

Daily **FINANCIAL TIMES**Email: dailyfinancialtimes2@gmail.com, Whatsapp: 00923060106475
Website: <https://dailyfinancialtime.com>

Editor: JAVED SIDDIQ

Islamabad

Vol: 14 Issue: 322 Pages: 4 Price: 20 Monday August 03 2026

The Newspaper of ANI Media Group

14 killed, 20 injured in suicide blast near police station in Swat



ANI

SWAT: At least 14 people, including police personnel and civilians, were killed and 20 others injured in a suicide bombing near the main gate of the Kabal Police Station in Swat district, police said. The explosion also caused partial damage to the police station building. According to police, rescue teams were dispatched

immediately after the blast, and all those killed and injured were shifted to Central Hospital Swat for treatment and further procedures.

Following the attack, a heavy contingent of police and other law enforcement agencies, led by Swat District Police Officer (DPO) Mohammad Omar Khan, reached the scene, cordoned off the area, and launched an investigation.

Preliminary findings indicate that the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber.

Investigators recovered the suspected attacker's head from the scene, while the bomb disposal squad is examining the nature of the explosion and the explosives used.

A search operation is also underway to trace and arrest any suspected accomplices.

Police said initial evidence suggests the suspected attacker may have been an Afghan national, but stressed that this has not been conclusively established and will only be confirmed after the investigation is completed. DPO Mohammad Omar Khan said authorities are determined to identify those responsible for the attack, including any facilitators, and bring them to justice.

Security forces kill 10 terrorists in IBOs under Operation 11 Gurj across K-P

ANI

Security forces killed 10 terrorists in separate Intelligence-Based Operations (IBOs) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) under Operation 11 Gurj, security sources said on Sunday.

According to the Associated Press of Pakistan APP, security forces continued conducting IBOs under Operation 11 Garaj across K-P, targeting terrorists' hideouts and facilitators. The operation has been ongoing across K-P over the past two months. In a statement, security sources said two members of Fitna al-Khawarij were killed in the Shakro area of Bajaur district, while eight others were killed in the Darbi Khel and Batan areas of Khyber district. The sources said the operations were carried out on the basis of verified intelligence as part of an ongoing campaign against terrorist groups aimed at clearing the area of militants and ensuring peace and stability. They added that security forces would continue operations until terrorism was completely eliminated. Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Separately, security forces killed a key terrorist commander, identified as Muawiya, the mastermind behind the Hangu check post attack, during an IBO in the Chapri Naryab area of K-P's Hangu district, according to Radio Pakistan. On July 30, nine policemen, including Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Diyar Khan, were martyred and 28 others, including DSP Mujahid Hussain, were injured after terrorists attacked the police check post in Hangu district, while police killed 15 terrorists and wounded several others in a retaliatory operation.

State broadcaster PTV said in a post on X that Muawiya held an important position within the Fitna al-Khawarij, ranking after Commander Kazim.

It added that the terrorist was wanted by security forces in connection with numerous terrorist activities.

Citing security sources, APP noted that the latest operation was carried out in the Shakro area of Bajaur, where forces engaged and destroyed terrorists' hideouts based on intelligence.



The sources added that several terrorists were killed, with many others injured, during the operations. According to the sources, security forces also apprehended terrorist facilitators and recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition during the campaign.

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were also located and destroyed by security personnel.

The operations, being conducted with the support of ground forces and quadcopter surveillance, forced terrorists to flee populated areas while enhancing the effectiveness of the IBOs, APP said, citing sources.

A day earlier, five "Indian-sponsored" terrorists were killed in an IBO in K-P's Razmak area, while 24 were killed on July 29 in the province's Khyber district.

Terrorism has significantly increased in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, in recent days. The rise in terrorist activity has led to growing concerns over the security situation in these regions. In response, security forces have been conducting intensive operations to counter the threat, targeting terrorist groups.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), in a report released in February, also drew attention to a series of attacks by the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) against Pakistani security forces and projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"On September 16, 2025, the BLA ambushed a Pakistani military convoy patrolling the corridor, killing 32 troops. While counter-terrorism operations by Pakistan restricted the BLA's operational space, it remained active".

Khawaja Asif says PML-N set to form next AJK govt, calls turnout 'encouraging'

ANI

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday expressed confidence that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would form the next government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), saying the polling process was peaceful and turnout was encouraging.

Talking to the media during a visit to election camps in Union Council Fatehgarh, Sialkot, Asif said the polling process across the valley and the relevant constituencies was continuing in a calm and orderly atmosphere.

He said the response from voters at election camps was highly encouraging, adding that reports received from the camps indicated a positive trend and that voter turnout was expected to increase further as the day progressed. Asif expressed optimism that PML-N would emerge victorious and form next government in AJK, enabling it to contribute to the region's development and stability under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif. Reaffirming Pakistan's longstanding position on Kashmir, Asif said, "Kashmir will become Pakistan" remains the country's fundamental



national stance. Referring to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said "Kashmir is Pakistan's jugular vein" and maintained that there was no room for any alternative solution. The defence minister expressed regret that some elements were strengthening the Indian lobby by spreading negative propaganda. Talking about the importance of Sialkot, Asif said that Sialkot was the stronghold of refugees of Jammu, where there were approximately 100,000 voters in this constituency (LA-36, Jammu-III).

The minister stressed that regardless of the outcome, all political parties should accept and respect the mandate of the people. Later, Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah rejected allegations of rigging and violence levelled

by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) during the second phase of the AJK elections, saying voters had peacefully exercised their right to vote across polling stations. He was speaking at a press conference in Islamabad alongside Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam.

Sanaullah said polling time had been extended by one hour at certain locations due to difficult weather conditions. He added that, under the rules, voters who had already reached polling stations before the closing time would be allowed to cast their votes even after 6pm.

He said, according to the latest information, around 95 to 96 per cent of the polling process had been completed across polling stations, and the counting process had started.

Rana Sanaullah says AJK election second phase ends peacefully, counting begins

ANI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Adviser on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, on Sunday said the second phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections was completed in a peaceful manner, with voting concluded at nearly 95 to 96 percent of polling stations and vote counting underway. Addressing a joint news conference with Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam, Rana Sanaullah said polling remained orderly throughout the day across AJK and on refugee seats in Pakistan. He noted that voting hours were extended by one hour in some areas due to weather conditions and difficult access routes. Voters who had already reached polling stations before the closing time were also allowed to cast their ballots. He said initial reports



showed that the election process had largely concluded without major disturbances. Polling and counting procedures were proceeding under the supervision of the Election Commission. Rana Sanaullah criticized the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for raising allegations of rigging during polling hours.

PPP alleges rigging, irregularities in second phase of AJK polls

ANI

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has alleged electoral irregularities during the second phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections, with Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calling on the Election Commission to take immediate action.

In a post on social media platform X, Bilawal said the Election Commission had failed to address the party's complaints regarding the first phase of the AJK elections. He said timely action on those complaints could



have helped restore the credibility of the second phase of polling. Bilawal stated that the PPP reserves the right to stage protests and demand re-polling if the reported irregularities are not addressed. He further claimed that the party had already submitted multiple written complaints alleging ballot stuffing and the unlawful removal of its polling agents from polling stations during the ongoing elections. The PPP chairman expressed hope that the Election Commission would act without delay and ensure transparency and fairness, at least during the second phase of the electoral process.

Monsoon death toll rises to 126 as electrocution tops causes of fatalities

ANI

The nationwide death toll from the year's monsoon season climbed to 126 from June 26 to August 1, while the number of injured rose to 404, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The main cause of deaths, according to a report released by the NDMA on Saturday, was electrocution, followed by flash floods, drowning, and lightning, among other rain-related incidents such as house collapse and trees falling. In a report released on Saturday, the authority reported four deaths over the past 24 hours due to rain-related incidents, including drowning and lightning, with Sindh reporting three of the casualties. Meanwhile, a total of 16 people were injured over the 24 hours, with the maximum number of incidents reported in Punjab. According to the report, Punjab recorded 47 deaths between June 26 and August 1, including 19 children. 295 people, including 68 children, were injured in the province during the same period. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) saw 55 deaths, the report said, with the province seeing 82 injuries.

Marriyum Aurangzeb rejects rigging claims as PML-N leads in AJK polls



ANI

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Senior Minister Marriyam Aurangzeb has dismissed allegations of electoral rigging in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections, arguing that the claims have emerged because the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is performing strongly in the polls.

Speaking about the election situation, Aurangzeb said it was being alleged that rigging had taken place simply because the PML-N was winning. She compared the situation with the recent elections in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had congratulated the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) when it secured victory there. However, she said the PML-N's strong performance in AJK had now prompted what she described as unwarranted allegations of elec-

toral manipulation.

Aurangzeb argued that thousands of votes are cast during elections and that isolated incidents involving incorrectly stamped ballots should not be used to discredit the entire electoral process. She also criticised the PPP for raising allegations shortly after polling began. According to the provincial minister, the party had held a press conference around 10:30am and appeared to concede defeat while voting was still underway.

The Punjab minister also rejected allegations surrounding an incident involving supporters of the PPP and PML-N.

She said the two groups had clashed at one location, during which an elderly man suffered a heart attack. According to Aurangzeb, the PPP subsequently portrayed the incident as a shooting and attempted to give it a political dimension.

ical dimension.

She claimed footage of the confrontation was available on social media and said it showed the incident involved a clash between political workers rather than the shooting alleged by the PPP.

Aurangzeb maintained that the PML-N does not believe in what she described as the politics of violence or abusive language.

The senior provincial minister said the people of AJK had demonstrated their confidence in the PML-N through the electoral process. She described elections as a test of political parties' performance and said voters ultimately assess governments and parties on the basis of their record. Addressing the PPP, Aurangzeb said the party should focus on improving its governance and performance in Sindh if it wanted to expand its support among voters.

Governor KP calls voluntary blood donation national, humanitarian responsibility

ANI- ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday termed voluntary blood donation not only a welfare act but also a national, humanitarian and moral responsibility, saying timely availability of safe blood was essential for saving precious lives and strengthening the health-care system.

Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day Annual Blood Conference 2026, jointly organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Blood Chain Pakistan, the Governor said voluntary blood donation played a vital role in building a compassionate society and ensuring an effective public health system.

The event was attended by ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mahmood, office-bearers of Blood Chain Pakistan, doctors, business leaders, political and social personalities, volunteers from across the



country, children suffering from thalassemia and people from different walks of life.

Governor Kundi lauded the services of Blood Chain Pakistan for promoting vol-

untary blood donation and serving humanity, saying such organizations were fostering the spirit of sacrifice, compassion and social service in society.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, he

planted a sapling in the lawn of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and distributed medals and awards among individuals for their outstanding contributions to social services.

Talking to media later, the Governor said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had the largest youth population in the country and stressed the need to provide them with greater opportunities for sports and other positive activities.

He urged the Prime Minister to convene a joint sitting of Parliament to deliberate on the law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Referring to alleged irregularities in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections, he said his party would approach the Election Commission over the matter, adding that the Kashmiri people had the right to freely elect their genuine representatives.

Gilani strongly condemns Swat blast

ANI- ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Sunday strongly condemned the blast that occurred near the main gate of Kabal Police Station in Swat district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressing profound grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives.

The Chairman Senate extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families of those who lost their lives in the tragic incident.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls eternal peace and bless the bereaved families with patience and fortitude.

He also prayed for the swift and complete recovery of those injured in the blast and urged the concerned authorities to ensure the provision of the best possible medical treatment and care to all the injured.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated that such cowardly acts of terrorism cannot weaken the resolve of the nation.

He reaffirmed that the entire nation stands united with the armed forces and law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism.

He expressed confidence that through national unity, determination, and collective efforts, the menace of terrorism will be eradicated and lasting peace and stability will be ensured across the country.

Railways police recover 32 tonnes of stolen railway material, arrest six in Karachi

ANI- ISLAMABAD: Acting on the directives of Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Pakistan Railways Police carried out a major operation in Karachi, recovering around 32 tonnes of stolen railway material worth millions of rupees and arresting six suspects.

According to a statement issued on Sunday, Railway Police first arrested four suspects near Orangi Railway Station while they were allegedly stealing railway tracks. Officers also recovered tools used to cut the tracks.

During interrogation, the suspects led investigators to a warehouse in Haroonabad, where police recovered stolen railway material hidden beneath machinery and other equipment. Two more suspects were arrested during the raid. Police recovered approximately 31,800 kilograms (31.8 tonnes) of stolen railway material from the warehouse.

Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said the government would not tolerate the illegal occupation, theft or unlawful trade of national railway assets. He said operations against those involved in stealing or damaging railway property would continue without discrimination under the government's zero-tolerance policy to protect national assets.

Inspector General of Pakistan Railways Police Muhammad Wisal Fakhar Sultan said the crackdown on those involved in the theft of railway material and damage to national assets would be intensified. He said there would be no compromise on the protection of railway infrastructure and national assets, adding that all those violating the law would be brought to justice.

Muqam urges all parties to allow democratic process to proceed peacefully

ANI- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and senior Leader Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Engr Amir Muqam on Sunday urged all parties to allow the democratic process to proceed peacefully and let voters decide the outcome through the ballot box.

Addressing media in Islamabad, Engr Amir Muqam said political parties should focus on winning public confidence instead of making allegations that could undermine the electoral process before polling has taken place.

He maintained that election results could not be altered through accusations and called on political stakeholders to accept the people's verdict with maturity.

"Making allegations without evidence does not change election results," Amir Muqam said. "Instead of blaming others, political parties should ask the people why they failed to secure their votes. The public's decision should be accepted with an open heart," he added.

Amir Muqam said the PML-N had accepted the results of the Gilgit-Baltistan elections despite political differences and expected other parties to demonstrate



the same democratic spirit.

"Initially, they raised objections over four constituencies, and now they have reduced those claims to two," he said. "An inquiry committee has already been formed to examine the complaints, but nothing substantial has emerged from those allegations so far," he added.

Defending his party's electoral

strength in Azad Kashmir, Amir Muqam said the people of Mirpur Division had supported the PML-N because of its governance and development record.

"The people voted for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz on the basis of its performance," he said.

"We have worked systematically across constituencies, resolved differ-

ences and united people on a common platform," he said, adding that meetings with PPP leaders had taken place but did not violate any agreed political framework.

"We have witnessed arbitrary transfers and administrative decisions that appear discriminatory," Amir Muqam alleged. "Such actions create an uneven playing field for political parties."

"The solution lies in the general elections. Let the people decide whom they want to lead, and everyone should accept that verdict," he said, adding that the PML-N would respect the outcome of legitimate elections.

Concluding his remarks, Amir Muqam expressed confidence that the people of Azad Kashmir would once again place their trust in the PML-N leadership.

"If the people of Kashmir want real change and sustainable development, it can only be achieved under the leadership of their Quaid Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif," he said. Amir Muqam's remarks came in response to the PPP's allegations regarding the electoral process.

Private sector credit grows about 15% in FY26, strongest expansion in 4 years: Khurram

ANI- ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad has said that private sector credit expanded by Rs 1.46 trillion (14.8%) during FY26, reaching Rs 11.38 trillion—the strongest annual increase in four years.

The business credit increased by Rs 1.18 trillion (14.0%), accounting for over 80% of the overall increase in private sector credit, reflecting rising financing for productive economic activity, he posted on his official social media handle X.

Nearly 89% of the increase in private-sector business credit was concentrated in three productive sectors including manufacturing 56%, wholesale & retail trade 18%, agriculture: 15%, manufacturing alone accounted for Rs 657 billion of new credit, highlighting broad-based industrial expansion, he added.

While strong financing to trade and agriculture points to rising production, commerce and investment across the economy.

SSP Qazi reviews security at churches, key duty points across Capital

ANI- ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza visited various churches, key duty points and important routes across the federal capital to review security arrangements, directing police officers to remain on high alert and ensure effective policing to maintain law and order.

An ICT Police spokesperson told APP on Sunday that the SSP visited different churches in the city, where he met police personnel deployed on security duties and inspected the security arrangements.

The spokesperson said Qazi Ali Raza directed officers to remain vigilant, perform their duties with dedication and maintain a high level of preparedness to ensure the safety and security of worshippers.

Later, he visited various duty points and security routes across the capital, where he reviewed operational arrangements and met officers performing security duties.

Beyond the litter bag: how one volunteer is helping shape future of Pakistan's urban conservation

ANI- ISLAMABAD: The first rays of sunlight have barely filtered through the pine-covered slopes of Margalla Hills National Park when a familiar figure appears on Trail 5.

Unlike the hundreds of hikers arriving with trekking poles, cameras and water bottles, Mansoor Sherwani carries an oversized blue sack, a pair of heavy-duty gloves and a quiet determination.

Every discarded plastic bottle, food wrapper and aluminium can lying beside the trail catches his attention. Within minutes, the bag begins to fill.

For Sherwani, this has become a ritual repeated week after week for nearly five years.

By the time most hikers are beginning their descent, he is still climbing—often scrambling down steep embankments to retrieve rubbish that has rolled into ravines beyond the reach of ordinary visitors.

His work has earned him an unusual identity.

Known across Islamabad simply as the "Awareness Man," Sherwani has become one of the capital's most recognisable environmental volunteers. The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) has acknowledged his contribution by conferring on him titles including "Man of Awareness" and "Leopard of Margalla Hills National Park"—recognition symbolising his tireless commitment to protecting the park's fragile ecosystem.

Yet Sherwani is quick to dismiss the attention.

"I am not doing this for recognition," he says. "This national park belongs to every Pakistani. If we cannot protect what nature has given us, who will?"

His answer reflects a growing question confronting Pakistan's environmental future.

ICT Police reviews Chehlum security arrangements at Golra Sharif Shrine

ANI- ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police reviewed security arrangements at the Golra Sharif Shrine ahead of the Chehlum observance, with senior officers directing field personnel to ensure foolproof security and maintain close coordination with the shrine administration.

An ICT Police spokesperson told APP on Sunday that SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza, accompanied by SP Saddar Zone Khalid Mehmood Awan, visited the

shrine to inspect the security arrangements.

During the visit, the officers met the shrine's organisers and discussed measures to maintain law and order, ensure foolproof security and strengthen mutual coordination for the peaceful observance of Chehlum. SSP Qazi directed the officers concerned to utilise all available resources to safeguard the lives and property of participants and ensure effective implementation of the security plan.

PIYASS calls for nationwide action against organized begging networks

ANI- ISLAMABAD: PIYASS International has urged the government to launch countrywide measures against organized begging, saying the issue has grown beyond a social concern and is now linked to several forms of crime.

The organization called for stronger enforcement, accountability of relevant departments, and rehabilitation programs for people affected by the problem.

In a press release issued here on Sunday, PIYASS International said it has been raising concerns about organized begging in Pakistan for many years and has repeatedly asked authorities to take action. The organization stated that a lack of effective measures has allowed such networks to expand across different parts of the country.

According to PIYASS, organized

begging has become connected with crimes including theft, pickpocketing, human trafficking, child exploitation and fraud. The organization said these networks often take advantage of vulnerable groups, including women, children, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The statement noted that charitable donations intended for people in need are often diverted through organized groups, reducing support for deserving individuals. It added that the continued presence of such networks has created social challenges and raised concerns about Pakistan's image abroad.

PIYASS International called on the government to review the performance of departments responsible for addressing the problem and ensure accountability where action has been

PIYASS calls for nationwide action against organized begging networks

ANI- ISLAMABAD: PIYASS International has urged the government to launch countrywide measures against organized begging, saying the issue has grown beyond a social concern and is now linked to several forms of crime.

The organization called for stronger enforcement, accountability of relevant departments, and rehabilitation programs for people affected by the problem.

In a press release issued here on Sunday, PIYASS International said it has been raising concerns about organized begging in Pakistan for many years and has repeatedly asked authorities to take action. The organization stated that a lack of effective measures has allowed such networks to expand across different parts of the country.

According to PIYASS, organized

begging has become connected with crimes including theft, pickpocketing, human trafficking, child exploitation and fraud. The organization said these networks often take advantage of vulnerable groups, including women, children, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The statement noted that charitable donations intended for people in need are often diverted through organized groups, reducing support for deserving individuals. It added that the continued presence of such networks has created social challenges and raised concerns about Pakistan's image abroad.

PIYASS International called on the government to review the performance of departments responsible for addressing the problem and ensure accountability where action has been

Dr. Adeel Nazeer Urges Research, Clean Energy & Afforestation

ANI- ISLAMABAD: Sigma Xi Full Member and internationally recognized Pakistani scientist and geologist Dr. Adeel Nazeer has called for greater investment in scientific research, technological innovation, clean energy, and afforestation to address Pakistan's growing energy, environmental, and climate-related challenges.

In an exclusive interview with APP, Dr. Nazeer said sustainable national development depends on evidence-based policymaking, scientific innovation, and the efficient utilization of Pakistan's natural resources.

Discussing Pakistan's natural gas sector, he explained that naturally occurring gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), nitrogen (N2), and hydrogen sulphide (H2S) are generated during the geological maturation of organic matter over millions of years. These gases are routinely processed by exploration and production (E&P) companies through gas treatment facilities to meet commercial and environmental standards before natural gas is supplied to consumers.

Speaking on climate change, Dr. Nazeer emphasized that carbon dioxide emissions should be properly managed because of their contribution to global warming as international policy. He highlighted the growing importance of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies and other clean-energy solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He said Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, facing rising temperatures, floods, droughts, heatwaves, and worsening air quality. According to Dr. Nazeer, Pakistan's air quality is significantly affected by transborder air pollution, particularly during the winter months when regional wind patterns transport polluted air across international borders into Punjab, intensifying smog conditions. He added that domestic emissions from transport, industry, brick kilns, and fossil-fuel combustion also contribute to poor air quality. Dr. Nazeer observed that electric bikes and con-

verted electric vehicle engines can help reduce local vehicular emissions but are not, by themselves, a complete solution to Pakistan's air pollution challenge, as regional transborder polluted wind patterns continue to have a substantial impact on overall air quality. He stressed that effective improvement requires both domestic emission controls and stronger regional environmental cooperation. Highlighting environmental conservation, he called for large-scale afforestation, protection of natural ecosystems, and the promotion of indigenous tree species to enhance climate resilience. Dr. Nazeer also emphasized stronger collaboration among universities, research institutions, industry, and government to develop science-based solutions for Pakistan's energy and environmental challenges. Encouraging young people to pursue scientific research and innovation, he concluded that sustained investment in science.

ANI-ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Sunday warned that water levels in Pakistan's major rivers are expected to rise significantly between Aug 2 and 4, prompting flood alerts across several regions and urging the public to avoid unnecessary travel to flood prone areas as heavy monsoon rains continue to intensify.

According to the NDMA's National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC), high-level flooding has been recorded in the Lehri River at Head Gogi, while medium-level flooding is under way in Nullah Pakhu at Wazirabad.

The authority said low-level flooding continues at Kalabagh, Chashma, Guddu and Sukkur along the Indus River, as well as at Head Nari on the Nari River.

On the Chenab River, high level flows are expected at

Marala, while low to medium level flows are forecast at Khanki and Qadirabad. Water levels are also expected to rise in the Jhelum, Ravi and Kabul rivers and their tributaries.

The NDMA warned that streams linked to the Jhelum, Chenab and Ravi rivers could experience medium to high flows, while water levels in the Ravi and Sutlej will depend on releases from Indian reservoirs. The authority also cautioned about the risk of flash floods in the hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur, as well as seasonal streams in central and southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern Balochistan. It further warned of urban flooding and rainwater accumulation in low-lying areas of Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar, Mardan, Nowshera, Hyderabad, Badin, Thatta and other parts of Sindh.

Daily

FINANCIAL TIMES

Group Editor: Dr. Waheed Mehmood Khan, Editor: Javed Siddiq

Executive Editor: Naseem Hassan Awan, Joint Editor: Hurish Shah

Disclaimer: All articles, columns, and opinions published in Financial Times are solely the views of their respective authors. The publication does not necessarily endorse or agree with the opinions, views, or positions expressed therein.

Opinion

3

The Flood Dividend: Turning Pakistan’s Annual Deluge into Economic Prosperity



Written By:
Sobia Aqeel
Published
By:ANI News
Agency

Part I:
Rethinking a
National
Disaster as an
Economic Opportunity

Every summer, Pakistan prepares for a familiar tragedy. Television screens fill with images of submerged villages, collapsing bridges, stranded families, and desperate appeals for humanitarian assistance. The monsoon has become synonymous with destruction, a season measured in lives lost, crops destroyed, roads washed away, and billions of dollars in economic damage. Governments mobilize emergency relief, international donors respond with aid packages, and communities begin rebuilding, only to repeat the cycle when the next rains arrive. Yet beneath this recurring humanitarian crisis lies a striking economic paradox.

Pakistan is not simply a country afflicted by floods. It is a country endowed with one of the world’s largest seasonal inflows of freshwater. Every year, the Indus River system and its tributaries carry enormous volumes of monsoon water across the country. Much of this water arrives over a relatively short period, overwhelming rivers, reservoirs, drainage systems, and settlements before eventually flowing unused into the Arabian Sea. The real tragedy is therefore not that Pakistan receives too much water. It is that the country has never fully learned how to govern abundance.

Around the world, nations have transformed difficult geographies into sources of prosperity. The Netherlands converted flood-prone marshlands into one of the world’s most productive agricultural economies. Singapore turned water scarcity into a global model of integrated water management. Their success was never determined solely by geography or climate. It was determined by institutions capable of transforming environmental constraints into economic advantage. Pakistan now faces a similar historical choice.

Climate change has altered the economics of water. The debate is no longer simply about scarcity. It is increasingly about volatility. Longer dry periods are interrupted by increasingly intense rainfall, producing floods that destroy assets before water shortages return only months later. The same country that experiences devastating floods during the monsoon simultaneously confronts declining groundwater tables, irrigation shortages, and mounting pressure on food production.

This contradiction reveals a deeper institutional failure. Pakistan has historically managed floods as emergencies rather than as predictable economic events. Disaster management remains largely reactive, focused on

rescue operations, temporary shelters, compensation packages, and reconstruction after damage has already occurred. While emergency response will always remain essential, it cannot substitute for a long-term strategy that recognizes annual flooding as a recurring feature of Pakistan’s climate rather than an unexpected catastrophe. The economic consequences of maintaining the current approach are profound.

Floods destroy far more than physical infrastructure. They erode national productivity. Farmers lose standing crops and livestock, small businesses lose inventories and equipment, children miss months of schooling, health-care services are interrupted, and transport networks become impassable. Every destroyed bridge delays commerce. Every damaged irrigation canal reduces agricultural output. Every displaced family loses productive time that could otherwise contribute to economic growth. These losses accumulate quietly but relentlessly. Repeated climate shocks discourage private investment, increase insurance costs, strain public finances, and force governments to divert development budgets toward reconstruction instead of education, industrial modernization, technological innovation, or healthcare. In macroeconomic terms, annual flooding acts as a recurring tax on national development, the one that disproportionately burdens those least able to bear it.

For rural Pakistan, the consequences are even more severe. Most flood-prone communities depend directly on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, or informal rural enterprises. Their wealth is held not in financial assets but in land, animals, machinery, homes, and community infrastructure. When floods destroy these productive assets, recovery is slow and often incomplete. Families frequently finance reconstruction through debt, asset sales, or reduced spending on education and healthcare, deepening cycles of intergenerational poverty. This explains why floods should no longer be viewed solely as humanitarian disasters. They are also structural economic shocks that suppress long-term growth.

Pakistan’s experience after the catastrophic floods of 2022 demonstrated both the scale of vulnerability and the magnitude of opportunity. The disaster affected millions of people, caused widespread damage to agriculture and infrastructure, and imposed enormous fiscal costs. Yet it also brought unprecedented international attention to climate adaptation, resilient infrastructure, and innovative financing. For perhaps the first time, global institutions began discussing Pakistan not only as a victim of climate change but also as a country capable of pioneering new approaches to climate resilience. That conversation should continue.

The future of Pakistan’s flood policy should not be measured only by the number of relief camps established after disasters. It should be measured by how effectively floods contribute to

economic resilience before disasters occur. This requires a fundamental shift in thinking. Instead of asking how Pakistan can survive floods, policymakers should ask how seasonal floodwater can generate economic value.

This is the essence of what might be called the Flood Dividend.

The concept challenges conventional assumptions. In economics, a dividend represents a return generated from an asset. Water, too, is an asset, provided institutions can capture, store, distribute, and allocate it efficiently. Every cubic meter of floodwater retained for irrigation, ground-water recharge, hydropower generation, ecosystem restoration, or industrial use creates economic value that would otherwise be lost. Viewed through this lens, floods become not merely natural hazards but untapped capital.

Such thinking aligns with an emerging global recognition that natural capital, the value embedded in forests, rivers, wetlands, soils, and water systems must become part of national economic planning.

Countries increasingly recognize that protecting ecosystems is not simply an environmental objective but an investment strategy. Pakistan’s rivers, floodplains, wetlands, and seasonal water flows should therefore be managed as components of productive national wealth rather than obstacles to development. Doing so will require institutions that extend beyond traditional disaster management agencies. Flood governance should become an integral part of economic planning, infrastructure policy, agricultural modernization, financial regulation, climate adaptation, and industrial development. Water security must be understood as economic security.

The challenge is no longer whether Pakistan can afford such reforms. The greater question is whether it can afford to postpone them. Climate scientists project that extreme weather events will become more frequent and more intense throughout South Asia during the coming decades. Population growth, urban expansion, environmental degradation, and increasing pressure on water resources will only amplify existing vulnerabilities. Continuing to rely primarily on emergency response would amount to managing symptoms while ignoring the underlying economic disease.

History suggests that transformative moments often emerge from recurring crises. The countries that prosper are rarely those spared adversity. Rather, they are those that redesign institutions before adversity becomes permanent. Pakistan now stands at precisely such a moment. The monsoon will continue to arrive every year. The question is whether it will continue to leave behind only destruction or begin generating prosperity.

To be continued in Part II: “Building the Flood Economy: The Institutions, Investments, and Policies That Could Transform Pakistan’s Water Future.”

Kashmir’s Future Must Be Decided by the Ballot, Not by Violence



BY:Sumblina
Hassan
Former
Secretary to
Shaheed
Mohdarma
Benazir
Bhutto
In charge of
office 10 UK,
RCC Bilawal Bhutto
Published By:ANI News Agency

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah gifted the people of Pakistan an independent homeland, uniting its provinces under the enduring principles of Unity, Faith, and Discipline. His vision was of a democratic state founded upon the rule of law, justice, and equal religious freedom for all its citizens. Through his determined political struggle, he led the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent to achieve a sovereign homeland where they could live with dignity, security, and harmony.

Our party and its leadership have remained committed to preserving this democratic system and the values upon which Pakistan was founded. They have never forgotten the sacrifices and hardships endured by our forefathers, whose courage secured a better future for generations to come.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari continues to champion this vision by advocating democratic rights for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He believes that Kashmiris deserve the same constitutional and democratic rights as every other Pakistani, including the

right to genuine self-governance. This means that every vote must be counted, respected, and reflected through the ballot box. He has also emphasized that Kashmir should have meaningful representation in national institutions so its elected representatives can participate in decisions concerning the region’s water resources, electricity, development priorities, and budgetary allocations.

Such a democratic approach has inevitably faced resistance from those who oppose political progress in Kashmir. Those who seek to undermine democratic institutions often resort to misinformation and personal attacks against individuals who remain committed to serving their people. Their objective is not to strengthen democracy but to weaken any system that does not serve their own interests.

It is particularly concerning when innocent citizens—whose only act is exercising their democratic right to vote—become victims of intimidation or violence. The sanctity of the electoral process must always be protected.

The people of Kashmir should neither surrender their democratic rights nor allow falsehood to silence their voices. Instead, they should continue to reject injustice and remain steadfast in their commitment to peaceful democratic participation. By supporting constitutional and democratic processes, they can advance their aspirations for genuine representation and meaningful participation in Parliament.

Pakistan continues to face numerous national challenges, just as our Kashmiri brothers and sisters do. Their aspiration to become an integral part of a representative Pakistan reflects their desire for dignity, identity, and freedom. Their resilience recalls an important lesson from Islamic history. When the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his followers faced persecution in Makkah, Allah Almighty commanded them to migrate to Madinah, where they found peace, brotherhood, and the opportunity to build a just and prosperous society. Madinah flourished through unity, justice, and reform, ultimately becoming the resting place of the Prophet (peace be upon him).

Likewise, our strength lies in unity, faith, and trust in democratic leadership. We must reject those who seek to spread division, hatred, and harmful rhetoric that tarnishes our nation and weakens its institutions. Instead, we should uphold respect, responsibility, and constructive dialogue.

Insha’Allah, the people of Kashmir will achieve their legitimate democratic aspirations. Their victory should come not through violence, but through the power of the ballot box. By strengthening democratic institutions, protecting the people’s right to vote, and ensuring opportunities for employment, quality education, honour, dignity, and justice, a stronger and more prosperous future can be built for all the people of Kashmir.

When Official Silence Becomes Institutional Failure: The Unresolved Challenge to Ejaz Ahmad’s Appointment, BZU’s Acting Registrar Arrangement, Withheld Records, and the Inaction of the Governor’s Secretariat, HED and HEC

BY: Ms. Husrish Shah :
Published by ANI

Public institutions earn legitimacy through obedience to law, transparency, and timely decisions. When representations remain undecided for years, court directions appear unimplemented, and citizens are denied access to official records, administrative silence risks becoming a failure of governance.

The controversy surrounding Mr. Ejaz Ahmad, Registrar of Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan, began before his present acting appointment. His earlier appointment, made while he was serving as Deputy Registrar, was challenged before the Governor of Punjab through a representation dated 7 June 2022. Both sides reportedly submitted supporting documents and comments.

The matter was subsequently transferred to the Higher Education Department (Punjab) under the applicable law and policies. However, despite the passage of years, no final decision has reportedly been communicated. This raises a fundamental question: how long must a citizen wait before an official representation is finally decided?

The issue was highlighted in a column titled, “Years of Silence Over Representation Against Alleged Illegal Appointments Raise Questions for Punjab’s Higher Education Department.” The newspaper kept its pages open for an official response.

No meaningful reply was received. No public clarification was issued. No visible action followed.

The controversy deepened when Mr. Ejaz Ahmad was appointed Acting Registrar on 31 December 2024. The university notification reportedly linked the appointment to directions from the Higher Education Department following the Supreme Court judgment dated 24 October 2024.

Paragraph 39(c) of the judgment reportedly provides that vacant tenured posts, including the Registrar’s position, should not remain under acting charge for more than six months. Temporary arrangements were not intended to become substitutes for transparent, merit-based regular appointments.

More than nineteen months have now passed since 31 December 2024. If paragraph 39(c) applies to the present circumstances, the continuation of the acting arrangement requires an immediate legal explanation. A public university cannot reasonably rely upon one part of a judicial direction while disregarding a limitation contained within the same framework.

This issue was again highlighted in Daily Financial Times through the column, “The Supreme Court Spoke. Did BZU Listen?” Paragraph 39(c), the Six-Month Rule, and the Continuing Registrar



Controversy.” Yet the questions remained unanswered.

Another serious issue concerns access to official records.

A citizen, Muhammad Aslam, reportedly applied to the Governor’s Secretariat for certified copies of the representation filed before the Governor of Punjab on 7 June 2022, its annexures, the university’s paragraph-wise comments dated 20 July 2022, and other relevant public documents.

According to the account presented, the Governor’s Secretariat directed the Vice Chancellor of BZU on 14 May 2026 to provide the certified copies within the legally prescribed timeframe. However, the documents were allegedly not supplied. Instead, the citizen subsequently raised allegations of harassment.

The matter was then highlighted in another column titled, “Ignoring the Governor’s Orders? Allegations Against Bahauddin Zakariya University’s Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zubair Ahmad Ghori and Registrar Ejaz Ahmad Over Withholding Records and Harassment of a Citizen.”

Despite the public attention, the documents were reportedly still not provided. Muhammad Aslam subsequently submitted another application before the Governor of Punjab on 23 June 2026, which, according to the information available, remained pending.

Taken together, this sequence raises serious questions about institutional accountability.

A representation was filed. Replies were reportedly placed on record. The matter was transferred for decision. The Governor’s Secretariat reportedly directed that certified documents be supplied. The media repeatedly raised questions. The right of reply was available. Yet there appears to have been no final decision, clear public explanation, or visible accountability.

What, then, is the role of the Higher Education Department?

Is it merely a forwarding office, or does it have a responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable judicial directions and lawful appointment procedures? Where a statutory office remains under an acting arrangement beyond an apparently prescribed period, the department should either take corrective action or provide a clear and reasoned legal justification.

Indian actions of August 5, 2019 rejected; Pakistani political and military leadership unanimously resolves

BY :Asghar AliM : Published by ANI:

The Pakistani top political and military leadership has always rejected the Indian actions of August 5, 2019

The Pakistani political and military leadership has always unanimously rejected the Indian unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 and the abrogation of Article 370, calling them a clear violation of international law. The Pakistani government, parliament and top officials of the Pakistan Army have been unanimous in their stance that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory, the final decision of which can only be made in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The Pakistani leadership has always been clear in its stance that the Modi government’s decision to revoke the special status of occupied Kashmir and divide it into two Union Territories is completely illegal. According to Pakistan, India cannot change the disputed status of the valley through force, and all such measures have no legal basis.

The political and military leadership has consistently raised the issue in international forums that the real purpose of the August 5 measures is to convert the Muslim majority into a minority by settling non-local Hindus in the occupied valley. Pakistan calls this systematic demographic change a bloodbath on the fundamental rights of Kashmiris and a grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

“Kashmir is the lifeblood of Pakistan.” The armed forces of Pakistan and all political parties are united on the Quaid-e-Azam’s declaration that Kashmir is the lifeblood of Pakistan.

The determination has always been reiterated in the Corps Commanders’ Conferences and Federal Cabinet meetings that Pakistan will never leave the oppressed Kashmiris alone at the mercy of the oppressor Modi government, and political, moral and diplo-

matic support for their just struggle will be continued till the last moment.

The Pakistani leadership has raised its voice in capitals around the world and in the United Nations (UN) that lasting peace in South Asia is possible only through a just resolution of the Kashmir issue. Pakistan has always demanded that the international community pressure India to immediately withdraw all illegal measures of August 5, 2019 and grant the Kashmiris their legitimate right to self-determination.

Pakistan’s highest political leadership (Prime Minister, Federal Cabinet, Parliament) and military leadership (Army Chief and Corps Commanders) have always been on the same page and have always supported the Indian decision of August 5, 2019. Pakistan has consistently rejected unilateral, illegal and usurping actions as the worst violation of international law. It is the unanimous and unwavering state position of Pakistan that the Modi government’s abrogation of the constitutional status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir (Articles 370 and 35-A) is an international crime, which will not be accepted under any circumstances. The Pakistani political and military leadership has always been of the firm principled position that Jammu and Kashmir is not an internal matter of India, but a recognized disputed region on the agenda of the United Nations. Pakistan makes it clear that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions (especially Resolutions 47 and 91) strictly prohibit any party from unilaterally changing the region’s status. Pakistan has rejected New Delhi’s administrative plans to forcibly convert the state into federal territories (Union Territories) at every international forum. The political and military leadership has consistently exposed the Modi government’s real Hindutva agenda before the international community. The most dangerous aspect of the August 5 steps is that India has started buying land in the occupied valley and giving permanent domicile to non-local Hindus, businessmen and retired soldiers. According to Pakistan, the boundaries of the constituencies of Muslim-majority

areas are being deliberately changed in such a way that political control there can be given to Hindu nationalists. These steps fall under the category of war crimes under the Fourth Geneva Convention (Article 49). Despite geopolitical pressure, the top military leadership of the Pakistan Army and the Army Chief have always given a clear message from the Line of Control (LoC) and General Headquarters (GHQ) forums that the Kashmiris will not be abandoned. The Pakistani forces will never leave their Kashmiri brothers alone at the mercy of the usurper Modi government and nine and a half lakh occupying forces until the Kashmiris get their fundamental right to self-determination (plenary referendum) as per the UN Charter. The Pakistan Army will continue to advocate for them on every international platform. The Pakistan Army is always ready to give a befitting reply to any kind of Indian ‘false flag operation’ or adventure on the LoC. Despite geopolitical pressure, the top military leadership of the Pakistan Army and the Army Chief have always given this unequivocal message from the Line of Control (LoC) and General Headquarters (GHQ) forums that: Kashmiris will not be abandoned; Pakistani forces will never leave their Kashmiri brothers alone at the mercy of the usurper Modi government and nine and a half lakh occupying forces. Until the Kashmiris get their fundamental right to self-determination (plenary referendum) as per the UN Charter, Pakistan will continue to advocate for them on every international platform. The Pakistan Army is always ready to give a befitting reply to any kind of Indian ‘false flag operation’ or adventure on the LoC. Pakistani history is witness that governments have changed and military command has changed, but Pakistan’s state stance against the Indian actions of August 5, 2019 has been as strong and unchanging as a rock. This determination of the political and military leadership is proof of loyalty to the blood of Kashmiri martyrs, and this struggle will continue until the goal of Kashmir’s freedom is achieved.

PML-N’s Clean Sweep on AJK Refugee Seats Reflects People’s Trust in Nawaz Sharif’s Leadership” Barrister Danyal Chaudhry

BY: FT Correspondent:

RAWALPINDI – Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, has expressed gratitude to the people of Rawalpindi, Kashmiri refugees, and party workers for Pakistan Muslim League (N)’s historic victory on all three refugee seats in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections.

Addressing a press conference today, Barrister Danyal said the election results are a clear endorsement of the leadership and narrative of PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. He said the people of Rawalpindi and Kashmiri refugees have once again placed their trust in PML-N by electing its candidates on all three seats, reaffirming the party’s strong connection with the



Kashmiri community.

The Parliamentary Secretary said the mandate has proven that PML-N is the true representative of Kashmiri refugees. He also noted that the

Pakistan Peoples Party’s polling camps remained largely empty throughout the election process, and its post-election press conference was itself a reflection of its electoral position.

Peshawar Trader Receives Death and Extortion Threats from Foreign Number, Seeks Action from Police Authorities

BY: PR :

PESHAWAR--- A spare parts trader, Juma Khan, son of Ziarat Gul, a resident of Habib Abad in the Yakatoot area of Peshawar, has alleged that he and his family have been receiving death and extortion threats from unidentified individuals using a foreign phone number.

According to the complainant, he submitted an application to Yakatoot Police Station on August 24, 2025, requesting the registration of an FIR against the caller. Police recorded the



Khan said that due to continuous threats and fear for their lives, he and his family were forced to leave

complaint in the daily diary (Roznamcha), but, he claims, no effective action has been taken against those responsible.

J u m a

Peshawar and relocate to Karachi. However, despite the move, the threatening calls allegedly continued.

He has appealed to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Hameed, and Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar, Dr. Mian Saeed, to take immediate notice of the matter, ensure the arrest of those involved, provide protection to his family, and initiate effective legal action against the suspects.

Pakistan Influencer Awards Set to Redefine Influence in the Country’s Creator Economy



BY: FT Correspondent:

KARACHI--- The Pakistan Influencer Awards, a new benchmark for digital influence and content creation, officially launched in Karachi on Friday evening. A first of its kind industry backed and data led platform, it has been designed to recognise creators for the impact they create, the authenticity of their content, and their ability to shape modern culture while raising the standards of Pakistan’s rapidly evolving creator economy.

At a time when Pakistan’s creator economy is evolving rapidly, the Pakistan Influencer Awards are poised to redefine a space often dominated by popularity metrics. These recognitions will reward creators based on real impact, credibility and authenticity, measured through a credible, transparent and data-led evaluation framework. The essence lies in meaningful engagement, consistency, community influence, educational value, and the power to move audiences across a wide demographic profile.

Backing this vision is a distinguished advisory board composed of professionals who are industry defining voices in their respective fields. This seasoned advisory board brings credibility, perspective and rigor to the platform, ensuring that

recognition is rooted in a transparent, data driven evaluation process. Supported by leading industry partners, research experts and ecosystem stakeholders, the Awards have been built as an industry owned initiative designed to strengthen trust and accountability across the creator economy.

The launch ceremony began with a programme that combines keynote conversations and creator-led discussions followed by a curated music performance. Talha Aslam, Chief Curator of Pakistan Influencer Awards, unveiled the vision behind the Pakistan Influencer Awards, followed by thought-provoking sessions with Advisory Board members including Fouad Husain, Chief Executive Officer of Starcrest Communications (Pvt) Ltd, and Hasan Rizvi, Chief Executive Officer of BBPR Pakistan, and Jerjees Seja, Chief Executive Officer of ARY Digital Network. Faraz Bashir, Director Data, Insights & Evaluation and Hassaan Azhar, Director Partnerships & Growth, shared thinking behind the Awards framework, partnerships and commercial model while Abdul Sattar Babar, Chief Executive Officer of Ipsos in Pakistan, shared the research, audit and transparency framework of the Awards.

Speaking at the occasion, Talha

Aslam, Chief Curator of Pakistan Influencer Awards said, “The Pakistan Influencer Awards has been established to recognize and celebrate influence while setting meaningful benchmarks for the future of the creator economy. Our ambition is not simply to recognize creators but to elevate the entire ecosystem by advocating credibility, transparency and responsible influence, while establishing a standard that creators, brands and audiences can trust. This platform aims to raise the bar for an industry that deserves global recognition.”

The evening culminated in the live unveiling of Pakistan Influencer Awards’ brand identity and trophy, followed by a curated conversation with renowned creators including Asad Memon, Bilal Munir, Junaid Akram and Natasha Lakhani, hosted by Dino Ali.

Built to be more than just a traditional awards show, the Pakistan Influencer Awards serves as a fresh industry benchmark, one that reflects the true evolution of influence in Pakistan. By celebrating creators who are driving conversations, educating and building communities, and shaping digital culture, the platform aims to elevate the creator ecosystem into a more structured and respected industry.

Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party Intensifies Public Outreach Through Women’s Corner Meeting in Islamabad

BY: Special Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD--- On the special directives of Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party Chairman Khaqan Waheed Khawaja, the party has stepped up its public outreach campaign by organizing a women’s corner meeting in Kirpa, NA-48, Islamabad.

The meeting, hosted at the residence of Ms. Nazma with the support of Raja Adeb and Abu Al Hassan Chishtii, was attended by a large number of local women. Women’s Wing President Syeda Firdous, accompanied by member Ishrat Bibi, briefed participants on the party’s vision and the welfare initiatives of the Rawal Foundation, including education, healthcare, and skill development projects.



During the event, Ms. Nazma joined the Pakistan Awaami Quwat Party Women’s Wing, while the programme concluded with prayers for Chairman Khaqan

Waheed Khawaja’s health and the peace and prosperity of Pakistan. Syeda Firdous also thanked the local organizers for their support in making the event a success.

NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Condemns Swat Bomb Blast, Reaffirms Resolve Against Terrorism

By: FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD-- National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned the bomb blast near the gate of Kabal Police Station in Swat, expressing deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives.

In a statement, the Speaker extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families, prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs, and wished a speedy recovery for those injured in the attack.

Ayaz Sadiq said that targeting innocent civilians and law enforcement personnel is a shameful and cowardly act. He described terrorists as enemies of humanity and the country, adding that those involved in terrorism deserve no leniency.

He emphasized that such cowardly

acts cannot weaken the nation’s determination to eliminate terrorism. The Speaker said the entire nation stands firmly with the security forces and law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism.

He further stated that every conspiracy aimed at undermining peace and stability would be defeated through national unity, collective resolve, and unwavering commitment.

BAP Leaders Discuss Nok Kundi Master Plan, Public Issues, and Development Priorities

By ANI Correspondent:

NOK KUNDI--- Senior Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) leader and former Adviser to the Chief Minister, Mir Ejaz Khan Sanjrani, met with Syed Haji Tajal Shah Kalani, President of BAP Tehsil Nok Kundi, to discuss development priorities and governance issues in Nok Kundi and Chagai district.

According to a statement, the meeting focused on the proposed Nok Kundi Master Plan, blocked CNICs, the new entry system, and other local concerns.

Sanjrani said the party remains committed to the development of Nok Kundi and Chagai, adding that efforts are underway to improve public services and transform Nok Kundi into a



model town.

Kalani highlighted key public issues, including employment, education, healthcare, drinking water, and

electricity. Sanjrani assured that the party would continue working to address these challenges and improve the welfare of local residents.

Second Phase of AJK Elections: PML-N Wins Five Seats, PPP Secures Two

By FT Correspondent:

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) emerged as the leading party in the second phase of the 2026 Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly elections, winning five seats, while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) secured two, according to unofficial and unconfirmed results.

The Chief Election Commissioner announced results for six of the 12 refugee constituencies, with PML-N winning five seats and PPP one. PML-N is also leading in several other constituencies, while PPP is ahead in two.

Polling was held for eight constituencies in Muzaffarabad Division and 12 refugee seats after voting in LA-27 Muzaffarabad-I was postponed to August 4 due to adverse weather conditions.

Attention now shifts to the third and final phase of the elections in Poonch Division on August 10. Political observers believe PML-N is well placed to secure a simple majority if it performs strongly in the remaining seats, while PPP is expected to put up a tough challenge in its traditional strongholds.

Murree Police Ensure Safe Travel for Over 2.42 Million Vehicles, Zero Untoward Incidents Reported in First Seven Months

By: ANI Correspondent:

MURREE-- -Murree Police, under the leadership of District Police Officer (DPO) Dr. Muhammad Raza Tanveer, successfully ensured the security of more than 2.42 million vehicles and millions of tourists visiting the hill station during the first seven months (January-July) of 2026, with no untoward incidents reported.

According to a detailed report submitted to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab, July was the busiest month for tourism and traffic, recording 556,679 vehicle entries

and 455,771 exits in Murree city. Data from the Intelligence Traffic Management System (ITMS) showed a significant surge in tourist traffic, with more than one million combined vehicle movements recorded during the month.

The report revealed that Murree city recorded 327,944 vehicle entries in January, 277,767 in February, 281,283 in March, 243,303 in April, 321,171 in May, 411,935 in June, and a record 556,679 entries in July, reflecting the sharp increase in tourist arrivals during the summer season.

DPO Murree Dr. Muhammad Raza Tanveer said a two-tier traffic

management and law enforcement strategy has been implemented to maintain smooth traffic flow and public safety. Under the system, vehicle inflow is monitored at district entry points, while additional police deployments remain active on Mall Road, major intersections, and parking areas to manage congestion.

He reaffirmed that Murree Police will continue using data-driven smart policing and proactive traffic management to ensure the safety, security, and convenience of tourists during the upcoming holiday seasons.

Senior officers stress candidate welfare as Islamabad Police recruitment continues

APP- ISLAMABAD: Physical endurance and running tests for Islamabad Capital Police Recruitment 2026 continued in a transparent, merit-based and well-organised manner at recruitment centres in Islamabad and other main cities, with senior police officers directing officials to ensure candidates’ health, safety and equal opportunities throughout the process.

An ICT Police spokesperson told APP on Sunday that at the F-9 Park recruitment centre, DIG Security Rana Umar Farooq personally supervised all stages of the recruitment process to ensure that every candidate was provided a fair and equal opportunity in accordance with the prescribed merit and recruitment procedures.

The spokesperson said senior officers remained present at the venue throughout the testing process, continuously reviewing each stage of the physical endurance and



running tests while ensuring strict discipline, transparency and smooth management.

Meanwhile, DIG Islamabad

Muhammad Jawad Tariq reviewed the ongoing physical endurance and running tests at the Police Lines Headquarters recruitment centre.

The unseen struggle of family caregivers in Mental Health System

APP- ISLAMABAD: Not every hero wears a white coat. Some spend years quietly caring for a child with autism, a parent with dementia, or a loved one living with a disability or mental illness. Their days begin before sunrise and end long after everyone else has gone to bed. They give their time, energy, and love without expecting anything in return. Yet while everyone asks about the patient, very few ask a simple question: How is the caregiver?

For many families in Pakistan, caregiving is a lifelong responsibility. Mrs. Nadia, a resident of Rawalpindi, who is caring for her daughter with a mental disorder for the past 30 years, said every day demands patience, strength, and sacrifice. “Looking after her daughter is emotionally and physically exhausting, but she continues because

her child depends entirely on her.” Kamran, a 40-year-old another Rawalpindi resident caring for his father who lives with dementia, told APP that the challenges extend beyond the home. He said caregivers often face social misunderstanding, with people staring, asking insensitive questions and failing to recognise the realities of the condition. “The most painful part is watching someone you love suffer while feeling helpless,” he said. Like many caregivers, Kamran acknowledged that he often neglects his own health while prioritising his father’s care. Doctors say these experiences are common. Clinical psychologist Dr. Usama, practicing at the Pakistan Institute of Mental Health, explained that caregivers often suffer from stress, anxiety, depression, frustration, sleep

problems and emotional exhaustion because they spend their time caring for others while neglecting themselves. He said caregiver burnout was not a sign of weakness but a natural response to long-term stress that should be recognised and treated early.

Caregiver burnout is becoming increasingly common as Pakistan’s need for long-term care continues to grow. According to the 2023 Population and Housing Census, the country has around 3.5 million persons with disabilities, nearly 1.6 percent of the population. Most depend on family members because rehabilitation centres, home-care services and long-term care facilities are limited. As a result, unpaid family members provide round-the-clock care, often sacrificing their own health, careers and personal lives.