

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

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**POK**  
load shedding  
climate change  
Gilgit-Baltistan  
net zero emissions  
local government polls  
Deosai National Park  
local govt elections  
power transmission  
glacial retreat



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## **Political Developments**

### **After two decades, Gilgit-Baltistan to have local government polls on Feb 14**

*Dawn, 16 December 2025*

After a gap of 20 years, the Gilgit-Baltistan chief election commissioner on Monday announced the holding of local government (LG) elections in the region for February next year. Separately, the GB Election Commission convened a multiparty conference (MPC) on Dec 18 to consult political parties on the general elections scheduled for Jan 24 next year. According to the schedule issued by the GB Election Commission, polling for LG elections will be held on Feb 14. In this regard, a public notice will be issued on Dec 19, while nomination papers can be filed from Dec 22 to 26.

In a statement, CEC Raja Shahbaz Khan said LG elections in GB were the need of the hour and that the election commission was fully prepared and committed to conducting the polls. He said LG elections had not been held in the region for the past 20 years and that their conduct would help resolve public issues at the grassroots level, enabling citizens to secure rights at their doorsteps.

CEC Khan described LG elections as a milestone for strengthening democratic institutions and promoting development in the region, saying local governments play a key role in any democratic system. He said the elections would provide people with an

opportunity to directly participate in decision-making and local development, adding that the election commission was determined to hold the polls in a clean, transparent, fair and lawful manner.

### **Multiparty conference**

Meanwhile, the GB Election Commission has convened the MPC at 11am on Dec 18 (Thursday) at its secretariat to consult political parties on the holding of general elections scheduled for Jan 24. CEC Khan expressed the hope all political parties in Gilgit-Baltistan, or their authorised representatives, would participate in the conference. The purpose of the meeting was to seek views, suggestions and guidance on key electoral matters to make the process more effective, transparent and in line with democratic principles, he added.

He asked the leaders of all political parties to attend the consultative meeting and share their valuable views and suggestions with the election commission. He reaffirmed the commission's determination to ensure the conduct of free, fair and transparent elections with the cooperation of all stakeholders. Due to harsh weather conditions in the region, sources said, political party leaders had already opposed the holding of the general elections on Jan 24.

While the MPC is expected to demand a delay in the polls until May, the election commission in such scenario is

considering to hold the general and local government elections simultaneously, the sources added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1961401/after-two-decades-gilgit-baltistan-to-have-local-govt-polls-on-feb-14>

### **Survival strategy**

*Dawn, 15 September 2025*

The world's largest non-polar glacial reserves in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) face an existential climate crisis amplified by recurring floods and glacial retreat, making the pursuit of net zero emissions not just a global obligation, but a survival strategy. Drawing from the Oxford Net Zero framework, which advocates for effective and immediate emission reductions, strategic carbon dioxide removal (CDR) and equitable financing, Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0 targets a 50 per cent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions cut by 2035, blending domestic efforts with international support.

However, financial gaps — estimated at \$565.7 billion by 2035 — underscore the need for global solidarity under principles like common but differentiated responsibilities, ensuring that low-emission nations like Pakistan can leverage renewables and geological storage for a balanced transition towards sustainability.

I grew up along the Indus River's banks, where melting glaciers feed the lifeblood of 90pc of Pakistan's people, only to witness devastating floods in

2010, 2022 and 2025. The path forward entails front-loading cuts in industrial and agricultural emissions, and cautiously scaling CDR through geological means. Yet, in boardrooms far from Sindh's floodplains or Punjab's heatwaves, equity falters; with 90pc of funds funnelled to mitigation over adaptation. Communities bear the brunt while waiting for inter-national finance to turn vulnerability into opportunity through green jobs and resilient ecosystems.

In the context of Pakistan's climate vulnerability, rapid emission reductions are essential, focusing on efficiency, electrification and a 30pc renewable mix by 2030. Besides, CDR must be permanent, prioritising geological over biogenic storage to avoid transient risks. Equity demands international aid to bridge the massive gap, aligning with plans for socioeconomic growth. Pakistan needs a strategy of multifaceted action for a resilient future.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1961184/survival-strategy>

### **Gilgit-Baltistan Police Identify All Suspects in Attack on Qazi Nisar Ahmad; Mastermind Arrested**

*Pamir Times, 16 December 2025*

Gilgit-Baltistan Police have identified all individuals involved in the attack on Qazi Nisar Ahmad, Ameer of the Ahle-Sunnat wal Jamaat, and arrested two key suspects, including the alleged mastermind, Inspector General of

Police (IGP) Afzal Mahmood Butt said on Monday. Addressing a press conference in Gilgit, the IGP said the attack took place on October 5, injuring six people, including Qazi Nisar Ahmad. He said police investigations had led to the identification of all suspects involved in the incident, including those who facilitated the attack at various stages.

According to the police chief, the alleged mastermind of the attack was identified as Naeem Abbas, son of Sultan Ali, who has been taken into custody. He added that the two arrested suspects involved in carrying out the attack belong to Rondu, while the main facilitator is reportedly from Jalalabad, Gilgit. The IGP said a total of nine individuals were involved in the attack. Of these, five were traveling in one vehicle and four in another. He said the names of all suspects had been confirmed and their confessional statements recorded and released to the media.

IGP Afzal Mahmood Butt said that, based on available evidence, material proof and confessional statements, police had established the direct involvement of all the identified suspects. He added that investigations were continuing and that the case would be pursued to its logical legal conclusion after a comprehensive review of all aspects of the incident.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/12/15/gilgit-baltistan-police-identify-all-suspects-in-attack-on-qazi-nisar-ahmad-mastermind-arrested/>

## **Gilgit Baltistan Assembly Elections 2026: Bijli First, Bakwas Later**

*Pamir Times, 15 December 2025*

Let me be very clear, I don't give a damn about sending another Mehdi Shah, Amjad Adv, or Hafeez Sahib to Islamabad to give eloquent speeches about our constitutional rights while I sit in Skardu without electricity for 20 hours a day. I don't care about provincial status if my phone is dead, my water pump won't work, the road from Gilgit to Skardu is half-broken again, the so-called tourism powerhouse is out of power every other day, and the internet disappears without even getting the SCOM 4G signal right once. I don't care about abstract legal debates when I can't even Google what these self-proclaimed "activists" or politicians are posting on their Facebook TLs because the signal is gone. Again. And you know who's most responsible for this massive disconnect between what people in Gilgit-Baltistan actually need and what dominates political discussions? Our own so-called progressive intellectuals and activists. Be it the religio-political bros, the left-leaning "activists," or myopic nationalist "haqqparasts." The ones who are supposed to be on our side.

For years, we've seen the "candle protests" on a daily basis at Yadgar Skardu or Aliabad, Hunza. We shared the posts. We nodded along when GB's left-leaning intelligentsia talked about constitutional limbo, decolonization,

systemic exclusion, and not having an autonomous “Kashmir-like setup.” People genuinely believed these people understood what GB needed. Then I spent my twentieth hour without electricity, watched my internet die for the fiftieth time in a day, struggled to get clean water, or water at all, in Skardu or Hunza, and realized something uncomfortable: our progressive elite has completely lost the plot.

They’re fluent in all the right vocabulary; autonomy, resistance, intersectionality, history dates, world systems, the bourgeoisie and proletariat class layers. They write long Facebook essays and Twitter threads. They quote Marx, Trotsky, Che, Khomeini, or Lenin. They organize “all-parties conferences” or hours-long redundant debates in Gilgit, Skardu, or Quetta hotels over chai about historical injustices and why GB is “part of the Kashmir issue,” and so on. And while they do all this, the neighbor’s shop in Danyor or Agha Hadi Chowk still can’t stay open because there’s no electricity. A family in Ghizer still relies on unsafe water. A patient from Diamer still has to travel hours to reach a basic dispensary. Hunza, the so-called “model district,” still runs on unreliable power, no city planning, climate vulnerability, and fragile internet. But. The script we’ve all memorized by now is: GB doesn’t have provincial status, therefore GB has no electricity. GB doesn’t have constitutional rights, therefore GB has

no clean water. Everything, literally everything, gets reduced to the redundant constitutional limbo. This is lazy thinking disguised as radical analysis. Yes, GB’s constitutional status matters. We deserve representation and rights. But our activists have turned this into the only issue worth discussing. And here’s the part they refuse to admit: Even if GB became a full province tomorrow, it would not magically fix the transformer in your mohalla, water won’t come from heaven via Sadpara Dam, repair the road, or even metal it for that matter, or stabilize the power supply in Skardu.

KP has load shedding. Balochistan has collapsing infrastructure. Sindh has water crises. Kashmir has no reliable internet despite having an “autonomous” system. Provincial status does not come with a magic wand that generates megawatts. But acknowledging this would require our intelligentsia to deal with boring, unsexy realities like energy policy, micro-hydel maintenance, budget priorities, corruption in local departments, and basic governance. Much easier to chant slogans, hold a protest, and blame everything on some “invisible enemy.” So yes, I’ll say something controversial: I don’t care about provincial status right now. There, I said it. We are living in the age of AI, automation, remote work, and digital economies. Cities are building futures around stable internet, reliable power, and human capital. And what does GB have? Unstable electricity.



Internet that collapses in the rain. Students in Skardu and Gilgit unable to attend online classes. Freelancers in Hunza losing clients because the connection drops mid-call.

While the world debates artificial intelligence, we're still debating whether the lights will stay on tonight. This isn't just inconvenience. This is structural exclusion from the future. These aren't abstract injustices. These are daily humiliations. But roads, hospitals, electricity grids—these don't sound revolutionary enough. They don't make for viral posts. You can't sound radical while discussing transformers and water pumps. So our activists ignore them. They spend more time policing other activists than solving actual problems. GB's progressive spaces are now dominated by purity tests. Are you anti-imperialist enough? Are you sufficiently radical? Did you say the right words? As if people in Gilgit, Hunza, Skardu, or Diamer can afford ideological purity while sitting in darkness. Bijli first. Bakwas later. I'm not against rights. I'm not against history. I'm not against constitutional debates. But I'm exhausted by politics that can't keep my phone charged or my water running. If GB's progressive elite actually wants credibility, they need to start with the basics: electricity, internet, roads, healthcare. Not as afterthoughts. As priorities. Until then, spare me the slogans. So, my Gilgit-Baltistan, in the 24 January elections, elect those comparatively

competent candidates who at least include fixing basic human necessities in their election manifestos, rather than just chanting "Province." Give me bijli first.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/12/14/gilgit-baltistan-assembly-elections-2026-bijli-first-bakwas-later/>

### **Gilgit-Baltistan bans commercial activities in Deosai park**

*Dawn, 18 December 2025*

The Gilgit-Baltistan government has imposed a ban on establishment of all seasonal hotels and other commercial activities within Deosai National Park area. According to a notification issued by the Forest, Parks and Wildlife Department on Tuesday, the GB government has banned establishment of seasonal hotels for tourists and other commercial activities within Deosai National Park for the coming season. The notification said the GB government's step is aimed at protecting the park's fragile ecosystem and preserving its natural beauty. The commercial activities in Deosai National Park pose a threat to environmental degradation, the notification said.

The government asked hotel owners and managements to follow new regulations and not to establish any accommodation facilities for tourists. It warned of legal action in violation of the ban. Deosai is a high-altitude alpine plain situated at an average elevation of 4,114 meters above the sea level and it is a National Park.

Stretching between Skardu and Astore districts, Deosai National Park is a major summer attraction for national and international tourists and it is famous for its wildflowers, Himalayan brown bears, and breathtaking landscapes and is often called the “Land of Giants”. In September this year, singer Quratulain Balouch suffered injuries after being attacked by a rare Himalayan brown bear during a camping trip in the park, prompting authorities to ban the camping in the area. The park remains open for tourists from June to November every year.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1961742/gilgit-baltistan-bans-commercial-activities-in-deosai-park>

### **Kashmir issue at international level: Senate body urges FO to enhance lobbying efforts**

*Business Recorder, 17 December 2025*

The Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan & SAFRON has urged the Foreign Office to enhance lobbying efforts to raise the Kashmir cause more effectively at appropriate international forums. The Committee met here on Tuesday with Senator Asad Qasim in the chair. The meeting deliberated on matters concerning the developments on the Kashmir issue at the international level, recent unrest in ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), and the role, scope, and functions of the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Council.

Senator Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur expressed concern over the limited influence of politicians of Pakistani origin in the United Kingdom and emphasised the need for stronger advocacy on the Kashmir issue, highlighting the daily hardships faced by the Kashmiri people. At the direction of the Chairman, the Ministry was asked to share a list of Early Day Motions (EDMs) raised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the UK. The DG assured the panel that the Kashmir issue would continue to be pursued at the international level.

The Director General (Foreign Affairs), South Asia (SAARC), briefed the Committee on a motion tabled in the UK House of Commons by a Conservative Party member. Similar motions were tabled in 2014, 2021, and January 2025 but failed to gain sufficient support and did not reach the stage of debate. The motion included references to terrorism, including the Pahalgam incident, and expressed sympathy with affected families. It was informed that only two members had signed the motion, which did not secure substantial backing. The official noted that such motions are often moved to gain visibility within certain communities.

The Committee was informed that the Pakistan High Commission actively works on Kashmir-related initiatives in the UK and submits a large number of EDMs annually. It was highlighted that Pakistan-sponsored EDMs, vetted by



44 members and moved by MP Imran Hussain (Labour Party), led to debates in Westminster Hall and Oxford University. During the briefing on the role, scope, and functions of the GB Council, it was reiterated that Gilgit-Baltistan is part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Council comprises nominated and elected members, with nominated members selected by the Prime Minister.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40397760/kashmir-issue-at-international-level-senate-body-urges-for-to-enhance-lobbying-efforts>

### **GB general, local govt elections shelved due to harsh weather**

*Dawn, 19 December 2025*

Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Raja Shehbaz Khan on Thursday announced a delay of general elections and local bodies polls due to harsh weather conditions in the region, after a multiparty conference held to consult political parties on the holding of the elections. The General Elections of the Assembly and local government (LG) elections have been scheduled for January 24 and February 14, 2026, respectively.

The LG polls are going to be conducted in the region after a gap of 20 years. "The new polling dates for both elections will be announced later," Mr Khan said.

After the GB Assembly completed its five-year tenure on November 24, President Asif Ali Zardari announced

the general elections date as it is mandatory to conduct elections within 60 days, while the GB election commissioner also announced the date of local bodies polls. Meanwhile, the GB Election Commission convened a multiparty conference (MPC), including leaders of the PML-N, PPP, PTI and JUI, on Thursday at its secretariat to consult political parties on the holding of elections in January and February.

The GB CEC later said the meeting was convened to seek views of the political parties, their suggestions and guidance on key electoral matters to make the process effective, transparent and in line with democratic principles. Representatives of the political parties attended the consultative meeting and shared their views and suggestions with the election commission, he said. While 14 political parties opposed the holding of elections in January and February due to harsh weather conditions in the region that cut off many areas from the rest of the region, six party leaders favoured the polling day, he said. The leaders, who opposed the election dates, argued that people in the region could not use their right to vote due to the weather conditions.

Meanwhile, 14 petitions were submitted to the GB Election Commission challenging the polling day of the general elections and demanding the postponement of the polls. Mr Khan agreed with the majority opinions and announced to

withdraw the general elections and local bodies polls on January 24 and February 14, respectively. According to a source, the commission was considering holding the general and local body elections simultaneously in the month of May 2026.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1961923/gb-general-local-govt-elections-shelved-due-to-harsh-weather>

### **Pakistan, Denmark to boost climate-resilient agriculture in Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral**

*Dawn, 19 December 2025*

As the impacts of climate change have become annual threats, particularly in northern mountainous regions, the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) Pakistan and the Embassy of Denmark on Wednesday agreed to join hands to support climate-resilient agricultural livelihoods for vulnerable mountain communities in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. The initiative aims to strengthen food security and income stability by expanding access to diversified and sustainable agricultural opportunities.

It will support the adoption of climate-smart and regenerative farming practices, improve water management systems, and promote locally viable green business models suited to mountain environments. The project will directly benefit approximately 5,890 individuals across Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral and up to 34,000 people indirectly, with an emphasis on the equitable inclusion of women,

youth and marginalised groups. The agreement was signed by Maja Derrous Mortensen, Ambassador of Denmark, and Akhtar Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer of the Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan.

Ms Mortensen announced that this marked the launch of a third partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan. “Through this collaboration, we aim to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral by equipping them with the tools and knowledge required for climate-smart agriculture,” the Danish envoy added. She said a key pillar of the project was the empowerment of women and youth, ensuring their equitable participation in climate-resilient development and sustainable livelihoods.

The initiative will also support community-owned water and natural resource management systems, with the aim of developing practical and replicable models for resilient mountain agriculture. The project will be implemented by the Aga Khan Foundation and AKDN agencies, including the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP). Mr Iqbal noted that the partnership reflected a shared commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change in some of Pakistan’s most vulnerable regions. He said the project responded to the country’s growing climate challenges by strengthening local agricultural

systems and supporting communities to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Mr Iqbal added that the project would impart training to farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices and work towards improved irrigation infrastructure and efficient water management systems. “Youth and women entrepreneurs will participate in ideation bootcamps, with many receiving micro-grants,” he said. A key aspect of the initiative is the involvement of stakeholders, including local communities, in the implementation process, as they will also be engaged in policy dialogues. Those who attended the signing ceremony included senior representatives from the Danish Embassy and the Aga Khan Development Network.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1961965/pakistan-denmark-to-boost-climate-resilient-agriculture-in-gilgit-baltistan-chitral>

## **Economic Developments**

### **‘AJK’ to upgrade power transmission system with Rs10bn federal package**

*The Dawn, 17 December 2025*

‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Tuesday said the federal government would provide Rs10 billion for the upgradation of the region’s electricity transmission system, assuring that work would begin as soon as the funds were released. Speaking during a

session of the ‘AJK’ Legislative Assembly, presided over by Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, the prime minister said electricity demand in the state had surged from 350 megawatts to over 600 megawatts following the availability of cheaper power, resulting in damage to ageing transmission lines. He said the issue of electricity supply in Rawalakot would be resolved by Dec 22.

Responding to call-attention notices, Mr Rathore urged the public to act responsibly and value the facility of affordable electricity provided by Pakistan, adding that blocking roads for every issue was not a solution. Earlier, opposition legislator Sardar Hassan Ibrahim of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Party highlighted what he termed an acute electricity shortage in Rawalakot and elsewhere in Poonch, saying residents were facing eight to 10 hours of unannounced load-shedding daily, badly affecting education, business and healthcare services. He called for an immediate and permanent solution to the problem. Responding to the notice, Minister for Communications and Works Sardar Ziaul Qamar said round-the-clock work was underway to restore a power tower damaged by heavy rains in Bagh.

He said the tower would be made operational by Dec 25, which would resolve electricity supply issues in Bagh and adjoining areas. Leader of the Opposition Shah Ghulam Qadir later

drew the House's attention to the mysterious "disappearance" of the old building of Government Boys Middle School Shahkot in Athmuqam tehsil of Neelum district after the school was shifted to a newly constructed building. He sought an investigation into the alleged disappearance of timber, roofing material and furniture worth millions of rupees from the site.

Through another call-attention notice, PML-N legislator Sardar Amir Altaf alleged that internet and call services were severely disrupted across 'AJK', particularly in Poonch division. As a result, students, educational institutions, traders, government offices and the general public were facing serious hardships, he added. He urged the authorities to take immediate notice and adopt effective emergency measures to improve, stabilise and standardise internet services in Poonch division.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1961511/ajk-to-upgrade-power-transmission-system-with-rs10bn-federal-package>

### **Govt intervention sought as 'AJK' varsity faces financial straits**

*Dawn, 20 December 2025*

The University of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (UAJK) is facing an unprecedented financial crisis, with its budget for the current fiscal year showing a deficit of more than Rs1.3 billion — a shortfall the institution says it cannot manage without urgent government support.

Established in Muzaffarabad in 1980 as the region's first public sector institution of higher learning, 'UAJK' later opened three constituent colleges in Mirpur, Rawalakot and Kotli, which were subsequently upgraded into independent universities. While the assets of the parent university were distributed among the new institutions, 'UAJK' retained pension and other long-term liabilities, significantly increasing its financial burden. Rising pension obligations, inflation and stagnant government grants have since widened the deficit, placing the University's financial sustainability under severe strain.

"The financial position of our institution has become critically unsustainable," 'UAJK' spokesperson Dr Mubashar Naqvi told Dawn on Friday. He said projected income for FY2025–26 fell far short of expenditure, particularly employee-related costs. "Our pension bill alone has reached Rs590 million this year, and it will continue to rise as the number of pensioners increases," he said, adding that grants from the Higher Education Commission and the 'AJK' government had remained unchanged for years.

Dr Naqvi said that despite stringent cuts in non-salary spending, the University's mandatory obligations — including salaries, pensions, utility bills and essential academic operations — exceeded available resources by more than Rs1.3bn. "We have already exhausted all internal cost-saving

options. There is no further room for cuts,” he said.

To stabilise the institution, he said the University had sought two one-time government interventions: Rs2bn for an Endowment Fund and another Rs2bn for a dedicated Pension Fund. The funds, he said, would be invested, with only a portion of the annual returns utilised, reducing long-term dependence on recurring grants. When contacted, Vice Chancellor Prof Nasir Jamal Khattak confirmed to Dawn that he had sought immediate government intervention to protect an institution that had been pivotal in higher education in the region for over four decades. “On our part, we have frozen hiring and promotions, solarised the administration block, merged low-enrolment departments and shifted towards market-driven academic programmes,” he said. “The University is operating at the bare minimum, yet the deficit continues to widen because our responsibilities increase every year while our income does not.”

He described the proposed funds as the only sustainable path forward. “This is not a recurring request; it is a structural solution,” he said, adding that even with the establishment of the two funds, the University would require around Rs1bn annually for the next few years to bridge the gap between costs and income. “This annual requirement will gradually decline as the Endowment and

Pension Funds grow,” he said. “The government has an opportunity to permanently fix the University’s finances.”

Dr Naqvi said the crisis reflected challenges faced by many public universities, particularly those operating under old defined-benefit pension systems. He noted that provincial governments in Sindh, Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan had stepped in to support their universities. “We expect similar support for ‘UAJK’, the largest and only comprehensive public-sector university serving the people of the state,” he said, adding that the University remained in active engagement with the government. “UAJK is committed to maintaining academic and research standards, but its financial survival now hinges on timely government intervention,” Dr Naqvi said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1962080/govt-intervention-sought-as-ajk-varsity-faces-financial-straits>

## **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

### **Drug Eradication a Major Challenge for IG Police ‘Azad Kashmir’**

*Urdu Point, 16 December 2025*

The eradication of drugs remains a major challenge for the Inspector General of Police ‘Azad Kashmir’. Someone owns the stuff, someone earns from it, and someone else consumes it. A drug dealer running



the business under police patronage has been made a fake detainee by the police station. With remarkable skill, the staff of Civil Secretariat Police Station protected drug traffickers from CIA operations by turning them into fake detainees in December. Revelations have emerged that previously registered cases were used to make them fake prisoners, thereby safeguarding CIA actions and a large drug stockpile located at Ambor Chitti Padi. The drug business operating under the blessings of Civil Secretariat Police Station could not be stopped. There is a possibility of the SHO also being involved. Previously, several personnel from this police station have become the focus of social media due to this black business, and clear evidence has surfaced of several women being involved in drug trafficking. Police officials were suspended, but they handed over their business to their “present duty brothers” and turned it into a source of monthly income exceeding their salaries.

According to sources, a notorious drug dealer named Babar has allegedly been involved in the drug trade for many years. In this black business, many innocent people from whom only a single *charas* cigarette was recovered had large quantities of *charas* and other drugs planted on them, leading to cases under sections 9C-9B, for which they are either serving sentences or have already served them. However, the

said individual continues to progress in the drug business at double the pace day and night. He entraps many poor and unemployed youths in his business, blackmails them, and even threatens several individuals with death: “If you betray or back out from the drug business, you will get a direct bullet. The police are with me; no one can touch me.”

The heirs of such affected youths have posed a shocking question to the IG Police ‘Azad Kashmir’: “The police are meant to protect the lives and property of citizens, but if the police themselves facilitate the drug trade, then expecting peace in the region under such a system would be foolishness.” Previously as well, personnel and SHOs from Civil Secretariat Police Station have sacrificed many innocents to this black trade.

If the mobile phone of this drug dealer named Babar is forensically examined, the truth will come out clearly—evidence of involvement or association of many big names and police officers in this business will surface openly. Within the jurisdiction of Civil Secretariat Police Station, the large-scale drug trade is at its peak. Besides Chitti Padi, several other hideouts are also being operated under police patronage, and there is a need for secret action against them so that the growing drug trade can be eradicated.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4651568.html>



## **Blocking Roads and Routes for Everything is Not Appropriate: Faisal Mumtaz Rathore**

*Urdu Point, 16 December 2025*

Prime Minister of t 'Azad Kashmir', Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that we all need to move forward together; this is in the best interest and survival of us all. Blocking roads and routes for every issue is not appropriate. We are receiving 10 billion rupees from the federal government for the upgradation of the electricity system; as soon as the funds are received, we will upgrade the electricity system. The issue of electricity supply in Rawalakot will be resolved by December 22.

He expressed these views during the session of the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Legislative Assembly, chaired by Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, while speaking on attention notices in the House. Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that until a year ago, the electricity requirement of the state was 350 megawatts, but since cheap electricity started becoming available, the demand has increased to more than 600 megawatts.

Electricity consumption has increased manifold, due to which transmission lines are getting damaged. He said that we are obtaining a 10 billion rupee package from the federal government to upgrade the electricity transmission lines of Azad Kashmir; as soon as the funds are provided, the electricity transmission lines will be upgraded.

He said that we must realize our responsibility and value the facility of cheap electricity that Pakistan has provided us.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4652080.html>

## **Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas Was a Strong Advocate and Guardian of the Two-Nation Theory in Kashmir: Javed Iqbal Budhanvi**

*Urdu Point, 18 December 2025*

Minister for Food, Javed Iqbal Budhanvi, on the occasion of the death anniversary of Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, stated that Qaid-e-Millat Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas was a shining chapter in the history of the State of Jammu and Kashmir—a selfless politician, bearer of the flag of selfless politics, and a great leader of the Kashmir freedom movement—who gave the Kashmiri people a clear destination and direction. Qaid-e-Millat dedicated his entire life to the cause of the freedom of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the completion of Pakistan. His ideas, thoughts, and political insight remain a beacon of light for the Kashmiri people even today and serve as a source of guidance for the current leadership. The struggle of Qaid-e-Millat for Kashmir's freedom will be written in golden letters in history.

Javed Iqbal Budhanvi said that the anniversary of Qaid-e-Millat reminds us to fulfill our national responsibilities

by adopting his thoughts and character. On this day, we renew our pledge that the struggle for the complete freedom of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the completion of Pakistan will continue at all costs, and no sacrifice will be spared. He said that it is essential to follow in the footsteps of Qaid-e-Millat. Qaid-e-Millat's politics was above personal interests and based on national interests, which remains a shining example for us even today.

The Minister for Food paid glowing tributes to Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, saying that the deceased was a strong advocate and guardian of the two-nation theory in Kashmir. Through his insight, courage, and steadfastness, he awakened the consciousness of freedom among the Kashmiri people. He was a multifaceted personality whose integrity, principled stance, and patriotism were unparalleled. On the basis of these high qualities, the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (RA), designated Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas as his successor in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This trust is clear evidence of his political insight, sincerity, and national services. Javed Iqbal Budhanvi said that Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas was a brave son who made countless sacrifices for the Kashmir freedom movement, endured the hardships of imprisonment, and raised his voice for the rights of the

Kashmiri people in every era. His love and attachment to Pakistan was exemplary, and the entire Pakistani nation views his services with respect. He said that the current status and development of 'Azad Kashmir' is the result of the tireless efforts and sacrifices of our predecessors. In 'Azad Kashmir', citizens enjoy democratic freedoms, and even in remote areas, basic facilities and infrastructure are in better condition, reflecting an organized system. The Minister for Food said that the stronger 'Azad Kashmir' becomes, the stronger the Kashmir freedom movement will be. The future of 'Azad Kashmir' will never be allowed to darken under any circumstances. Immense sacrifices have been made by Qaid-e-Millat Chaudhry for the attainment of freedom, which can never be forgotten. His struggle will always remain a beacon for future generations.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4654513.html>

### **From Social Media**

**PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes**

*15 December 2025*

Gilgit-Baltistan Police Identify All Suspects in Attack on Qazi Nisar Ahmad; Mastermind Arrested

**Link to the tweet:**

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/2000547426390667760>

**WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti**

*20 December 2025*

Why is inflation in Gilgit higher compared to Skardu? The Assistant Commissioner of Gilgit has revealed the reason

#Gilgit #inflation

**Link to the video:**

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/2002406107634082253>

**JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri**

*19 December 2025*

#GilgitBaltistan Chief Election Commissioner announced a delay of general elections and local bodies polls due to harsh weather conditions in the region, after a multiparty conference held to consult political parties on the holding of the elections.

**Link to the tweet**

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/2001789053403079043>

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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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