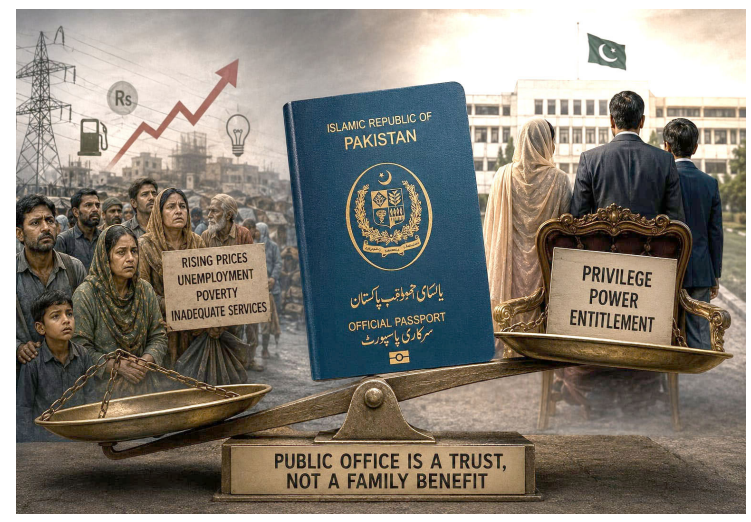
Beyond daily news reporting, the Daily Financial Times provides an important platform for opinion writers, researchers, policymakers, diplomats, academics, and political leaders to present diverse perspectives on issues affecting Pakistan. By highlighting development initiatives, economic opportunities, and public concerns, the newspaper seeks to support informed decision-making and constructive engagement among all stakeholders.

The newspaper actively promotes responsible journalism by encouraging fact-based reporting, editorial integrity, ethical media practices, and the highest professional standards. Its commitment to balanced coverage enables readers to better understand political developments and the policies and activities of all democratic political parties while upholding the principles of fairness, impartiality, and service to the public interest. The Daily Financial Times continues to deliver a powerful message in support of democratic values and remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that the integrity, stability, and success of the nation are never undermined. As Pakistan continues its democratic journey, the combined efforts of responsible political leadership, active public participation, and independent journalism will remain essential in building a peaceful, prosperous, and progressive nation. Political parties such as the Pakistan Peoples Party and professional media institutions such as the Daily Financial Times have distinct yet complementary roles in strengthening democratic values, promoting informed public debate, defending constitutional principles, and contributing to Pakistan's national development.

Blue Passport, Black Reality: When Public Office Becomes a Family Privilege



BY: Ms Hurish Shah Published By: ANI



In every democracy, public office is meant to symbolize responsibility, accountability, and service to the people. Yet, when official privileges begin to extend beyond those entrusted with public duties and become hereditary benefits for their families, democracy risks drifting toward aristocracy. The recent proposal approved by the Senate Standing Committee on Interior to extend blue passports to dependent children of parliamentarians under the age of 28 is not merely about a travel document; it reflects a deeper and more troubling culture of elite privilege in Pakistan.

Supporters of the proposal argue that it simply places parliamentarians' children on an equal footing with the dependent children of Grade-22 government officers. However, the real question is not whether one privileged group should receive the same benefits as another. The more fundamental question is whether such privileges should continue to expand at all in a country where millions struggle with inflation, unemployment, inadequate healthcare, and an overburdened education system.

The blue passport carries symbolic significance. It represents official status and the trust placed in an individual to represent the state. In most democratic countries, official passports are granted because of official responsibilities, not because of family relationships. Public office is temporary, but family privileges have a tendency to become permanent expectations. Once one category of elites receives additional benefits, other influential groups inevitably demand equal treatment, creating an endless cycle of expanding privileges funded by public resources.

This proposal should therefore be viewed within the broader framework of elite capture. For decades, Pakistan's political economy has been shaped by a system in which influential groups often enjoy advantages unavailable to ordinary citizens. These privileges take many forms: tax exemptions, subsidized utilities, preferential access to public land, regulatory concessions, generous official perks, patronage appointments, easier access to state resources, and policy decisions that frequently favour organized interests over the public good. The debate over blue passports is simply the latest chapter in a much larger story.

The tragedy is not that public officials receive certain privileges; every country provides facilities to those performing important state functions. The real concern arises when privileges become detached from official necessity and evolve into symbols of status and entitlement. In such circumstances, public office gradually shifts from being a public trust to becoming a gateway to personal and family benefits.

International experience generally follows a different principle. In countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, France, Canada, and Australia, official or diplomatic passports are primarily linked to official duties and specific government assignments rather than being automatically extended to legislators' dependent children. While some countries provide such passports to dependents of diplomats serving abroad, these privileges are generally connected to overseas official postings rather than domestic political office.

Ironically, many governments facing fiscal pressures have moved in the opposite direction by reducing official perks, tightening travel expenditures, restricting government vehicles, and strengthening public accountability. Pakistan, however, often appears trapped in a different conversation—one centred on how official privileges can be expanded rather than rationalised.

The timing of this proposal is equally significant. Citizens are repeatedly urged to accept higher taxes, rising electricity tariffs, increased fuel prices, and austerity measures in the name of economic stability. Businesses face mounting operational costs, while young graduates confront shrinking employment opportunities. In such an environment, expanding symbolic privileges for already influential groups sends an unfortunate message: sacrifice is expected from the public, while benefits continue to flow upward.

The issue extends far beyond politicians alone. Pakistan's governance challenges stem from a broader culture of privilege that cuts across segments of the political, bureaucratic, corporate, landed, and administrative elite. Whenever public policy begins to prioritize institutional status over public welfare, the gap between the governing class and ordinary citizens widens. Such disparities weaken public trust, fuel perceptions of inequality, and undermine confidence in democratic institutions.

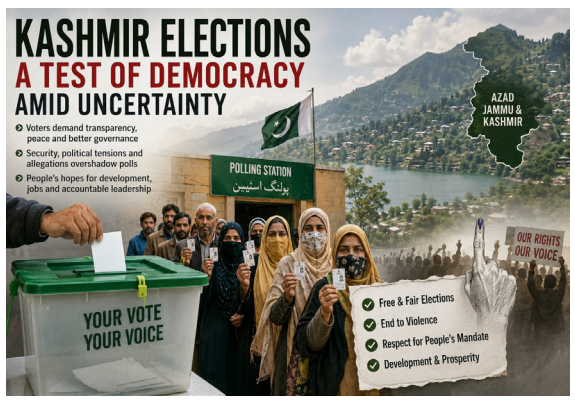
The debate surrounding blue passports is therefore not about colour; it is about values. Should public office be measured by the privileges it delivers, or by the service it demands? Should equality mean extending elite benefits to more privileged groups, or should it mean reducing unnecessary privileges altogether? These are questions that deserve serious national reflection.

A mature democracy is built not on exclusive entitlements but on equal citizenship. The legitimacy of public institutions depends upon the perception that those who govern are prepared to live under the same standards they expect from the people they serve. Official positions should carry greater responsibilities, not greater family privileges.

Pakistan does not need additional symbols of privilege; it needs stronger institutions, equal treatment under the law, and leadership that inspires public confidence through accountability rather than entitlement. The debate over the blue passport is ultimately not about a travel document but about the values that shape our democracy. Whether public office remains a public trust or gradually becomes a vehicle for inherited privilege will depend on the choices policymakers make today.

Kashmir Elections Amid Uncertainty: Democracy's Test in a Time of Crisis

Written By:Kiran shehzadi Published By:ANI News Agency



The ongoing elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) have become far more than a routine democratic exercise. They are taking place against a backdrop of political polarisation, public protests, security concerns and growing debate over governance. As voters head to the polls, the elections are not only determining the composition of the Legislative Assembly but are also testing the credibility of democratic institutions and the resilience of the political process.

The first phase of polling witnessed a highly charged political atmosphere. While the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) emerged with a strong lead in the Mirpur division according to unofficial results, the election process was overshadowed by reports of violent clashes, allegations of rigging, and concerns about voter turnout.

Political competition in Kashmir has traditionally been intense, but this year's elections are unfolding under exceptional circumstances. The ban on the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), weeks of protests and heightened security measures have significantly influenced the electoral environment. Government officials maintain that security operations were necessary to ensure peaceful polling, while critics argue that restrictions have narrowed political space and affected public confidence.

Democracy derives its legitimacy not merely from the casting of ballots but from public trust in the fairness and transparency of the electoral process. Whenever allegations of electoral manipulation emerge, institutions responsible for conducting elections face the responsibility of responding promptly, impartially and transparently. Ensuring confidence in democratic institutions is essential for long-term political stability. The people of Kashmir continue to face numerous socio-economic challenges, including unemployment, inflation, infrastructure deficits, energy shortages and limited economic opportunities. For many voters, these concerns outweigh political slogans. Citizens increasingly expect practical solutions rather than rhetorical promises. Whichever party ultimately forms the government will be judged not by campaign speeches but by its ability to improve governance, strengthen public services and create economic opportunities.

Another important feature of these elections is the increasing role of young voters. Young people are more informed, more connected through digital platforms and more demanding of accountability than previous generations. They seek transparent governance, merit-based opportunities and responsive leadership. Political parties that successfully engage with these aspirations are likely to shape Kashmir's political future.

Security remains another defining issue. Reports of clashes in some constituencies have highlighted the delicate balance between maintaining law and order and safeguarding democratic freedoms. Every effort must be made to ensure that citizens can exercise their right to vote without intimidation, fear or violence. Peaceful elections strengthen institutions, whereas violence weakens public confidence and damages democratic credibility.

The Kashmir elections also attract close national and international attention because of the region's strategic importance. Consequently, transparency throughout polling, counting and result compilation becomes even more significant. Independent observation, adherence to electoral laws and timely resolution of complaints can reinforce confidence in the overall process.

Political parties likewise carry an important responsibility. Healthy democratic competition should never undermine social harmony. Once polling concludes, all stakeholders should respect legal mechanisms for addressing grievances rather than encouraging confrontation. Democracy flourishes when political disagreements remain within constitutional boundaries.

The Election Commission also plays a crucial role. Its independence and impartiality are fundamental to ensuring free, fair and credible elections. Prompt communication, transparency in results and effective handling of complaints can help minimise controversy and reinforce institutional trust.

Ultimately, the significance of these elections extends beyond determining which party secures the largest number of seats. They represent an opportunity to demonstrate that democratic institutions remain capable of responding to public expectations despite political tensions and challenging circumstances.

Kashmir's future depends upon stable governance, economic development, institutional accountability and public participation. Elections alone cannot resolve every challenge, but they provide an essential mechanism through which citizens express their aspirations and hold leaders accountable.

As the remaining phases of polling continue, all political stakeholders must place the interests of the people above partisan considerations. Respect for democratic norms, peaceful political engagement and acceptance of lawful electoral outcomes will contribute to long-term stability and strengthen public confidence.

The people of Kashmir deserve not only competitive elections but also responsive governance, lasting peace and sustainable development. The true success of these elections will ultimately be measured not simply by who wins power, but by whether the democratic process succeeds in delivering hope, accountability and better governance for the people.

Shared Responsibilities: Rethinking House Chores for Working Women



BY:Ms Yasmeen Asad Published By:ANI



In today's world, women are making remarkable contributions in every field. They are doctors, teachers, journalists, entrepreneurs, engineers, civil servants, and business leaders. Alongside their professional achievements, many continue to shoulder the majority of household responsibilities. This "double burden" of paid work and unpaid domestic labour remains one of the greatest challenges facing working women across the world, including Pakistan.

A woman's contribution to her family has always been invaluable. Managing a home, caring for children, supporting elderly family members, preparing meals, and maintaining the household are responsibilities that require time, energy, and emotional commitment. These tasks are essential to the well-being of every family, yet they often go unrecognised because they are unpaid.

For working women, the challenge becomes even greater. After completing a full day at work, many return home only to begin another shift of cooking, cleaning, helping children with homework, and managing family needs. This continuous cycle can lead to physical exhaustion, emotional stress, and reduced time for personal well-being.

The issue is not whether women should care for their families—many do so with love and dedication. The real question is whether these responsibilities should rest solely on their shoulders. Modern family life requires shared responsibility. When husbands, children, and other family members contribute to household chores, the home becomes a place of cooperation rather than unequal burden.

Research has consistently shown that families who share domestic responsibilities experience stronger relationships, better communication, and healthier emotional environments. Children raised in such households also learn important values of equality, respect, and teamwork. Sons who see their fathers participating in household work are more likely to become supportive partners in the future, while daughters gain confidence that their aspirations deserve equal respect.

Employers also have an important role to play. Flexible working arrangements, maternity benefits, childcare support, and family-friendly workplace policies can help women balance their professional and personal responsibilities more effectively. Governments can strengthen these efforts through policies that promote equal opportunities, affordable childcare, and protection against workplace discrimination.

Society, too, must challenge outdated stereotypes. Household work is not exclusively a woman's responsibility. Cooking, cleaning, and caring for family members are life skills that benefit everyone regardless of gender. Respect should be given to both homemakers and working women, recognising that every family's circumstances are different.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that not every household has the same financial or social realities. Some women choose to stay at home, while others work out of necessity or personal ambition. Neither choice should diminish their dignity or worth. Every woman deserves appreciation for the contributions she makes to her family and society.

Technology and changing lifestyles have made many household tasks easier, but they have not eliminated the need for cooperation. Small acts—such as sharing cooking duties, helping children with schoolwork, or taking responsibility for cleaning—can significantly reduce the pressure on working women and strengthen family bonds.

As societies continue to progress, true development cannot be measured solely by economic growth or educational achievements. It must also be reflected in fairness within the home. Recognising domestic work as valuable and encouraging shared responsibilities creates healthier families, happier workplaces, and more inclusive communities. Supporting working women is not about reducing family values; it is about strengthening them through partnership, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. When household duties are distributed fairly, women can pursue their careers without carrying an unequal burden, families become more resilient, and society moves closer to genuine equality.

Message by the Honourable MNA Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, Parliamentary Secretary for Science and Technology & Convenor, Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, on the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times



On the momentous occasion of the 13th anniversary of Financial Times, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to its entire editorial team, management, journalists, and staff for successfully completing thirteen years of dedicated service to journalism.

Over the years, Financial Times has demonstrated commendable professionalism, journalistic integrity, and an unwavering commitment to responsible reporting. Its credible and balanced coverage has earned the confidence of readers and has significantly contributed to strengthening public awareness on important national issues.

I particularly appreciate the newspaper's consistent coverage of the meetings, seminars, conferences, and engagements of the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights and its efforts to highlight issues relating to the welfare, protection, and development of children. By effectively reporting on the proceedings of National Assembly sessions, joint sittings of Parliament, and the meetings of parliamentary standing committees, Financial Times has played an important role in connecting citizens with the legislative process and promoting greater public understanding of parliamentary affairs.

I commend the entire team for its invaluable contribution to responsible journalism and public service. May Financial Times continue to uphold the highest standards of ethical journalism and achieve even greater success in the years ahead.

I wish the entire Financial Times family continued progress, prosperity, and excellence in its media journey.

Pakistan-Türkiye Brotherhood Must Translate into Economic Prosperity: Haroon Akhtar



BY: Hurish Shah:

ISLAMABAD--- Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Tuesday said the time had come to transform the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye into stronger economic cooperation through investment, trade and private-sector partnerships.

Addressing a press conference at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he welcomed the Chamber's Business Opportunity Conference & Excellence Awards to be held in Istanbul on August 13, saying the initiative supports the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to increase bilateral trade to US$5 billion.

Haroon Akhtar said Pakistan's improving economic stability had enhanced investor confidence, adding that the government was focused on empowering the private sector, promoting industrialisation and improving the ease of doing business. He announced that he would lead the Pakistani business delegation to Türkiye to facilitate business-to-business engagement.

ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood said the Istanbul conference would showcase Pakistan's investment potential, promote joint ventures, technology transfer and create new export opportunities across key sectors. He reaffirmed ICCI's commitment to strengthening economic diplomacy and helping achieve the US$5 billion bilateral trade target.

Enes Malik Cetin, Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Türkiye in Islamabad, appreciated ICCI's initiative and expressed confidence that the visit would further strengthen trade and investment relations between the two countries.

Congratulatory Message on the 13th Anniversary of Financial Times

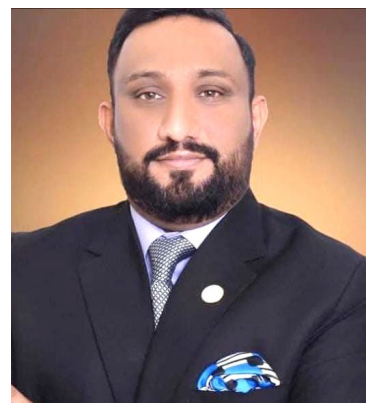
On behalf of the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI), we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Financial Times on the occasion of its 13th Anniversary.

Over the past thirteen years, the Financial Times has made a remarkable contribution to responsible journalism by promoting credible reporting, highlighting the concerns of the business community, and supporting Pakistan's economic and social development through quality journalism.

We appreciate the newspaper's commitment to truth, professionalism, and public service. We wish the entire Financial Times team continued success and hope they will continue to uphold the highest standards of journalism in the years to come.



Muhammad Awais Satti
President
Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI)



Sardar Zaheer Ahmed
Vice President
Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI)

Congratulations on the 13th anniversary of the Financial Times: Sobia Aqeel Chief Executive Officer, SAAF International



On the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Financial Times, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Editor-in-Chief Dr. Waheed M. Khan and the entire team of the organization.

The services of the Financial Times in promoting financial journalism, economic awareness and financial literacy in Pakistan are commendable. The organization is effectively guiding the business community, investors and policymakers through its authentic reporting, quality analysis and professional journalism, which is playing an important role in the economic stability of the country.

I wish that under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Dr. Waheed M. Khan, the Financial Times will continue to play its effective role in promoting Pakistan's economic development and public awareness with the same professional standards, integrity and responsible journalism in the future.

Sobia Aqeel Chief Executive Officer, SAAF International







IHC Chief Justice Approves Transfers and Postings of Judges in Islamabad District Judiciary

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Chief Justice Islamabad High Court Justice Sardar Sarfraz Dogar has approved the transfer and posting of judges in the Islamabad district judiciary, with official notifications issued in this regard.

According to the notifications, four Additional District and Sessions Judges of the Islamabad Judicial Service have been transferred. Additional District and Sessions Judge West Muhammad Afzal Majoka has also been assigned additional charge of the Gender-Based Violence Court. Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Sohail has been transferred from Sessions Division West to East, while Javed Iqbal Sapra has also been transferred from West to East. Raja Asif Mahmood and Qudratullah have been transferred from East to West.

Two Senior Civil Judges have also been transferred. Senior Civil Judge Muhammad Abbas Shah has been moved from Civil District and Sessions Division West to East, while Malik Aman has been transferred from East to West.

The Chief Justice has also approved the transfers and postings of 14 Civil Judges-cum-Magistrates of the Islamabad Judicial Service.



Islamabad:Speaker N A Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with United States Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont) and Rep. Michael Baumgartner (R-Wash) USA Ambassador to Pakistan Natalie A Baker also present on the occasion

Punjab Government Distributes Agricultural Land Allotment Letters to Farmers in Mandi Bahauddin

BY: ANI Correspondent:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN-- Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif "Prosperous Farmers, Happy Punjab", allotment letters of government agricultural land were distributed among deserving farmers of Mandi Bahauddin under the "Apna Khet, Apna Rozgar" programme.

A ceremony was held at the District Council Hall where Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Bariar, MPA Khalid Mehmood Ranjha and other officials distributed allotment letters among six farmers.

Under the scheme, landless farmers have been provided agricultural land on a 20-year lease to support farming activities, improve livelihoods and strengthen the rural economy. Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Bariar said the initiative was a major step towards empowering farmers, while MPA Khalid Mehmood Ranjha appreciated the farmer-friendly measures of the Punjab government.

Local Government Power Should Be Transferred to Councillors: Khaqan Waheed Khawaja

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Chairman Pakistan Awami Quwat Party and Rawal General & Dental Hospital and Rawal Foundation, Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, has said that real power in the local government system belongs to the people, and his party supports transferring authority to the councillor level.

Talking to various delegations at his office, he said that despite being out of power, his party was carrying out public welfare initiatives that had not been undertaken for years. He added that further revolutionary steps for public relief would soon be announced.

Khaqan Waheed Khawaja said that amid rising inflation and lawlessness, genuine public protection could only be ensured when representatives were elected from within local communities who understood people's problems and worked for their solutions.

He also called for an increase in the wheat support price fixed for farmers, saying the current rate was insufficient for their economic well-being. He demanded an immediate government inquiry into reports of wheat shortages to prevent any possible flour crisis. The delegations, including political and social figures, expressed confidence in the manifesto and vision of Pakistan Awami Quwat Party, saying they would continue playing their role in resolving the issues of ordinary citizens through the party platform.

WASA Mandi Bahauddin Sets Example with Swift Rainwater Drainage During Monsoon Rains

BY: ANI Reporter:

MANDI BAHAUDDIN-- Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Mandi Bahauddin demonstrated effective emergency response during recent torrential monsoon rains by clearing several feet of accumulated rainwater from College Chowk, Jail Road and other low-lying areas within hours.

Under the leadership of MD WASA Ali Ahmed Chaudhry, WASA teams remained active day and night on the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Briar to ensure timely drainage across the city.



WASA staff continuously monitored different areas and provided emergency services to keep disposal stations, drains and sewerage lines operational, preventing water accumulation and ensuring smooth movement for citizens.

MD WASA Ali Ahmed Chaudhry directed field officers and staff to keep machinery and teams fully prepared throughout the monsoon season and complete drainage operations efficiently after rainfall.

Citizens appreciated the efforts of Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Adeel Haider Briar and MD WASA Ali Ahmed Chaudhry for the timely removal of rainwater and effective public service.

Sherry Rehman Accuses PML-N of Election Irregularities, Defends Bilawal

BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman has strongly reacted to criticism by PML-N leadership against PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, alleging that declaring a disputed electoral victory as a public mandate was "ridiculous."

In a statement, Sherry Rehman said allegations of electoral irregularities were being raised not only by the PPP but also by sections of the media. She claimed that the announcement of a PML-N candidate's victory was made before the Presiding Officer had reached the Returning Officer with the official results.

She said those criticizing Bilawal



Bhutto Zardari should first review the conduct of their own political leadership, alleging that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had failed to demonstrate political tolerance despite holding power multiple times. Sherry Rehman alleged that a politics of hatred was being used to divide the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, adding that PPP worker Mukhtar Younis was present at the polling station to protect the public mandate.

She further claimed that violence, firing and intimidation before elections created fear among voters and said that transparent investigations would reveal the facts behind the alleged electoral irregularities.

Reiterating the PPP's position, she said the party would continue to defend the people's vote, adding that "Azad Kashmir belonged to PPP and would remain so," while expressing confidence in regaining seats in Mirpur and securing public support in Muzaffarabad.

ADC Maliha Sehar Directs Price Magistrates to Intensify Action Against Profiteers

BY: Kiran Shehzadi/ANI

RAWALPINDI--- Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Rawalpindi Maliha Sehar chaired a meeting of price magistrates on Monday to review price control measures, availability of essential commodities at official rates, and enforcement against profiteering across the district.

The meeting directed all price magistrates to further strengthen daily inspections in markets and commercial centres and ensure strict implementation of the price lists issued by the Punjab government. Officials were also instructed to continue indiscriminate action against profiteering, hoarding, artificial inflation and overcharging.

The meeting was informed that from July 1 to July 27, 2026, a total of 82,273 inspections were carried out across the district. As a result, 13,543 violators were fined, with penalties amounting to Rs. 3.815 million.



During the same period, 102 shops and business premises were sealed, while 20 individuals were arrested.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC (General) Maliha Sehar said ensuring the availability of essential commodities at government-notified prices was the district administration's top priority. She directed price magistrates to increase their field presence, promptly address public complaints and make the price control campaign more effective to provide maximum relief to consumers.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Islamabad on Official Visit

BY: ANI Correspondent:



ISLAMABAD-- Foreign Minister of the State of Kuwait H.E. Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday on an official visit at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Upon arrival at Islamabad International Airport, the Kuwaiti dignitary was received by Zahid Hussain, Additional Secretary (Middle East), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the visit, the two sides will hold discussions on bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The visit reflects the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and Kuwait, based on shared history, mutual trust and close cooperation

First Lady Asifa Bhutto Zardari Visits Renovated Spencer Eye Hospital in Lyari

BY: ANI Correspondent:

KARACHI--- First Lady and Member of the National Assembly Asifa Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday visited the renovated Spencer Eye Hospital in Lyari, where she reviewed the healthcare facilities being provided to the public.

The hospital, modernized under a public-private partnership by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation under Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab and the Government of Sindh, is providing free outpatient (OPD) services to around 4,000 patients daily.

During the briefing, she was informed that more than 700 laser and other medical procedures have been successfully carried out at the facility since April 2026.

The First Lady appreciated the efforts of doctors, paramedical staff and the hospital team for providing free and quality healthcare services.



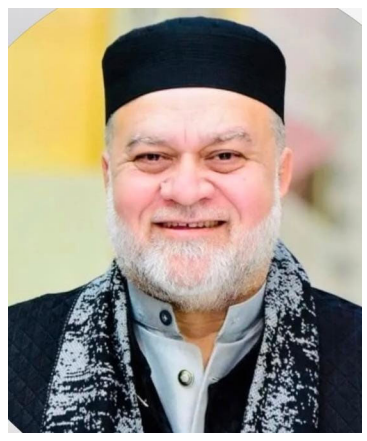
Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, MNA Shazia Marri and other officials accompanied Asifa Bhutto Zardari during the visit.

Federal Minister Pir Syed Imran Ahmed Shah Arrives in Chicago to Represent Pakistan at Turkish Festival

BY: ANI Correspondent:

CHICAGO--- Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Pir Syed Imran Ahmed Shah, has arrived in Chicago to represent Pakistan at the two-day Turkish Festival, being held on August 1–2 under the auspices of the Zakat Foundation of America.

During the festival, attended by more than 30,000 participants from the Turkish, Pakistani, Indian, Arab, and wider Muslim communities, the Federal Minister will address an international session on "Poverty: A Global Threat." In his keynote remarks, he will highlight Pakistan's efforts to combat poverty, outline the government's social protection initiatives, and discuss the role of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety in supporting vulnerable communities. He will also share



Pakistan's experiences and recommendations for addressing poverty through international cooperation.

On the second day of the festival, Pir Syed Imran Ahmed Shah will participate in a special session dedicated to the life and teachings of Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi. His address will focus on Rumi's enduring message of love, peace, spirituality, and humanity, while emphasizing the shared cultural and spiritual heritage that continues to strengthen the bonds between Pakistan and Türkiye. Prior to the festival, the Federal Minister is scheduled to visit the headquarters of the Zakat Foundation of America, where he will meet the organization's Chief Executive Officer, Halil Demir. During the visit, he will also interact with prominent members of the Pakistani-American community. The delegation will be briefed on the Foundation's humanitarian and development initiatives in Pakistan and its global relief efforts, with discussions aimed at further strengthening cooperation in poverty alleviation and social welfare.

Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya's 786th Urs Observed at AFI, Speakers Highlight Economic Self-Reliance

BY: ANI Correspondent:



RAWALPINDI--- The 786th annual Urs of renowned Sufi saint Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya was observed at the Anjuman Faiz-ul-Islam (AFI) Centre, Faizabad, where scholars, religious leaders, diplomats and distinguished guests paid tribute to his spiritual, educational and socio-economic legacy.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Mehdi Al-Taheri, Cultural Counsellor at the Iranian Embassy, as chief guest. Prominent participants included MNA Zain Qureshi, Syed Ghazanfar Mehdi, Professor Dr. Riaz Ahmad and other distinguished guests.

Addressing the gathering, MNA Zain Qureshi said economic self-reliance, moral values and character-building were important elements of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya's teachings. He said the great saint promoted spiritual guidance along with education, trade and economic empowerment.

He added that economic independence was essential for individuals and nations to achieve true freedom, while highlighting Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya's contributions to education, including the establishment of the first residential madrassa in the Subcontinent.

Dr. Mehdi Al-Taheri highlighted the strong cultural and historical ties between Pakistan and Iran, while Professor Dr. Riaz Ahmad paid tribute to Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya's services in spreading Islamic teachings, education and social welfare.

Speakers stressed that following the teachings of great Sufi saints could help promote moral values, economic self-reliance and sustainable national development.

Free Medical Camp Held at National Book Foundation to Mark World Hepatitis Day



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- A free medical camp was organized at the National Book Foundation (NBF), G-8, by the All Pakistan Association of Health and Medical Organizations in collaboration with the National Book Foundation to mark World Hepatitis Day.

The camp provided free hepatitis and blood sugar tests, along with medical check-ups by qualified doctors for NBF employees and other participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Headquarters, National Book Foundation, Murad Ali Mohmand, said that a healthy body is the foundation of a healthy society and a better quality of life. President of the All Pakistan Association of Health and Medical Organizations, Malik Sajjad, said the objective of organizing free medical camps and awareness programmes was to promote preventive healthcare and public awareness.

Secretary General of the Association, Abdul Waheed Babi, thanked the participating doctors, laboratories and technical staff for providing their services. Several healthcare institutions, including Umar Diagnostic Centre, Shaheen Lab, Universal Lab, Saeed International Hospital, NMRC, Irada Rehab Centre, Sehat.com and Inspection Rehab Centre, contributed to the camp.

The event was attended by Mansoor Ahmed, Nazia Rehman, Rehan Siddiqui, Arshad Khan, Tahir Nawaz, Nabeela Sadaf, Dr. Anmol and others. At the conclusion of the event, the Association presented a commemorative shield to Murad Ali Mohmand in recognition of his support and services.

Pakistan-US Ties Advancing Through Parliamentary Diplomacy: Barrister Danyal Chaudhry



BY: Irum Shehzadi/ ANI

ISLAMABAD-- Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry on Tuesday said Pakistan is committed to further strengthening bilateral relations with the United States through parliamentary diplomacy, people-to-people contacts and expanded cooperation in diverse sectors. Speaking after a meeting between the Pakistan-US Parliamentary Friendship Group and a visiting US Congressional delegation at Parliament House, he said strong parliamentary engagement would promote cooperation in trade, investment, education, academic exchanges and institutional partnerships. Barrister Danyal said the Pakistani people appreciated the diplomatic role played by US President Donald Trump in helping de-escalate tensions during the recent Pakistan-India standoff, describing it as a positive development in bilateral relations.

He stressed the need to revive the Pakistan Caucus in the US Congress to further strengthen legislative ties and noted that the US delegation's visit and meetings with Pakistan's leadership reflected both countries' commitment to enhancing cooperation.

Rejecting a recent Pew Research Center survey as inconsistent with ground realities, Barrister Danyal said Pakistan's close friendship with China did not translate into negative perceptions of the United States. He added that Pakistan-US relations continue to progress on the basis of mutual respect, shared interests and sustained diplomatic engagement.

Other parliamentarians attending the meeting also rejected the survey findings, describing them as unrepresentative of public opinion.

Senate Panel Seeks Audit of NEPRA, Presses for CSS Age Relaxation Reforms



BY: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, chaired by Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan, on Monday questioned NEPRA's unapproved increase in salaries and allowances, ordered a comprehensive performance audit of the regulator and directed implementation of its recommendations on increasing the upper age limit and number of attempts for the CSS Competitive Examination.

The committee expressed concern that NEPRA had revised the salaries and benefits of its Chairman and Members without federal government approval. It decided to refer the matter to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and called for a performance audit by the Auditor General of Pakistan.

During a briefing on circular debt and Independent Power Producers (IPPs), members raised concerns over capacity payments to non-operational power plants and criticised NEPRA for failing to provide tariff details despite repeated directions. The committee also sought complete data on IPPs, tariff determinations, generation capacity and installation costs.

The committee discussed the location of imported coal and RLNG-based power plants and directed NEPRA to submit a comprehensive report. It also stressed reviewing electricity tariffs and IPP agreements to help reduce power costs for consumers.

A briefing on the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's rollout obligations was deferred due to the absence of relevant officials, who were directed to attend the next meeting.

The committee also decided to take up frequent changes in petroleum prices at its next meeting. Expressing dissatisfaction over delays in implementing its recommendations on CSS age relaxation and attempts, it directed the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) and the Establishment Division to submit a compliance report at the earliest.

Lawyers Key to Democracy, Rule of Law: NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

BY: Hurish Shah:



ISLAMABAD--- Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday said the legal fraternity has always played a vital role in strengthening democracy, ensuring the supremacy of the Constitution and upholding the rule of law.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Executive Committee of the High Court Bar Association Hyderabad at Parliament House. Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai also attended the meeting.

The Speaker said the National Assembly had established a Legislative Drafting Council, comprising experienced professionals selected on merit, to further improve the quality of legislation and strengthen the legislative process.

The delegation apprised the Speaker of issues facing the legal community and discussed matters related to lawyers' professional development and welfare.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed the need for closer cooperation between Parliament and the legal fraternity, reaffirming that the Legislative Drafting Council was playing an effective role in improving the legislative process.

The delegation appreciated the Speaker's efforts to strengthen parliamentary institutions and promote engagement with the legal community. The Speaker assured members that the issues raised during the meeting would receive due consideration.

National Workshop Balochistan delegation briefed on WAPDA's water, hydropower project plans



ANI

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the National Workshop Balochistan visited WAPDA House, for a detailed briefing on WAPDA's plan for development of water and hydropower projects. The delegation was briefed about water, food and energy security of Pakistan; water dynamics in the country; effects of climate change; implications of Weaponization of Water by India and contributions of WAPDA towards national development. National Workshop Balochistan delegation briefed on WAPDA's water, hydropower project plans. WAPDA is currently constructing Diamer Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, and Tarbela 5th Extension, which will add approximately 10 MAF to gross water storage and 10,000 MW of clean, green and affordable hydel electricity to the National Grid, said a message received here on Tuesday. During the interactive session, Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Muhammad Saeed (Retd) highlighted the challenges to water security of Pakistan due to climate change and India's unilateral holding of the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance. The Chairman also elaborated the need for new water reservoirs and factors behind the slow paced development of water resources in the country.

Senate Panel Reviews Motorway Incident, Highway Project Delays



BY: ANI Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- The Senate Standing Committee on Communications, chaired by Senator Pervaiz Rashid, on Monday reviewed the recent motorway incident involving a couple and discussed delays in major national highway projects, emphasizing timely completion of ongoing schemes and improved funding arrangements.

The meeting was attended by Senators Dost Ali Jeesar, Zamir Hussain Ghumro, Muhammad Abdul Qadir, Kamil Ali Agha, Abdul Wasay and Saif Ullah Abro.

The committee deferred agenda items on road projects in Chitral and Balochistan, including CPEC-linked highways and the Karachi–Bela Road, due to the absence of the movers.

Briefing the committee, the Inspector General of the Motorway Police said the July 16 incident involved a vehicle parked on the roadside. He clarified that moral policing was not part of the force's standard operating procedures (SOPs), adding that the officer involved had been suspended and an inquiry was underway.

The committee was informed that the 298-kilometre Kuchlak–Zhob (N-50) project remained incomplete due to a shortage of funds. Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro questioned delays in ongoing projects, while Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir raised concerns over the allocation of development funds for Balochistan.

Members also discussed ensuring timely release of funds for road projects through quarterly disbursements and a bridge financing mechanism for contractors. The committee agreed to take up the issue of project financing separately to help improve future policy decisions. Senior officials of the Ministry of Communications, the National Highway Authority (NHA) and the Motorway Police attended the meeting.

Health Minister calls Hepatitis C a national emergency, urges decisive action to eliminate disease by 2030

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Mustafa Kamal, has declared Hepatitis C a national emergency, stressing that the time for silence has passed and that Pakistan must now take decisive action to eliminate the disease.

Speaking on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, the Minister said the country can no longer afford to lose precious lives to a disease that is preventable, detectable and curable. The Minister stated that the gathering was not merely to observe an international day but to reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to ending Hepatitis C. He emphasized that Hepatitis C is no longer just a public health issue but a national emergency requiring an urgent and coordinated response. Highlighting the scale of the challenge, Mustafa Kamal said Pakistan carries high burden of Hepatitis C, with more than 10 million people living with the virus and approximately 110,000 new infections reported each year. He stressed that these figures cannot be treated as routine statistics and require immediate national attention. The Minister noted that the availability of modern antiviral medicines has made Hepatitis C a curable disease with more than 95 percent of patients able to achieve complete recovery through timely diagnosis and treatment. Mustafa Kamal said that the Prime Minister's National Hepatitis C Elimination Programme represents far more than a policy announcement.

It reflects the Government of Pakistan's firm commitment to ensuring early identification of patients through free screening, free diagnostic testing and free treatment. He added that the programme will be expanded across the country in phases with the objective of screening more than 164 million people.

He informed that the Federal Government is directly implementing the programme in Islamabad Capital Territory, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, while working closely with provincial governments to gradually extend its coverage nationwide. The Minister expressed confidence that with collective national efforts, Pakistan can achieve the goal of becoming Hepatitis-free by 2030. The Federal Minister emphasized that "Hepatitis C is not an incurable disease. However, if left undiagnosed and untreated it can cause severe liver damage, leading to liver cirrhosis and eventually liver cancer, making treatment significantly more complex. He urged citizens to undergo timely screening and seek early treatment.

Mustafa Kamal further stated that, under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and with the guidance of Professor Saeed Akhtar, a comprehensive national programme has been developed to eliminate Hepatitis C. The Ministry of National Health Services has played an active role in its formulation, adopting Egypt's internationally recognized model, which successfully controlled the disease through nationwide screening within a few years.

He said Pakistan is implementing the same model in phases, beginning with Islamabad, through close collaboration between the Federal and Provincial Governments. The ultimate objective is to screen the entire population to ensure that every infected individual is diagnosed and treated at the earliest opportunity.

The Minister announced that every individual diagnosed with Hepatitis C under the programme will receive a complete three-month course of treatment free of cost, with an estimated value of PKR 34,000 per patient. If additional treatment is required, the Government will also provide it free of charge. He added that all screening expenses are being fully covered by the Government and urged citizens to voluntarily visit designated screening centers, where testing is available at no cost.

Speaking about the broader vision for Pakistan's health sector, Kamal said the Government's priority extends beyond treating diseases to preventing them. He stressed that a modern healthcare system is built on prevention rather than cure. In line with this vision, the Ministry is strengthening maternal and child health services, routine immunization, family planning, nutrition, access to safe drinking water, environmental health and primary healthcare across the country.



Karachi: Prominent businessman and architect Kafeel Hussain presents a memento of appreciation to Dr. Maher Mjhid, Consul General of the Republic of Iraq, during a farewell dinner organized by KHA Business and International Relations. Also present are Irfan Soomro, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liaison Office Karachi, Jilani Yousuf, and Hayat Khan.

Thirteen Years of Courage, Credibility and Commitment Financial Times Islamabad's Enduring Journey in Defence of Responsible Journalism, Economic Awareness and the Public's Right to Know







Written by: Dr. Abdul Ghani
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Published By: ANI News Agency

Newspapers are not merely collections of printed words. At their best, they are the memory of a nation, the record of its struggles and the guardians of its public conscience. Governments change, political slogans disappear, economic policies are revised and public personalities pass from prominence, but the pages of a responsible newspaper preserve the realities of their time. The 13th anniversary of Financial Times, Islamabad, therefore, represents far more than the completion of another publishing year. It marks thirteen years of journalistic commitment, institutional endurance and service to the public.



The journey of Daily Financial Times began at a time when journalism in Pakistan was passing through a profound transformation. Traditional newspapers were confronting the rapid expansion of television, social media and digital news platforms. Readers were no longer prepared to wait until the next morning for information; they expected news to reach them immediately. At the same time, the spread of unverified reports, sensational headlines and politically motivated narratives created a new challenge: information was becoming faster, but not necessarily more reliable.

It was within this demanding environment that Daily Financial Times developed its journalistic identity. Published from Islamabad, the centre of Pakistan's political, administrative and diplomatic activity, the newspaper gradually established its presence by covering matters of national importance, economic affairs, public policy, governance, business, international relations and social development. Its location in the federal capital enabled it to observe national decision-making closely, but proximity to power also carried a greater responsibility: to report public affairs without becoming merely an extension of official narratives.

The significance of a financial newspaper in Pakistan cannot be overstated. Economic decisions are often presented through complicated statistics, technical expressions and lengthy policy documents. Yet behind every change in taxation, inflation, interest rates, public expenditure, trade or employment lies a direct consequence for ordinary citizens. Responsible financial journalism must therefore translate economic policy into understandable public knowledge. It must explain not only what decision has been taken but also who will benefit, who may bear the cost and how the decision may influence the country's future.

During its thirteen-year journey, Daily Financial Times has contributed to this essential process of public understanding. Its pages have provided space for political developments, parliamentary affairs, economic issues, institutional activities and matters affecting the daily lives of citizens. Rather than restricting itself to a narrow interpretation of finance, the newspaper has treated the economy as part of a broader national conversation involving governance, accountability, diplomacy, education, development and social welfare.

Another notable aspect of this journey is institutional continuity. Establishing a newspaper is difficult; sustaining one for thirteen years is a greater achievement. The newspaper industry faces rising printing costs, declining advertising revenues, changing reading habits and intense competition from digital platforms. Smaller and independently managed publications face these pressures more severely because they often operate without the financial resources available to larger media organizations. In such circumstances, every completed year becomes evidence of determination, teamwork and confidence in the continuing relevance of journalism.

The thirteen-year journey of Daily Financial Times has undoubtedly involved persistent struggle, sacrifice and professional resilience. Producing a credible newspaper amid financial pressures, rapidly changing technology, strict publication deadlines and growing competition from instant digital media requires far more than routine effort. It demands patience, discipline and an unwavering belief in the social value of journalism. The management, editorial leadership and entire journalistic team deserve special appreciation for continuing to pursue better journalism, improving the quality of public information and preserving a platform where national, economic and social issues can be discussed responsibly. Their struggle has not merely been for the survival of a publication; it has been for the survival of credible reporting, informed debate and the public's right to receive dependable information.



Daily Financial Times has also recognized that survival in modern journalism requires adaptation. Its presence is no longer confined to the printed page. Through its online and social-media platforms, the newspaper has sought to reach readers who increasingly consume news through mobile phones and digital devices. This transition reflects an understanding that the medium may change, but the fundamental duty of journalism remains the same: to provide timely, accurate and meaningful information.

Nevertheless, an anniversary should not be an occasion for appreciation alone. It should also provide an opportunity for reflection. The future credibility of journalism will depend upon its willingness to resist sensationalism, political pressure, commercial influence and the temptation to publish unverified information merely for speed. Newspapers must strengthen fact-checking, distinguish clearly between news and opinion, provide space for diverse viewpoints and ensure that criticism remains evidence-based and responsible.







For Daily Financial Times, the completion of thirteen years should therefore be viewed not as the conclusion of a successful chapter but as the beginning of a more demanding one. Pakistan needs journalism that can examine public expenditure, economic inequality, unemployment, taxation, institutional performance and the consequences of government policies with professional independence. It also needs newspapers that give representation to communities and individuals whose voices are frequently absent from national debate.

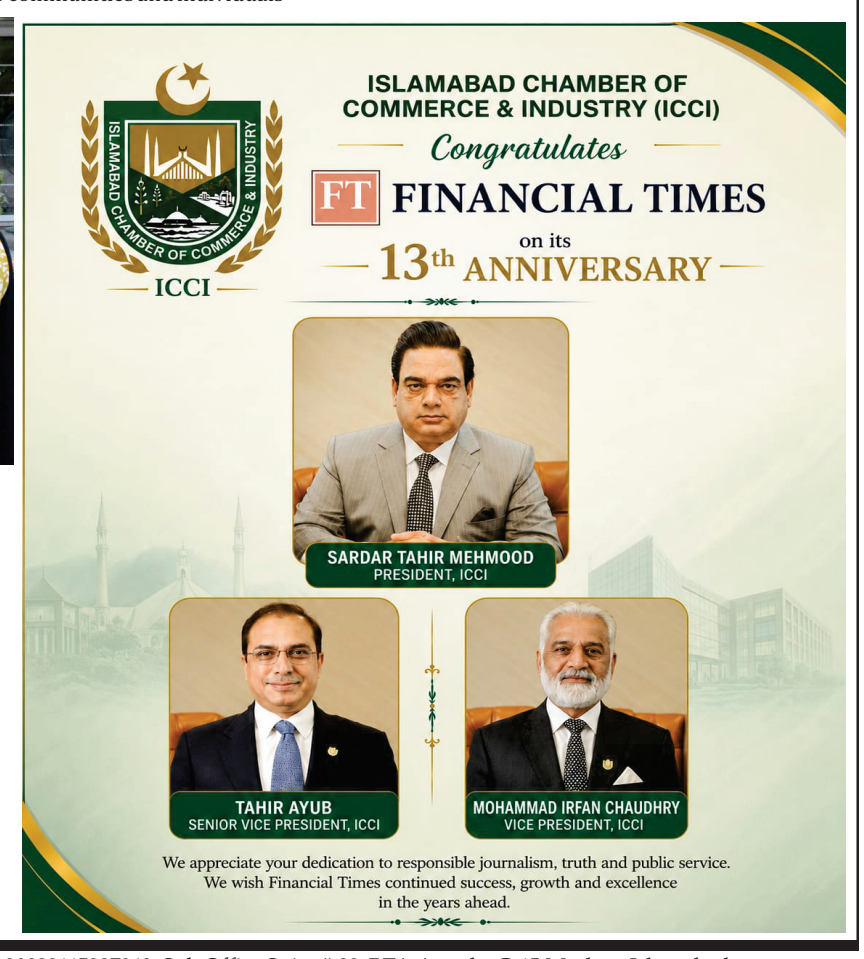
Credit for this thirteen-year achievement belongs to the editors, reporters, columnists, photographers, designers, administrative personnel, printing staff, distributors and readers who have remained associated with the newspaper. Journalism is often identified with prominent names, but every edition is the result of collective labour performed under strict deadlines and difficult circumstances.

On its 13th anniversary, Daily Financial Times, Islamabad, deserves sincere appreciation for maintaining its presence in Pakistan's challenging media environment and for contributing to the national conversation. Its real success, however, will continue to be measured not merely by the number of editions it publishes but by the trust it earns, the questions it raises, the realities it documents and the public interest it protects.

May Daily Financial Times continue its journey with courage in investigation, balance in reporting, depth in analysis and integrity in editorial judgment. Thirteen years constitute an admirable milestone, but for an institution committed to truth and public service, they should also serve as a firm foundation for many more decades of responsible journalism.







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