

# Weekly POK News Digest

*(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)*

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

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## **Political Developments**

### **GB flood victims cry out for basic services**

*The Dawn, 28 July 2025*

People displaced by flash floods across multiple areas of Gilgit-Baltistan have complained of severe shortages of clean drinking water, electricity, road access and communication services.

Survivors in the flood-stricken Babusar and Thore valleys of Diamer said they had been hit by one of the deadliest floods in recent memory, which left many homeless and swept away their belongings.

In the Gilgit region, thousands of residents in Danyor and Sultanabad areas remained without drinking water for three consecutive days after a flash flood from Danyor Nallah damaged the main supply pipeline and several irrigation channels.

Speaking to reporters, area elders led by former GB minister Muhammad Iqbal said the government had failed to restore the disrupted water supply despite repeated assurances.

They said that although residents had managed to temporarily restore the pipeline, subsequent flooding destroyed it again. No restoration work has been initiated, they lamented and gave a one-day ultimatum to the government for action or they would launch protests.

Meanwhile, residents of Kondus and Haldi in Ghanche district also

complained about a lack of relief supplies, electricity, drinking water and road access. A devastating landslide in Kondus swept away over 50 homes, leaving scores of families homeless and in urgent need of food, shelter, medical care and emergency services. Locals also lamented the unavailability of the internet, making it even harder to communicate or call for help.

In the Shigar district, flash floods hit the Tisar and Garchahma areas. Resident Sajid Ali said electricity had been out for the last three to four days and that many families had evacuated their homes in search of safer ground. Drinking water was also unavailable, he added.

People in Jutal and other flood-affected regions of Gilgit-Baltistan also complained about the lack of basic facilities and criticised the government for its slow response and failure to deliver timely relief.

### **‘15 tourists swept away’**

Meanwhile, a private TV anchor, her husband and their four children are also among the tourists reported missing in Babusar Valley, it emerged on Sunday.

Gilgit-Baltistan government spokesperson Faizullah Faraq said that the family of an anchor-person for a Pashto-language TV channel had contacted authorities, reporting that she, her husband and their four children had gone missing during the recent flash floods.

Mr Faraq said they had recovered a wallet belonging to the anchor-person, adding that the body of an unidentified woman was recovered from the Indus River in Chilas's Minar area. The woman is believed to be among the tourists who were swept away by flash floods on Babusar Highway.

He said that according to eyewitness accounts, between 10 and 15 tourists were swept away by floodwaters on the Babusar Highway. So far, seven bodies have been recovered.

"The search for the remaining missing persons is ongoing with the help of sniffer dogs and drones and personnel from Diamer Police, Rescue 1122, the Pakistan Army and GB Scouts are participating in the operation," he said, adding that the effort would continue until all missing individuals are located.

He said additional rescue operations were also underway in Ghanche, Ghizer and Gilgit. Human remains were also recovered during a search operation in the Thak Bhasha area of Diamer, and DNA testing will be required for identification.

Federal Secretary for Communications and Works Sher Alam Masood visited the Babusar Highway site in Chilas alongside local officials to assess the damage.

He told the media that restoration efforts using heavy machinery were ongoing, with the road blocked in 15 locations and partial clearance achieved at 13 of them. He hoped that

the highway would be partially reopened for traffic by Monday.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1927003/gb-flood-victims-cry-out-for-basic-services>

### **'AJK' PM assures Chinese team of full support for Jagran-II hydropower project**

*The Dawn, 28 July 2025*

'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq on Sunday assured the Chinese technical team executing the long-delayed Jagran-II hydropower project of full government support, including coverage of unforeseen technical costs, while urging swift re-mobilisation of manpower to ensure commissioning of at least two units before the end of this year.

Chairing a review meeting with Power Development Organisation (PDO) officials and the Chinese project manager at the project's camp office in Kuttan, Mr Haq said the government was committed to resolving all bottlenecks and would not shift the burden of additional expenditures—such as treatment of rusted and waterlogged turbine panels—onto the project's contracting firm.

The 48MW Jagran-II, located in the scenic Neelum Valley, is a run-of-the-river facility funded by France's Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in partnership with Pakistan's public sector. The project has faced significant delays due to design issues and the evacuation of foreign experts

amid heightened cross-border tensions earlier this year.

Chinese engineers had been relocated to Islamabad for safety but returned home before the situation stabilised. So far, only the project manager has returned to Pakistan—arriving at the project site on July 9.

In Sunday's briefing, the Chinese project manager informed the premier that due to prolonged site inactivity and exposure to moisture, some turbine components inside the powerhouse might have developed rust and waterlogging, warranting inspection before commissioning. He said the costs for technical evaluation and treatment would be additional.

Responding, the 'AJK' premier directed PDO to invite relevant experts from China or Pakistan without delay, assuring that all required funds would be covered under the project cost.

Mr Haq also praised the longstanding Pakistan-China relationship and said that if at least two of the four units were commissioned before the start of the lean water flow period, the government would announce a special bonus and award for the Chinese technical team.

The project manager assured Mr Haq that he would seek permission from the company's Beijing headquarters and re-mobilise the full technical team to the site within 15 days.

The meeting was attended by 'AJK' ministers Mian Abdul Waheed and Pir Mazhar Saeed, both hailing from

Neelum Valley, along with PDO Managing Director Khawaja Masood Qadir and other senior officials.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to the project, Mr Haq expressed hope that it would be completed and operational by December 2025, a timeline revised from the earlier target of June.

"Our government is focused on people-centric development and is taking timely steps to promote growth and prosperity," he said. He added that completion of Jagran-II would ease power shortages, reduce load-shedding, and boost tourism and economic activity in the valley.

Earlier this year, Mr Haq had visited the project site in February and directed improved coordination among PDO, contractors and stakeholders for timely completion. PDO officials accredit PM Haq for reviving the dead project, as soon after assuming office he had pushed the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) to expedite civil works.

According to them, the government has intensified efforts to harness the region's untapped hydropower potential of nearly 8,000MW to meet energy needs and stimulate the local economy.

PDO MD Qadir recently informed Dawn that the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) had pledged approximately Rs22 billion for two major projects in Neelum Valley— 22 MW Jagran-IV and 48-MW Shonthar

Hydropower Project. The PC-1s for both have been cleared by the Central Working Party, with land already acquired for Jagran-IV.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1926984/ajk-pm-assures-chinese-team-of-full-support-for-jagran-ii-hydropower-project>

### **‘AJK’ govt ‘failed to shoulder’ Kashmir cause: Gilani**

*The Express Tribune, 28 July 2025*

The ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) government has failed to shoulder the "higher burden of responsibilities" regarding the Kashmir dispute and the ongoing freedom movement in the valley. These views were expressed by Dr Syed Nazir Gilani, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights, in a special conversation with this correspondent.

He noted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were the primary party in the plebiscite, with Pakistan as the second party. He added that the 1974 Act, essentially amounted to the annexation of ‘AJK’ to Pakistan. Unfortunately, the ‘AJK’ government has "miserably failed" to extend this annexation to the ‘Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ (IIOJK), he added.

Dr Gilani argued that if the ‘AJK’ government had succeeded in uniting people from all segments in ‘IIOJK’, particularly Kashmiri Pandits, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists, around the demand for the right to self-determination, it would have facilitated the annexation of the entire

Jammu and Kashmir region to Pakistan through a vote. This, in turn, would have expanded Pakistan's influence among Kashmiris and been reflected in the plebiscite with a vote in Pakistan's favour.

However, he maintained that the ‘AJK’ government not only failed to fulfil its responsibilities regarding the freedom of ‘IIOJK’, but also fell short in expanding the scope of the Kashmiris' affiliation with Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2558242/ajk-govt-failed-to-shoulder-kashmir-cause-gilani>

### **Khunjerab route shut due to Sost protests**

*Dawn, 29 July 2025*

Traders in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) on Monday blocked Sost dry port, halting all trade and travel between Pakistan and China to protest inaction on federal taxes and demand the release of hundreds of shipping containers they say have been stalled for months.

The protest on the Karakoram Highway, which began last week, has paralysed the regional economy and stranded travellers, including Chinese nationals who also staged a protest demanding passage into China through Khunjerab pass.

The demonstration is led by the Pak-China Tajeer Etihad Action Committee, a coalition representing importers, exporters, customs agents, and chambers of commerce from across Gilgit-Baltistan.



Protesters have blocked the port's main gate and are vowing to continue their sit-in until their demands are met. At the heart of the dispute are 280 shipping consignments imported from China that have been stranded at the Sost Dry Port for 10 months.

The traders said the goods, stored in an open area, have been damaged by recent rains, with many items expiring. They claim to be facing daily port charges and billions of rupees in losses. Protesters warned that the exploitation of GB's people would no longer be tolerated, saying that they would expand the protest if their demands remain unresolved.

The traders are calling for the immediate clearance of the containers based on customs duties alone, exempting them from other federal taxes. They argue that under the 1985 Pakistan-China border agreement and Gilgit-Baltistan's disputed constitutional status, the region's residents are exempt from federal sales and income taxes.

According to the protestors, GB has disputed constitutional status, and representation in National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan and no taxation without representation is recognised law. The traders criticised the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), blaming new trade policies introduced last December for disrupting their primary source of income and triggering an economic crisis.

They demand the removal of cases against local traders, claiming that

imposing taxes like sales and income tax on importing goods from China is illegal. With no major industrial base, thousands of transporters, hotel owners, shopkeepers, and labourers in the mountainous region depend on trade with China. The protest has garnered support from high-level regional officials and a joint committee of various organisations has been formed to coordinate and expand the protest.

GB Governor Syed Mehdi Shah sent a letter to Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari requesting his intervention.

Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan also took notice of the protest and said he would take up the matter with the federal government.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1927298/khunjerab-route-shut-due-to-sost-protests>

### **'AJK' High Court admits petition against repeal of third-party recruitment law**

*Dawn, 30 July 2025*

The 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) High Court has admitted for regular hearing a writ petition, challenging the repeal of the 'AJK' Recruitment (Through Third Party) Act, 2021, as "unconstitutional and detrimental to transparency and merit in public sector appointments."

The petition, filed by the 'AJK' High Court Bar Association through senior lawyers Raja Amjad Ali Khan, Raja Sajjad Ahmed Khan and Fayyaz Khan,

contends that the now-repealed law had been enacted to establish a fair and competitive recruitment mechanism through independent third-party testing agencies in line with constitutional provisions ensuring equality and protection against discrimination in public employment.

The bar association maintained that the 2021 law was repealed through Act XII of 2023 without introducing any alternative transparent recruitment mechanism, thereby paving the way for nepotism, favoritism and arbitrary appointments in government services, particularly from Basic Pay Scale (BPS) 1 to 15.

The petition argued that the repeal violated fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 4, 8, 15, and 17 of the 'AJK' Interim Constitution, 1974, and was inconsistent with the principles of good governance and the rule of law.

The petitioners requested the court to declare Act XII of 2023 null and void, restore the 2021 Third Party Recruitment Act, and direct the government to include BPS-1 to BPS-15 positions within its scope. They also sought the formulation of rules under the restored Act and a stay on fresh appointments under the current framework until the case is decided.

According to the petitioners, a cabinet committee formed after the change of government in late 2021 had repeatedly recommended retaining the Third Party Recruitment Act in its original

form, but the government disregarded these recommendations.

The petition pointed out that departments such as education and police had previously conducted recruitments through the National Testing Service (NTS), which had earned public appreciation. Similar impartial mechanisms, it argued, should be adopted across all departments.

The petition also included a request for ad-interim relief, urging the court to suspend the operation of the repeal act and restrain the government from making any appointments in the disputed grades during the pendency of the case.

Vacation Judge Syed Shahid Bahar, who admitted the petition, sought objections from the respondents on the application for interim relief by or before the next hearing date.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1927461/ajk-high-court-admits-petition-against-repeal-of-third-party-recruitment-law>

### **FBR forms seven-member committee to settle GB tax issue**

*Dawn, 31 July 2025*

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday formed a seven-member committee to make recommendations for resolving the ongoing tax dispute, as traders in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) continued their sit-in for a tenth consecutive day.



Traders, affiliated with Pakistan-China trade through Khunjerab Pass, have been protesting at the Sost Dry Port and blocking the Karakoram Highway, the land route between Pakistan and China, demanding an end to what they call federal taxes on goods imported from China.

The protests, which have paralysed trade and travel through the Khunjerab Pass, began over what traders describe as discriminatory FBR policies and the non-clearance of consignments imported from China. Protesters are demanding exemption for GB residents from paying sales tax, income tax, and other federal taxes on goods imported from China.

Pakistan-China trade and travel suspended; thousands of travellers stranded, including Chinese nationals. In response, a notification issued by the FBR announced the committee's formation to address the "tax grievances of people of Gilgit-Baltistan".

According to the notification, the committee will "evaluate the grievances of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) on the issue of charging of sales tax, income tax and federal excise duty on import of goods from China through Khunjerab Pass for consumption in Gilgit-Baltistan."

The seven-member committee comprises the member customs (operations), member-IR (policy), director general (R&A), the GB secretary of finance, the chief collector

(north) and the chief IR (policy). The committee's mandate is to examine the levy of taxes on goods meant for consumption within GB's territorial jurisdiction.

It is also tasked with devising a "transparent implementation mechanism" for any available exemptions and suggesting "robust checks against misuse of any exemption".

Additionally, the committee will identify the HS codes and quantify the annual quantities needed for local consumption within GB, keeping in view per capita import of such goods for the rest of the country. It will also consider mechanisms for clearance of baggage at Sost and enforcement measures at Khunjerab Pass to ensure consumption of exempted goods in GB only.

The committee will consult with local stakeholders to weigh different options, including the collection of duties and taxes on behalf of the GB government, and is expected to submit its report within seven days. Due to protests, thousands of passengers scheduled to travel to China through Khunjerab Pass remain stranded as transportation via the pass has been suspended for a third day.

Many Chinese nationals who planned to travel to Xinjiang province through Khunjerab Pass have also staged a protest sit-in in Sost town, demanding to be allowed to travel.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1927718/fbr-forms-seven-member-committee-to-settle-gb-tax-issue>

## **Fresh flood rips through GB's Ishkoman valley**

*Dawn, 31 July 2025*

A cloudburst-induced flood swept through the Ishkoman valley of Ghizer district on Wednesday, damaging dozens of homes, shops and critical infrastructure, including a power station, the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA) said.

According to the GBDMA, flash floods occurred in eight various places in Faizabad and Dadaabad villages. The authority reported the flash flood completely destroyed 22 homes and 18 shops, while 42 homes were partially damaged and floodwaters entered another 65.

Thousands of kanals of agricultural land, orchards, and forests suffered damage, alongside two timber factories, a pair of gar-ages, a Jamaat Khana, and the DJ High School building. Additionally, a two-kilometer stretch of the main road and a three-kilometer water channel serving a powerhouse were affected, as well as numerous livestock, cattle sheds, and 18 irrigation channels.

The floodwaters also struck eight motorcycles and six cars. The flood also damaged the water channel for the main power station and disrupted telephone and mobile networks in the area. Many affected families have been

shifted to safer areas while officials have begun assessing the damages. A complete assessment of the disaster will be possible in the coming days, officials said.

"The communication is cut off; therefore, it is difficult to know the damages," Yaqoob Tai, a local resident of Ghizer, told Dawn. Experts said GB has experienced unprecedented disasters this year, noting that the frequency of cloudburst-triggered floods, glacial lake outburst floods (Glofs) and rapid glacier melting has increased.

At least 10 people have died and 12 tourists have gone missing in various recent events across the region.

The Babusar valley and Thore in Diamer have been the worst-hit areas. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Meteorological Department issued an alert warning of more potential flooding. The department said a wet spell is likely to affect GB in the current week, with scattered rain, thunderstorms and isolated heavy falls expected.

It warned that the weather increases the risk of Glofs, flash floods and landslides in the region's vulnerable glaciated areas. The PMD suggested all concerned authorities "remain alert and take necessary measures to avoid any untoward situation".

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1927722/fresh-flood-rips-through-gbs-ishkoman-valley>

## **Going Solar in Gilgit-Baltistan: A Way Forward to Counter Energy Shortfall and Its Socio-economic Fallout**

*Pamir Times, 2 August 2025*

Mankind, the master creation of Allah the Almighty, has been endowed with the bounty of intellect; the unique capacity for problem-solving and innovation. It is this intellect that has propelled humanity from the age of hunting and gathering societies to agricultural, then to the industrial era, and now to the digital age, where information technology has reached every nook and corner of the planet and dominates nearly every aspect of our lives.

Today, the internet has become a fundamental part of human activity across the globe. Whether for information, communication, or income generation through online work. Internet connectivity is now considered essential, and Gilgit-Baltistan is no exception to this trend.

To access the internet, however, certain digital tools and electronic gadgets are indispensable: smartphones, computers, Wi-Fi routers, and more. All of these are powered by electricity. Simply put, without electricity, connectivity to the online world becomes impossible.

Unfortunately, in Gilgit-Baltistan, uninterrupted power supply remains a distant dream. This begs an important question: What is the way forward for

ensuring reliable electricity in the region? Can we rely on hydropower? Regrettably, the answer is no — at least not in the short term.

Most of the electricity in Gilgit-Baltistan is generated from out of the running streams. However, during the harsh winters, when temperature falls below zero degrees Celsius, these streams often freeze; thus, halting electricity generation. Even the promise of future dams seems a far-fetched dream due to need of large scale infrastructural development. So, what is the practical solution?

Taking all this into account, going solar is the only way forward. A hybrid solar system, comprising solar panels and a battery bank (either lithium-ion or lead-acid), can both power essential loads during the day and store excess energy for use at night or during cloudy periods. Furthermore, doing so is in congruity with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) envisioned under the aegis of the United Nations Organization (UNO).

These battery banks can reliably power electronic devices essential for digital connectivity. With such systems in place, uninterrupted power supply becomes not only possible but also practical — especially in remote, mountainous, far-flung and underserved areas like Gilgit-Baltistan, where internet disruption is very often due to vulnerability of optical fiber cable, passing through Naran Kaghan, to get damaged. In a nutshell, going

solar in the GB can turn out to be instrumental in bringing economic boom in the Region.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/08/02/going-solar-in-gilgit-baltistan-a-way-forward-to-counter-energy-shortfall-and-its-socio-economic-fallout/>

### **GB traders vow to continue protest at Pak-China border**

*Dawn, 2 August 2025*

Traders in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) on Friday continued their protest for a 23rd consecutive day, blocking a key trade route with China and vowing to continue until the government scraps federal taxes they call illegal.

The protest on the Karakoram Highway has halted all Pakistan-China trade and travel through the border crossing, leaving thousands of people, including Chinese nationals and foreign tourists, stranded in the area.

Protesters, who have gained the support of local political, youth and religious parties, argue that the region's disputed constitutional status exempts it from federal taxation. "The federal government is reluctant to solve the genuine demands of local people," said Mohammad Ishaq, one of the protest organisers.

Protesters argue that federal taxes are illegal due to region's disputed status. "They are just demanding how federal taxes can be collected from the people who are not constitutional citizens of Pakistan and the region is a disputed status area." He added that protesting traders would not back down from

their "principle stance of "No taxation without representation".

The tax dispute has paralysed the local economy for the last eight months, rendering thousands jobless, including transporters, hotel owners, shopkeepers and customs agents. Ayub Waziri, a member of the GB Assembly, said the issue extends beyond the trading community. "This is an issue of the GB people," Waziri said, explaining that because the region is not constitutionally part of Pakistan, all federal taxes imposed there are illegal.

Mr Waziri said that during the last year negotiations, officials from the Federal Board of Revenue had admitted that GB falls in a "non-tariff zone". He said the federal government has since formed a committee to resolve the issue and that the GB government is acting as a mediator. The protest movement intensified on Friday as hundreds of people in rallies from multiple areas joined the blockade to show solidarity.

"The protest movement has awakened GB people for their rights," said Moulana Sharfuddin, a leader of Tanzeem Ahl-i-Sunnat wal Jamat, GB, expressing his support.

Protesters claim the standoff has left them victims of federal policies.

Ahmed Nabi, a protester, told Dawn that billions of rupees worth of items imported through the Sost Dry Port have been held up for the last month. He said many items have expired, while others stored in the open have been damaged by rain because

Pakistan Customs officials are not clearing local consignments.

Javed Hussain, another organiser, alleged that speedy clearance of goods is “allowed to only a handful of people”. “The economic exploitation of local people will never be accepted,” he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1928200/gb-traders-vow-to-continue-protest-at-pak-china-border>

## **Economic Developments**

### **PM asks provinces, ‘AJK’ & GB to partner for cashless economy**

*Business Recorder, 29 July 2025*

In a clear message to the provinces, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed all provincial governments, including those of Gilgit-Baltistan and ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), to fully cooperate with the federal government in advancing the ambitious plan for the digitisation of the economy and the promotion of a cashless economy.

The prime minister, while chairing a weekly review meeting on the transition to a cashless and digital economy, warned that the transformation plan must not be treated as an optional exercise. He underscored that digitisation was not merely a matter of convenience – it was a matter of national transparency, economic efficiency, and global competitiveness.

“The aim is to make citizens’ lives easier, not costlier,” the prime minister said, as he emphasised that the masses

must not bear any financial burden during the transition.

But behind the soft phrasing was a firm directive: federal plans must move forward swiftly, and all governments – central or provincial – must fall in step.

Signalling impatience with bureaucratic foot-dragging, Sharif called for “meaningful consultation” with stakeholders to be institutionalised – not delayed under the guise of process. He said that clear timelines must be met and insisted that collaboration across federal and provincial lines was non-negotiable.

Officials briefing the prime minister said that the groundwork for the digital economy architecture was nearly complete. The National Digital Commission and Pakistan Digital Authority have been established, and rules of operation have been finalised.

In what appears to be a signal that the plan is entering an operational phase, the Merchant Onboarding Framework – a critical step for enabling digital payments – was formally launched on July 25.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, IT Minister Shaza Fatima, and State Minister for Finance Bilal Kayani, as well as chief secretaries from all provinces and territories, and senior government officials.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40375091/pm-asks-provinces-ajk-gb-to-partner-for-cashless-economy>



## **PM Shehbaz vows support as monsoon batters GB, 'AJK'**

*Dawn, 2 August 2025*

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed the federal government's full support for relief and recovery efforts in flood-hit Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK).

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the monsoon damage, the prime minister ordered an urgent overhaul of the Pakistan Meteorological Department's early warning infrastructure to make it more proactive and effective. He also directed authorities to restore and repair road and communication networks on an emergency basis to ensure timely aid delivery and mobility in affected areas.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, the meeting focused on immediate relief efforts, future disaster preparedness and federal assistance to the affected regions. Expressing sorrow over the loss of lives and widespread destruction caused by torrential rains, PM Shehbaz reiterated his government's solidarity with the people of GB and 'AJK'.

"The federal government stands shoulder to shoulder with the administrations and citizens of Gilgit-Baltistan and 'Azad Kashmir' in this hour of grief," he said. "I will soon visit Gilgit-Baltistan to express solidarity with the victims and a comprehensive federal relief package will be

announced to support recovery and rehabilitation efforts."

The prime minister directed all federal departments to coordinate with regional authorities to conduct swift damage assessments and prioritise life-saving interventions. He stressed the need for a coordinated and rapid response to minimise further losses and ensure timely assistance to those affected.

During the briefing, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik informed the premier that monsoon-related disasters had caused 295 deaths and over 700 injuries nationwide. More than 1,600 homes have been destroyed and 376 livestock lost.

He also warned of continued flood threats in rivers and streams, noting potential minor flooding at Tarbela, Chashma, Taunsa and Kalabagh, and moderate flood levels at Head Marala and Guddu on the Chenab River. He cautioned that monsoon activity is expected to intensify towards the end of August.

The meeting was attended by 'AJK' Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, among others.

Separately, Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal called on PM Shehbaz on Friday to brief



him on ongoing projects and reform efforts in the health sector. The meeting also covered other matters related to the Ministry of Health, according to a statement from the PM's Office.

### **Tragedies mount in GB**

In Gilgit-Baltistan's Haron area, four members of a family drowned in the Ghizer River while trying to rescue a man reported to be mentally unwell, who had jumped into the water. Rescue 1122 officials said that one family member was rescued, while two women and a man remain missing.

GB government spokesperson Faizullah Faraq said Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan has ordered all available resources to be deployed in the search and rescue operation.

In a separate incident, a glacier burst in Bagrot Valley on Friday led to the death of a 12-year-old boy, while his father was injured. The pair had been crossing the glacier in Barchi village on foot when it collapsed.

The GB spokesperson confirmed they fell into a ravine and were buried under debris. The father was rescued after several hours by locals and Rescue 1122. While a billion-rupee early warning system had been installed in the area under the UNDP-funded Glof-II Project, it failed to function during the incident.

Opposition leader from the constituency, Syed Sohail Abbas Shah, alleged large-scale corruption in the implementation of early warning and

protection projects, accusing both the government and international organisations.

### **Emergency declared**

Spokesperson Faizullah Faraq announced that an emergency has been imposed across GB. He urged the federal government to step in and assist with flood relief and the rehabilitation of affected people.

Fresh flash floods have struck the Khanbari area of Diamer district, destroying standing crops, farmland and irrigation infrastructure. The search continues for the 11th day for missing tourists along the Babusar Highway. PM Shehbaz is expected to visit GB soon.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1928144/pm-shehbaz-vows-support-as-monsoon-batters-gb-ajk>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

**Floods have caused immense damage, federal government must step in with greater help: Chief Minister Gulbar Khan**

*Urdu Point, 31 July 2025*

Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan while speaking on a high level meeting held for the restoration of flood affected areas highlighted that compared to the past, this year's flood has proven to be more damaging in nature. Given less resources, restoring infrastructure in all affected areas looks impossible, he added.

The damages caused by rains and floods, and the consequent challenges

faced by the people, and keeping that into considerations, through the federal government's resources, emergency measures have been taken. The first priority is restoring electricity and making safe drinking water available. In flood affected areas, relief and tents are being distributed to the people.

For full restoration of flood affected areas and for providing relief to the damaged properties of people, a demand of 15 million has been asked from the federal government. The chief minister hopes that the federal government under the Prime Minister of Shehbaz Sharif will fully cooperate in restoring the damaged infrastructure and provide aid to the affected people.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-4509520.html>

### **Jamaat-e-Islami to hold August 5 rallies for Kashmir and Palestine: Hafiz Nayeem ur Rehman**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 30 July 2025*

Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Hafiz Nayeem ur Rehman again unequivocally condemned the undemocratic actions on part of the Pakistan state and urged it to allow Balochistan people's long march to Islamabad. The government must heal the wounds of the people of Balochistan and help trace the missing people, and resolve all other issues related to the Balochistan problem, he added.

JI announced a series of rallies and protests on August 5. The events will

show support for Kashmir and Palestine. JI called August 5 "Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir," marking India's 2019 move to revoke Kashmir's special status. Strongly criticizing the India's actions in Kashmir and comparing them to Israeli attacks in Gaza, Rehman said both governments are violating human rights. He also blamed the global community for staying silent.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-30.jpg>

### **From Social Media**

**JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri**

*1 August 2025*

Thousands protesters continued their protest sit in blocking KKH, the trade and travel between Pakistan and China through Khunjerab Pass, traders have been protesting against imposition of taxes in the region, "No taxation without representation" is their slogan.

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1951001921600495638>

**WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti**

*31 July 2025*

The provincial government's stance on the traders' sit-in and demands has been revealed

#gilgitbaltistan #government

**Link to the video:**

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1950871759474843896>

**PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes***28 July 2025*

Chilas, July 27, 2025: The death toll from the devastating floods in the Babusar region has risen to eight, while seven people are still missing, as search and rescue operations continue in full force across the mountainous terrain.

According to officials, the floods, triggered by intense rainfall earlier this week, have claimed the lives of at least eight individuals, including three members of a family from Lodhran and two residents of Thore. Two bodies remain unidentified.

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1949546068032778640>

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**Disclaimer**

*PoK weekly News Digest is a collection of news reports and press releases published in various newspapers and local media related to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), referred to as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit Baltistan' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been edited and abridged to provide clarity. MP-IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.*



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