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POK
hydropower
Gilgit-Baltistan
Awami Action Committee
Local Body Elections
development projects
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Political Developments

Over 40 capital police officials injured during recent 'AJK' standoff, 21 hospitalised in Islamabad

Dawn, 7 October 2025

Over 40 officials of the capital police sustained injuries during recent clashes with protesters in 'Azad Kashmir', with 21 of them requiring hospitalisation. Police officials told Dawn that the personnel sustained stab wounds, open wounds, fractures, head and other injuries.

Constable Saeedullah, a member of the security squad of IGP Islamabad, sustained a spinal disc fracture. Additionally, Constable Zeeshan Ali, stationed at the Industrial Area police station, suffered a fracture in his left arm while Constable Hidayatullah of the Sabzi Mandi police station sustained a fracture in his right arm. Others suffered injuries to various parts of their bodies, including the head, arms, back, legs and shoulders. All had open wounds and were bleeding.

Assistant Commissioner of Dhirkot Amjid Qadir was also brought to Islamabad for medical treatment after sustaining a stab wound to his hip. All injured officials are admitted to the surgical ward of Pims. Contingents were deployed at various locations across 'Azad Kashmir' during protest; mostly faced resistance in Mirpur

Meanwhile, the police personnel sent to 'AJK' returned to Islamabad on Sunday

after completing law and order duties. The officials and officers were scheduled to resume duty in Islamabad on Tuesday (today).

The first police contingent, comprising over 1,000 officials and officers, was sent to 'Azad Kashmir' in September along with anti-riot gear. Another contingent, comprising over 850 personnel, was dispatched the next day but got stuck in Jhelum for a day due to the road closure at Mangla leading to Mirpur. This contingent later reached Mirpur on September 27.

A third contingent, consisting of 1,000 officials, was also deployed to 'AJK' as reinforcement in response to the scheduled September 29 lockdown call issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee in support of their 28-point charter of demands.

The capital police contingents were deployed at various locations across 'AJK'. They faced significant resistance in Mirpur during the protests, and most of the injuries occurred during clashes there. During the confrontations, protesters reportedly snatched police uniforms, anti-riot gear and other official equipment from personnel.

The contingents were drawn from various divisions and units of the capital police, including police stations, and were supervised by a deputy inspector general of police, four senior superintendents of police and six superintendents. As a result, only a few personnel remained at police stations in Islamabad, which hampered routine

operations, including case registration, investigations and public dealings.

A police officer revealed that there were reports of dozens of police personnel abandoning their duties in 'AJK' and returning to Islamabad despite being deployed there for law and order operations.

There were also connectivity issues in 'AJK' with no mobile signal or internet access, which hindered communication. As a result, platoon and team leaders were asked to submit reports on the issue and identify the personnel who were absent from duty.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1947089/over-40-capital-police-officials-injured-during-recent-ajk-stand-off-21-hospitalised-in-islamabad>

'AJK' 'back to normal' after week-long strike

Dawn, 7 October 2025

Despite heavy downpour since early morning, normal life returned to 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) on Monday, following the conclusion of a six-day shutter-down and wheel-jam strike by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC).

Markets were abuzz with shoppers, banks were swarmed by customers, and roads in major towns, particularly Muzaffarabad, remained choked with long queues of vehicles throughout the day.

Attendance in government offices — thin last week due to the unavailability of public transport and non-use of

official vehicles — was reported to be near normal. The biggest crowds, however, were witnessed at banks, which had technically remained open during the lockdown, but saw little or no activity. Government and private sector employees thronged the branches to withdraw their long-delayed salaries, while pensioners stood in queues for cash.

Many ATMs were either empty or out of order, having not been replenished for days due to the uncertain situation. Ironically, federal minister Ahsan Iqbal, a member of the federal negotiating team, was also seen returning empty-handed last Thursday evening after trying his luck at four different ATMs in the capital.

Even those using mobile banking apps faced disappointment as internet and data services had been drastically throttled during the week, disrupting electronic transactions. "I had money in my account but no way to access it," said Rakhshanda Maqbool, a schoolteacher, expressing frustration after finally withdrawing her salary on Monday.

With fresh cash in hand, crowds also poured into grocery stores and markets, where sales far exceeded the usual day's turnover. Many households had run out of food supplies during the weeklong closure, while shortages of medicines and household goods had also deepened.

"Today's footfall was extraordinary," said Zafar Mir, owner of a local grocery

chain. “People were desperate to restock after a week of uncertainty and shortages.” Pharmacies, though technically exempt from the shutdown, had also remained largely closed. Faisal Javed, owner of a leading pharmacy in Muzaffarabad, said, “We had to call in all our staff today. Many customers prefer buying medicines only from us, and they had been waiting for days.”

Educational institutions, too, regained their usual hustle and bustle, with students returning to classrooms after an unplanned break.

Meanwhile, a meeting of 16 government secretaries was held under the chairmanship of ‘AJK’ Chief Secretary Khushhal Khan to review implementation of the decisions reached in the agreement between the federal ministers and the JAAC.

“We have already moved a summary for cabinet approval of the agreement,” Mr Khan told Dawn. “A reference has also been sent to the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs for ratification by the federal cabinet.”

He confirmed that all detained JKJAAC activists had been released.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1947125/ajk-back-to-normal-after-week-long-strike>

GB Police arrest 8 facilitators of attack on religious leader, say culprits to be caught soon

Dawn, 6 October 2025

The Gilgit-Baltistan Police on Monday said they had arrested eight facilitators

of an attack the previous day on a religious leader from the proscribed Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) near the Central Police Office (CPO).

Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed, who is the emir of the group’s GB and Kohistan chapter, was travelling along with police guards and a driver when the convoy came under fire. Police officials said the guards retaliated immediately, injuring some of the attackers, who managed to escape with the help of accomplices. The same day, a judge of the Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court had also survived a brazen gun attack.

Following the incidents, protests erupted across the region. Demonstrators blocked main roads, including the Karakoram Highway, Gilgit–Shandur Road, and Baltistan Road, demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits. Shops and markets in Gilgit remained closed in protest.

Addressing a press conference to provide further updates, Inspector General of Police (IG) Gilgit-Baltistan Afzal Mahmood Butt said: “Eight actual culprits have been identified. Eight facilitators of theirs ... have been arrested and in police custody,” he said. The police chief added that four vehicles used in the attack were also seized. He was holding a press conference alongside GB Home Secretary Captain (r) Syed Ali Asghar and Gilgit Deputy IG Raja Mirza Hassan.

The GB police chief elaborated that eight suspects of the assassination

attempt on the ASWJ leader and two suspects of the attack on the judge were identified, while four vehicles used in the former incident were also seized. IG Butt said the suspects involved in the attack would be arrested in a day or two and produced in court soon.

He further added that a case was also registered after the two suspects who opened fire on Justice Malik Inayatullah Rehman's vehicle were identified. The police chief said that fingerprints and blood samples were obtained from the scene of the incident, which helped in identifying the suspects.

The region's top cop said that the police and investigation agencies are jointly investigating and based on initial evidence, they have identified the accused. Religious leaders from all sects had condemned the attacks, describing them as a conspiracy to sabotage peace in the region.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam had also condemned the assassination attempt and ordered a high-level investigation. The minister directed authorities to use all available resources to ensure the swift arrest of the attackers. "Those involved in this heinous crime will not escape justice," he said.

GB Chief Minister Gulbar Khan had reiterated that no conspiracy against the peace of the region would be allowed to succeed. He had ordered the IG and law enforcement agencies to

conduct a transparent investigation and immediately arrest the culprits.

Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate, Deputy Speaker Sadia Danish, Opposition Leader Kazim Mesum, cabinet ministers, religious leaders from various sects, and civil society activists had all condemned the incidents and demanded a fair and transparent investigation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1947039/gb-police-arrest-8-facilitators-of-attack-on-religious-leader-say-culprits-to-be-caught-soon>

GB judge, cleric targeted in separate attacks

Dawn, 6 October 2025

A judge of the Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court survived a brazen gun attack in Gilgit on Sunday morning, police said. The incident came the same day as a separate attack on a religious leader left at least five people injured. According to police, Judge Malik Inayatullah Rehman and his security staff came under fire from unidentified assailants near Khari City Hospital.

The judge's vehicle was hit by at least 12 bullets, but all occupants survived the ambush. Law enforcement agencies reached the site soon afterwards and cordoned off the area for investigation.

Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan took notice of the attack and directed the home secretary, inspector general of police, and other law enforcement authorities to tighten security across the city.

He instructed them that those involved in the attack be dealt with “iron hands” and brought to justice. The chief minister also urged citizens to remain peaceful and united to foil the designs of elements seeking to disturb the region’s peace.

GB Governor Syed Mehdi Shah also condemned the attack and called for a transparent investigation. Assembly Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate, Deputy Speaker Sadia Danish, Opposition Leader Kazim Mesum, lawyers’ representatives, and civil society members also denounced the incident.

Religious leader attacked

Earlier in the day, a religious leader from the proscribed Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) was also targeted near the Central Police Office (CPO). Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed, who is the emir of the group’s GB and Kohistan chapter was travelling along with police guards and a driver when the convoy came under fire.

According to a GB government statement, Maulana Nisar, his driver, and three police personnel assigned to his security sustained injuries. Police officials said the guards retaliated immediately, injuring some of the attackers, who managed to escape with the help of accomplices. CCTV footage showed the assailants fleeing in a Suzuki vehicle they allegedly snatched at gunpoint after their own vehicles became inoperative.

The injured were shifted to a hospital for medical treatment, where their condition was reported to be stable. Police launched an investigation and took into custody two vehicles used in the attack along with other evidence.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gilgit Ishaq Hussain said the district police had been placed on high alert following recent security concerns. He added that comprehensive operations were underway to apprehend those involved in the attack.

Protests erupt

Following the incidents, protests erupted across the region. Demonstrators blocked main roads, including the Karakoram Highway (KKH), Gilgit-Shandur Road, and Baltistan Road, demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits. Shops and markets in Gilgit remained closed in protest.

Protest demonstrations were reported from Gilgit, Diamer, Nagar, Skardu, Astore, Ghizer, Ghanche, and Shigar, where people from all walks of life participated. Religious leaders from all sects condemned the attacks, describing them as a conspiracy to sabotage peace in the region.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, also condemned the assassination attempt on Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed and ordered a high-level investigation.

In a statement issued during his official visit abroad, Mr Muqam said he had contacted the GB chief minister, chief secretary, and inspector general of police, seeking a detailed report. He said Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed was a respected religious scholar and that the attack was not only on an individual but “an assault on the peace and stability of the entire region.”

The minister directed authorities to use all available resources to ensure the swift arrest of the attackers. “Those involved in this heinous crime will not escape justice,” he said.

Chief Minister Gulbar Khan reiterated that no conspiracy against the peace of Gilgit-Baltistan would be allowed to succeed. He ordered the IG and law enforcement agencies to conduct a transparent investigation and immediately arrest the culprits.

Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate, Deputy Speaker Sadia Danish, Opposition Leader Kazim Mesum, cabinet ministers, religious leaders from various sects, and civil society activists all condemned the incidents and demanded a fair and transparent investigation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1946903/gb-judge-cleric-targeted-in-separate-attacks>

Kashmir on Fire: The People's Uprising Against Oppression and Betrayal

Friday Times, 8 October 2025

The streets of Pakistani-administered Jammu and Kashmir are alive with

defiance. What began as a peaceful mobilisation around a 38-point charter of demands has grown into a people's uprising against decades of exploitation, humiliation, and internal colonialism. The uprising has already cost lives, with at least a dozen people killed since 28 September, but its heartbeat grows stronger every day, sustained by the conviction of ordinary workers, students, traders, and women who refuse to remain silent.

This movement did not emerge overnight. Kashmir's history has always been one of struggle. From the Poonch peasant revolts of the 1940s to the student and labour agitations of the 1970s and 80s, the people of this land have long resisted both their local elites and the suffocating control of Islamabad. In recent years, daily survival itself became the sharpest battlefield. Flour subsidies slashed, electricity bills inflated, taxes imposed while judges, ministers, and bureaucrats enjoy lavish perks — these injustices hardened into a single collective voice under the Awami Action Committee (AAC). Their 38 demands are not radical dreams; they are the most basic rights of any society: affordable bread, free education and healthcare, representation without manipulation, and sovereignty over their own resources.

The betrayal, however, deepens the wound. Two years ago, when Kashmiris had again taken to the streets, the government formally agreed to implement the AAC's

charter. Yet in the years that followed, no implementation came. The promises evaporated into silence, as if the agreement had only been a tactic to diffuse public anger. That broken promise now haunts the state, for when people see their demands ignored time and again, their resistance only strengthens.

Instead of dialogue, the state has responded with brute force. On 29 September, a complete wheel-jam and shutdown strike showed the will of the people. The following day, long marches began across the valleys and towns. Instead of listening, the government unleashed tear gas, live fire, and mass arrests. By 2 October, the cruelty reached its most shameful expression when police descended on peaceful demonstrators, including women and young female students, beating them, tearing their clothes, and keeping them in custody late into the night. What law, what morality, can justify this? Articles 16 and 17 of Pakistan's own Constitution guarantee the right of peaceful protest and association. To trample these rights is not just a violation of law; it is an assault on the very idea of democracy itself.

The state, in its desperation, showed its insecurity on another front as well. Not content with attacking protestors in Kashmir and Islamabad, the police even stormed the Press Club of the capital and attacked journalists, trying to silence those who bore witness to the truth. This is a mark of weakness, not

strength. Only a deeply insecure and fearful government raises its hand against unarmed students, women, and the press. Such acts reveal not power, but fragility.

At its core, this uprising is about more than flour or electricity. It is about a system that robs Kashmir of its own resources while subjecting its people to colonial domination through constitutional tools like Act 74. It is about hydropower generated in Kashmir but sold back to Kashmiris at inflated rates. It is about the manipulation of refugee seats in the assembly to dilute genuine representation. It is about a comprador ruling elite living in privilege while the masses pay with hunger, unemployment, and humiliation.

But repression has only amplified the fire. The blackout imposed since 28 September was meant to suffocate the truth, yet the truth is escaping the blackout's walls. Already, people across Pakistan and around the world are standing in solidarity. Diaspora communities in Europe, North America, and the Middle East have begun organising demonstrations outside Pakistani embassies. Inside Pakistan, progressive voices, labour unions, and students are waking to the fact that the Kashmiri struggle is inseparable from their own. The humiliation of women on 2 October has only deepened outrage. And the attack on journalists in Islamabad is a reminder that this is not merely Kashmir's fight, but the fight of all who

believe in dignity, democracy, and freedom of expression.

The government has already lost legitimacy in the eyes of the masses. It can oscillate between failed negotiations and violence, but neither will extinguish a fire rooted in truth and justice. History has shown, from colonial uprisings across the world that brutality cannot kill an idea whose time has come. What burns in the valleys of Kashmir is not only the cry for flour or electricity; it is the cry for dignity and self-determination.

The arrests, the killings, the assault on women and journalists, all of these will be remembered as the shameful signatures of a state that chose violence over dialogue. But they will also be remembered as the sparks that fanned a larger fire. Today, in every city and country, people are beginning to raise their voices in solidarity with Kashmiris. This is not a local struggle; it is a universal demand for justice. Silence in the face of such repression is complicity. To stand with the Kashmiri people today is to stand with the principle of human freedom itself.

<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/08-Oct-2025/kashmir-fire-people-s-uprising-oppression-betrayal>

Commitment reiterated to address 'AJK' issues

Business Recorder, 9 October 2025

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated his government's commitment to

addressing the issues of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), stating that the welfare and development of the Kashmiri people remain a top priority. Speaking during a meeting with members of the government's negotiating committee – following the resolution of the recent crisis in 'AJK' – he lauded the team's efforts for reaching a peaceful settlement.

He also appreciated the role of the Joint Action Committee in facilitating a resolution through dialogue and understanding. "The government has consistently taken steps for the development and prosperity of the Kashmiri people in accordance with their aspirations, and will continue to do so," Sharif said.

He assured the participants that the concerns of 'AJK's residents would be addressed comprehensively, adding public welfare and peace are central to the government's policy, and efforts will persist to protect the rights of Kashmiri citizens.

Among those present in the meeting were federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Sardar Muhammad Yusuf, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and Ahad Khan Cheema; Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah; Chairman of the PM Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan as well as senior political figures Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Qamar Zaman Kaira.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40386587/imf-pakistan-make-significant-progress-toward-sla-under-eff-amp-rsf>

Where Are the Women of Gilgit-Baltistan When Hate Speaks Loudest?

Pamir Times, 9 October 2025

While strolling through social media the other day, I came across a video of a man in Gilgit saying, “Agar tum ek maarogay, hum sau maarengay” (“If you kill one, we will kill a hundred of you”). Thousands in attendance seemed to be ready to act on his call.

To make sense of his words, I pictured a hundred lives taken; a city in mourning, villages in ruin. I imagined the pain: generations erased, children orphaned, women widowed, and entire communities broken beyond repair.

That statement did not sound brave to me. It sounded crude and cruel. It was a violent threat against another community; a call for more suffering, an invitation to be part of a vicious cycle that has left so many shattered on all sides for so long.

But that wasn't the only video I saw. I watched the video of a young child giving a speech, saying he was ready to give his life for his sect; he was barely twelve or thirteen. I saw many other young men spreading hate on every page with hateful comments. Many seemed to be at the edge, ready for war, posting from their phones without fear of any consequences.

Amid all this cacophony, I couldn't help but wonder: where does this hate come from? Who taught them to

despise their neighbors, the same people they once studied and played with? The people who speak their language, look just like them, dress just like them, and come from the same roots? Who planted the idea that following a different sect makes someone your enemy, or that a whole community can so easily be blamed and violently threatened for the acts of a few?

For decades, every family, regardless of sect, has suffered one way or another because a few men have chosen violence over compassion. These men were apparently taught that killing is easier than understanding, that hate is a sign of strength, and that taking lives brings honor. And I also kept asking myself: where are the women's voices in all of this? Do they have a voice? Do they have a say? Does their voice matter? Does our voice matter?

What are their thoughts? What are our roles in these uneasy times? Are we just there to tremble in fear and shed tears when our brothers, sons, and near and dear ones are sacrificed at the altar of hate and violence?

We as women, as mothers, sisters, and teachers, what can we do to save our children from inheriting this cycle of hate? What can a mother do when she overhears her son speaking the language of hate or revenge?

Can she not stop him from adding oil to the fire? Where are the mothers when their sons pick up weapons against others, not against strangers, but their

own neighbors who follow a different sect of Islam?

We in Gilgit-Baltistan have seen enough of men's anger and revenge. It is time for women to rise as voices of peace, just as Hazrat Zainab bint-e Ali (RA) did after the tragedy of Karbala.

When her family was slaughtered and her homeland filled with grief, Hazrat Zainab (RA) did not call for revenge. She did not respond with hate. She stood before the tyrant and spoke with dignity, truth, and courage, reminding the world that power without justice is weakness, and that patience in the face of cruelty is the highest form of strength.

Her words transformed grief into resistance, and her resilience became a symbol of hope for generations of Muslims. Hazrat Zainab (RA) proved that a woman's voice, when rooted in faith and moral clarity, can shake empires and restore humanity's conscience.

We need that same spirit in our valleys today. We need women who can speak truth to power, who can calm the flames of hate, and who can remind our brothers and sons that revenge is not bravery; compassion is.

It is time for women to take a seat at the table; in the small villages' religious councils, in assemblies, in the courts, and in policymaking. Mere presence is not enough. We need to make our voices heard. We need women's voices, not just when they lament the loss of their near and dear ones, but as

architects of a society grounded in compassion, forbearance, and understanding.

We need women who start teaching the message of Islam; a message not rooted in hate or revenge, but in mercy, justice, and care for the vulnerable: the poor, the orphans, the widows, the sick, and the elderly. Islam was never about dividing humanity; it was about uniting people through compassion.

I am not asking for something extraordinary; what I am asking for is for us to follow the Muslim women before us. We can examine the historical role of Muslim women in peace and decision-making within Islam. History itself bears witness that Muslim women have always played a vital role in guiding society toward peace and justice.

Throughout Islamic history, from Hazrat Khadijah (RA), Hazrat Fatima (RA), and Hazrat Ayesha (RA) to Fatimah al-Fihri, Muslim women have embodied wisdom, leadership, and courage. That same legacy lives on today in women like Dr. Hayat Sindi, Shirin Ebadi, Ibtiyah Muhammad, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Talib, and Tawakkol Karman, who continue to uplift their communities and inspire the world with their vision, strength, and faith.

These women remind us that peace is not passive; it is built through wisdom, moral courage, and education. As I call for the women of Gilgit-Baltistan to make their voices count, let us start by having more women from our villages,

valleys, and towns step forward to lead, speak, and guide.

It's time to reclaim the spirit of Islam that uplifts the human soul and silence the voices that call for blood. Because true power lies not in hate, but in compassion, and no one knows that better than a mother.

Peace in Gilgit-Baltistan will not come from the barrel of a gun, but from the voice of a mother. When men speak the language of revenge, it is time for women to speak the language of compassion and reclaim Islam's true message of mercy, justice, and understanding.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/10/09/where-are-the-women-of-gilgit-baltistan-when-hate-speaks-loudest/>

Goings-on in Islamabad deepen 'AJK' political uncertainty

Dawn, 10 October 2025

Political uncertainty in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) has been deepening with each passing day, as both major coalition partners in the Chaudhry Anwarul Haq-led government have urged their leaders to allow them to withdraw from the coalition, ahead of the upcoming elections.

Following recent shifts in political affiliations in the 53-member 'AJK' Legislative Assembly, the PPP has raised its strength to 17 and the PML-N to nine, while the PTI forward bloc stands at 20.

The PTI, which holds the office of the leader of the opposition, is left with only five lawmakers — one of whom has tendered his resignation, although it hasn't been accepted yet — while two seats are held by members of other parties.

The PPP's parliamentary party and some key ticket holders, who met in Islamabad on Wednesday with its regional president Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin in the chair, unanimously resolved that the party should quit the government "sooner rather than later" to protect its political goodwill among the masses. Amid suspicions that PM Haq 'supported' JKJAAC protest, PML-N, PPP lawmakers seek to pull out of ruling coalition.

Later, the 17-member parliamentary party held an exclusive meeting that was also attended by a non-legislator, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas. The meeting came in the backdrop of the PML-N's offer to PPP to form its own government following the possible exit of Mr Haq.

"Yes, we have offered them that we will support them in the event of a new election of the leader of the house. But we will not be part of the government and prefer to sit on the opposition benches," a PML-N leader confided to Dawn.

The PPP meeting deliberated on options to pave the way for the prime minister's exit, either through a no-confidence motion or his voluntary

resignation. According to one participant, Mr Ilyas assured the meeting that he would arrange the required tally of 27 to send Mr Haq packing.

The issue will be further discussed by the PPP parliamentary party on Friday afternoon at Zardari House in Karachi, where the party's central leadership is expected to take a final decision. Mr Ilyas has also been invited to attend.

A day earlier, the PML-N's political committee had met in Islamabad, alongside cabinet members Rana Sanaullah and Ahsan Iqbal, where a similar view was expressed — that remaining part of the coalition was politically damaging for the party ahead of the polls.

Sources told Dawn that when PM Shehbaz Sharif was briefed about the recent agreement signed in Muzaffarabad between the federal government's negotiation committee and representatives of the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), he was told that PM Haq appeared to have tacitly backed the movement.

"It seemed the 'AJK' premier himself was behind the committee's hard stance; otherwise, it could not have succeeded in getting each and every demand of the protesters implemented," a well-placed source quoted a member of the negotiating team as telling the premier.

This was why the head of the negotiation committee, Raja Pervaiz

Ashraf, had hinted to media persons that Mr Haq may be replaced. However, shortly afterwards, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry sought to play down the claim, saying it was 'AJK's internal matter.

Meanwhile, Mr Haq is said to be under intense pressure over the removal of eight cabinet members elected from 12 constituencies of Pakistan-based refugees, in accordance with the agreement with the JKJAAC.

These ministers belong to all three coalition partners. According to sources, the 'AJK' PM had asked them to step down voluntarily, which was met stiff refusal. Two of them, belonging to the PML-N, even lashed out at the premier through social media posts, accusing him of backing the JKJAAC movement and urging him to resign himself.

The 'AJK' prime minister has yet to respond to these allegations.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1947778/goings-on-in-islamabad-deepen-ajk-political-uncertainty>

PPP and PML-N decide to part ways with 'AJK' govt

Business Recorder, 10 October 2025

A political shake-up is in the offing in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) as Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) have decided to withdraw from the coalition government in 'AJK'.

During a meeting of PPP's parliamentary party and core committee members, a resolution to

leave the government was unanimously approved. Additionally, three names have emerged as potential candidates for the Prime Minister's post from PPP.

The candidates being considered include Chaudhry Muhammad Yaseen, Haji Muhammad Yaqub and Chaudhry Latif Akbar.

On the other hand, PML-N leader Shah Ghulam Qadir in a statement said that they prefer to sit in the opposition rather than remain in the current government, but emphasized that the final decision will be made by the party's central leadership.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40386750/ppp-and-pml-n-decide-to-part-ways-with-ajk-govt>

Economic Developments

Sindh, GB Governors discuss federal development projects

The Nation, 8 October 2025

Sindh Governor Muhammed Kamran Tessori met with Governor Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Syed Mehdi Shah at Sindh Governor House, here on Tuesday. They discussed federal development projects, tourism promotion, the recent flood in Gilgit-Baltistan and issues of mutual interest. The Sindh Governor said that the completion of development projects will bring a significant reduction in public problems. He also expressed his concern over the recent floods in Gilgit-Baltistan. Tessori said we were standing with the people of Gilgit-Baltistan in this hour of difficulty. The

Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan said that severe destruction due to recent floods, many areas, and hundreds of houses were flooded. Mehdi Shah said that federal support is essential for flood damage recovery and rehabilitation. He said that tourism was also being promoted in Gilgit-Baltistan with the support of the federal government.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Oct-2025/sindh-gb-governors-discuss-federal-development-projects>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The Need for New Educational Boards in 'Azad Kashmir': Raja Sajjad Ahmed Khan

Urdu Point, 9 October 2025

Raja Sajjad Ahmed Khan, Advocate and a well-known lawyer and social activist, emphasized during a conversation with the media in Muzaffarabad that there is an urgent need to establish two new educational boards—one in Muzaffarabad and the other in Rawalakot. He stated that this is not a matter of personal ego or interest but rather an issue tied to national interest and educational progress.

He pointed out that the current educational framework in 'AJK', due to its vast scope, demands new administrative measures. Currently, the region hosts more than eight universities, and thousands of students participate in secondary and higher secondary examinations each year. Providing facilities under the existing limited boards has become challenging.

He further added that establishing two new educational boards is a pressing need to ensure that students can access affordable fees, faster results, and better educational services in their nearby areas. This step would not only save time and resources but also significantly contribute to increasing the literacy rate in the region. Raja Sajjad Ahmed highlighted that the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) in Islamabad formally acknowledged this proposal in 2023, underscoring its importance. Therefore, this matter is not linked to regional or political affiliations but is a reflection of education, transparency, and the overall development of the state.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4581251.html>

Will ensure Muslim League (N)'s Victory in 'Azad Kashmir' Elections: Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah

Urdu Point, 9 October 2025

Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah, a central leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and candidate for the Kotla constituency in the Legislative Assembly, held a significant meeting with Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry in Muzaffarabad. The meeting involved a detailed discussion on the current political situation. Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah invited Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry to visit the Kotla constituency, an invitation that was accepted.

During the conversation, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is progressing, and the global community acknowledges the strength of the Pakistani economy. He highlighted that Pakistan has effectively raised the issues of Kashmir and Palestine on every international forum, labelling India and Israel as terrorist states. He also emphasized the historical significance of the Pakistan-Saudi defense agreement.

Dr. Tariq further noted that due to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's effective strategy, Pakistan's economy has stabilized, and global confidence in Pakistan is growing. He said that whenever the Muslim League (N) has come to power, it has steered the country out of crises, and the Prime Minister has saved Pakistan from default. He expressed optimism about Pakistan's bright future, stating that the day is not far when Pakistan will be counted among the world's developed nations.

He also highlighted the historic importance of the recent agreement with Saudi Arabia, stating that the responsibility of protecting the Holy Mosque and Kaaba is a great honor for Pakistan. According to the Pak-Saudi agreement, an attack on Saudi Arabia will be considered an attack on Pakistan, and vice versa. He added that in the battle for truth, Allah has granted Pakistan honor, and the Pakistani armed forces have humbled India's

pride by shooting down its expensive Rafale aircraft.

On this occasion, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah assured Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry that, God willing, in the upcoming elections, they will secure the Kotla constituency seat as a gift for the leader of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He vowed to dedicate his body, soul, and resources to ensuring the success of the Muslim League (N) across Azad Jammu and Kashmir in the elections.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4581250.html>

Meeting chaired by Chief Secretary of 'Azad Kashmir' to Review implementation of Agreement with Joint Awami Action Committee

Urdu Point, 9 October 2025

A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the 'Azad Kashmir' government, Khushhal Khan, to review the implementation of the agreement with the Joint Awami Action Committee. During the meeting, relevant secretaries presented progress reports on the implementation of the agreement reached with the Joint Awami Action Committee. Summaries and letters related to the implementation of the agreed terms were sent to the relevant authorized forums.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4581611.html>

Election Commission Gilgit-Baltistan Calls Key Meeting for Local Body Elections

Urdu Point, 9 October 2025

The Election Commission of Gilgit-Baltistan is convening an important meeting to discuss preparations for the upcoming local body elections. The meeting is scheduled for October 15, at the Election Commission Secretariat in Gilgit-Baltistan, and it will be chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner of Gilgit-Baltistan. Participants will include Deputy Commissioners/Conveners, Deputy Directors/Members, and Assistant Commissioners (Headquarters)/Members from all districts.

The Election Commission has directed all relevant delimitation members and officers from the districts to ensure their participation in the meeting with complete, verified, and up-to-date information, including the names of all neighborhoods and villages, to facilitate the timely and accurate submission of data to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in Islamabad.

Furthermore, according to the spokesperson of the Election Commission Gilgit-Baltistan, the commission is currently undergoing a critical and busy phase in preparing for the local body elections. The verification of electoral lists, accuracy of census block codes, preparation of constituencies, and other

administrative tasks are in the final stages of completion. The spokesperson emphasized that the local body elections hold significant importance as a milestone in the democratic and developmental framework of Gilgit-Baltistan, enabling the public to directly participate in decision-making and local development at the grassroots level. The Election Commission of Gilgit-Baltistan is committed to conducting these elections in a transparent, fair, and lawful manner.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-4581902.html>

From Social Media

JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri

6 October 2025

The upper areas of Gilgit-Baltistan received the first snowfall of the season, which is seen as a positive sign after years of delayed snowfall linked to climate change that has disrupted the fragile ecosystem and worried local communities #ClimateCrisis

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1974912751031271735>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

9 October 2025

Internet service in Gilgit-Baltistan will be shut down after midnight tonight.

[#Gilgitbaltistan](#)

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1976308800698438035>

PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes

10 October 2025

The Secretary Home and the Inspector General of Police have released CCTV footage of the attack on Maulana Qazi Nisar Ahmed, showing the assailants fleeing the scene in two vehicles — one reportedly carrying an injured attacker. According to the IG, multiple weapons were used in the assault, and over 200 rounds were fired at Maulana Qazi Nisar's vehicle. Fortunately, he survived the attack with only minor injuries. [#Gilgit](#) [#GilgitBaltistan](#) [#Pakistan](#) [#crime](#)

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1976369657381793932>

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Disclaimer

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