

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

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11 August - 17 August 2025

**POK**  
**climate change**  
**Gilgit-Baltistan**  
**Rawalkot Protest**  
**Traders Protest**  
**Solar Project**  
**Floods**  
**CPEC**



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg  
New Delhi-110 010

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## Political Developments

### Traders sit-in protest on Karakoram Highway enters fourth week

*The Dawn, 11 August 2025*

The ongoing sit-in on Karakoram Highway (KKH) has disrupted travel and trade between Pakistan and China via Khunjerab Pass for the 22nd consecutive day on Sunday as deadlock between government and protesters persisted.

The federal committee constituted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will meet on Monday (today) to make recommendations for resolving the issue. GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, GB Chief Secretary Abrar Ahmed Mirza, PPP President Amjad Hussain Advocate, former GB chief minister and PML-N President Hafeezur Rehman have also been included in the committee.

Trade and travel between Pakistan and China, as well as business activities at the Sost Dry Port, have remained shut for the past 22 days. The protest sit-in, called by the Tajir Ittehad Action Committee — backed by trade organisations, government and opposition parties, and religious groups in the region — is being staged at Sost, blocking trade activities between Pakistan and China in support of their demands.

Members of a committee formed by Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan to resolve the matter had met the protest organisers on Friday. They discussed the issues and prepared recommendations to present

to the Prime Minister's committee. The protesters have given a two-point agenda to the committee. They demanded exemption of GB residents from income tax, sales tax, and other federal taxes on items imported from China through the Khunjerab Pass. They also demanded Customs clearance of 280 consignments stuck at Sost Dry Port for over a year under a one-time amnesty scheme.

The protesters announced that they would not call off their protest until their demands are implemented. Addressing the protest, Rehan Shah, PML-N Hunza president, said that the people of GB have long been demanding their constitutional and legal rights. He added that political, religious, and trade organisations — along with both government and opposition members in GB — support these demands.

He stated that GB has been deprived of constitutional and legal rights for the past seven decades. Zahoor Karim, PPP local president, said the federal government should only collect taxes after giving GB representation in Pakistan's National Assembly and Senate. He stressed that the "economic murder" of GB residents would not be tolerated.

"The FBR has introduced policies to deprive GB people of their economic resources. Trade between Pakistan and China has been closed for a year, and goods worth billions of rupees are stuck at Sost Port — some damaged by rain and others expired," he said. Protesters said that the majority of GB residents depend on cross-border trade

between Pakistan and China through the Khunjerab Pass.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1930045/traders-sit-in-protest-on-karakoram-highway-enters-fourth-week>

### **7 dead, 6 injured in GB's Danyor as landslide hits volunteers restoring water supply**

*Dawn, 11 August 2025*

At least seven volunteers died and six were injured early on Monday when a landslide hit individuals working at a water channel in Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) Danyor city, rescue officials said. The devastating impacts of climate change and melting glaciers have become more visible in GB, which has been facing heavy rains since late June.

The situation worsened when deadly floods swept across the Babusar area on July 21, causing landslides and damaging infrastructure. So far, 10 deaths have been confirmed across the region, with a dozen tourists missing. Thirteen volunteers, mainly young people, were attempting to restore the water supply in the main water channel from Danyor nullah to Danyor town, which had been damaged due to the recent floods, when the landslide hit at 2am today.

"Thirteen volunteers restoring the water supply were buried under the rubble," Gilgit's Rescue 1122 said in a statement. Stating the casualties, it said the injured were taken to a hospital. District Emergency Officer (operations) Abdul Basit was present at the site to supervise the restoration, Rescue 1122 added.

Muhammad Akbar, one of the residents who took part in the rescue operations, told Dawn that the bodies and injured had been moved to "various hospitals in Gilgit and Danyor".

On July 22, a flash flood in Danyor nullah inundated residential communities and damaged crops and irrigation channels. The deluge also damaged link roads and suspension bridges, cutting road links to affected areas. Hussain Akbar Shah, another local, said thousands of Danyor residents were facing a shortage of drinking water and irrigation water as the valley depended on water from the nullah.

A statement by the GB government spokesperson Faizullah Faraq stated that the total number of volunteers was 15, out of whom seven were confirmed dead. An emergency has been declared at hospitals in Gilgit, the spokesperson added. "Our hearts are saddened by this unfortunate accident. Gilgit is in a state of mourning," Faraq said.

### **Residents protest against govt 'inaction'**

Residents protest the death of seven volunteers due to a landslide as they restored water supply in GB's Danyor town on Aug 11, 2025. Funeral prayers were later held for the volunteers who died in the incident. Residents also protested at Danyor Chowk against the incident, holding the government responsible for it. 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.

The elders noted that although residents had managed to temporarily restore the pipeline, subsequent flooding destroyed it again, while the government had not started work on it. The protesters demanded that the government take action, or they would launch protests. GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan expressed his condolences on the incident and announced compensation for the bereaved families.

“The families of those who died in the Danyor nullah [incident] will receive compensation as per the government policy,” CM Gulbar said, directing that the wounded be provided with the best medical treatment. Social activist Ghulam Abbas also blamed the government’s alleged negligence, explaining that the incident might not have occurred if the government had restored the water channel.

Abbas also said that besides the seven volunteers who died in the landslide, one had lost his life due to a heart attack. Dildar Hussain, another resident, called the incident “regrettable”. Echoing others’ complaints of damages caused by floods, he said, “No one did anything for restoration.”

“This situation is proof of government incompetence,” he said. “The responsibility for the lives lost lies with the government,” Dildar asserted. Prominent lawyer Wazir Ibadat said that despite crops and trees being destroyed by the flooding, the water

management had done nothing to restore the channel. Ibadat said that people had to start the restoration work themselves, and as a result, precious lives were lost. He demanded an investigation into the matter and action against those responsible.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1930162/7-dead-6-injured-in-gbs-danyor-as-landslide-hits-volunteers-restoring-water-supply>

### **Climate’s human toll**

*Dawn, 12 August 2025*

In Danyor, Gilgit-Baltistan, seven young men were crushed to death under a landslide in the early hours of Monday. They were not engineers or state rescue workers, but local volunteers trying to restore the town’s only water supply after floods had destroyed it. Ordinary citizens were forced to shoulder the burden the government should have carried, ultimately losing their lives. Their sacrifice reminds us of both the human toll of climate change and the cost of official inaction. GB is on the front line of Pakistan’s climate emergency. Melting glaciers, unpredictable rains and increasingly destructive flash floods are remaking the region’s geography. Since late June, heavy downpours — followed by floods on July 21 in Babusar and the next day in Danyor — have swept away bridges, roads, crops and irrigation systems, cutting off entire valleys and leaving thousands without drinking or irrigation water.

Scientists have long warned that such events will become more frequent and

intense. Yet the state's response remains reactive and shallow, defined more by condolence statements than preventive planning. In Danyor, repeated appeals for the restoration of the damaged water channel were met with assurances, not action. When a temporary fix made by locals was washed away, the government still did nothing. Faced with shortages, residents took the risk themselves, working in dangerous conditions — until the earth gave way. The administration arrived only after lives had been lost, with compensation cheques and promises of medical care. This pattern cannot continue. The government must invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, building effective early-warning systems, and deploying trained disaster-response teams in GB. In the immediate term, it must restore the water supply and repair damaged links before more people are exposed to danger. The people of Danyor stepped forward because the state stepped back. Their courage should not become another statistic in a long list of preventable disasters.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1930328/climates-human-toll>

### **JKLF condemns raid on Yasin Malik's home**

*Dawn, 13 August 2025*

The Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) condemned a raid by an investigation agency on the residence of its jailed chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik, on Tuesday. His mother and sister were harassed during the search, the JKLF added.

In a statement, the JKLF's spokesperson Muhammad Rafiq Dar said the Srinagar Investigation Agency (SIA) had been tasked with reopening decades-old "fictitious" cases and was being used by New Delhi to further its "anti-Kashmir agenda" by targeting anti-India leaders. Mr Dar described recent court actions against Mr Malik as "unilateral judicial measures" taken in his absence, accusing New Delhi of pursuing "political vendetta" through coercion. He said creation of the SIA indicated that India had resorted to "aggressive tactics" to crush the freedom movement.

The JKLF vowed to intensify campaigns at home and abroad to highlight India's "inhumane" treatment of Yasin Malik. "The JKLF is determined to continue its struggle until the complete freedom of Kashmiris from Indian subjugation. In view of the freedom movement's overwhelming public support and the unprecedented sacrifices made at the national level, India, despite its state terrorism, cannot deprive Kashmiris of their right to freedom for too long," he asserted.

Meanwhile, Mr Dar appreciated the efforts by some party leaders, Raja Muzaffar, Prof Raja Zafar Khan, Nazim Bhatti, Malik Lateef, Malik Aijaz, Qari Ajaib, Haji Muhammad Iqbal, and Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq, to bring all JKLF factions on one platform. In this regard, he welcomed Mr Muzaffar's resignation from his group's chairmanship as "a step toward unity" and assured of his



support to initiatives aimed at consolidating the organisation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1930569/jklf-condemns-raid-on-yasin-maliks-home>

### **Death of woman fleeing ‘moral policing’ sparks outrage in ‘AJK’**

*Dawn, 11 August 2025*

The death of a young woman after falling from a cliff on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad on Saturday has triggered widespread outrage across ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), with demands for the harshest punishment for those accused of harassing couples under the guise of “moral policing” to extort money or valuables.

According to a police spokesperson, the incident occurred at about 1:15pm near Mera Tanolian village on Pir Chinasi Road, when Aqeel Ahmed and his tenant Fakhra Amjad — both residents of the Plate neighbourhood in Muzaffarabad — had stopped their Mehran car by the roadside while returning from a drive. Three to four men, one of them a police constable in plainclothes, confronted the pair, deemed their presence “suspicious” and began beating Aqeel.

During the assault, Ms Amjad got out of the car and tried to flee, but fell approximately 100–120 feet down a mountainside into a ravine, sustaining critical head injuries.

Aqeel, also injured, tried to take her to hospital, but she died on the way. Police arrested Aqeel and Amir, son of Gul Zaman — a police constable from Mera Tanolian posted elsewhere — and

were searching for the remaining suspects, the spokesperson said, adding legal proceedings had been initiated. The incident sparked street protests and a wave of online condemnation of so-called “moral brigades” accused of harassing and blackmailing couples for extortion.

On Sunday, dozens gathered outside the press club, demanding to know under what law anyone could question people about their relationships or reasons for visiting tourist spots. Shahid Zaman Awan, a civil society activist, said if police had done their job, there would have been no need for the protest. “Instead of swooping on those who caused the girl’s death, they have arrested the boy who accompanied her. This is the worst example of traditional police tactics,” he said.

According to many netizens, such incidents had been occurring in this and some other areas as well for a long time, but most victims would avoid reporting them to the police or speaking out publicly.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1930088/death-of-woman-fleeing-moral-policing-sparks-outrage-in-ajk>

### **Eight Arrested in Border Areas by Pakistani and Chinese Authorities**

*Pamir Times, 14 August 2025*

Authorities in Pakistan and China have arrested eight individuals near the Kilik/Mintaka and Misgar border areas, officials confirmed. According to initial reports, the group, reportedly residents of Lahore and Gujranwala, arrived in Sost a few weeks ago before moving toward Misgar, a remote border

village, claiming they were there for sightseeing. They reportedly spent a night at Qalandarchi Fort before allegedly attempting to cross into Chinese territory, a journey that involves nearly a 10-hour walk through an uninhabited region.

Chinese border authorities arrested six members of the group after they crossed the border and informed their Pakistani counterparts of the incident. They also reported that one individual had “disappeared,” prompting a large-scale search operation in the rugged terrain.

After an 18-day hunt, Pakistani forces located and arrested the missing individual inside Pakistan. Officials said he was hungry, dehydrated, and unable to walk. A second man, believed to be connected to the same group, was later arrested in Misgar by Pakistani authorities, bringing the total number of detainees to eight. The motive behind the attempted border crossing remains unclear.

One detainee, arrested on the Pakistani side, claimed in an interview with Pamir Times that they had crossed into China “inadvertently.”

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/08/14/eight-arrested-in-border-areas-by-pakistani-and-chinese-authorities/>

**G-B to Gwadar: ‘Talent of youth will be linked with process of development’**

*Business Recorder, 14 August 2025*

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, while

addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Uraan Fellowship Programme 2025, said that the exceptional talent of youth from Gilgit-Baltistan to Gwadar will be linked with the process of national development, said a press release.

He said that the purpose of this program is to make the youth genuine partners in the country’s progress and to nurture their leadership skills to meet future challenges. Professor Iqbal said that under the vision of the prime minister, the central focus of Uraan Pakistan is to equip the youth with modern skills. The greatest strength and capital of Pakistan are its youth, who make up 64 per cent of the population. He said that Pakistan came into being as a result of the unparalleled leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, but it is thought-provoking that countries which were once behind us have now moved ahead.

The Minister for Planning said that peace, political stability, continuity of policies, reforms and commitment to modernization are the key pillars of development. Unfortunately, due to political vendettas, the decision-making process has been affected. He stated that through CPEC, \$25 billion of investment came into the country, load-shedding was controlled, and law and order was restored.

Professor Iqbal urged the youth to protect themselves from hatred and prejudiced attitudes and to play a positive role in the country’s development. He said that in the past year, inflation was brought under control and the Pakistan Stock



Exchange crossed the 140,000 points mark — a testament to economic improvement. Pakistan is on the path to a new phase of progress, and just as it proved its defensive superiority over India, it will also surpass it in the economic field.

He said that the youth must play a key role in turning the dream of making Pakistan a \$3 trillion economy by 2047 into reality. Moreover, students from 131 universities across the country will work for seven days with the Ministry of Planning, where they will gain important insights into the country's economic affairs and development projects.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40377832/g-b-to-gwadar-talent-of-youth-will-be-linked-with-process-of-development>

### **Six bodies recovered from 'AJK' home hit by mudslide**

*Dawn, 16 August 2025*

Rescuers and volunteers on Friday recovered all six bodies from mounds of mud in a suburban area of Muzaffarabad, as the death toll from rain-related incidents across 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) rose to nine following Thursday's flash floods triggered by torrential rains, officials said.

Raja Farrukh Qudoos, tehsildar of Patikka, was among the officials supervising the rescue and recovery operation in Nariyah Behak, part of Sarli Sacha village northwest of Muzaffarabad, where a cloudburst-induced flood in Jhugiyan Nullah had

smashed around four houses on Thursday.

While occupants of other nearby houses had moved to lower areas a few days earlier, one house was still inhabited by a six-member family along with a guest. According to Mr Qudoos, the guest managed to escape with fractures, but the family, comprising Muhammad Naveed, his wife, and their four children, was buried alive.

The rescue operation, suspended on Thursday evening due to heavy rain, resumed at dawn. Five bodies were recovered around 3:30am, Mr Qudoos said, while the body of the eldest daughter was found about 150 feet from the initial site at around 8:30am. Giving an overview of the damage in Muzaffarabad, Saeed Qureshi, director operations at the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), said a total of nine people had lost their lives across 'AJK' — six in Muzaffarabad and one each in Jhelum Valley, Sudhnoti and Bagh districts. Four others were injured.

He added that 31 houses and 23 shops had been destroyed, while 23 more houses suffered partial damage. Infrastructure losses included two schools, 12 water mills, one main bridge and four pedestrian bridges, one mosque, four motorcycles, one car, a service station, five cattle sheds, and six electricity poles.

In Neelum Valley, more than 700 tourists — mostly women and children — and over 90 vehicles were stranded

at the base camp of Ratti Galli lake on Thursday after rains and flooding damaged around one and a half kilometre portion of the already treacherous road.

‘AJK’ Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed, who was present at the base camp, stayed overnight to reassure the tourists, announcing they would not be charged for meals or accommodation until their safe evacuation. According to Akhtar Ayoub, district disaster management officer in Neelum Valley, the rescue operation began at 7am on Friday, and by afternoon, almost all stranded tourists were safely evacuated from the Ratti Galli base camp to Dawarian along the main Neelum Valley road.

The operation was jointly carried out by Rescue 1122, tourist police, traffic police, regular police, Pakistan Army personnel, and officials from the highways department, he said. Video clips shared on social media showed rescue workers carrying children in their arms and guiding adults by hand across the raging torrent over hastily installed wooden planks.

“We are grateful to the people and government of ‘Azad Kashmir’. I am truly at a loss for words to express my gratitude for the way they have helped us,” one tourist said in one of the clips. Mr Qureshi said that except for the Muzaffarabad-Mansehra Road, all other main roads across ‘AJK’ were open for all types of traffic.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1931201/six-bodies-recovered-from-ajk-home-hit-by-mudslide>

## **GB celebrates Independence Day with national zeal**

*The Nation, 15 August 2025*

Like the rest of the country, Pakistan’s Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Gilgit-Baltistan. The main event took place at Chinar Bagh, where Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for Home Affairs Shams Lone hoisted the national flag, laid floral wreaths at the Martyrs’ Monument and offered fateha.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Planning and Development Raja Nasir, the Inspector General of Gilgit-Baltistan Police, provincial secretaries, heads of various departments, and a large number of citizens. On the occasion a smartly turned-out contingent of GB Police presented a salute to the chief guest.

In his address, the Home Minister said Independence Day was a time to renew the pledge made when the dream of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal became a reality. He paid tribute to Field Marshal Asim Munir and the armed forces for their role in Operation Baniyanum Marsoos in defending the country.

Separately, a solemn ceremony was held at Wahab Shaheed Polo Ground in Gilgit to mark the day with a traditional 21-gun salute, filling the air with chants of “Pakistan Zindabad.” The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthem, followed by the salute presented by a contingent of FCNA in accordance with military traditions. The ceremonies concluded with special prayers for the

peace, prosperity and unity of the country, attended by citizens and military officials alike.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Aug-2025/gb-celebrates-independence-day-with-national-zeal>

## Economic Developments

### **PM orders completion of 100MW G-B solar project in one year**

*The Express Tribune, 12 August 2025*

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed authorities to ensure the completion of the 100-megawatt solar power project in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) within a year, reaffirming the federal government's full financial commitment to the initiative.

Chairing a review meeting in Islamabad, the prime minister said the project would be executed on a priority basis to provide uninterrupted, low-cost, and environmentally sustainable electricity to the region, which frequently faces prolonged power outages.

The premier said he would personally supervise the progress of the project, which he described as a crucial step toward ending energy shortages in G-B. He further instructed that the infrastructure be built to withstand the impacts of climate change.

Emphasising the urgency of the matter, he said, "Solarisation offers the most practical solution for remote regions like G-B, where 18 to 20 hours of load-shedding remain a routine challenge."

PM Shehbaz also directed that electricity supply from both

hydropower and solar sources be strengthened to help residents cope with extreme weather conditions and power disruptions.

To ensure effective implementation, Energy Minister Awais Leghari was appointed chairman of the Steering Committee overseeing the project. During the briefing, the meeting was informed that six solar parks would be established in Gilgit, eight in Skardu, and six in Diamer.

Additionally, solar panels would be installed on 234 government buildings in Gilgit, 179 in Skardu, and 66 in Diamer. A real-time monitoring system for battery backup is also being developed. Officials assured that the project would adhere to international standards and that transparency would be ensured throughout its construction.

The project had earlier been announced by PM Shehbaz during his visit to G-B, as Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) also approved the project few days later.

Separately, in a meeting with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, the prime minister directed the authority to enhance coordination with provincial governments for effective response and rehabilitation efforts amid recent rains and flooding.

He called for the swift operationalisation of G-B early warning system in coordination with the Ministry of Climate Change, stressing the importance of timely

alerts in vulnerable areas to reduce risks during extreme weather events.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2560977/p-m-orders-completion-of-100mw-g-b-solar-project-in-one-year>

### **Chinese CPEC IPPs press Pakistan govt for Rs475bn dues**

*Business Recorder, 17 August 2025*

As the date of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China draws closer, Chinese CPEC Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have mounted pressure on the government for clearance of their outstanding receivables, which currently stand at around Rs 475 billion, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Chinese CPEC IPPs have been writing letters to government functionaries, with copies also shared with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan. The Ambassador, sources said, is actively engaging with senior Pakistani officials to finalize the Prime Minister's agenda for bilateral meetings with Chinese leadership.

In a recent letter, Wang Dongfang, CEO of Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEPC), expressed deep concern over the growing delays in tariff payments by the Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guaranteed (CPPA-G).

According to Wang, under the Government of Pakistan's guidance, the 1,320 MW Port Qasim Coal-Fired Power Project—one of the flagship energy ventures under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)—has consistently provided clean,

reliable, and economical electricity to the national grid.

"While we highly appreciate the efforts of the Government of Pakistan and CPPA-G in arranging funds and making tariff payments to IPPs, the total outstanding amount due to PQEPC has reached Rs 81 billion (\$286.94 million) as of July 31, 2025, with a delay period of over six months, which could further escalate," the letter stated.

The CEO cautioned that shareholders and sponsors of the project, including those from China and Qatar, have conveyed "significant discontent" over the payment backlog and have requested urgent measures to reduce the outstanding amount.

"We would like to notify that the current dues entitle PQEPC to suspend plant operations under Section 9.10 of the PPA, without any liability for Liquidated Damages (LDs)," the CEO warned.

PQEPC also highlighted that its Energy Purchase Price (EPP) tariff is comparatively more competitive than oil- and RLNG-based power plants. Suspension of operations, the CEO warned, would result in a "lose-lose" outcome, which both sides must avoid through timely settlement of dues to ensure sustainable generation and prevent triggering defaults under Loan Agreements and the Government of Pakistan's Sovereign Guarantee.

Concluding his letter, Wang urged the Finance Minister, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Planning Minister, Ahsan Iqbal to take immediate notice of

the “critical situation” and coordinate with relevant authorities to arrange financial support for CPPA-G so that the outstanding dues could be cleared without further delay.

When an official was contacted for comments on the correspondence of Chinese CPEC IPPs on payment of outstanding amounts, he responded that since the government does not have enough fiscal space, the payments will be made on the basis of availability of resources. However, energy payments are being made to them through Escrow Account. The government has earmarked Rs 5 billion per month to be paid to the Chinese CPEC IPPs.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40378379/chinese-cpec-ipps-press-pakistan-govt-for-rs475bn-dues>

### From Vernacular Urdu Media

#### **Meeting of a Delegation Led by All Parties Hurriyat Conference Leader Abdul Hameed Lone with President of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ Barrister Sultan**

*Urdu Point, August 15, 2025*

President of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry stated that India is not the world’s largest democracy but rather an authoritarian state, as Modi is not only perpetrating immense oppression on the people of ‘occupied Kashmir’ but also targeting minorities within India due to his Hindutva policies, subjecting them to inhumane treatment. India is involved in terrorist activities worldwide, including in

Pakistan, and clear evidence of this was presented by the Canadian Prime Minister in his parliament, exposing India as a global terrorist state. He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation led by All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Abdul Hameed Lone at the President’s House, Kashmir House, in Islamabad on Friday.

He urged the international community to use its influence to restrain India from its nefarious designs. He added that Kashmiris worldwide, by observing India’s Independence Day on August 15 as a Black Day, have proven that they will never accept India’s illegal and oppressive occupation of ‘occupied Kashmir’. Kashmiris in Pakistan, ‘Azad Kashmir’, and across the globe marked August 15, India’s Independence Day, as a Black Day, sending a clear message to the international community that India remains an ‘occupying force’ in Kashmir through oppression and continues to commit grave human rights violations.

He further stated that since August 5, 2019, India has intensified its unilateral actions to bring about demographic changes in ‘occupied Kashmir’. However, India must understand that the Kashmiri people do not accept its oppressive and ‘illegal occupation’, and their struggle will continue until ‘occupied Kashmir’ is liberated from Indian domination. The delegation included Abdul Hameed Lone, Raja Khawaja Hussain, Syed Aijaz Rehmani, and Zahid Safi.



During the meeting, the delegation briefed President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on the latest situation in 'occupied Kashmir'. The President emphasized that the Kashmir issue is before the United Nations, and UN resolutions on Kashmir remain effective, so India cannot unilaterally alter the status of 'occupied Kashmir'. He added that Modi is resorting to state oppression to displace Kashmiris, confiscate their properties, detain Hurriyat leaders, and harass elders, women, and children by raiding their homes. The Indian army has become a terrorist force, and India has emerged as a global terrorist state. Therefore, the international community must play its role in ensuring the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination as per UN resolutions.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry concluded that the Kashmiri people have completely rejected the Hindutva agenda, and, God willing, the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs will bear fruit, and occupied Kashmir will soon be free from India's oppressive and 'illegal occupation'.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-4525024.html>

### **Rawalakot: Thousands Protest for Second Day against Terrorism Act Cases on Students and Youth**

*Urdu Point, August 16, 2025*

Thousands of people took to the streets in Rawalakot for the second consecutive day to protest against the arrests of pro-freedom Kashmiri youth and the registration of cases under the

Anti-Terrorism Act against innocent students and young individuals. Led by Sagheer Khan and Liaquat Hayat, the protesters marched from Captain Hussain Khan Shaheed College Gate, carrying the Kashmiri national flag, under heavy police surveillance. In solidarity, local traders observed a shutter-down strike. The participants raised slogans such as "Long Live Kashmir," "Those who wish to live in Kashmir must chant Long Live Maqbool Butt," and "We reject your rule over our homeland." After marching through the city's main roads, they reached Maqbool Butt Shaheed Chowk, where the gathering turned into one of the largest rallies in Rawalakot's history.

Speakers at the rally declared that they would not allow anyone to impose their ideologies under the guise of recreational events. They vowed to stop the use of public resources to appease Islamabad. They condemned the injustice of filing terrorism cases against children who raised the Kashmiri flag and chanted "Long Live Kashmir," promising that the world would witness the consequences of this oppression. The speakers demanded the withdrawal of FIRs filed at the behest of a specific group during a volleyball match, as well as the unconditional release of detained individuals.

Meanwhile, two cases registered against youth accused of chanting "Long Live Kashmir" during a volleyball match and festival at the stadium have come to light. The cases name 23 individuals, with over 200



unidentified persons also implicated. So far, more than 35 people have been arrested, of whom six named in the FIRs have been remanded to police custody for 90 days by the court. Raids to apprehend other youths are ongoing. Two youths were released on the previous evening, and there is a possibility that a few others may also be freed. Among the arrested is a minor. No cases have been filed against some of the detained youths yet.

The cases include serious charges under sections 123-A, 123-B, 124-A, 121-A, and 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, among others. The accusations include raising anti-Pakistan and pro-Kashmir slogans, disrupting Pakistan's Independence Day program, tearing the Pakistani flag, damaging police vehicles, chanting slogans against uniformed personnel, and hoisting the Kashmiri flag. These sections pertain to offenses like sedition, rebellion, anti-terrorism, and interference in government affairs.

On the other hand, a massive rally of thousands of workers from pro-freedom organizations was held in Rawalakot. Leaders, including Liberation Front Chairman Sagheer Khan Advocate and former NAP President Liaquat Hayat, demanded the cancellation of the FIRs, the unconditional release of the detained youths, and an end to the raids. The protesters warned the government and administration that if the youths are not released, the authorities would be responsible for the consequences.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/rawalakot/national-news/live-news-4525598.html>

## Social Media

**JAMIL NAGRI** @jamilnagri

17 August 2025

Thousands displaced in #GilgitBaltistan, majority has no access of water, electricity, road, mobile, internet, above 40 perished dozens injured in flood related incidents, locals are bearing climate change impacts, devastation continued, my piece will appear in Dawn tomorrow

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1957135794646487479>

**WAJAHAT ALI** @wajahatgilgiti

17 August 2025

Floods in Gilgit-Baltistan have destroyed infrastructure, causing difficulties for the public.

**Link to the video:**

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1957134143881453712>

**PAMIR TIMES** @pamirtimes

15 August 2025

A section of the bridge at Baghicha on the Jaglote-Skardu Road (Baltistan Highway) has been washed away by a powerful flood.

This bridge is a crucial link, connecting Baltistan with the rest of the country and supporting vital transportation and trade.

#Skardu #Baltsitan #GilgitBaltistan

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1956412826437976224>

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**Compiled by**

Mohd. Usman Bhatti and Muneeb Yousuf

**Edited By**

Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

**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.*



**MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg  
New Delhi-110 010

Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191

Website: [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [pokdigest@gmail.com](mailto:pokdigest@gmail.com)