

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

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Flour subsidy  
WAPDA  
Drug Abuse  
Debt reprofiling  
Gilgit-Baltistan  
Power project  
Social protection fund  
POK  
Corruption  
CPEC



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## Political Developments

### Drug Abuse: A Horrible Enemy of Gilgit-Baltistan

*Pamir Times, 9 October 2024*

Drug abuse is a global issue and a significant challenge for Pakistan, particularly to Gilgit-Baltistan, due to its unique geographic location and connectivity with national and international borders. Gilgit-Baltistan shares international borders with China, Afghanistan, and India. The region has strategic connectivity with 'Azad Kashmir' and KPK at various territories. The geographical connectivity brings both positive and negative changes, one of the negative impacts is the horrible effects of drug abuse.

The types of recreational drugs commonly used in Pakistan and GB include Marijuana aka ("Charas"), opium, cocaine, heroin, shisha, and ice. GB being a landlocked territory is widely connected with KPK province of Pakistan, directly affecting Gilgit Baltistan via activities such as drugs production and trafficking. Reports indicate that Marijuana (Charas) is the widely used drug in the region, used even in minors, college, and university students heavily indulged in the negative use of drugs.

According to a Geo News program, Capital Talk, hosted by Hamid Mir, approximately nine million people in Pakistan are addicted to drugs, with two million of them under the age of 35. Most of these individuals are college

and university-going students. The report also indicates that 250,500 people become addicted to drugs every year, resulting in 700 deaths annually. Various local but authentic sources identified unofficially that 15 to 20 percent of people in GB use Charas, and its use is rapidly increasing.

Additionally, areas directly connected to Brughil Valley-Chitral KPK are linked with Afghanistan, where opium trafficking directly affects the upper side of Chitral, Immit Valley, Ishkoman in district Ghizer, and ultimately affecting other parts of GB. Furthermore, the trafficking of alcohol via the Khunjerab border and locally made unhygienic alcohol in different districts of Gilgit-Baltistan is an alarming matter, where many precious youths are losing their lives due to over dosage of different harmful chemicals such as pesticides and tranquillizers mixed in it. However, superficial investigations have not led to concrete results so far. Moreover, the drug mafias may plan to occupy the small landholders of the areas and manipulate with national and international conspiracies where the existence of the region and even the national interest of the country can be at stake.

To address this alarming issue, some of the recommendations include:-

- Good Parenting during the early years of a child decides the future of students and their career ahead. The negative impacts of drug use shall be explained to children by their parents

first. Despite education they shall also look after them in case they are in trouble and help them in coming out of it.

- Arranging awareness sessions in educational institutions with the help of medical doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and religious scholars where they shall logically explain the impacts of the negative use of drugs and their adverse effects disturbing the human mind and the surroundings.

Bilateral agreements and protocols with neighbouring countries, interprovincial and inter-district coordination and strategies can help in controlling these concerns.

- Establishment of rehabilitation centers, counselling of addicts and their families, psycho-social therapies, post-discharge services, follow-up, and future visits shall be planned.
- Legislation and strict punishment by courts to teach lessons to the ones involved in such crimes.

As actions speaks louder than words and it's important to take serious and practical actions through various institutions and implementing strict rules against culprits involved in production, trafficking and consumption can help in making GB a drug free region by defending the country's greater interest and stability.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2024/10/09/drug-abuse-a-horrible-enemy-of-gilgit-baltistan/>

**'AJK' authorities beef up fool-proof security for Chinese, foreigners, engaged in dev. projects in Mirpur-'AJK' div.**

*Daily Parliament Times, 10 October 2024*

Mirpur Division Commissioner Mukhtar Hussain Chauhari advised the administrations of all the three districts of the Division that in view of the current situation in the country and the recent incidents of subversion, fool-proof arrangements should be made for the security of Chinese and foreigners, engaged in various development projects, with the mutual cooperation of the administration, police, WAPDA and all other security agencies of the government.

He directed the law enforcement agencies besides the district administrations to be alert round the clock to deal with any eventuality. "No compromise should be made in ensuring fool proof security arrangements", the Commissioner directed the audience.

Mukhtar Hussain Ch. expressed these views while presiding over a high level meeting regarding the ensuring fool proof security arrangements of the Chinese and other foreigners.

DIG Police Mirpur division Chaudhry Sajjad Hussain, Project Director WAPDA Mangala Karim Nawaz, Deputy Commissioner Yasir Riaz SSP Khawar Ali Shaukat, officials of various security agencies, Information Officer Muhammad Javed Malik and

others were also present on this occasion.

“SOPs to ensure security as above should be implemented accordingly. Police in uniform and plain clothes should monitor important places day and night, the system of checking at entry points should be made more active and modernized”, the Commissioner directed.

He further advised the administration that no minute should be spared to protect the lives and property of Chinese and foreigners. “In this regard, police, FC and other security agencies in charge of security should be on put on high alert and vigilant to closely monitor the suspicious activities and suspicious elements.

The meeting discussed, in detail, the security arrangements for Chinese and other foreigners and decided to beef it up in view of the recent tragic incidents of terrorism in the country.

Mukhtar further directed the law enforcement authorities that security arrangements made in Mirpur district should further be tightened and the forces should be put on high alert.

He further instructed that under the newly devised SOPs, the law enforcement agencies should keep a close eye on the movement at all entry points and streets and roads of the district including Mangala entry point using the latest system and modern equipment.

The Divisional Commissioner also directed to increase the number of

security personnel at important sensitive places so that the enemy’s intended subversive posture and designs could be frustrated instantly. Instructions were given to the police and other security forces as indicated by various security agencies on this occasion.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/10/10/ajk-authorities-beef-up-fool-proof-security-for-chinese-foreigners-engaged-in-dev-projects-in-mirpur-ajk-div/>

### **‘AJK’ marks 19th anniversary of deadly 2005 Earthquake today**

*The Nation, October 8, 2024*

The government of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) is set to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck the region on October 8, 2005.

According to Divisional Chief PID, Javed Malik, the day will be observed as the National Disaster Awareness Day with various events and ceremonies planned across ‘AJK’ to pay tribute to the victims and raise awareness about disaster preparedness.

The highlight of the commemoration will be a grand walk organized by the Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) and the Educational Complex in Mirpur. The walk which will begin at 7 AM from the Quaid-e-Azam International Sports Stadium and culminate at the central Shaheed Chowk will feature children who were

rendered orphaned and homeless by the 2005 earthquake.

A ceremony to pay rich tributes to the victims of the calamity will be held at the KORT complex in Akhterabad in the evening. The event will be attended by dignitaries, including the 'AJK' Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq as well as social workers, volunteers, philanthropists, journalists and heads of various institutions. Across 'AJK', special prayers will be offered in mosques during the *Fajr* (dawn) prayer and a two-minute silence will be observed at 8:52 AM, the time when the earthquake struck 19 years ago. The day will be observed as a public holiday throughout the state. The 2005 earthquake which measured 7.6 on the Richter scale left over 75,000 people dead and thousands more injured in 'AJK' and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Oct-2024/ajk-marks-19th-anniversary-of-deadly-2005-earthquake-today>

### **Omar Abdullah to lead 'held Kashmir' after opposition routs BJP**

*The Dawn, 9 October 2024*

Former chief minister of 'India-held Jammu and Kashmir', Omar Abdullah, is expected to take the helm again after his party won almost half of the total seats in recently held state elections.

Mr Abdullah's National Conference and its ally, the Indian National Congress, scored an emphatic victory in the disputed region's first state election since 2014. The National Conference has won 42 out of the 90

seats, with eight of Congress bringing the alliance's tally to 50 in the Union Territory, which is awaiting the status of a state assembly as per the promise made by the Modi government.

The 29 seats won by Mr Modi's BJP in 'held Kashmir' is the party's best-ever show in the region. Congress-NC alliance wins 50 out of 90 seats; Modi's party to form government in Haryana for third time after 'shock' win

For Congress, the taste of victory in Jammu and Kashmir was soured by a shocking defeat at the hands of the BJP in Haryana. Exit polls had suggested that India's leading opposition party was set to win elections in both states, but as per Tuesday's results, BJP took 48 seats in the 90-member Haryana assembly, leaving the Congress trailing with 36.

The shock verdict gave Prime Minister Narendra Modi reason to believe he could spring surprises. The Congress, however, alleged that the outcome in Haryana was rigged with the help of tampered electronic voting machines (EVMs) and an election commission "handpicked by the BJP".

The party's general secretary Jairam Ramesh called the election result "a victory of manipulations" and "subverting the will of people".

Mr Ramesh claimed there were "serious issues" with the counting process and the functioning of EVMs in around 14 constituencies and his party would soon take up the matter with the Election Commission.



“Results in Haryana are totally unexpected and surprising. They go against ground reality and the sentiment of the people which was for change,” Mr Ramesh said at a press conference with Congress’ media and publicity department head Pawan Khera.

“Under these circumstances, it is not possible for us to accept these results [in Har-y-ana] ... there are serious issues raised by our candidates which we will raise with the EC.”

He claimed victory had been “snatched” from Congress and the results were “against the sentiment of people”.

“The Congress has been made to lose in Haryana and the chapter is not closed.” On the Jammu and Kashmir results, Mr Ramesh said voters defeated BJP’s “mischievous designs” to somehow muster a majority in the region.

“People have given a befitting reply to those who trampled upon J-K’s respect by taking away its statehood,” he said, adding the NC-Congress alliance will make all-out efforts to revive the statehood.

Meanwhile, PM Modi thanked the voters in Haryana for giving a “clear majority” to his party for the third time in a row.

“I salute the people of Haryana for giving a clear majority to the Bharatiya Janata Party once again. This is the victory of the politics of development and good governance,” he said in a post on X.

The victory in Haryana coupled with the party’s highest-ever seats tally in Jammu and Kashmir could blunt the claims that BJP was losing the grip on its supporters and brings into sharp focus the party’s organisational efficiency and leadership’s keen ability to redraw strategy in line with the changing ground dynamics, Hindustan Times said.

PM Modi also congratulated BJP workers “who have worked tirelessly and with full dedication for this great victory”. Reports said the RSS had helped the BJP in these polls.

“You have not only served the people of the state to the fullest, but have also taken our agenda of development to them. This is the result of which BJP has got this historic victory in Haryana,” Mr Modi added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1864012/omar-abdullah-to-lead-held-kashmir-after-opposition-routs-bjp>

**An open letter addressed to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court, the President of the State, the Prime Minister of ‘Azad Kashmir’, the Chairman Accountability Bureau and other authorities: Requests and notices against non-construction earthquake projects**

*Daily Parliament Times, October 7 2024*

On the 19th anniversary of the earthquake of 2005, we demand that those who embezzle funds in the name of rehabilitation of earthquake victims in ‘Azad Kashmir’ be held strictly accountable. After the earthquake of

October 8, 2005, 10 billion rupees were given for the construction of the earthquake-prone areas of 'Azad Kashmir', despite this, 216,000 children are studying in the open air across 'Azad Kashmir'. Despite having more than 5 billion rupees for the construction of Muzaffarabad city, more than half of the major development projects of the capital remain incomplete. After the devastating earthquake of 2005, more than 10 billion rupees were invested in the construction of the earthquake-affected areas of 'Azad Kashmir', but still, 216,000 children across 'Azad Kashmir' are forced to study under the open sky. In the funds of billions of rupees coming in the name of the earthquake victims, there should be accountability of those who looted. For the construction of Muzaffarabad city, an amount of more than 5 billion rupees was invested according to the record, but despite this, all the major projects of the city government are still incomplete. Who is responsible? All projects in the city, including sewage, have been completely destroyed due to poor construction. The corruption committed in the name of the earthquake victims should be taken into consideration and investigated so that the souls of the martyrs of the 2005 earthquake can be found.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/10/07/an-open-letter-addressed-to-the-chief-justice-of-the-supreme-court-the-supreme-court-the-president-of-the-state-the-prime-minister-of-azad-kashmir-the-chairman-accountability-bureau-and-other-auth/>

## Kashmir Speaks

*The Nation, October 9 2024*

After a significant setback in the general elections, which weakened Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grip on Indian politics and marked the resurgence of Congress, another blow has been dealt to the incumbent Prime Minister. In 'Indian-occupied Kashmir' (IOK), the first elections since New Delhi's forcible takeover of the disputed region and the removal of its special status have resulted in a resounding victory for the local National Conference party and Congress, and a decisive loss for the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This outcome reflects the enduring spirit of the Kashmiri people, who, despite decades of oppression and lack of representation, continue to hold their heads high, hoping for liberation and the ability to determine their own future.

The election results and subsequent statements reveal that many voters who opposed the BJP cited the unilateral revocation of Kashmir's special status as a key factor in their decision. While the BJP narrowly retained its lead in Haryana, this only underscores how tenuous the party's Hindu nationalist ideology is in maintaining its hold on power. There is hope that Congress, which has embraced a more peaceful, inclusive, and tolerant approach compared to the Nazi-inspired RSS and BJP, will work to restore the rights of the Kashmiri people and move towards an internationally monitored plebiscite,



allowing Kashmiris to determine their own destiny.

Year by year, BJP's communal agenda is being rejected by the majority of Indians, who long for a return to the country's tolerant, pluralistic roots. In this process, it is hoped that the longstanding Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India can finally be resolved, paving the way for peaceful relations in South Asia.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Oct-2024/kashmir-speaks>

### **A Call for Justice and Recognition in Kashmir's Ongoing Struggle**

*Daily Parliament Times, October 9 2024*

October 27 holds deep significance for the people of Kashmir, symbolizing decades of suffering and struggle. On this day in 1947, Indian military forces entered Kashmir, a move viewed by many Kashmiris as the beginning of their long-standing oppression. What transpired then was a conflict that continues to cast a shadow over the region, leaving generations of Kashmiris yearning for peace, dignity, and the fulfilment of promises made to them. The backdrop of this military intervention is the crucial yet often overlooked Muslim Conference Resolution of July 19, 1947. This resolution reflected the aspirations of Kashmir's majority Muslim population, calling on Maharaja Hari Singh to accede to Pakistan. Their voices, however, were silenced as the Maharaja sought India's intervention under the pretext of an invasion by tribal militias. The ensuing conflict and India's military presence set in motion

a series of events that would place Kashmir at the heart of a geopolitical struggle, one that remains unresolved. In the aftermath of the intervention, the United Nations became involved, with India claiming the legitimacy of its actions under the Instrument of Accession. The UN, however, called for a plebiscite, a promise that Kashmiris would decide their future through a fair and free vote. The resolution for a plebiscite still stands, unfulfilled after more than seven decades, as successive Indian governments have failed to honor this commitment.

Kashmiris, with every passing year, are reminded of the broken promises and the increasing erosion of their rights. One of the darkest moments in this history is the Jammu Massacre, a harrowing episode that saw thousands of Muslims killed, their lives forever lost to the violent communal divide that continues to scar the region. The massacre, though often glossed over in the broader narrative, remains a wound that has yet to heal. The bloodshed of 1947 fuels the ongoing resentment and the desire for justice among Kashmiris. Their plea is not for vengeance, but for recognition and for the truth of their suffering to be acknowledged on the world stage. Politically, India's stance has shifted dramatically over the decades. While initially agreeing to UN resolutions and the possibility of a plebiscite, India's rhetoric has since shifted to one of Kashmir being an "integral part" of its territory. This change is not just a matter of words; it symbolizes a betrayal of the Kashmiri people's hopes. They were promised a say in

their future, yet they have been left in a state of limbo, caught between conflicting claims and political manoeuvres that have little regard for their aspirations.

The events of August 5, 2019, further compounded this betrayal. With the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Kashmiris found themselves stripped of the limited autonomy they had. This unilateral decision was met with widespread condemnation and concern, not only within Kashmir but from international observers as well. The fear of demographic changes, aimed at disempowering the Muslim majority, looms large. What followed was a surge in human rights violations, documented extensively by various international organizations. Extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and mass surveillance became the norm, as the Indian state sought to tighten its grip on the region. The human cost of these violations is staggering. Families torn apart by violence, young people detained without cause, and entire communities living under the constant threat of surveillance—this is the reality of life in Kashmir today. The humanitarian crisis in the region cannot be ignored any longer. Independent investigations into these atrocities are not only necessary but urgent. Accountability for these violations must be pursued to restore even a semblance of justice. As the world marks another October 27, the international community must recognize the severity of the situation in Kashmir. This day should not only

be a moment of mourning but also a rallying cry for the global powers to finally act on the promises they once made. The implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions is crucial for any resolution of the Kashmir conflict. For too long, Kashmiris have been denied their right to 'self-determination', and the world has turned a blind eye to their suffering. In conclusion, October 27 serves as a solemn reminder of the Kashmiri people's unrelenting struggle for justice, peace, and dignity. It is a call for the world to acknowledge the humanitarian crisis in the region and to stand in solidarity with the Kashmiri people. Their pain cannot continue to be ignored. The time for action is now before another generation grows up under the shadow of conflict, deprived of the hope that their future might be different from their past.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/10/09/a-call-for-justice-and-recognition-in-kashmirs-ongoing-struggle/>

## Economic Developments

### **CPEC power projects: All set to ink \$16bn debt re-profiling pacts during Li's visit**

*Business Recorder, 8 October 2024*

Pakistan and Chinese power companies are all set to sign pacts on re-profiling of debts and moratorium on payment of over \$16 billion for five and three years respectively during the visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

On Pakistan side, Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) whereas on the Chinese side, Chinese Companies will ink the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) which will serve as a basis for further discussions regarding potential FCY debt reprofiling.

Nine power generation projects and one transmission line project are setup and operational in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, affected by multiple factors, the consumer tariff in Pakistan has increased significantly over the last few years. In order to rationalize electricity costs, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) has proposed debt reprofiling for CPEC projects under a win-win arrangement.

In this regard, Minister for Energy (Power Division) and Minister for Finance visited China in July 2024 and met with Chinese authorities, financial institutions and various sponsors wherein various matters including options for reprofiling of debt were discussed. Minister for Finance on August 26, 2024, constituted the Task Force, in order to discuss and deliberate the options for debt reprofiling of CPEC projects debt. Ministry of Finance also appointed China International Capital Corporation (CICC) and Habib Bank Limited for providing Consultancy Services for debt reprofiling. After meeting under the chairmanship of Minister for Power on September 26, 2024, CICC and HBL proposed draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CPEC

Projects, which has been reviewed and finalized by the Power Division and the Finance Division.

The PPIB argues that since the draft MoU is proposed for signing with a couple of CPEC Projects with respect to debt reprofiling during high level (PM) visit from China in October 2024, Power Division has been requested to consult Law & Justice Division under and in accordance with the Rules of Business, 1973 as amended from time to time (RoBs) for finalization and vetting of the draft MoU so that approval of the Federal Government (Federal Cabinet) may be solicited prior to its execution as required pursuant to the RoBs and to kick-start negotiations with CPEC Projects pursuant thereto.

According to reports, due outstanding debt liability is \$1.63 billion in 2024, \$1.55 billion in 2025, \$1.48 billion in 2026, \$1.41 billion in 2027, \$1.34 billion in 2028, \$1.28 billion in 2029, \$1.22 billion in 2030, \$1.16 billion in 2031, \$1.09 billion in 2032, \$0.94 billion in 2033, \$0.81 billion in 2034, \$0.65 billion in 2035, \$0.62 billion in 2036, \$0.51 billion in 2037, \$0.47 billion in 2038, \$0.33 billion in 2039, \$0.25 billion in 2040 and \$0.01 billion in 2041. With this staggering in tenure of repayments, the overall repayment will increase from \$15.4 billion to \$16.62 billion with extension of five years from 2036 to 2041.

The purpose of MoU is to outline the mutual intentions of PPIB and the company to engage in discussions regarding FCY debt reprofiling of the

project, with the aim to rationalize power generation tariff so as to achieve financial sustainability for power sector of Pakistan.

Terms and Conditions:

(i) the parties agree to discuss multiple options and chalk out a way forward for the debt reprofiling of the project based on win-win for all stakeholders concerned;

(ii) The parties agree to consider but not limited to the following terms (a) convert the base currency and base rate of the FCY loan; (b) increase the existing FCY loan tenor by another 5 years, and (c) introduce a 3-year principal payment moratorium forthwith;

(iii) Parties agree to make the best effort to agree on the terms and conditions so as to achieve the purpose of this MOU at the earliest and coordinate with all relevant stakeholders and authorities to seek support for the discussion and way forward.

The Parties recognize that ultimate completion of debt reprofiling as contemplated herein hinges on the support from Governments and relevant authorities and approval from relevant stakeholders including lenders and financiers.

The discussions under this MoU will include, but are not limited to, the terms of the debt reprofiling of the project.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40325993/cpec-power-projects-all-set-to->

[ink-16bn-debt-re-profiling-pacts-during-lis-visit](#)

**‘AJK’ Govt. allocates Rs. 71 billion for supply of electricity, flour on subsidised cost to consumers across the state: AJK PM**

*Daily Parliament Times, 9 October 2024*

‘Azad Jammu Kashmir’ Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that despite financial restraints the government was spending Rs. 71 billion to ensure provision of electricity and flour to the consumers on inexpensive and subsidized rates across the State.

The Prime Minister Haq said this while addressing a ceremony held to mark 19th anniversary of October 08, 2005 deadly earthquake, under the auspices of leading social welfare organization-Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) at KORT Educational and Rehabilitation complex.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the main objective of his political struggle was to see a progressive, prosperous and developed Kashmir where people would have all the amenities of life available. He said that the present government has struggled hard to break the decade’s long status-quo that has hampered progress in the region. He said that through austerity measures, the coalition government saved Rs. 10 billion rupees, which ultimately led to the establishment of Social Protection Fund (SPF).

“Under the SPF scheme financial assistance will be provided to

economically less-privileged sections of the society”, the PM added. He said that more than 190,000 people have submitted their applications to seek financial assistance under the SPF. Referring to the federal government’s wholehearted support to the government of ‘Azad Kashmir’, the PM said that the Government of Pakistan has always provided generous assistance to ‘Azad Kashmir’ and its people. Pakistan, he said, had stood with Kashmiris in every thick and thin. “Be it natural calamities, reconstruction or provision of funds, Pakistan has gone extra mile to provide help and facilities to the citizens of ‘Azad Kashmir’”, he added.

Appreciating the Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) for its significant contribution and unprecedented services to the society, the PM said that the KORT has become a symbol of our identity. He said that the KORT introduced Kashmir’s new face to the world thereby projecting the region’s soft image to the world.

He said that the way in which the KORT has been utilizing the charity money effectively has raised people’s confidence and trust in the institution. The ‘AJK’ premier on the occasion assured the KORT chairman of his government’s all out support in execution and accomplishment of its projects saying that the government was always ready to cooperate and provide help wherever and whenever needed.

The function was also addressed and attended by the founding chairman of the KORT Chaudhry Muhammad Akhtar besides the ‘AJK’ government ministers including Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Nisar Ansar Abdali, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Special Assistant Ms. Sabiha Siddique, donors and notables of the city were present on the occasion.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/10/09/pm-ajk-says-despite-financial-restraints-the-government-has-been-spending-71-billion-rupees-to-ensure-provision-of-electricity-and-flour/>

#### **AG ‘AJK’ becomes first institution after AGPR Islamabad to introduce micro payment gateway in Pakistan**

Accountant General ‘Azad Kashmir’ Muzaffarabad has become the first institution after AGPR Islamabad to introduce micro payment gateway in the country of Pakistan.

Another effort of Tafakhir Ali Asadi, Accountant General of ‘Azad Kashmir’, has come true. This will enable timely payments to all employees and customers of Kashmir. Training held at Kashmir Institute which started on 10-10-2024 and ended on 11-10-2024. The training was organized under the auspices of AGA ‘AJK’ and AGPR Islamabad in which the officers of the AG and State Bank of Pakistan informed the employees of the AG office, officers and customers about the micro payment gateway with the aim



of enabling transparent payments to the customers as soon as possible.

Since the AG's office used to issue cleared cheques which required a lot of time from the bank to the clearing. Now under this system, instead of issuing AG office cheques, money will be transferred to direct bank account which will take hours and shifts instead of 3-4 days.

This will not only save stationery but also increase transparency. This initiative of AG 'Azad Kashmir' Tafakhir Ali Asadi is being highly appreciated at the public level. Senior Director Kashmir Institute of Management Tariq But and Additional Accountant General Development Mir Asghar and others also addressed the closing ceremony of the training course.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/10/13/ag-ajk-becomes-first-institution-after-agpr-islamabad-to-introduce-micro-payment-gateway-in-pakistan/>

## From Vernacular Urdu Media

### The Future of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Belongs to the Muslim League-N: Shah Ghulam Qadir

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 11 October 2024*

The dawn of development in both Neelum Valley and 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' is set to begin soon and the future of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' will be governed by none other than the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N)

said Shah Ghulam Qadir. The President of PML-N in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir', Shah Ghulam Qadir in an visit to Neelum valley, participated in several programmes, in which he mentioned that the PML-N is going to form the next government in 'AJK', through which it will start a new dawn of progress and development in the region.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-11.jpg>

### For Kashmir Issue, Plebiscite as per the United Nations Resolutions is the Only Resolution: Lateef Akbar

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 8 October 2024*

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir', Chaudhary Lateef Akbar said that the recent conduct of elections in the 'Indian held Kashmir', under the tight control of Indian military was rejected by common Kashmiris. Such elections, conducted unlawfully and via force cannot replace the law of freedom. Plebiscite as per the United Nations resolutions is the only solution for the Kashmir issue. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif in a United Nations General Assembly brilliantly raised Kashmir issue, where people of Kashmir were appreciated. The unprecedented changes that the government of India brought in Kashmir after 5 August 2019, and the various efforts it made to bury the 'freedom movement' in the region have time and again refused by the people.



The recent conduct of the Assembly elections in three phases, was also declined by the people. Elections are not the replacement for the plebiscite, he added. He further added that the Indian government has provided more than four and a half lakh fake domiciles to non-Kashmiris with a purpose to settle there, with a purpose to off-balance the Muslim majority proportion in the region. Such tactics have revealed the true face of India, Akbar added. These fake elections cannot decide the future of Kashmiris.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-08.jpg>

## Social Media

**WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti**

12 October 2024

These days, dogs rule the streets of Gilgit. So far 14 people have died and administration has failed to put a stop on this.

#dog #bite # incident

Link to the video:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1844715736700182544>

**Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan\_Din**

12 October 2024

A fire has broken out in the Bhasha forest near the top of Thor Shatan Nala, Khakai and Kuchle Nala in Diamar district of Gilgit-Baltistan. According to local sources, the fire has engulfed a large part of the forest, and the

situation is getting out of control. If no timely action is taken, many compartments may come under fire, which is likely to cause severe damage to the wildlife and environment of the areas. The authorities are requested to take immediate rescue operations to control the fire. @csgbpbk @ClimateChangePK @RominaKAlam

Link to the tweet:

[https://x.com/Rohshan\\_Din/status/1845054575285256620](https://x.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1845054575285256620)

**Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan\_Din**

12 October 2024

The effects of climate change are being felt strongly in Pakistan, especially in Gilgit-Baltistan, where there has been an increase in temperature, erratic rainfall, and severe natural disasters. The water supply, health systems, and agriculture are all at risk from these factors. Watch this space for updates with Roshan Din Diameri. #gilgitbaltistan #Pakistan @ClimateChangePK @RominaKAlam

Link to the video:

[https://x.com/Rohshan\\_Din/status/1844813539552178432](https://x.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1844813539552178432)

# Weekly POK News Digest

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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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