

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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08 December - 14 December 2025

**POK
solar project
power supply to Gwadar
Awami Action Committee
comprehensive reform strategy
general elections
indigenous communities
Gilgit-Baltistan
Protests**



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

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Political Developments

'AJK' PM, opposition leader agree to complete CEC consultation within a week

Dawn, 9 December 2025

'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and Leader of the Opposition Shah Ghulam Qadir on Monday resolved to complete the consultation process for the appointment of the chief election commissioner (CEC) within one week. The consensus was reached at a meeting between the duo in Kashmir House in Islamabad, during which they also reviewed matters of mutual concern and the overall political situation in the region.

According to an official statement, the two leaders agreed that all political parties would be taken on board before a final name for the CEC is forwarded. They further concurred that the forthcoming general elections in 'AJK' would be held on schedule, with both the government and the opposition committing to fulfil their respective responsibilities to ensure that the polls remain free, fair and impartial. Mr Qadir was designated leader of the opposition on December 1 after 10 opposition lawmakers—nine of them from the PML-N, which he heads as its regional president—proposed his name for the slot, nearly two weeks after the change of government in 'AJK'.

Three days after assuming office, Mr Qadir had written to the prime minister, urging him to initiate the mandatory consultation for the CEC's

appointment, following which the meeting was held. The post of CEC has been lying vacant since January.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1960085/ajk-pm-opposition-leader-agree-to-complete-cec-consultation-within-a-week>

Protesters Demand Recovery of Missing Gilgit Youth Faisal Abbas

Pamir Times, 8 December 2025

Protests have continued in Gilgit city for the third consecutive day as family members and supporters demand the recovery of Faisal Abbas, a young resident of Gilgit who reportedly "went missing" while traveling on the Karakoram Highway in Diamer. Demonstrators gathered in Gilgit city, chanting slogans and urging the authorities to disclose his whereabouts. The protesters expressed deep concern over the lack of official information regarding his disappearance.

Meanwhile, Agha Rahat Hussain Al-Hussaini, a prominent Shia cleric of the region, claimed during a public address that Faisal Abbas had been taken into custody by law enforcement agencies. However, no official confirmation of this claim has been issued by the government so far.

According to sources, protest demonstrations are also expected to be held in various parts of Gilgit city on Friday to further pressure the authorities for the immediate release and safe recovery of Faisal Abbas.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/12/07/protesters-demand-recovery-of-missing-gilgit-youth-faisal-abbas/>

Warrant reissued for ex-'AJK' PM in diplomatic passport case

Dawn, 9 September 2025

A judicial magistrate on Monday reissued the arrest warrant for former 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) prime minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas in the diplomatic passport case, as proceedings once again saw little movement owing to his pending plea for transfer of the case.

Judicial Magistrate Ahmed Shahzad Gondal resumed the hearing, but the defence informed the court that Ilyas had already moved an application seeking the transfer of the matter to another forum. Owing to the pendency of that request, the magistrate noted that no substantial progress could be made at this stage. The court, however, maintained that the arrest warrants earlier issued for Ilyas would remain intact and adjourned further proceedings until December 12.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has booked the former 'AJK' premier for allegedly obtaining a diplomatic passport in violation of rules, a matter that has remained pending for several months due to repeated adjournments. In a separate development, Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka adjourned, without further action, the hearing in the controversial tweet case against lawyers Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha. Both advocates appeared before the court during Monday's proceedings.

Their counsel informed the judge that a related matter was currently pending before the Islamabad High Court (IHC), where an application concerning the maintainability and scope of the proceedings was yet to be decided. The defence argued that until the IHC clarified its position, the trial court should refrain from taking coercive or substantive steps.

The judge agreed to defer the proceedings and adjourned the case until December 15. The case concerns allegations that Mazari and Chatha posted a tweet deemed objectionable by the complainant, prompting the initiation of criminal proceedings earlier this year.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1959979/warrant-reissued-for-ex-ajk-pm-in-diplomatic-passport-case>

Upgraded trauma cares ordered

Dawn, 10 December 2026

The health department of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) has ordered round-the-clock emergency readiness and an upgrade of trauma and maternity care services at hospitals along the Line of Control (LoC), directing medical superintendents to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential medicines, staff and equipment.

Director General (Health) Prof Dr Mumtaz Ahmed issued these directives at a meeting held on Tuesday to review the performance, preparedness and resource needs of district and tehsil headquarters hospitals in Athmuqam and Kel in Neelum valley,

Mumtazabad in Haveli district, Nakyal and Khuiratta in Kotli district, Samahni and Barnala in Bhimber district.

Medical superintendents were directed to promptly identify and report shortages of staff, medicines, equipment or other basic facilities. 'AJK' Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and Health Minister Syed Bazil Naqvi had given standing orders that the requirements of LoC hospitals must be addressed on a priority basis, Dr Ahmed said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1960257/upgraded-trauma-cares-ordered>

Travel to snowbound Naran banned till summer

Dawn, 10 December 2025

The district administration on Tuesday banned the entry of tourists to snowbound Naran and beyond until summer next year. "We had already banned travel between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan last month, and now the movement of visitors and even locals to Naran town and Battakundi is also barred," Balakot assistant commissioner Hasrat Khan told reporters.

A notification issued by the deputy commissioner stated that no one would be allowed to proceed to Naran or further towards Babusar Top from Kaghan town following fresh snowfall in upper parts of the valley. It added that travellers to Chilas (GB) should now use the Karakoram Highway till the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road reopens in summer, most likely in early

May next year. "We have also barred travel to Saiful Muluk Lake from Naran," Mr Khan said.

The AC said the administration imposed the ban after the second snowfall of the season turned the MNJ Road slippery and almost impassable for vehicular traffic. "Earlier, we had allowed travel from Naran to Battakundi and Saiful Muluk Lake from 11am to 3pm, but that permission has now been withdrawn under the fresh notification," he added. Mr Khan said indigenous communities in Naran, Battakundi, Barawai and other upper parts of Kaghan Valley had already moved to lower areas of Mansehra and other parts of Hazara division last month.

"All police posts along the MNJ Road in Naran and beyond have been wrapped up, and not a single hotel or eatery is offering services to visitors now," he added. The AC said violators of the ban would face action under relevant laws. In a separate development, the people of Torghar district on Tuesday demanded of the provincial government to ensure presence of officers and other staff at their offices. "The government offices mostly remain closed due to the absence of staff, affecting official work and public services," resident Rubnawaz Khan Yusufzai told reporters.

Flanked by a group of residents, he said the offices often remained non-functional on Fridays and Mondays as officers and their subordinate staff

moved to their areas and arrived back quite late. He said mostly the officials came from outside the district. Mr Yusufzai said if the government didn't address the issues confronted by the locals, they would take to the streets.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1960218/travel-to-snowbound-naran-banned-till-summer>

British lawmakers press for action on Kashmir freedom

Dawn, 11 December 2025

British lawmakers on Wednesday urged their government to support self-determination for the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir, and called on it to press India on human rights. However, a minister reaffirmed the UK's long-standing policy on the decades-old dispute during a parliamentary debate by saying "we believe in diplomacy", with a renewed push for bilateral talks between India and Pakistan. The debate "Kashmir: Self-determination", in Westminster Hall, saw several members of parliament calling for a more active British role, citing concerns from their large British-Kashmiri constituencies.

The session was led by Labour MP Imran Hussain, who described the situation as an urgent human rights issue. For the people of [India-held] Kashmir, this is not a distant foreign-policy issue, Mr Hussain said. "This is about families torn apart, homes bulldozed, voices silenced, human rights abused. The right to choose their own destiny has been denied for generations."

He criticised India's revocation of the region's special status in 2019. "Since the removal of Articles 370 and 35A, we have seen communication blackouts, curfews, mass detentions and attempts to alter the demographics of the region," he said. He also referenced a 1948 United Nations resolution calling for a vote on the disputed territory's future.

The promise of a free and fair plebiscite made in 1948 remains unfulfilled, Mr Hussain added. Decades later, the international community and successive UK governments have failed to ensure that Kashmiris can exercise their right to self-determination, he added. Other MPs echoed his concerns. Jim Shannon of Strangford highlighted the humanitarian situation in occupied Kashmir, highlighting "repressive policies" including the use of arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings and other most serious abuses, including sexual abuse.

Gareth Snell of Labour from Stoke-on-Trent Central highlighted the large British-Kashmiri population and the enduring lack of political attention to the issue. Labour MP Andy McDonald of Middlesbrough and Thornaby East raised concerns over reports of arbitrary detention, suppression of free speech and restrictions on journalists. Responding for the government, Hamish Falconer, who is the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, emphasised that the UK's position has not changed.

“It is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir, which must take into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people,” he said, stressing that both sides are friends. Mr Falconer also said the UK regularly raises human rights with both nations. “The UK takes human rights seriously,” he said. “We continue to raise concerns with both India and Pakistan regarding restrictions, the detention of political leaders, and the protection of minorities. We welcome any steps to lift remaining restrictions and release political detainees,” he added.

He also addressed the UK diaspora, saying the UK recognises the strength of feeling among the British-Kashmiri community and remains open to engagement with community representatives, adding, “I do not wish to take a view about whether a further reference to the United Nations is useful at this time, but it is critical in 2025 and into 2026 that there is dialogue between India and Pakistan. We have seen the extent of the pressure when dialogue breaks down.” While ministers acknowledged the plight of Kashmiris and the UK’s role in raising concerns, they stopped short of committing to any UK-led mediation or an UN-backed plebiscite.

The session marks the latest in a series of parliamentary debates on the disputed Himalayan region, including discussions in March 2025 and January 2021, reflecting the ongoing concern among MPs, constituents, and diaspora

communities about human rights and political representation in the region.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1960450/british-lawmakers-press-for-action-on-kashmir-freedom>

President sets January 24 as G-B election date

The Express Tribune, 12 December 2025

The President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, on Friday announced January 24, 2026 as the polling date for the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly elections, though government sources indicate that the vote is likely to be postponed until June or July due to harsh winter conditions. According to an official notification issued under Article 48-A(1) of the Gilgit-Baltistan Order 2018 and Section 57(1) of the Election Act 2017, polling across the region will be conducted on the scheduled date.

Sources explained that presidential approval was a necessary procedural step sought by the chief election commissioner (CEC) to formalise proceedings before any rescheduling could take place. The CEC is expected to announce a revised polling date in due course. The Gilgit-Baltistan caretaker setup was formed on November 25, following the completion of the five-year term of the Gulbar Khan-led government. Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retired) Yar Mohammad took oath the same month.

According to law, the Election Commission of Pakistan, with the support of the caretaker government, is

required to hold elections within 60 days of the caretaker setup's formation. Meanwhile, the interim cabinet of Gilgit-Baltistan has not yet been notified by the caretaker chief minister.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2581824/president-sets-january-24-as-g-b-election-date>

Economic Developments

PM approves projects to ensure smooth power supply to Gwadar, GB

The Nation, 9 December 2025

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday accorded approval for electricity supply projects for port city Gwadar and Gilgit-Baltistan, and directed for immediate implementation. Chairing a meeting in Islamabad yesterday regarding the ongoing reforms in the Power Sector, the Prime Minister approved the immediate implementation of a comprehensive plan to resolve the issues related to electricity supply in Gwadar port city. He said the uninterrupted supply of electricity in Gwadar will undoubtedly lead to the growth of domestic economic activities and investments.

He said Gwadar's port will become the world's best port and a hub for future economic activities with the uninterrupted supply of electricity and other facilities. The Prime Minister emphasized that a 100 MW solar project in Gilgit-Baltistan should ensure uninterrupted and stable supply of environmentally clean electricity. He instructed that the

implementation of the solar project should begin immediately.

The Prime Minister stressed that the welfare and economic development of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan are among the federal government's top priorities. He said the federal government is taking all necessary steps to promote industrial activities, investment and economic development in Gilgit-Baltistan. Meanwhile, the prime minister, chairing a meeting at the Prime Minister's House, reaffirmed that the transparent and timely completion of projects of national importance remains a top priority of the government.

He reviewed the action plan for timely completion of development projects across the country. The Prime Minister directed the concerned ministries and departments to develop a comprehensive reform strategy covering all stages of development projects.

He announced that he will personally chair the steering committee comprising federal and provincial stakeholders to oversee reforms in the development project cycle. He expressed gratitude to Pakistan's development partners, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, for their continued support in improving project governance and implementation. During the meeting, representatives of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank presented detailed

proposals to facilitate the timely completion of development projects.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Dec-2025/pm-approves-projects-ensure-smooth-power-supply-gwadar-gb>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Awami Action Committee Announces It Will Not Hold Future Negotiations with Amir Muqam If Saqib Majeed Raja Joins N-League

Urdu Point, 10 December 2025

The Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) has announced that it will not engage in future negotiations with Amir Muqam if Muslim Conference Chief Organizer and son-in-law of former Prime Minister Attiq Khan, Saqib Majeed Raja, joins the N-League (PML-N). JAAC has categorically made it clear to Amir Muqam and other responsible officials of the Government of Pakistan that on October 2 in Muzaffarabad, Saqib Majeed Raja, along with his son and brothers, allegedly opened fire, resulting in the martyrdom of the Action Committee's dedicated worker Sudhir Awan. In Chamiati, innocent people were allegedly martyred due to a conspiracy involving Major Nasrullah Ghaffar Khan and Saqib Majeed Raja.

By ignoring our demand to register an FIR under the Terrorism Act against them, Kashmir Affairs Minister Amir Muqam is providing protection to the alleged killer Saqib Majeed Raja by including him in the N-League. If this

is done, the Action Committee will not participate in any negotiations in the presence of Amir Muqam.

The Action Committee reiterated its demands: Immediately declare 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' a load-shedding-free zone as per the Charter of Demands, construct a national grid station for Kashmir, and until then, hand over WAPDA's grid stations to the Kashmir Electricity Department. The 5.5 billion rupees given by the international community for the rehabilitation of earthquake-affected people should be returned at the dollar rate. Our movement's primary demand was the electricity issue. These demands are very clear in the 38-point Charter of Demands, and we will not allow a policy of delays and excuses. We will not let the sacrifices of 13 innocent martyrs go to waste. If the refugee seats are not abolished, general elections will not be allowed. These views were expressed by Umar Nazir Kashmiri, founder and member of the Core Committee of the Joint Action Committee, while addressing a high-level meeting.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4645425.html>

Hindutva ideology is a direct threat to Kashmiri culture and identity: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

Urdu Point, 12 December 2025

Chairman of the World Forum for Peace, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, has highlighted the worst Indian atrocities being inflicted on unarmed Kashmiris

in Indian 'illegally occupied' Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing the University of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' in Muzaffarabad, Fai said that the people of 'Indian illegally occupied' Jammu and Kashmir have been facing oppression, brutality, military domination, and economic and cultural exploitation by the 'Indian occupying' administration for the past several decades. He warned about a new conspiracy being systematically hatched in the region to erase Islamic values and identity, stating that a serious threat looms over the religious and cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed regret that education in the Kashmiri language has been banned in schools in Jammu and Kashmir, while Hindi has been made compulsory. Dr. Fai said that the Hindutva ideology is a direct threat to Kashmiri culture and identity. Deliberate efforts are being made to erase Kashmir's unique cultural and religious heritage, and educational institutions are continuously under attack by the Hindutva government. Dr. Fai highlighted the plight of Kashmiri Hurriyat leadership and civil society, stating that Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik has been sentenced to double life imprisonment, and the Modi government is demanding that his life sentence be converted to the death penalty.

Senior Hurriyat leader Shabir Ahmad Shah has spent nearly four decades in jail, while the illegal detention of

Hurriyat Chairman Masarat Alam has been prolonged by imposing the Public Safety Act on him 35 times. He said that human rights defender Khurram Parvez, who was included by the renowned American magazine TIME in the list of the world's 100 most influential people, is also continuously imprisoned illegally. Other speakers at the event included Director of the Institute of Kashmir Studies, Dr. Samira Shafiq, University Registrar Professor Dr. Saadat Hanif Dar, education expert and Kashmiri scholar Dr. Walid Rasool, and others.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4647398.html>

Preparations for Elections Underway in 'Azad Kashmir', Political Parties' Race Begins

Urdu Point, 10 December 2025

Preparations for elections are underway in 'Azad Kashmir'; the political race among political parties has begun. Political leaders who haven't visited their areas for years are now refreshed and trying once again to win over the public. Major development in 'Azad Kashmir' politics: President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir', Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan, in Union Council Rungla Hadi Chir, welcomed Raja Akbar Hussain, Raja Riaz Khan, Raja Syed Afsar, Raja Azim Khan, Raja Taizeem Aziz, Abdul Razzaq Khan, Raja Khurshid Khan, Raja Sayyam Taizeem, and others who resigned from various political parties

to join the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, starting a new phase in their political journey on the platform of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference.

In a large public gathering held in Union Council, President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir', Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan, welcomed the new members—including Raja Akbar Hussain, Raja Riaz Khan, Raja Syed Afsar, Raja Azim Khan, Raja Taizeem Aziz, Abdul Razzaq Khan, Raja Khurshid Khan, Raja Sayyam Taizeem, and other workers—by garlanding them and saying welcome.

On this occasion, Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan praised the enthusiasm of the new joiners and said that the Muslim Conference is fully striving for the mission of the freedom movement and the completion of Pakistan. The Kashmiri people are fighting the war for the completion of Pakistan, and the sacrifices of lakhs of martyrs will surely bear fruit. In his address, he said that the Muslim Conference has always been the spokesperson for public aspirations, making ideological politics, the Kashmir freedom movement, and public service its slogan.

The joining of a large number of ideological workers in Mohra Sangarh is proof that the people are once again returning to ideological politics. Addressing the youth, Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan said that the Muslim Conference is a youth party; we will

give them important leadership roles and transfer the reins of the freedom movement to young hands. At the end of the event, the new joiners expressed full confidence in Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan's leadership, saying that they will take the message of *Mujahid-e-Awwal* to every village, every neighborhood, and every home.

It is also noteworthy that in recent months, the Muslim Conference has intensified its public campaign across 'Azad Kashmir', as a result of which a large number of people are seen turning back towards this parent party. Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan assured that the Muslim Conference will play every possible role in redressing the grievances of its workers. He said that workers are the real capital of our party; their respect is paramount for us, and we will not disappoint anyone. He further said that difficult times come for every party, but those workers who remain steadfast in difficult times are the party's valuable assets. The future in the state belongs to state-based parties, while non-state parties have caused severe damage to the Kashmir freedom movement. While addressing, Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan said that the Muslim Conference has always been the standard-bearer of ideological politics and the Kashmir freedom movement.

He said that India is engaged in inhumane atrocities and the worst violations of human rights in 'occupied Kashmir'. The daily arrests of unarmed

Kashmiris, demolition of homes, conspiracies to change the demographic ratio, and extrajudicial killings of youth are a challenge to the global conscience. He said that the United Nations and international human rights organizations should fulfill their promises. Stopping 'Indian state terrorism' in 'occupied Kashmir' is the responsibility of international institutions. Sardar Atiq further said that there can be no compromise on the Kashmiris' freedom struggle. The youth of Kashmir are still giving unparalleled sacrifices for the fulfilment of the dream of completing Pakistan. He urged the international community to hold India accountable for serious human rights violations.

He said that the Muslim Conference is a youth party, and the future leadership of the Kashmir freedom movement will be handed over to the youth. The large-scale joining of aware workers in Mohra is evidence that the people are once again turning to ideological politics. At the end of the event, the workers who joined expressed complete confidence in Sardar Atiq's leadership, saying that they will spread the ideology of Mujahid-e-Awwal in every village and every settlement.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4645441.html>

From Social Media

MANZAR SHIGRI @ManzarShigri

7 December 2025

Gilgit-Baltistan: On December 13, will the PTI Farooq Block form a new party or join some party?

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/ManzarShigri/status/1997538785664602569>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

10 December 2025

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day (December 10, 2025), the president of the Awami Workers Party Gilgit-Baltistan, Comrade Babajan, is holding a special discussion on human rights violations against peaceful political activists.

#Gilgitbaltistan

#InternationalHumanRightsDay2025

Link to the video:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1998747395161731152>

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Disclaimer

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