

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

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**POK**  
**Decentralization**  
**Rehabilitation Projects**  
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## Political Developments

**'Two sides of the same coin': PPP, PML-N have no plans to form opposition in 'AJK', says PTI's Salman Raja**

*Dawn, 27 October 2025*

PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja on Monday said the PPP and PML-N did not have any "actual plan" to form an opposition in the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Legislative (AJK) Assembly, calling them the "two sides of the same coin."

His remarks come against the backdrop of political turmoil in 'AJK' after 10 legislators — all elected on PTI tickets in the July 2021 general elections — announced on Sunday that they were joining the PPP, which has been eyeing the premier's slot in the region. PPP and PML-N announced that the two have agreed to bring a no-confidence motion against the government in 'AJK'.

Speaking to Geo News programme 'Capital Talk', Raja said, "PPP and PML-N are the two sides of the same coin; they have an alliance and do not intend on forming an actual opposition". "They are just each taking their respective turns right now," he added.

In response to a question regarding chatter of a new opposition leader in the National Assembly and whether Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) will support PTI, PPP or PML-N in the

process, the PTI leader said, "Considering the past, I don't think they will go with us at the end, and whether they form an alliance with PPP or PMLN, I cannot say anything about it but we (PTI) don't really have any interest in it."

"Our stance is that these assemblies are just a facade. People don't trust them anymore, so they can keep doing what they want, and whoever becomes the next opposition, it does not make any difference. "Earlier in the day, Bilawal met with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, where the two discussed the country's political landscape.

The PPP chairman was accompanied by PPP leaders Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, Humayun Khan and Jamil Soomro, while JUI-F's Mualana Asad Mahmood attended the meeting as well.

As a result of the recent developments, the PPP now enjoys the support of 27 members, followed by the PML-N with nine, PTI with five, and two regional parties with one member each in the 53-member 'AJK' assembly. The group of PTI renegades led by 'AJK' Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq was reduced to ten members.

Addressing a press conference with Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah today, PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said: "It has been decided that the current

‘AJK’ govt, which we both parties were part of, has become a basis of creating a crisis instead of solving problems.” “Now there is a consensus of opinion that a no-confidence motion will be brought against it on which the PPP and PML-N will be together,” Kaira added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1951588/two-sides-of-the-same-coin-ppp-pml-n-have-no-plans-to-form-opposition-in-ajk-says-ptis-salman-raja>

### ‘AJK’ PM’s ‘days numbered’ as allies close ranks

*Dawn, 28 October 2025*

‘Azad Jammu Kashmir’ Prime Minister Anwarul Haq’s days seem to be numbered, as the coalition partners in the federal government — the PPP and the PML-N — ratchet up pressure on the embattled premier to step down from the post, or face a no-confidence motion in the assembly.

The coalition partners met at the Presidency on Monday to discuss possible options for the formation of the ‘AJK’ government to be led by the PPP. The PML-N panel, led by Ahsan Iqbal and comprising Rana Sanaullah and Amir Muqam, called on President Zardari to discuss the ‘AJK’ affairs with the PPP in light of the current situation.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal said his party would support the no-trust motion against the ‘AJK’ PM but would not become part of the government. He

said the PPP will form the government after the success of the no-confidence motion, while they would sit on the opposition benches.

PM’s aide Rana Sanaullah said the PML-N’s parliamentary party has expressed distrust over the incumbent ‘AJK’ government. He said the current ‘AJK’ government failed to perform its duties, adding that free and fair elections would be held in the region after completion of the ‘AJK’ assembly’s term next year. “The incumbent government has become a problem itself instead of a problem-solver,” PPP’s Qamar Zaman Kaira said. Mr Kaira slammed PM Haq’s administration and said political stability in ‘AJK’ was the need of the hour.

He also welcomed the PML-N’s decision, which further strengthened the PPP’s position to oust the sitting premier. Mr Kaira said that both sides respected each other’s decisions as they aimed to bring political stability to the region.

### Numbers game

The PPP has 27 members in the ‘AJK’ Legislative Assembly after 10 lawmakers joined the party on Sunday, and with the PML-N’s backing, it has garnered the support of at least 36 lawmakers to oust the incumbent premier. The PPP also claims Sardar Atiq of the Muslim Conference and Sardar Hasan Ibrahim of the Jammu

Kashmir Peoples Party will also support it.

The 'AJK' Legislative Assembly has 52 members and to achieve a simple majority, a party requires the support of 27 members. In light of this situation, sources said the incumbent PM was advised to opt for an "honourable exit" as he had lost the support of the majority.

With the PPP having 27 members in the house, he has three options: dissolve the assembly to prevent the party from coming to power, step down, or face a no-trust vote. The final decision, however, will be taken today (Tuesday), but the premier is likely to step down, the source added. He also dispelled the impression that the PM was waiting for the announcement of a nominee for the coveted slot in the hope that such a decision would polarise the alliance against him. The source further said that PM Haq and his six associates would sit on the opposition benches after he quits.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1951719/ajk-pms-days-numbered-as-allies-close-ranks>

## A New 'AJK'

*The Nation, 28 October 2025*

Politics never sleeps, and 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' appear set for another few restless nights. PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira has announced that his party and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz have agreed to bring a no-

confidence motion against the existing provincial government. This development follows the defection of ten lawmakers originally elected on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf tickets in the 2021 general elections, who have now joined the Pakistan People's Party. Their move has strengthened the PPP's position, placing it in pole position to form the next government.

With the no-confidence motion backed jointly by the PPP and PML-N — and the latter indicating that it will sit in the opposition — the path toward a smooth transfer of power seems relatively clear. This marks yet another setback for the PTI, whose influence continues to erode both within and beyond the corridors of power. Conversely, it represents another victory for the PPP-PML-N alliance, which has managed to stay intact through periods of internal dissent and intense political turbulence. The hope now is that a new government, built on the stable cooperation these two parties have demonstrated at the national level, might bring some much-needed political stability to the province.

'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' has seen four different leaders in just four and a half years — a level of political flux that has hindered consistent governance and development. Protests in recent months, many of which spiralled beyond the control of the regional administration, have further highlighted the need for steady and

effective leadership. While the composition of the new administration and the choice of its leader are still being decided, the alliance's proven ability to negotiate and maintain consensus suggests that clarity about the province's future may not be far off.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/28-Oct-2025/new-ajk>

### **From ruin to recovery: G-B communities rebuild lives after devastating floods**

*The Express Tribune, 27 October 2025*

As Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) government on Wednesday formed joint verification teams to oversee flood protection and rehabilitation projects, communities in the remote Shigar valley began rebuilding their irrigation channel destroyed in recent flash floods. According to an official notification, the decision aims to ensure transparency, quality, and technical accuracy of ongoing emergency flood restoration of public sector projects across the region during the fiscal year 2025–26.

According to government and humanitarian reports, this year's flash floods caused widespread devastation across Gilgit-Baltistan, killing 41 people, injuring over 100, and damaging or destroying over 1,253 homes. Triggered by monsoon rains and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), the floods also wiped out more than 100 bridges and nearly 450

kilometres of roads, crippling the regional economy — particularly the tourism sector.

Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan said the government was fully committed to transparency and accountability in all public works, especially those related to disaster recovery. "The scale of the recent floods was beyond our government's capacity," he admitted, urging the federal government and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) to assist in accelerating rehabilitation work across affected valleys.

The teams will assess project quality, scope, and progress, conduct field inspections, identify deficiencies and damages, and prepare detailed narrative and photographic reports for submission to the relevant authorities.

Meanwhile, in Shigar valley's Kayo Gulapur area, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) launched a community-led initiative to restore the village's irrigation channel — a crucial water source for farmland that turned barren after the floods. The project aimed to revive irrigation before the next cropping season, helping families reclaim their livelihoods.

"This channel is our lifeline," said Sajjad Hussain, a farmer volunteering in the reconstruction work. "When the floods destroyed it, our fields went dry, and we feared losing the next crop season. This support has given us hope

again — we are working together to bring the water back.”

The restoration work in Shigar is part of AKRSP's broader flood recovery programme in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral, where 162 damaged irrigation channels, seven link roads, and seven bridges are being rehabilitated. More than 400 households are also receiving agricultural inputs to reclaim around 225 kanals of flood-affected farmland.

According to the NGO, ongoing rehabilitation includes 32 water channels in Ghanche, 30 in Ghizer, 17 in Hunza and Nagar, 13 in Skardu, 15 each in Diamer and Shigar, six in Gilgit, and 34 in Chitral. Two bridges are being restored in Chitral, three in Diamer, and one each in Ghizer and Ghanche.

“These small but critical infrastructures — water channels, link roads, and bridges — are the arteries of our mountain communities,” said an AKRSP official. “When these are damaged, everything stops: agriculture, markets, and mobility.”

The interventions are being implemented under the Building Resilience and Addressing Vulnerability to Emergencies (BRAVE) programme, supported by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), which focuses on strengthening resilience and promoting community-led recovery in disaster-prone mountain regions.

“The floods washed away our crops, our roads, and our confidence,” said Fatima Bano, a farmer from Ghizer Valley. “But working together on this channel, we have realised that when communities unite, they can recover from even the worst disasters.”

Nestled amid some of the world's largest glaciers, Gilgit-Baltistan remains highly vulnerable to climate change. Yet, its people continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience — rebuilding their lives and livelihoods with unity and hope after each disaster.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2574470/from-ruin-to-recovery-g-b-communities-rebuild-lives-after-devastating-floods>

### **'AJK' decentralisation**

*Dawn, 30 October 2025*

The current setup of key administrative offices in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) is creating real problems for the people. The 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Public Service Commission (AJKPSC) has only one office located in Muzaffarabad. This means candidates from other districts must travel long and difficult distances just to take part in interviews or examinations. Sadly, there have been cases where candidates arrived only to find that their papers were cancelled at the last moment. This wastes their time, and puts a financial burden on already struggling families.

A similar issue exists with the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Board of

Intermediate and Secondary Education (AJKBISE), which is based in Mirpur. For simple tasks, like paper rechecking, getting certificates, or solving academic issues, students and parents from far-off districts are forced to travel all the way to Mirpur. Many times, they reach there only to discover that the relevant officials are absent, or offices are closed, which adds to their frustration and stress. These challenges point to the bigger issue of poor planning and lack of consideration for the needs of the public.

To solve these problems, the government should establish divisional offices of both the AJKPSC and the AJKBISE in all major divisions of 'AJK'. This would make basic services more accessible to everyone, save time and money, and reduce the pressure on the current centralised offices. More importantly, it would show that the government cares about making life easier for the people, and is serious about improving governance.

If 'AJK' truly wants to move towards progress and fair governance, it must focus on decentralising its services. People should not have to suffer just to have access to the most basic of services. Setting up regional offices is not just a convenience, but is a necessary step towards making the system more just, fair and efficient.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1952119/ajk-decentralisation>

### **PPP, PML-N sign no-trust motion against 'AJK' PM**

*The Nation, 30 October 2025*

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) have officially joined hands to push a no-confidence motion against 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, ending weeks of intense deadlock, PPP 'AJK' Secretary-General Faisal Mumtaz Rathore revealed.

The PPP leader confirmed on Wednesday that both the parties had signed the no-confidence motion, with PML-N's Raja Farooq Haider putting his signature on behalf of his party. "We currently have the open support of 37 members," he said, adding that another five assembly members have pledged their backing.

According to him, the new prime minister's name is expected to be announced within the next two days. However, the party sources said that PPP has picked Chaudhry Yaseen as its candidate for top post. The decision was made at a high-profile meeting at Zardari House, where PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari personally announced Yaseen's nomination to party's 'AJK' leadership. Four candidates were considered Chaudhry Yaseen, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, and Sardar Yaqub before Yaseen was unanimously endorsed, insiders said.

On the other hand, 'AJK' Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Chaudhry Anwarul Haq has said that he could resign if he is assured that development funds would be released to the members of his cabinet and other members of the assembly even after his resignation.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/30-Oct-2025/PPP-PML-N-sign-no-trust-motion-AJK-PM>

### **G-B voter rolls near one million ahead of polls**

*The Express Tribune, 30 October 2025*

As Gilgit-Baltistan heads toward general elections, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Raja Shahbaz Khan on Tuesday said the voter registration process was nearing completion, with the total number of registered voters expected to reach nearly one million in line with the 2023 census.

"We will have nearly two hundred thousand additional voters this time," the CEC said, drawing a comparison with the 2020 elections. He said the current assembly would complete its constitutional term on November 24, after which an interim government would take charge to oversee the electoral process. He added that a summary proposing the polling date would be forwarded to the president of Pakistan for approval once the voter rolls were finalised.

Speaking at a press conference in Gilgit, the CEC said that 774,124 voters were currently registered across the region, while 142,000 new voters were yet to be added. Another 75,000 entries would be corrected, bringing the final voter count to 991,124.

He urged citizens who had not yet registered to ensure their inclusion before the election schedule is announced. "In the 2020 elections, the total number of voters was 743,000, while according to the latest census, the region's population now stands at around 1.7 million," he noted.

Raja Shahbaz said that local government elections would be held alongside the general elections, in line with legal provisions requiring polls to be conducted within 60 days of the assembly's dissolution.

Responding to reports about administrative powers, he clarified that the government's powers had not been completely frozen. "If the government files a review appeal about certain public interest projects, the Election Commission will consider it," he said.

Meanwhile, the hearing on the government's petition regarding limited powers was adjourned until October 31 due to the absence of government representatives.

Emphasising his impartiality, the CEC said G-B will have fair elections. To

another question, he said the conduct of elections is linked with the law, not with the weather.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Gilgit-Baltistan (ECGB) announced November 4, 2025, as the deadline for all members of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly to submit their statements of assets and liabilities for the fiscal year 2024-25.

In a statement, the ECGB said lawmakers must submit details of their own, their spouses', and dependent children's assets and liabilities as of June 30, 2025, on Form B. It said the submission was a legal requirement under Section 137 of the Elections Act, 2017.

The commission added that the declarations would be published in the official gazette under Section 138 of the same Act to ensure transparency and compliance with the law.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2574905/g-b-voter-rolls-near-one-million-ahead-of-polls>

### Wrangling in 'AJK'

*The Express Tribune, 30 October 2025*

As the allies in the coalition government at the Centre mull a change of guard in 'AJK', they are seen at loggerheads in devising a joint strategy. The PPP, with 17 seats in a house of 52 members, is maneuvering the crosscurrents to install its own government, and has been able to win over the support of 10 PTI legislators.

This tendency of horse-trading and defections has been a modus operandi of our so-called democratic culture, thriving at the peril of political consciousness and stability. The lackluster from the PML-N, however, not to sit with the PPP in the next dispensation, and not to make any move on its own for dislodging the government is perplexing. Yet it says it might support a vote of no-confidence if tabled on the floor of the house.

The exit of Prime Minister Anwarul Haq would be the fourth in a row in the last four-and-a-half years of the sitting assembly. The desire to install a government for a meagre six months, as elections in the state are due next June, is unbecoming of sound political judgment, and hints at some dubious agenda.

It seems Haq is being penalised for his inaction during the recent standoff in 'AJK', wherein an apolitical Joint Action Committee brought the state to a standstill and succeeded in compelling the federal government to accept all of its demands in toto. Nonetheless, the fact that the PPP has not been able to name a candidate of consensus for premiership, as is mandated under the 'AJK' constitution before a vote of confidence, and is seen playing to the gallery has plunged the state in further instability.

One of the most unfortunate aspects is the meddling of Pakistani political

forces in 'AJK', and the fait accompli aspect that is created for indigenous voices. This in-house wrangling and the impact of JAC will have its long shadows cast at the upcoming ballot. With PPP out to experiment its political fortune with a wafer-thin majority and an annoyed ally in the opposition, it would be wise to let the status quo prevail till the suffrage is announced.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2574830/wrangling-in-ajk>

### **'AJK' PM sets conditions for his resignation**

*Business Recorder, 30 October 2025*

Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Chaudhry Anwarul Haq on Wednesday set conditions for his resignation. According to sources, the 'AJK' premier demanded assurances regarding development funds and ongoing projects for his supporting ministers and assembly members. The sources further said that the 'AJK' premier also insisted that PML-N ministers and ticket holders be given equal funds before the next elections.

It is worth noting that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) agreed to move a no-confidence motion against the 'AJK' prime minister. Sources claim that the PPP has already secured the backing of 36 assembly members for the motion. Meanwhile, the 'AJK'

premier has not yet resigned, saying that if the opposing parties have the required numbers, they should go ahead and table the no-confidence motion.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40389956/ajk-pm-sets-conditions-for-his-resignation>

### **President, PM discuss 'AJK' situation**

*Business Recorder, 31 October 2025*

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held an important meeting at the President's House on Thursday. The discussions focused on the political situation in the country, including political changes in 'Azad Kashmir', as well as the future political strategy.

Alongside the two leaders, key members from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) also attended the meeting. Sources revealed that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, former Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf, Senator Sherry Rehman, and Syed Naveed Qamar were present. Federal Minister for Interior, Syed Mohsin Naqvi, and Prime Minister's Adviser Senator Rana Sanaullah also participated in the discussions.

According to sources, the meeting held detailed consultations on crucial national and political matters. The potential political changes in 'Azad Kashmir' were also discussed, while the coalition leadership deliberated on

the country's current political scenario and future strategies.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40390176/president-pm-discuss-ajk-situation>

### **CPEC has brought new opportunities to GB, says Zardari**

*Dawn, 1 November 2025*

President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had brought new opportunities to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). "The CPEC has brought new opportunities for livelihood, trade and connectivity to GB. Our collective task is to ensure that these opportunities reach every valley and every village, creating shared prosperity for all," he said, while speaking at a ceremony marking the 78th anniversary of the region's freedom from Dogra rule.

"As we celebrate your independence day ... let us renew our collective resolve to make GB a model of development, justice equality. Your region offers the best to the rest of the country and the world at large," he said. He also talked about the people of 'occupied Kashmir', saying: "While you enjoy liberty and rights under the flag of Pakistan, they continue to face 'occupation' ... we stand with them until they too can live in freedom in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people." He further said that over the past seven decades, the people of GB

had marched "shoulder to shoulder" with the rest of Pakistan.

"You have guarded our borders, advanced our progress, carried our flag to the world's highest peaks. This region is not only the crown of Pakistan, but also our northern gateway and a symbol of our lasting friendship with China," he said, adding that the Karakoram Highway stood as a "living memento" of the partnership with China. In his remarks, the president said that the PPP had always extended a "loving hand and heart" toward the people of GB. "Our priorities are pure. You should receive education, you should be healthy, and [in] every valley ... there should be schools," he said.

He highlighted the region's strengths, including its capacity for hydroelectric power generation and the "limitless" potential for tourism. "I was just talking to the commander sahib today, and I was thinking that the kinds of planes in which I came here — they are not very expensive. So if GB gets its own airline, then what's the harm in that?" he asked, adding that his party's efforts and intentions were to promote the region. He concluded his remarks by saying: "May the people of GB continue to play their full part in building a progressive, prosperous Pakistan."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1952548/cpec-has-brought-new-opportunities-to-gb-says-zardari>

## 2 Wapda officials 'abducted' in Chilas

*Dawn, 27 October 2025*

Two officials of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) were allegedly abducted from the Thore area in Chilas, Diamer district, near the Diamer-Bhasha Dam construction site. According to official sources, the abducted officials, both from Punjab, were working on the Diamer-Bhasha Dam project. Police said that on Saturday, their off-day, the officials went to the Gabar area of Thore to buy walnuts, accompanied by six local colleagues. Upon reaching the area, they were intercepted and abducted by militants, who took them into the nearby mountainous region.

An official, requesting anonymity, told Dawn that the area was a known haven for militants. In August, two Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts personnel were martyred and another injured when terrorists opened fire on a checkpoint along the Karakoram Highway (KKH) near Thore. The official said that local religious leaders had been engaged to negotiate with the abductors for the safe release of the officials.

So far, three rounds of talks have been held, though the militants have made certain demands, which the source declined to disclose.

### **Jirga held**

Meanwhile, local residents of the Thore valley, where the two men resided,

held a jirga on Sunday to condemn the abduction and demand strong action against the militants. A large number of people participated in the gathering, which unanimously passed a resolution declaring that the abduction had nothing to do with the people of Thore.

The resolution stated that the incident was an individual act, strongly condemned by the local community. It urged the government and administration not to harass innocent residents, but to arrest those involved and punish them according to the law.

"The government should take strict action against these terrorists so that no one dares to commit such an act in the future," the resolution said. It further clarified that the terrorists involved in the abduction have no connection with the people of Thore.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1951511/2-wapda-officials-abducted-in-chilas>

## **'AJK' PM's announcement to be made from Kashmir, not Islamabad: Bilawal**

*The Nation, 31 October 2025*

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday said his party was in a strong position to form and lead the government in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK). Speaking to reporters, Bilawal said the PPP was "in a position to form a government in Kashmir, being a majority," reaffirming his

party's commitment to resolving the longstanding issues of Kashmir and fulfilling the aspirations of its people.

"Whatever the issues are, the PPP has a reputation for finding political solutions," he asserted. The PPP chairman acknowledged that the current legislative assembly, until the upcoming elections, would serve as a "test" for his party. Bilawal said the PPP's foundation was rooted in the Kashmir cause, adding that "three generations of PPP leaders have struggled for this cause on both national and international levels."

He regretted that "due to non-political behaviour and mindset, a vacuum was created in 'AJK', which has harmed the people," warning that such conduct could also "pose a threat to the Kashmir cause at the international level." Bilawal emphasized that the PPP "is the only party capable of representing Kashmir both within the country and internationally," vowing to give a "befitting response" to any conspiracy against 'AJK'.

"I promise the people of Kashmir that I will not disappoint you," he said. When asked about the party's nominee for the prime minister's slot, Bilawal quipped, "Don't worry, that announcement will be made from Kashmir, not Islamabad." He added that the new leader of the house would be revealed when the no-confidence motion is moved against the incumbent

'AJK' prime minister. The PPP chairman reiterated his party's resolve to address the issues of Kashmir, recalling that during his tenure as foreign minister, he had raised the Kashmir issue on both domestic and international platforms.

Bilawal also said that despite challenges during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's tenure, the PPP had achieved victory in the 'AJK' elections—though that win was later "turned into a defeat." "Despite that setback, the PPP has continued to represent the people everywhere," he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/31-Oct-2025/ajk-pm-s-annoucement-made-kashmir-islamabad-bilawal>

## Economic Developments

**Authorities mull over construction of airports in DI Khan, 'Azad Kashmir'**

*Business Recorder, 31 October 2025*

Authorities have mulled over construction of greenfield airports in Dera Ismail Khan and Mirpur, 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), a Pakistan Aviation Authority (PAA) spokesperson said on Friday. The session in this regard was organised by the PAA titled 'Stakeholders Engagement & Briefing Session' in Karachi to discuss the development of new and upgraded airport infrastructure.

The forum also discussed upgradation of the existing airport in Dera Ghazi Khan. The session was presided by PAA Director Planning and Development Engineer Ghulam Abbas Sheikh. The meeting brought together representatives from Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), AirSial, Airblue, SereneAir, and Fly Dubai, along with PAA's respective project consultants.

The agreement, following days of violence and widespread protests in 'AJK', between the federal government representatives and Joint Awami Action Committee earlier this month also mentioned that an announcement regarding the timeline for developing an international airport in Mirpur could be made during the current financial year.

The aviation authority spokesperson said the consultants briefed the participants on the latest feasibility findings and presented updated passenger potential data analyses. During the session, airline representatives shared their perspectives, noting that the development of smaller airports in the proposed regions could initially divert passenger traffic from major city airports.

The PAA team responded with a strategic outlook, emphasising that strengthening regional connectivity stimulates economic growth, tourism,

and accessibility — ultimately benefitting Pakistan's overall aviation network.

The PAA reaffirmed its commitment to continue engaging with all stakeholders and technical experts to explore feasible, demand-driven development options that support balanced and sustainable growth of Pakistan's aviation infrastructure, the PAA spokesperson said.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40390254/authorities-mull-over-construction-of-airports-in-dera-khan-azad-kashmir>

### From Vernacular Urdu Media

**Joint Awami Action Committee Demands Immediate Restoration of Rights of Governance and Ownership for 'AJK' and GB**

*Urdu Point, 1 November 2025*

The Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee, while congratulating the fellow countrymen of Gilgit-Baltistan on the Independence Day of Gilgit-Baltistan, has demanded an immediate merger of Gilgit-Baltistan and 'Azad Kashmir' into a single government setup to restore the rights of governance and ownership. The freedom fighters of Gilgit-Baltistan, under the leadership of Colonel (Retired) Hassan Mirza, defeated the forces of Maharaja Ghansara Singh (nominated ruler in the name of Maharaja Hari Singh) and established an independent

government on 1 November, which was later abolished through a conspiracy when Raja Rais Shah accepted a government job.

In its central meeting, the Joint Awami Action Committee demanded the registration of cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) six times against former Prime Minister Atiq Khan, Usman Atiq, Major Nasrullah, Raja Saqib Majeed, and his son for the recent martyrdoms in Muzaffarabad and Chamyati Dherkot during the movement. It also demanded the inclusion of these individuals' names in the Exit Control List (ECL) and the public disclosure of their phone records from the day of Neela Butt until 4 October. The committee demanded that the Muslim Conference be declared a terrorist organization and banned.

After a core committee meeting in Dadyal, core committee member Advocate Khawaja Mehran read out the declaration. Meanwhile, the Action Committee has decided that if the Charter of Demands cannot be implemented, the declaration of the 1947 revolutionary government should be restored, and the \$55 billion aid (at the current dollar rate) provided by the international community for the rehabilitation of earthquake victims should be returned. "We will resolve our issues ourselves."

The Action Committee stated that their movement is solely for their rights.

Power-deprived politicians and those trying to save their power are collectively spreading false propaganda against us. "We are not fighting a political war; our demands are very clear. We openly demand: On what authority did then-President of Pakistan Asif Zardari, along with Kashmir's Prime Minister Atiq Khan, divert the \$55 billion aid meant for the rehabilitation of Kashmir's earthquake victims into the Benazir Income Support Program? With that money, 2.1 million houses have been built in Sindh today, while Kashmir's roads are in ruins, educational institutions remain incomplete. Return this amount to us at the current dollar rate – all our problems can be solved. If this money is not returned, we will go to the International Court of Justice."

The committee warned that millions have taken to the streets. "Learn lessons from Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, and fulfill the legitimate demands of this peaceful nation. Otherwise, people in every city and village of Kashmir will be forced to stage sit-ins."

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/rawalakot/kashmir/live-news-4603912.html>

**The Public has now matured in 2025; it knows and understands duplicity: Khawaja Farooq Ahmad**

*Urdu Point, 31 October 2025*

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) central leader and Opposition Leader Khawaja

Farooq Ahmad, while commenting on the separate claims by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) – in which both parties stated that they have gathered more than the required 27 members – said that neither party had the numbers needed to change the government. Now both have admitted that they completed the remaining count through the worst form of horse-trading in 'Azad' Kashmir's politics.

A question can be asked to the leaders of both these parties: In July 2021, the public had given its mandate to PTI and Imran Khan – you jointly stole that mandate. The stolen goods have been recovered from you, and on that basis, you proudly declare that "our numbers/diggers are complete. "Is this democracy? Is this how you have upheld the slogan of "Give Respect to the Vote"?

Khawaja Farooq Ahmad said that the prime ministerial candidates of both parties have been camped in Islamabad for several days, guarding their respective supporting members. They attend Zardari House and the Prime Minister House, and whatever orders they receive, they immediately start broadcasting on social media. Public affairs have come to a complete halt. They vote on a no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister, then eagerly sit in the opposition. What kind of democracy is this – vote for a new Prime Minister, support him at the

party level, and then sit in the opposition?

The public has now matured in 2025; it knows this duplicity, it understands it. If you had not been desperate for power and had respected the public's mandate, you would have had respect among the people today. In the upcoming elections, the stolen power of PTI will prove to be such a burden for you that you will be crushed under it.

[https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffar\\_abad/kashmir/live-news-4603039.html](https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffar_abad/kashmir/live-news-4603039.html)

### **Kashmir's Freedom is the Need of the Hour: President Zardari**

*Urdu Point, 1 November 2025*

President Asif Ali Zardari has said that the freedom of Kashmir is the need of the hour, atrocities against Muslims are rampant in India, and the international community should play its role in resolving the Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions. The people of Gilgit-Baltistan stand shoulder-to-shoulder for the country's development. The mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan are rich in minerals, and the bravery of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan can never be forgotten.

On Saturday, a ceremony was organized to mark the 78th Independence Day of Gilgit-Baltistan, during which President Asif Ali Zardari inspected the parade. The

Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan presented President Zardari with the traditional cap at the Independence Day celebrations. The President attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/important-news/live-news-4603724.html>

### From Social Media

**MANZAR SHIGRI @ManzarShigri**

*28 October 2025*

Gilgit - The electricity load shedding schedule issued on November 25, if it started from October 27, then understand. The next 6 months of winter will be devastating.

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/ManzarShigri/status/1983080928697299394>

**WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti**

*1 November 2025*

Youth will have to struggle for their rights - Chairman of Public Action Committee, Ehsan Advocate, addresses the Liberation Day rally

**##gilgitbaltistan #liberationday**

**Link to the video:**

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1984664823117070586>

**PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes**

*1 November 2025*

Subedar Faiz Aman: A Hero of the Gilgit-Baltistan Freedom Struggle

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1984485785282719856>

**JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri**

*28 October 2025*

Two officials of the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) were allegedly abducted from the Thore area in Chilas, Diamer district, near the Diamer-Bhasha Dam construction site.

**Link to the tweet**

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1982896136072638694>

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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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