

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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13 October - 19 October 2025

POK
unsafe water
ministers quit
Gilgit-Baltistan
Counter Terrorism
cross-border trade
Sost Dry Port
youth migration
climate change
Gen-Z Uprising
job quota



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

GB's Water Crisis

The Nation, 13 October 2025

Water is an essential resource for life, yet in the shadow of K2, the world's second-highest peak, the people of Gilgit-Baltistan should be awash with water. What happens when the guardian of glaciers faces shortages? Mismanagement is the cause. Gilgit-Baltistan possesses over 13,000 glaciers, feeding rivers that slake the thirst of 200 million downstream. Yet in Skardu and Gilgit, the twin hearts of this high-altitude paradise, taps run dry in summer and freeze in winter when mercury plunges to minus 25°C. What was once a natural bounty has become a cruel irony: a region parched by its own abundance, as melting ice unleashes floods one season and droughts the next. As climate change accelerates, the impacts ripple from contaminated wells in remote hamlets to political skirmishes over dwindling streams. The water crisis in Gilgit-Baltistan precisely reflects South Asia's water insecurity when viewed through a global lens.

Skardu, a dusty bazaar town at 2,230 metres, exemplifies the paradox. Home to 30,000 people, it relies on the Sadpara Dam, a Soviet-era relic built in the 1990s with American aid, for its water and power. Designed to hold 93,310 acre-feet, the reservoir has lost nearly a third of its capacity to silt from recurrent floods and glacial outbursts. In summer 2025, as tourists flocked to the nearby Deosai Plains, residents

queued for hours at communal pumps, rationing trickles from rusted pipes. "We open the taps and nothing comes," laments a Sadpara resident, echoing complaints since floods halved the dam's output.

Gilgit, 150 km north, fares little better. Its daily demand of 1.2 million gallons dwarfs a storage capacity of just 500,000, leaving two-thirds of households underserved. Winter deepens the misery: pipes burst in the freeze, and hauling water from distant springs becomes Herculean amid blizzards. A 2025 University of Baltistan study attributes this to erratic precipitation—rainfall down 41% in early 2025—coupled with over-extraction for tourism and agriculture. These shortages hobble fragile economies reliant on tourism. Hotels shutter early, guides idle, and the 2025 floods that ravaged the Karakoram Highway stranded thousands, costing millions in lost revenue.

Worse than scarcity is what flows when it does: water unfit for man or beast. From Kharmang in the south to Chilas in the west, unsafe sources prevail. A 2025 PCRWR assessment found 71% of surface water contaminated with coliform bacteria, arsenic, and nitrates. Purification plants are rare; Skardu's lone facility, meant for 50,000, operates at half capacity due to power cuts. In Diamer, Shigar, Skardu, Astore, and Gilgit—home to over half the region's two million people—hospitals overflowed in August 2025 with victims of gastroenteritis, typhoid, and

hepatitis A. The High Asia Herald tallied over 750 cases in one month, with children under five worst hit.

These are not anomalies but symptoms of systemic neglect. A Dialogue Earth investigation found 100% of Gilgit's tap water unsafe in 2024, laced with *E. coli* 20 times WHO limits. The toll mounts: kidney stones from calcium, cancers from arsenic, and stunted growth in malnourished children. Research links such exposure to a 15% rise in chronic illness since 2020. For women, who bear the burden of fetching and boiling water, it means lost hours—up to four daily—curtailing education and income. The health crisis also undermines eco-tourism: who visits a paradise where the water might kill you?

At the root lies the melting. Gilgit-Baltistan's 18,000 cubic kilometres of ice—the “third pole”—is vanishing at 10–30 metres annually in hotspots like Kharmang, Ganche, and Shigar valleys. NASA data shows glacial lakes swelling 50% since 1990, birthing outburst floods that destroyed 100 homes in August 2025. The Shishper Glacier's outburst severed the Karakoram Highway, isolating 50,000 and eroding farmland worth millions.

This thaw feeds a vicious cycle. In Gamba, Shigar, and Chilas, canals run dry, parching orchards and fields. Thousands of apricot and walnut trees—the backbone of a \$50 million export trade—have withered since 2023, with deforestation climbing 20%. Soil erosion compounds the misery: in Hoto, Sermik, and Khaplu, bare slopes

lose nine tonnes per hectare yearly, triggering landslides that bury homes and choke rivers. The Gilgit-Baltistan Climate Change Strategy warns of “either flood or famine”, with 60% of glaciers at risk by 2100. Agriculture, employing 60% of locals, could shrink 30% by 2030.

Highlanders bear the sharpest edge. In Broqchat, Shilla, Gultari, Katisho, and Khaplu Broq—villages above 3,500 metres—families scoop from murky wells or snowmelt ponds. A 2025 UNDP report notes 80% rely on untreated sources, risking cholera outbreaks. These communities, steeped in Balti traditions, watch ancestral pastures crack under drought, forcing youth migration to lowland slums.

Water, once a communal gift, now stirs political battles. In 2025, as floods receded, Gilgit-Baltistan's assembly erupted over allocations: the PPP-led government accused rivals of siphoning funds from purification schemes, while nationalists decried Islamabad's “colonial” dams that prioritise Punjab's plains. A proposed 2025–2040 Water Security Plan languishes, vetoed over transboundary fears—India's upstream dams on the Indus fan paranoia. The Friday Times skewered this as “governance parching a city”, with corruption consuming 40% of budgets. Yet politics also sparks ingenuity: bans on lakeside hotels in Khaplu aim to curb overuse, earning activists' plaudits.

Amid the despair, glimmers emerge. The Fialong (or Phayalong) Water

Diversion Project, a 20 km channel from Deosai's Shagarthang nullah to Skardu, tested successfully in September 2024, promising five million gallons daily. Spearheaded by Agha Baqir al-Hussaini, it embodies community resolve: locals donated labour and money. "Water is a divine trust," intones Agha Baqir, whose initiative could irrigate 1,000 hectares. Similar schemes—solar pumps in refugee camps, artificial glaciers in Hunza—hint at scalable fixes.

In the end, this is no tale of inevitable doom. The Karakoram's glaciers, though receding, still hold lessons in resilience—how highlanders have thrived for millennia amid extremes. If Pakistan's leaders heed them, Gilgit-Baltistan might yet quench its thirst. For now, though, in Skardu's sun-baked streets, the taps whisper a warning: water waits for no one. The government must pay attention to a crisis with deeper repercussions than any other, for it touches daily life. Unsafe water harms the body; systemic neglect of water management imperils Gilgit-Baltistan's future. People are anxious, discussion has begun—but the implementation of a water policy is urgently required.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Oct-2025/gb-s-water-crisis>

'AJK' information minister Pir Mazhar Saeed resigns from cabinet

Dawn, 15 October 2025

A cabinet member in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) on Tuesday announced

that he had resigned from his position, citing "some unavoidable reasons". Pir Mazhar Saeed, the minister for information in the Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq-led coalition government, also shared a copy of his handwritten resignation letter addressed to the prime minister during a press conference at the Press Information Department. He was flanked by PID directors Amjad Hussain Minhas and Mirza Bashir.

The outgoing minister expressed gratitude to the media fraternity across the state for extending full cooperation during his tenure. He asserted that he had made every possible effort to discharge his duties in accordance with national priorities and public interest.

"Despite numerous challenges, I strived to make the Information Department active and effective," he said. "Whether it was the Bunyan al-Marsous issue or last November's campaign (by a civil society alliance), we succeeded on every front by the grace of Allah."

Pir Mazhar Saeed cites 'some unavoidable reasons' for the decision

He said that during his tenure he not only worked on internal fronts but also highlighted the Kashmir issue at the international level. "I presented the case of both Gaza and Kashmir before audiences in 45 countries and also participated in the Global Samud Flotilla, where I raised my voice for the people of Gaza," he said.

He also thanked officers and staff of PID for their cooperation throughout his tenure, adding that several important initiatives had been achieved through the teamwork. He said his decision to step down was personal and made after due consideration, but vowed to continue his efforts for the national interest and public service in future.

Mr Saeed was elected by PTI lawmakers against a special Legislative Assembly seat reserved for religious scholars. When the PTI government plunged into crisis following the disqualification of then-prime minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas in April 2023, he joined the party's so-called forward bloc.

In May last year, he was inducted into the cabinet as minister for information after serving as chairman of the prime minister's inspection and implementation commission.

Recently, a seven-member federal negotiating committee had signed an agreement with the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee, which, among other things, pledged to reduce the size of the 'AJK' cabinet from 36 to 20 members as part of steps to curb "elite privileges".

Rumours are also rife that Mr Haq may be replaced by a PPP lawmaker with the support of the PML-N. It was being speculated that Mr Saeed resigned in anticipation of a possible change in the government or a downsizing of the cabinet. Though he arrived at the press

conference in a private car, there was no immediate word from the government regarding the acceptance of his resignation. However, a senior official at the Prime Minister's Office told Dawn that the resignation had been "received but not yet accepted".

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1949000/ajk-information-minister-pir-mazhar-saeed-resigns-from-cabinet>

Kashmir on Edge Again: Is this a Gen-Z Uprising in Pak Administered Kashmir?

Friday Times, 13 October 2025

On September 29, 2025, protests in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir ('Azad Jammu & Kashmir', AJK), turned violent. A shutdown called by the Awami Action Committee over high electricity tariffs, wheat prices, and unfulfilled promises from Islamabad spiralled into chaos when a rival "peace rally" clashed with demonstrators. At least one person was killed and more than 20 were injured, according to police and hospital sources. This episode of Unravelled with Marvi Sirmed explores: 1. What happened on Sept 29: how the protest began, why violence erupted, and competing claims about who fired first. 2. Government and army responses: subsidies, denials, internet shutdowns, and the securitized framing of protests. 3. Historical context: from the 2024 'AJK' unrest that left four dead to today's cycle of broken promises and renewed anger. 4. Human rights and freedoms: why 'AJK' has virtually no

independent voices, how dissent is silenced, and why even India-administered Kashmir—despite harsh curbs since 2019—still produces voices of resistance. 5. Regional implications: what the unrest means for Pakistan’s governance crisis, the India–Pakistan information war over Kashmir, and the fragile politics across the Line of Control. The protests in ‘AJK’ are about more than electricity bills. They are about freedom, dignity, and accountability in a region caught between two states. Until those issues are addressed, the streets of Muzaffarabad will not remain quiet.

<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/13-Oct-2025/kashmir-edge-gen-z-uprising-pak-administered-kashmir>

KP, GB police launch joint operation against terrorists at Babusar Top

Dawn, 17 October 2025

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan police, along with the counter-terrorism department (CTD), on Thursday launched a joint operation against terrorist groups carrying out subversive activities on both sides of the border at Babusar Top.

“This operation, aimed at clearing terrorists from the mountainous stretches of Kaghan Valley from Gattidas to Babusar, has been launched on the directives of Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed to ensure the safety of tourists and passengers travelling between the two federating units via Kaghan Valley,” district

police officer Shafiullah Khan Gandapur told reporters.

Heavy contingents of KP and GB police, Scouts and CTD personnel, led by Mr Gandapur, participated in the operation.

“We have searched all possible hideouts, even in snow-covered mountains, as we cannot allow terrorists to regroup in this strategically important area between KP and GB. The security of tourists and passengers is our top priority,” he said. The terrorists previously used this boundary area to target passenger coaches en route to Gilgit and vice versa via the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road and attacked a police patrol van recently.

Personnel from various KP police stations and CTD officials, headed by their Superintendent of Police Samina Zafar, participated in the search and strike operation.

Hotels, houses, and tourist routes were also inspected to check for the presence of suspects. The DPO said GB police contributed through the deployment of their police and scouts, with the operation directly monitored by IGP Zulfiqar Hameed and DIG Hazara Nasir Mehmood Satti.

“We are also strengthening coordination between KP and GB police to ensure a swift response to any terrorist activity along the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road up to Babusar Top,” he said. Mr Gandapur also met

with tourists visiting to the Kaghan valley from across the country and assured them of the fool proof security and all sorts of cooperation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1949364/kp-gb-police-launch-joint-operation-against-terrorists-at-babusar-top>

Sense Prevailed

The Nation, 17 October 2025

I have written several letters about the situation in ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), requesting their publication. Whether or not they were published is not my concern. What matters most is that, ultimately, sense has prevailed. The Prime Minister and the Army Chief intervened, initiating a process of dialogue that successfully calmed tensions. Although the intervention came late, their timely notice of the unrest helped prevent further bloodshed — and that deserves appreciation.

The demands of the Kashmiri people were genuine and rational, falling well within the constitutions of both ‘AJK’ and Pakistan. The public should be made aware of these demands, as much of the controversy surrounding them was fuelled by vested interests. No one in ‘AJK’ is against Pakistan or its institutions; the people have merely been struggling for their legitimate rights.

Their demands included the restoration of basic facilities such as health cards, free education up to the intermediate level, essential medical

equipment in government hospitals, an end to undue privileges for a select elite, and an end to the misuse of refugee representatives and development funds.

Fortunately, these demands were accepted by both the ‘AJK’ and Pakistani governments, leading to the peaceful conclusion of the long march. The wisdom that has now prevailed should have prevailed earlier — but better late than never.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Oct-2025/sense-prevailed>

613 New Posts Created for Counter Terrorism Department in Gilgit-Baltistan

Pamir Times, 17 October 2025

The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan has approved the creation of 613 new posts for the establishment of a Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) aimed at strengthening the region’s internal security and law enforcement capabilities.

According to an official notification issued by the Finance Department, Gilgit-Baltistan Secretariat, the approval follows concurrence from the Federal Finance Division, Islamabad, communicated through letter No. F.6(19) PF.II/2023 dated July 30, 2025. The department exercised its powers under the Gilgit-Baltistan System of Financial Control and Budgeting Rules, 2009, to authorize the establishment of the new posts with immediate effect.

The newly created positions include 553 executive posts, 50 ministerial posts, and 10 information technology positions. Senior roles such as Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Superintendent of Police (SP), Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), and Inspectors are among those approved to ensure an efficient chain of command within the new CTD structure.

The notification further stated that the expenditure for these posts will be met from the sanctioned budget for the fiscal year 2025–26. The positions are exclusive to the Counter Terrorism Department and non-transferable, to maintain the department's operational focus. All appointments will be governed under the Gilgit-Baltistan Civil Servants Act, 2011, and related rules.

The establishment of a dedicated CTD marks a major step in the region's efforts to enhance counterterrorism operations and strengthen public safety amid evolving security challenges.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/10/17/613-new-posts-created-for-counter-terrorism-department-in-gilgit-baltistan/>

Three more ministers quit 'AJK' cabinet, two urge PM to step down

Dawn, 17 October 2025

Three more ministers from the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) cabinet on Friday announced their resignation, with two of them calling upon Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq to step down for what they described as

his "failure to safeguard the constitutional rights of Kashmiri refugees".

Earlier this week, 'AJK' Information Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed announced that he had resigned from his position, citing "some unavoidable reasons". However, a senior official at the 'AJK' prime minister's office told Dawn that the resignation had been "received but not yet accepted".

'AJK' Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan and Food Minister Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim announced today they would step down at a joint press conference at the Muzaffarabad Press Club, while Sports, Youth and Culture Minister Asim Sharif Butt sent his resignation directly to the prime minister, opting to stay away from media interaction.

All three were elected on PTI tickets in the 2021 general elections from LA-45 (Valley-VI), LA-38 (Jammu-V) and LA-42 (Valley-III) — constituencies reserved for Kashmiri refugees who migrated to Pakistan after 1947. However, the trio had later joined the faction of PTI defectors led by PM Haq in 2023.

Their resignations came in protest against the agreement recently signed by a seven-member federal government committee and the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which, among other matters, addressed the contentious issue of the 12 legislative assembly seats reserved for Kashmiri refugees settled across Pakistan.

Calling the JAAC an “unelected, baton-wielding group”, Khan and Ibrahim said the accord had effectively legitimised an “unconstitutional and morally indefensible demand, reached under pressure and without wider consultation”. They alleged that the deal violated the fundamental rights of thousands of Kashmiri refugees and struck at the heart of ‘AJK’s constitutional and political framework.

They maintained that the campaign against the refugee seats was a malicious move by a small group of traders and self-styled representatives pursuing narrow interests “under the guise of reforms”.

The real target, they asserted, was not the government but the identity, representation and political recognition of the refugee community that had made immense sacrifices for Pakistan and the cause of Kashmir’s accession.

Both ministers argued that these seats were not a privilege but a historic and conscious constitutional decision, which was part of ‘AJK’s political setup since 1947. The reserved seats, they said, symbolised the constitutional acknowledgment of the sacrifices and long displacement endured by those who lost everything for the cause of Pakistan.

They termed the JAAC’s questioning of these seats’ existence a denial of the pain, identity and political significance of an entire generation exiled for its struggle for accession to Pakistan.

They said they had brought this issue to the notice of the president and prime minister of Pakistan in black and white, and added that they would “knock on all doors to frustrate the designs of the elements hellbent upon creating a wedge between local and migrant Kashmiris and thus damaging the Kashmir cause”.

Khan also shared his two-page resignation letter, in which he reaffirmed his belief in the ideology of the State of Jammu and Kashmir’s lawful accession and integration with Pakistan, in accordance with the wishes of its entire population, including the 2.5 million Pakistan-based refugees.

He said it had become “utterly impossible to continue to serve under the present government, which has failed to effectively defend and protect the constitutional rights of Kashmiri refugees, nor shown the will to assume responsibility or challenge this serious constitutional violation”.

Declaring that he had no moral choice but to resign from the ‘AJK’ cabinet, effective today, Khan vowed to continue defending the rights of Jammu and Kashmir refugees and to raise his voice for their rightful place in the political and constitutional structures of both ‘AJK’ and Pakistan.

In his resignation letter, Ibrahim echoed similar views, stating that Prime Minister Haq had failed to stop the “unlawful demand” raised by the JAAC and to protect the rights of

around three million Pakistan-based refugees from ‘occupied Jammu and Kashmir’.

Both Khan and Ibrahim charged PM Haq of conspiring against the refugee members of the legislative assembly and called upon him to resign from office.

Butt, in his letter, expressed his and his constituents’ loss of confidence in the ‘AJK’ government in the wake of the agreement, saying he could no longer remain part of it. Talks between the JAAC, the ‘AJK’ government and federal ministers over elite privileges and reserved seats for refugees broke down at the end of September.

Since then, rival groups staged protests and strikes, trading blame for the violence which marred what began as a largely peaceful movement in ‘AJK’. Fierce clashes between protesters and law enforcers left at least 10 people dead and scores critically injured in the territory.

On October 2, a delegation from the federal government travelled to Muzaffarabad for talks with the JAAC in a bid to put an end to the ongoing unrest in the territory. The agreement was signed after two rounds of talks.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1949563/three-more-ministers-quit-ajk-cabinet-two-urge-pm-to-step-down>

G-B okays job quota for army martyrs' families

The Express Tribune, 17 October 2025

In a move aimed at honouring the sacrifices of Pakistan Army martyrs,

the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly on Friday unanimously approved a resolution on allocating a quota in government jobs for their families. The house also paid glowing tributes to the fallen heroes for their supreme sacrifices in safeguarding the nation’s defence, sovereignty, and integrity.

The resolution, moved by Minister for Interior Shamsul Haq Lone and read out by Colonel (retd) Obaidullah Baig, called for amending the G-B Services Rules to formally implement the job quota. Minister for Science and Technology Suraiya Zaman endorsed the motion by signing it.

During the session, dozens of martyrs’ family members, as well as President of the Shuhada Foundation Gilgit-Baltistan Bahadur Jamil, were present in the VIP gallery. Members of the House lauded the courage and commitment of the armed forces, particularly those from G-B who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

The resolution received unanimous backing from both treasury and opposition benches, including Opposition Leader Syed Kazim Mesam, Minister for Food, Engineer Anwar Khan; Minister for Education, Agha Shehzad Javaid; former minister Jamil Ahmed; and members Sohail Abbas, Sheikh Akbar Rajani, Kulsoom Farman, Ayub Waziri, Sanam Faryad, and Raja Zakaria.

The text of the resolution read: “This House acknowledges with pride and gratitude the sacrifices of the brave

sons of G-B who gave their lives for the defence and sovereignty of Pakistan. Their selflessness and service will forever be remembered with utmost respect.”

The Assembly urged the G-B government to allocate the special quota under the Army Shuhada Family Assistance Package, ensuring recruitment on merit and in line with the existing service rules to provide dignified employment opportunities for the martyrs’ families.

Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate termed the martyrs 'the pride and most precious asset of the nation', stressing that their families must be treated with the highest respect and institutional recognition.

He directed the government to immediately amend relevant service laws and issue a notification for implementation. At the end of the session, lawmakers met the families of the martyrs in the VIP gallery, and paid heartfelt tribute to their sacrifices.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2572956/g-b-okays-job-quota-for-army-martyrs-families>

Economic Developments

Sost trade resumes after tribunal ruling

Dawn, 17 October 2025

Trade activities at the Sost Dry Port have resumed following a decision by the Pakistan Customs Appellate Tribunal, which ordered the clearance

of over 200 stuck consignments and ruled on the confiscation of goods worth nearly Rs8bn over misdeclaration charges.

Trade between Pakistan and China had remained suspended for several months due to a standoff between Pakistan Customs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) traders. The dispute centred on tax collection and allegations of misdeclaration in Goods Declarations (GDs) by traders.

Local traders, supported by political and religious parties, blocked the Karakoram Highway near Khunjerab Pass, halting cross-border trade and travel for more than two months. The protest ended after negotiations between a federal committee and GB representatives last month, leading to the partial resumption of trade on Sept 29.

GB traders had challenged the Customs (Adjudication) orders before the Customs Appellate Tribunal in Islamabad. A special division bench, comprising Hafiz Ansarul Haq (judicial) and Abdul Waheed Marwat (technical), heard over 80 appeals and issued judgments on Tuesday.

According to the tribunal, traders were found to have deliberately misdeclared the nature and value of goods, including cigarette acetates, to evade taxes. Each case involved an average of Rs1.5bn in underreported value, with a total evasion attempt nearing Rs8bn.

While the tribunal upheld the findings of misdeclaration, it directed Pakistan Customs to re-examine and reassess the goods in the presence of importers' representatives. The tribunal waived off all fines and penalties on majority of cases.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1949453/sost-trade-resumes-after-tribunal-ruling>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Gilgit-Baltistan Coalition Government's Countdown Begins

Urdu Point, 19 October 2025

The countdown for the Gilgit-Baltistan coalition government has started, as the current members are nearing the completion of their five-year term. In 35 days, the current assembly will be dissolved, and a caretaker government will be formed to oversee the transition until new elections are held. According to sources, elections to select 33 new members will be conducted in June 2026.

This time, alongside veteran politicians, dozens of new candidates are gearing up to contest the elections for the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly, with political manoeuvring already underway. Major political parties are preparing to participate fully in the elections, armed with new slogans to sway the ordinary public. Currently, the people of Gilgit-Baltistan face significant challenges, including corruption, inflation, unemployment, insecurity, natural disasters, and power outages, which are becoming

increasingly complex over time. However, resolving these issues seems beyond the capability of any political party or politician. As a result, the public is disillusioned with political parties and leaders who, after winning elections, focus on fulfilling their own interests. Despite this, with the announcement of the caretaker government and new elections, political activities across Gilgit-Baltistan are set to intensify.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-4589919.html>

'Azad Kashmir' Prime Minister Rejects Afghan Foreign Minister's Support for India's Stance on Kashmir Issue

Urdu Point, 16 October 2025

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir', Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, has strongly rejected the Afghan Foreign Minister's endorsement of India's stance on the Kashmir issue while sitting in Delhi. In a special statement, the Prime Minister stated that the Kashmir issue is a pending matter at the United Nations, and India is actively promoting its false narrative regarding Jammu and Kashmir, but the world does not accept its lies.

He said that the Afghan Foreign Minister is unaware of history and is ignoring the facts. India has 'militarily occupied Kashmir', but the Kashmiri people do not accept India's military 'occupation' and remain active against it on every international forum. He added that even before the

establishment of Pakistan, on July 19, 1947, the Kashmiri people had aligned themselves with Pakistan through the resolution of accession to Pakistan and continue to make sacrifices of life and property to achieve this goal. He emphasized that, according to United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Kashmiri people must be granted their right to self-determination so they can decide their future.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4587658.html>

‘Occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ is an Internationally Recognized Disputed Territory: Raja Sajjad Ahmed Khan

Urdu Point, 16 October 2025

Advocate Raja Sajjad Ahmed Khan strongly condemned the statement made during a joint press conference by the Indian and Afghan Foreign Ministers regarding ‘occupied Jammu and Kashmir’, asserting that ‘occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ is an internationally recognized disputed territory. The statement made in the joint press conference in New Delhi is a clear violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Expressing his views to the media the other day, he expressed regret that the Afghan leadership has turned its back on the freedom struggle of the oppressed people of ‘occupied Jammu and Kashmir’, committing an injustice to both history and the Muslim Ummah. He stated that any illegal claim by India over ‘occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ is contrary to

international laws and United Nations resolutions, and that India is the world's biggest terrorist state.

He urged the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the international community to take immediate notice of India's ‘illegal occupation’, human rights violations, and demographic changes, and to play an effective role in ensuring the Kashmiri people's UN-recognized right to self-determination. He further said that the words spoken at the New Delhi joint press conference are a blatant violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. He expressed hope that, Inshallah, the Kashmir freedom movement will soon reach its logical conclusion, the blood of the martyrs of ‘occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ will bear fruit, and ‘occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ will soon become free and join Pakistan.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4587357.html>

Black Day and Protest Day to be Observed Across the State on October 27: Uzair Ahmed Ghazali

Urdu Point, 16 October 2025

Chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, has announced that October 27 will be observed as Black Day and Protest Day across the state. He stated that October 27, 1947, is the dark day when India forcibly ‘occupied’ the state of Jammu and Kashmir, against which the Kashmiri people are still struggling for their freedom and right to self-

determination. The main protest demonstration will be held in Muzaffarabad at 10 a.m. in front of the Central Press Club. Uzair Ahmed Ghazali has appealed to all refugees and supporters to participate wholeheartedly to express solidarity with the oppressed people of 'occupied Kashmir' and raise their voices against India's military occupation.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4587356.html>

From Social Media

MANZAR SHIGRI @ManzarShigri

13 October 2025

FBR is imposing taxes on Chilgoza in Diamer, which is affecting the common citizens of Diamer. Annually, 8 billion worth of Chilgoza from Diamer is sold domestically and abroad. The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan is not paying attention to the issue.

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/ManzarShigri/status/1977698612898336801>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

16 October 2025

Such people were given ministries who were not even fit for municipalities, Hafiz ur Rehman lashed out against his coalition government

Link to the video:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1978875665111044257>

PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes

17 October 2025

613 New Posts Created for Counter Terrorism Department in Gilgit-Baltistan

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1979056435368464592>

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Disclaimer

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



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