

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

Volume 5 | Issue 37

08 September - 14 September 2025

## **POK** **Gilgit-Baltistan** **Karakoram Highway** **Mining and Minerals Bill** **Sost Dry Port** **Protest**



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## Political Developments

### **Hundreds of Chinese, other foreigners stranded in GB for second day**

Dawn, 10 September 2025

Hundreds of Chinese nationals, foreign tourists and students remained stranded on the second day on Tuesday at Sost as protesters blocked Khunjerab Pass Immigration Office's entry and exit points on the Pakistan-China border. Officials said a large number of Chinese nationals, students, and foreign tourists couldn't travel to China through Khunjerab Pass on the second day as the GB protesters did not allow travel at KKH between the two countries. The stranded Chinese nationals and foreign tourists protested with local police for not arranging their departure to China. Officials said a large number of Chinese nationals protested and exchanged hot words with officials. The GB people and traders have been staging a protest sit-in and blocking the Karakoram Highway for the last 51 days against collection of Sales Tax, Income Tax and Excise Tax by the federal government from the GB people. They say that collection of any tax from the GB people by the federal government is illegal as they have no representation in Pakistan's parliament and they are not part of Pakistan according to Constitution of Pakistan.

GB Assembly member from treasury bench advocate Amjad Hussain, who is

also PPP president of GB chapter, told GB Assembly that talks with the federal government are under way to settle the issue. Advocate Amjad Hussain is also the member of a committee formed by the GB chief minister to hold talks with the federal government committee to resolve the issue. In first meeting between representatives of the GB committee and the federal government committee, the federal government had admitted that collection of Sales Tax, Income Tax and Excise Tax from GB people and traders is illegal. Advocate Amjad Hussain told the GB Assembly the issue will be resolved soon.

Opposition members of GB Assembly Javed Ali Manwa, Raja Zakaria and Syed Sohail Abbas criticised the GB government and federal government for prolonging the issue and not resolving it immediately. Protesters at the sit-in said that instead of solving the genuine issues, the GB government is planning to start a crackdown against them and warned the government to be ready for dire consequences if it tried to crack down against the protesters. The protest sit-in on the KKH is being staged on the call of all traders' bodies of Gilgit-Baltistan. Gulsher Khan, one of the protest sit-in organisers, said the federal and GB governments are not serious in resolving the issue. He said protesters have been demanding their rights under the Constitution of Pakistan and laws.

He said Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) could not collect federal taxes

from GB people and its traders as the people of the region have no representation in Pakistan's parliament and therefore the federal government could not collect taxes from the people of the region. He said over 200 consignments imported from China have been stuck up at the Sost Dry Port for the last 10 months and because of this, traders of GB have been facing losses of billions of rupees. Another organiser of the protest, Ebad Nagari, said that policies of FBR have made thousands of GB people jobless.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1940839/hundreds-of-chinese-other-foreigners-stranded-in-gb-for-second-day>

**'Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' will be free from India's illegal occupation soon: President 'AJK'**

*Daily Parliament Times, 10 September 2025*

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the Kashmiri diaspora has played a vital role in keeping the Kashmir issue alive at the international level and exposing India's atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to a delegation led by Chaudhry Tanveer of Paris at Aiwan-e-Sadr Kashmir House, the President lauded the Kashmiri community in Europe, especially in France, for consistently advocating the right to self-determination and fundamental freedoms of Kashmiris. He stressed that it was high time for

Kashmiris across the globe to unite in highlighting Indian state terrorism and its illegal occupation. He claimed that the "day is not far when occupied Jammu and Kashmir will be free from India's illegal occupation". Chaudhry Tanveer commended the efforts made by the 'AJK' President for the Kashmir cause and assured that he would intensify his lobbying efforts in France to expose India's crimes in 'occupied Kashmir.'

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/09/10/president-ajk-says-the-kashmiri-diaspora-plays-a-vital-role-in-keeping-the-kashmir-issue-alive-at-the-international-level/>

**Information Minister 'AJK' departs for Gaza to provide aid to victims**

*Daily Parliament Times, 10 September 2025*

The Information Minister of 'AJK', Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, has departed for Gaza to provide aid to the suffering Palestinian people, embodying a great spirit of humanitarianism. The Minister is traveling to Gaza on the international aid ship "Floatilla," which aims to provide medical, food, and humanitarian relief to innocent Palestinians affected by Israeli aggression. The ship carries individuals from 34 countries, including members of parliament and human rights activists. It is a matter of pride that the Information Minister of 'Azad Kashmir' is not only participating in this great mission with

his personal resources but also representing the people of Kashmir on a global platform, reiterating that the people of Kashmir stand with the oppressed, whether in Palestine or any other region. The Minister's selfless act and efforts to raise the flag of Kashmir on a global level are a source of pride for every citizen of the state. This initiative exemplifies the spirit of brotherhood, humanity, and international solidarity that the people of Kashmir embody. The people of Kashmir pray for the success of this mission and hope that it will bring hope to the oppressed around the world.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/09/10/information-minister-ajk-departs-for-gaza-to-provide-aid-to-victims/>

### **G-B's Yasin Valley residents decry tree felling in anti-encroachment drive**

*Pamir Times, 11 September 2025*

Authorities in the Additional District of Gupis-Yasin of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) have come under sharp criticism after they cut down hundreds of trees during an "anti-encroachment operation", drawing anger from residents who termed the move environmentally damaging. Residents said that over a thousand trees, which they described as "the lungs of the valley," were felled without prior notice. Karim Shah Nizari, a mountain guide and climate activist, said the local administration had committed a "serious legal violation" by cutting

down trees outside the designated road boundaries. "The government has paid for and fixed a 22-foot-wide limit as the official jurisdiction. Any action beyond that, especially on private property, is highly unlawful and unacceptable. I surveyed the road yesterday. Only one tree was within the 22-foot-wide limit, while the rest stood 30 to 40 feet away," he added.

He alleged that the administration was cutting around 100 trees daily, with more than 1,000 already felled. "It is a standard procedure that when authorities notice an encroachment, a written notice is issued before taking action. But the Yasin administration bypassed legal SOPs," he said. Nizari added that some of the trees were 50 to 60 years old, while the rest were more than a decade old, yet were removed even though they did not fall under the definition of encroachment. "Around the world people grow trees along roadsides for shade, but here they are cutting them down," he said, adding that when they approached the GB Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the matter was referred to the forest department, which in turn referred it back to the EPA.

#### *Legal notice served on AC, Tehsildar*

Meanwhile, a legal notice has been served on Assistant Commissioner Yasin and the Tehsildar over the felling of trees. The notice, issued by Advocate Raja Jehangir Khan on behalf of affected residents, termed the operation "unauthorized, illegal and

unlawful,” claiming it violated the constitutional rights of landowners under Articles 23 and 24 of the Constitution. The notice said that fruit-bearing and historically significant trees were cut in Yasin Manich and Yasin Proper, without lawful authority or compensation. It demanded immediate cessation of further cutting, compensation for losses, and disclosure of official justification. The administration has been given seven days to respond, failing which legal proceedings would be initiated.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Yasin, Atifullah Khan, however, rejected the criticism, saying the drive was not aimed at cutting trees but removing encroachments. “Road expansion and recarpeting is being carried out, and trees that had not been removed for several years were felled. They were not only disrupting traffic but also obstructing electricity transmission. People whose trees were removed are terming it an operation against trees, but in reality, it is an operation against encroachment,” he said. He added that the road’s width had been fixed at 28 feet and residents were informed to remove trees falling within this limit, but they failed to comply.

The AC said that compensation had already been paid to owners of affected trees at the time of road expansion, but since the trees were not removed for a long period, the administration had now launched the operation. “In the first phase, trees have been removed from Murka bridge to the rest house,

while in the second phase, the operation will continue from the rest house to Sultanabad,” he said, adding that trees standing along link roads and water channels would also be removed to clear encroachments.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/g-bs-yasin-valley-residents-decry-tree-felling-in-anti-encroachment-drive/>

### **‘AJK’ CJ voices solidarity with ‘IIOJK’ people**

*The Express Tribune, 12 September 2025*

The ‘AJK’ Supreme Court (AJKSC) Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan expressed solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for their unparalleled sacrifices in the struggle for self-determination. The chief justice was addressing the opening ceremony of ‘AJK’SC golden jubilee celebrations in Muzaffarabad on Thursday. Marking 50 years since the apex court's establishment in 1975, Chief Justice Akram extended felicitations to the people of the state as well as past and present judges, lawyers, and citizens. He also paid tribute to former chief justices and judges, both deceased and living, who laid the foundations of a progressive and efficient justice system in ‘AJK.’

In a strong message of solidarity, the chief justice reaffirmed the unwavering support of the people of ‘Azad Kashmir’ and Pakistan for the oppressed people of ‘IIOJK’, condemning ‘India's illegal occupation’ and unconstitutional actions. He paid

tribute to the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs and expressed hope that the dawn of freedom would soon rise over the occupied region. The chief justice revealed that the original Golden Jubilee celebration, scheduled for May 2025 with confirmed participation of Pakistan's Chief Justice Yahya Afridi and other senior judges from across the country, had to be postponed following the night of May 6-7, when civilian areas and mosques were targeted, resulting in the tragic loss of women, children, and elderly citizens.

He praised the Pakistan Armed Forces for their swift and robust response, particularly commending the Pakistan Air Force and cyber warriors for their historic defence. Paying homage to Martyr Major Adnan, he lauded the courage and sacrifices of Pakistan's soldiers. Reflecting on the judiciary's evolution, Chief Justice Akram said the 'AJK' Supreme Court has weathered both challenges and milestones to emerge as a beacon of justice. He noted that no case predating 2024 is currently pending before the court, a record unmatched in the region. The chief justice also credited the Islamic Ideology Council, under his leadership, with reviewing and recommending amendments to bring laws in line with Islamic principles. He praised the social harmony in AJK, citing low crime rates, sectarian unity, and transparent governance as hallmarks of the region's societal model.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2566357/ajk-cj-voices-solidarity-with-iiojk-people>

## **JKLF thanks people of Jammu Kashmir on expression of their unflinching support in organizing successful protests**

*Daily Parliament Times, 14 September 2025*

The Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) thanked the people of Jammu Kashmir on the expression of their unflinching support in organizing successful protests against India's heinous intentions towards Muhammad Yasin Malik and other pro-freedom political leaders imprisoned in Indian jails. In a statement issued from party's central information office the JKLF chief spokesman, Muhammad Rafiq Dar thanked joint awami action committee and all other political and civil society leaders on extending their support for the call for protests given by JKLF. The shutter-down was observed in most of the parts of 'AJK' including the capital city Muzaffarabad while as the protests were held in almost every district headquarters in 'AJK' against Indian nefarious design of converting life sentence of Yasin Malik into death sentence. The protest rally was in Muzaffarabad was led by JKLF leaders Khawaja Saifudin, Saleem Haroon and Manzoor A. Chishti who were joined by central leader of JKJAAC Showkat Nawaz Mir, JKLL president Khawaja Manzoor Qadir Adv and others. The protest rally in Kotli was led by JKLF and JKSLF leaders Malik Aslam, Jawad Qayoom, Shafqat Mugul and Abrar

Iftikhar who were joined by central leader of JKJAAC Malik Yaqoof and other local political leaders.

The similar rallies were held at many other places in 'AJK' led by local party leaders. The speakers of these protests commonly spoke against Indian 'state terrorism' and condemned any act of converting Yasin Malik's life sentence into death penalty. They warned India of dire consequences of any such action against Yasin Malik. The speakers appealed international community especially world human rights organizations of playing their role in saving life of a peaceful political leader of Jammu Kashmir like Yasin Malik who has been the worst victim of political vendetta at the hands of Modi led government of India. They also made a fervent appeal to human rights champions of the world, especially to saner elements of India, to play their role in making possible the early release of all pro-freedom political leaders of Jammu Kashmir languishing in Indian jails including that of Yasin Malik.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/09/14/jklf-thanks-people-of-jammu-kashmir-on-expression-of-their-unflinching-support-in-organizing-successful-protests/>

## **Economic Developments**

### **'AJK' vows transparency in flood loss survey**

*The Express Tribune, 11 September 2025*

The Prime Minister's Committee on flood damages in 'AJK' has decided to

adopt a coordinated and transparent approach to assess losses and rehabilitation costs, following a high-level meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik. The committee endorsed a "triangulated" methodology involving the Government of 'AJK', the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), supported by technical experts, to produce accurate and locally contextualized estimates of flood damages. "The goal is to ensure reliable data that can guide transparent decision-making and efficient use of resources for rehabilitation," Dr Malik said during the meeting.

NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik informed participants that a national survey and audit will also be carried out to verify costs and needs. The meeting stressed that this combined effort will help streamline reporting and enable a well-informed set of recommendations to be presented to the Prime Minister. The committee will reconvene in the coming days to finalize its report for necessary action and resource allocation. Recent floods in 'AJK' have severely damaged homes, roads, and infrastructure, with authorities under pressure to accelerate recovery efforts.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2566164/ajk-vows-transparency-in-flood-loss-survey>

## **Pakistan's first-ever all-woman expedition summits GB's Bari La peak**

*Dawn, 12 September 2025*

Pakistan's first-ever all-woman mountaineering expedition has summited Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) 5,400-metre Bari La peak. The 10-member expedition comprised Bibi Afzon and Zeeba Batool from GB, Bismah Hasan and Iqra Jillani from Punjab, Madeeha Syed from Sindh, Mona Khan from 'AJK', Marya Bangash from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahreen Khan and Amina Shabbir from Islamabad and Laraib Batool from Balochistan. According to a statement issued today by Alpine Club of Pakistan Vice President Karrar Haidri, history was "written in the high mountains of Pakistan". He said the first-ever all-woman expedition, organised and sponsored by the Alpine Club, successfully summited Bari La Peak. "With equal representation from all four provinces, GB and AJK, these courageous women came together not just to climb, but to break barriers and prove that Pakistan's daughters can rise to any peak," Haidri said.

He added that before embarking on their journey, the expedition received training in basic climbing techniques at the Sadpara Mountaineering Training School under the guidance of renowned climbers Sajid Sadpara and Ashraf Sadpara. The Alpine Club added in their statement that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated

the team on their achievement and invited them to the PM House in recognition of their courage and determination.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1941282/pakistans-first-ever-all-woman-expedition-summits-gbs-bari-la-peak>

## **The MWM will not allow the Mining and Minerals Act to be passed**

*Dailyk2, 14 September 2025*

Member of the GB Assembly Sheikh Akbar Rajai has said that if the members of the assembly had been united and shown strength, then why would anyone have let dogs loose in the assembly? But we could not unite among ourselves, due to which dogs were let loose in the assembly and we were not allowed to enter the assembly gate, and this act has been written in history. History can never be erased. Talking to the media outside the residence in Skardu, Agha Syed Ali Rizvi said that the mountains and minerals of Gilgit-Baltistan have been leased to America. The Americans are about to enter here. The arrival of the center and federal ministers in Skardu is a link in this chain, but we will never allow anyone to occupy the mountains and these hidden minerals. The Mining and Minerals Bill is not being brought in the assembly due to the fear of public reaction. If the bill is presented in the assembly, the people will rise up. The Land Reforms Bill was passed despite our opposition, but the Mining and Minerals Act will not be passed.

He said that governments will not be formed on the basis of sketches in Gilgit-Baltistan. The government will be established here with the power of the people's vote. We will go to the elections based on principles and rules and regulations. We did not betray our conscience. We remained steadfast in our stance, which will definitely lead to temporary difficulties, but our conscience is satisfied. He said that we were not consulted about the establishment of the caretaker government. It is not true that the caretaker government will have a long term and should be allowed to make arbitrary decisions. The fact is that the caretaker government only has a mandate to hold elections. Constitutionally and legally, the caretaker government cannot do anything beyond the mandate. He said that those who betrayed the PTI should have been dismissed long ago, but it took a long time to de-notify them. PTI did a great job by dismissing them today. People will know what the consequences of committing treason are.

<https://dailyk2.com/url?p=71326>

### **Protesters block KKH over dam compensation**

Dailyk2, 15 September 2025

Hundreds of passengers and transporters remain stranded as residents of Harban in Upper Kohistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, blocked the Karakoram Highway (KKH) for a

seventh day, demanding immediate and higher compensation for land acquired for the Diamer-Basha Dam project. The sit-in near Harban Nallah cut off the main route linking Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) with the rest of the country, creating severe shortages of food and medicine and leaving hundreds of trucks carrying goods immobilised. Witnesses said travelers were stuck on both sides of the highway. Protest leaders accused Wapda and the K-P administration of failing to honour promises on compensation payments. "Our land was taken, but the rates were unfair and payments have been delayed for years," said Niamat Khan, one of the organisers.

Officials from the Kohistan administration and Wapda say about Rs3 billion is owed in total, with nearly Rs2 billion already transferred to the deputy commissioner's account. They insist the remainder will be released once legal formalities are complete, but protesters reject any further delays. The blockade drove up prices of vegetables such as onions and tomatoes, while transport rerouted through the Babusar Pass charges steep fares, worsening inflation in the fragile local economy. Traders and transporters report heavy daily losses. Civil society groups criticised the K-P government's silence, questioning the writ of the state.

Diamer Valley is particularly affected, with residents of Darel and Tangir unable to travel to Chilas or Gilgit,

crippling daily life and economic activity. Protesters vow to continue the sit-in until their demands were met, while residents and traders urged federal and provincial governments to negotiate and restore traffic on the strategic highway.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2566876/protesters-block-kkh-over-dam-compensation>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **Post-1989 Migrants' Working Committee Meets 'AJK' PM; PM Assures Support**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 10 September 2025*

A group from the Post-1989 Migrants' Working Committee, headed by Azeer Ahmed Ghazali, met with 'AJK' Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq. The delegation highlighted the difficulties faced by migrants and requested a reserved seat for their community in the Legislative Assembly. During the meeting, Prime Minister Haq praised the migrants for their significant contributions to the Kashmir freedom movement. "You sacrificed your homes and livelihoods for the cause of Kashmir. Your sacrifices are deeply valued, and we honor you for it," he stated. He reassured the group that the government is committed to implementing the migrants' quota, enhancing housing facilities, and taking additional measures to support their well-being. Regarding the request for a reserved seat in the assembly, the

Prime Minister noted that the proposal would be discussed with parliamentary parties. The delegation expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and commended his efforts to improve the welfare of the post-1989 migrant community.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Resize-of-fd.jpg>

#### **Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan announces full support for Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front**

*Urdu point, 10 September 2025*

The President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir', Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan, announced full support for the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). The Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, Muhammad Yasin Malik, who has been illegally imprisoned in India's infamous Tihar Jail for more than six years, is a hero of the Kashmiri nation. The JKLF has called for a full-scale public strike and protests on September 12 against the Indian government's abominable intentions toward Yasin Malik. The Supreme Council, at the "Save Yasin Malik Conference" organized by the JKLF in Islamabad on August 26, reiterated the appeal of the state's political leadership to the people of 'occupied' and 'AJK' to hold a strike and full-scale public protests on Friday, September 12, against the Indian government's illgal imprisonment of Muhammad Yasin Malik.

The Narendra Modi government, making Yasin Malik the worst target of political revenge, is now bent on getting him hanged after unjustly sentencing him to life imprisonment on false and fabricated cases, against which the Kashmiri people inside and outside the state are protesting. The Muslim Conference President said, "Muhammad Yasin Malik is a peaceful political leader who has been unjustly imprisoned in an Indian jail." The entire Muslim Conference fully supports the September 12 call of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front. Our workers are joining this movement wherever they are. We appeal to justice-loving institutions around the world and the government of Pakistan to play their role in securing the immediate release of Yasin Malik." Sardar Atiq further said that the Muslim Conference recognizes Yasin Malik as a national hero of the Kashmiri people, and political and moral support will continue at all levels until his release.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4548149.html>

### **The dream to seize minerals will not be allowed to achieve: Agha Rahat**

*Dailyk2, 14 September 2025*

Renowned religious scholar Allama Agha Rahat Hussain Al-Hussaini has stated that a decision has been made to occupy the mountains and minerals of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and the region's

demography is being altered through an organized conspiracy. He criticized local representatives for becoming facilitators, accusing them of engaging in trade at the expense of the locals. Addressing a gathering at the Central Jamia Mosque in Skardu, he declared that conspiracies to seize GB's mountains and minerals will not succeed. He expressed dismay that, except for a few, most representatives have become subservient to foreign interests and urged the people to hold these facilitators accountable.

Agha emphasized that the people will not allow foreign powers, particularly America, to establish dominance in GB through the occupation of its resources. He stressed that such ambitions will be thwarted. He called for unity among the people to overcome challenges, warning that without collective action, they will remain entangled in problems. He noted that the lack of rights is partly due to their own mistakes, particularly their role as tools for others. Agha urged the people to fight together for their rights, stating that without struggle, they will never become leaders. He highlighted new tactics being used to alter the region's status and stressed the need to promote unity, solidarity, and competent individuals who can speak, write, and understand, while avoiding the mistake of promoting the incompetent.

<https://dailyk2.com/ur/?p=71324>

## From Social Media

**Ahmed Ali** @rajahmedalikhan

11 June 2025

**JAMIL NAGRI** @jamilnagri

13 September 2025

The federal government has approved the establishment of a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of police in Gilgit-Baltistan, authorising the creation of 613 new posts to combat terror and violent incidents, particularly along the strategic KKH

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1966739438773694692>

**Basharat Issa** @BasharatIssa

9 September 2025

In the times where we should be planting more trees, the local administration in my village are cutting years old trees in the name of encroachment. Picture 1 shows the recent plantation of the local administration. How come these plants are encroachment?? #ClimateCrisis

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/BasharatIssa/status/1965438574662488506>

**JAMIL NAGRI** @jamilnagri

10 September 2025

Hundreds of Chinese nationals, foreign tourists and students remained stranded on the second day on Tuesday

at Sost as protesters blocked Khunjerab Pass. Immigration Office's entry and exit points on the Pakistan-China border.

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1965681979086852249>

**Gilgit Baltistan Advocacy Forum**  
@GB\_RBAF

13 September 2025

International Day of Democracy 2025: Gilgit Baltistan Advocacy Forum (GBAF) is thrilled to formally launch its digital campaign and the stories from around GB will be shared across platforms.

Details in the link.

[https://x.com/GB\\_RBAF/status/1966834223496786381](https://x.com/GB_RBAF/status/1966834223496786381)

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Volume 5 | Issue 37

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**Disclaimer**

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