

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 5 | Issue 7

10 February - 16 February 2025

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subsidy
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Educational Collapse
poor quality education
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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg
New Delhi-110 010

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Political Developments

Demo over 'inadequate compensation' for Bhasha dam displaced

Dawn, 11 February 2025

Thousands of people protested against the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) in Diamer, Gilgit Baltistan, for not compensating locals for their land acquired to build the Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

The protesters gathered in the airport area in Chilas, the district headquarters of Diamer, over the weekend on the call of people displaced due to the dam's construction, as well as religious scholars.

They accused Wapda of reneging on its commitments and gave the authority a week's time to meet their demands. Otherwise, the dam's construction will be stopped, the protesters warned. The protesters claimed that Wapda had acquired 18,000 acres of land without paying compensation to local owners. Protesters accuse Wapda of not employing locals at construction site.

They claimed that land owned by locals was declared state property for the dam's construction. The Wapda "didn't pay adequate compensation" to land owners and demanded immediate reparation. According to the protesters, Wapda didn't fulfil its commitment to provide jobs to locals at the Diamer Bhasha Dam site.

Initially, Wapda had to appoint local people to posts from grade 1 to grade

16. However, the decision was "not implemented". The protesters demanded jobs for locals at the dam site and said local contractual employees of Wapda should be made permanent immediately.

According to the protesters, the government had announced a compensation of Rs4.7 million for each of the over 4,200 affected families, while Wapda had promised six kanal land for each family who would be displaced after the dam's construction. They claimed that over 2,000 affected were still awaiting the payment under the package.

They demanded compensation at today's market rate and the immediate allotment of "promised land". They said over 4,000 families in Diamer have "sacrificed their everything: lands, homes, agriculture" for the future of Pakistan.

The protesters said other financial programmes for the rehabilitation of displaced people have not been implemented. A large number of activists from PPP, PML-N, PTI, JUI-F, regional organisations and youth groups attended the demonstration on Monday.

The protesters chanted slogans such as "Give Rights, Build the Dam" during the demonstration led by religious scholars of Diamer.

GB assembly member from Diamer, Shah Baig, who is also the region's forest minister, and Muhammad Anwar, the agriculture minister, also

joined the demonstration and expressed solidarity with the protesters. Addressing the protest, Mr Anwar, who was elected from Chilas, said the Diamer Bhasha Dam was a mega project. He said the locals' demands were genuine and that his government would "stand with the people".

Mr Baig vowed to go to every extent against Wapda. "We will never compromise on the rights of local people." They vowed to continue their struggle until the demands were met, emphasising that their children's future was linked to this issue.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1891170/demo-over-inadequate-compensation-for-bhasha-dam-displaced>

Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project: A Costly Lesson in Poor Planning and Mismanagement

Friday Times, 11 February 2025

A seemingly cost-effective hydroelectric project on the Jhelum River seemed promising, but unfortunately turned out to be one of the most expensive misadventures in Pakistan's history. What started off as a bold attempt to fix the power deficit in the country turned into one of the most notorious cases of poor project planning with respect to design flaws, mismanagement, construction delays, and cost overrun.

From a project management perspective, there was a severe lack of planning (including technical) and control, throughout the entire length of

the project. These shortcomings resulted in very costly inefficiencies and a clear loss of time as well as money. These activities could have greatly improved the overall performance had there been more effective control, visibility and an approach that is more structured, focused and less careless. The lack of specific objectives and an adequate plan coupled with disorganised implementation brought the project to its knees.

The Neelum Jhelum project came to a halt in 2002, leading to PKR 6 billion in repair costs and PKR 37 billion in energy losses. A cost estimate of around PKR 15.3 billion was made in 1989 when the idea was conceived. However, by the time of completion, a mammoth amount of PKR 500 billion was spent on this project. The difference in cost resulted from poor planning of project design, terrain conditions, and mismanagement. The main cause of the delay in the completion of the project was its design which included the construction of underground tunnels to divert the flow of water from Neelum River to the power plant. It turned out that the construction of these tunnels significantly increased the cost of the project due to the rocky and uneven terrain. The complex water diversion system required innovative engineering to prevent water loss and maintain power generation. The project originally scheduled to be completed in 2016 was delayed by 2 years due to design flaws and the impact of cost

overrun was borne by the national exchequer.

This important national project got delayed due to poor coordination among contractors, lack of risk assessment, and ongoing technical issues. In July 2022, the Tail Race Tunnel of the dam cracked, collapsed, and blocked resulting in power plant closure for 20 months. Although the power generation was resumed in August 2023, it cost the national exchequer about PKR 6 billion during the repairs, maintenance, and testing phase and an additional loss of PKR 37 billion in energy losses. The project once again came to a halt in May 2024, as a result of a fault in the Read Race Tunnel. It is estimated that the repairs would cost around PKR 23 billion and the unavailability of the power plant to the national grid would cost this nation a direct annual loss of PKR 55 billion approx.

Neelum Jhelum project is a textbook example of the consequences of poor planning and management of mega projects. This project has taught us great lessons on the need for proper project management in future infrastructure projects for fruitful results. When project teams don't account for all technical and environmental challenges, costs go up, timelines stretch and results are opposite to the expectations. One of the biggest issues in this project was the lack of strategy to manage the diverse group of stakeholders which inevitably resulted in delays.

Project Management is a vast field and is practiced worldwide based on proper management techniques in coordination with teams, addressing risks at an early stage and timely addressing the concerns that arise on each of the projects to minimise the time, cost, and risk factors. A proper management vision would have significantly helped Neelum Jhelum avoid most of its issues. Had there been a thorough analysis of terrain and project requirements, the time and cost overrun could have been mitigated. The outstanding constraints in the execution and completion of the project could have been avoided if early risk management techniques had been adopted.

To track progress and mitigate the risks associated to a project, the Project Management tools like Critical Path Method (CPM) and Earned Value Management (EVM) can be applied. These tools help improve the detection of problems ahead of time, thus preventing potential time and cost overruns. Moreover, clear communication and effective stakeholder management is the key to avoid failures in a project. In developing countries, another major issue that usually fails many large-scale projects is corruption. Poor planning and mismanagement are offshoots of corruption. Poor planning and ineffective management turned what could have been a solution, into a burden on national resources. Project failures can be avoided by ensuring

transparency and enforcing strict accountability.

The Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project is a rich example of how the most promising projects can be ruined due to bad planning, poor risk management, and lack of teamwork. What was supposed to solve Pakistan's power crisis turned into a costly and ongoing failure. Was there enough oversight, or did they fail to see the challenges from the beginning? To stop this from happening again, we need to focus on better project management, assess risks early, and demand openness. Without these, how can we ever hope to make meaningful strides in future infrastructure projects?

<https://thefridaytimes.com/11-Feb-2025/neelum-jhelum-poor-planning-big-consequences>

'Tourism gets boost' in Pakistan after New York show award

Dawn, 10 February 2025

The Alpine Club of Pakistan has said the country's tourism industry has received a significant boost with its recent achievement at the New York Travel and Adventure Show 2025.

In a statement Alpine Club of Pakistan secretary Karrar Haideri said Pakistan won the Best Partner Pavilion Award at the New York show which was a "remarkable milestone that strengthens the country's global image as one of the top travel destinations for tourists of the world".

The statement said that visitors, particularly those associated with

mountaineering, adventure tourism and religious tourism, showed great interest in Pakistan's tourism potential at the event.

The increase in royalty fees for climbing and trekking expeditions was also discussed at during the show at the Pakistan Consulate in New York. A delegation from Pakistan Association of Tour Operators (PATO), led by Senior Vice Chairman Nasir Hussain, expressed concern with a GB government delegation over the recent increase in royalty fees for climbing and trekking expeditions. They urged the government to review its decision.

The delegation said the move could discourage international mountaineers and trekkers besides impacting local porters and communities which depend on tourism for their livelihood in GB, home to the world's highest peaks, including five with an altitude of over 8,000 metres.

The GB government delegation, including additional chief secretary Mushtaq Ahmad, held out an assurance that the matter would be reviewed.

New York travel show

The two-day show was held in New York on January 25 and 26. GB Chief Minister Gulbar Khan, Pakistan Ambassador to US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, GB Minister for Tourism Ghulam Muhammad, Minister for Planning and Development Raja Nasir Ali Khan, Consul General of Pakistan in New York Aamer Ahmed Atozai,

Trade and Investment Counsellor in New York Adnan Mahmood Awan, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) representatives and officials from four provincial governments and 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) and GB tourism departments were present at the Pakistan Pavilion.

The PTDC and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan had jointly set up the tourism pavilion in collaboration with the Consulate General of Pakistan, New York. A total of 15 private Pakistani companies from the four provinces, 'AJK' and GB tourism departments and PTDC had set up their booths at the pavilion, showcasing Pakistani products and tourists' destinations in Pakistan.

This New York event is the largest US travel show and it is organised annually for travel lovers from across the world to come to the show to discover new destinations to make plans for their next trips and get help.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1890979/tourism-gets-boost-in-pakistan-after-new-york-show-award>

Educational Collapse in GB

The Nation, 12 February 2025

In the 21st century, when globalisation has forced the globe to quickly adjust to changes, education is the most urgently needed item. If it is not, disaster will follow and destroy future generations. From a philosophical perspective, education is as vital as food itself—that is, it is food for thousands of lives.

Renowned cognitive psychologist and linguist Steven Pinker of Harvard University contends that technology developments and empirical studies in cognitive science have played a major role in the unparalleled expansion of educational opportunities that has occurred in the twenty-first century. Pinker explains how digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and online learning platforms have democratised education and made high-quality knowledge accessible to everyone worldwide in his 2018 book *Enlightenment Now*. He highlights the importance of research-proven learning techniques that have been shown to improve critical thinking and cognitive memory, such as spaced repetition and active recall. In order to prepare students for a world that is becoming more complicated, Pinker also emphasises the value of promoting reason, scientific literacy, and problem-solving abilities in contemporary curricula (Pinker, 2018).

Pinker supports an educational system that fosters intellectual humility and open inquiry in addition to technological advancement. He contends that contemporary education should foster habits of sceptic thinking and reasoned argument in place of antiquated teaching strategies that place more emphasis on rote memorisation than analytical reasoning (Pinker, 2021). He emphasises the necessity of curricula that integrate ethical reasoning, data interpretation, and critical thinking in light of the surge in disinformation and

ideological polarisation. This will equip students to be responsible citizens in a knowledge-driven society. His viewpoint supports the idea that education in the twenty-first century should put more emphasis on intellectual empowerment than merely imparting knowledge, and it is consistent with the larger enlightened goals of progress through reason (Pinker, 2018; 2021).

The recent 8th-grade examination results in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) have exposed alarming educational disparities, unveiling the region's systemic challenges. With an overall pass rate of only 40.78%, the crisis demands immediate intervention. While Gilgit (72.11%) and Ghizer (58.11%) show relative success, other districts, such as Astore (22.74%) and Skardu (31.01%), depict a stark contrast. The situation in Hunza is equally concerning, where over 50% of students failed in both 5th and 8th-grade examinations. These statistics reflect deep-rooted structural issues, including inadequate infrastructure, insufficient teacher training, and ineffective governance.

Moreover, a protest in Chilas was demonstrated by students showing their grievances over the education system, journalists asserts that if Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)-based tests were conducted for teachers, the failure rate would be as high as that of students. This crisis is not just an educational failure but a pressing socio-economic concern that risks exacerbating regional inequalities.

To address this challenge, it is imperative to examine the education systems of countries such as Sweden and the United States, which have successfully implemented inclusive and high-quality educational models.

One of the fundamental issues in GB's education sector is the lack of adequate infrastructure. Many schools in rural areas operate without proper classrooms, heating facilities, or even functional toilets. The harsh climate of the region further aggravates the situation, making it difficult for students to attend school regularly. Far flung villages like Shilla Valleysermik, Bashey Valley shigar, District Nagar. Shainbar (chalt, Chaprote and Bar valley). According to a 2018 report by the Gilgit-Baltistan Education Department, nearly 40% of schools lack basic facilities, directly affecting students' learning outcomes. Additionally, there is an acute shortage of textbooks and learning materials. A study conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) revealed that over 60% of government schools in GB struggle with textbook shortages, compelling students to rely on outdated resources. Such deficiencies create an environment where learning becomes ineffective, leading to poor examination results.

The low performance of students is also linked to unqualified and undertrained teachers. Unlike urban centres, where recruitment standards are relatively higher, many teachers in GB's rural schools lack formal pedagogical

training. Moreover, accountability mechanisms are weak. There is no structured performance assessment for teachers, leading to widespread inefficiency. The demand for an SLO-based test for teachers, as voiced by journalists, reflects the growing concern that many educators themselves lack the fundamental knowledge they are supposed to impart. Without substantial reforms in teacher training and recruitment, the quality of education will continue to deteriorate.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Feb-2025/educational-collapse-in-gb>

Poor results of govt school students trigger protests in GB

Dawn, 14 February 2025

The Gilgit-Baltistan government has been facing severe criticism over the poor education standard in public schools after most students in grades five and eight failed the regional exams.

The poor results have also triggered protests across GB. The result of the exam, conducted by the Board of Elementary Examination Gilgit-Baltistan, was announced in the first week of February. According to the result, only 41 per cent of students in Grade 5 passed the exam, while the passing rate for Grade 8 was 29pc.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, demonstrations were held in various areas of GB over the poor standard of government schools. In Hoper village of Nagar district, girls blocked the

Hoper Valley road at Hakalashal to protest the lack of facilities and shortage of teachers in their school.

They said their studies have suffered due to the shortage of teachers, particularly for teaching science subjects. They also opposed the plans to merge their school with boys, stating that such a move would compromise their right to education. The future of students was at stake and the administration, instead of solving the problems, “threatened us with FIR” for protesting, the students claimed.

Students in Chilas also protested against the administration for poor results. They demanded a retake of grades 5 and 8 exams. Meanwhile, the police arrested activist Raja Abid from Chilas for holding the protest. Despite his arrest, Mr Abid vowed to continue his protest for “better educational opportunities and ensuring access to quality education for students in remote areas of GB”.

Following the protests, GB Chief Secretary Abrar Ahmad Mirza took notice of the results and directed the region’s education ministry to form a committee to improve education standards. According to a statement, the committee of experts will make recommendations to improve teaching standards, assessment, and training processes in public schools.

This team comprises teachers, educators and assessment experts who will work to improve the primary and elementary education sector in GB. The team will conduct a detailed analysis of

the curriculum, assessment procedures and training programmes to improve the quality of teachers, their development and the use of modern assessment methods.

In a press conference on Thursday, GB Education Minister Ghulam Shahzad Agha said the poor results were “disappointing”. He said a high-level investigation was being conducted to identify those responsible for the poor performance of public school students.

Mr Agha told Dawn that the region’s education department faced multiple issues, including the shortage of teachers, inadequate facilities, and poor infrastructure. “There is no centralised system to make a unified policy for education,” he claimed.

He also opposed the chief secretary’s decision to appoint deputy commissioners (DC) to monitor school performance. The minister said it would be an “insult for education officers in each district to be monitored by a DC, who are lower ranked officers. He said the performance of schools should be evaluated by education experts.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1891819/poor-results-of-govt-school-students-trigger-protests-in-gb>

Wapda says Diemer-Bhasha compensation paid in 2015

Dawn, 12 February 2025

The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) has claimed that land compensation for Diemer-Bhasha Dam and household packages has been

paid to those affected by the project even before dam’s construction had begun.

A spokesperson for the Diemer-Bhasha dam said Wapda had completed payment of compensation amount for 91 per cent of the required land, disbursing over Rs51 billion to the affected people.

“Legal proceedings are underway for the remaining 9pc. Compensation for buildings, markets, and infrastructure was completed in 2015. The entire process was carried out by the Diemer district administration and the Gilgit-Baltistan government,” the spokesperson added.

Besides, he said, household (Chula) package payments were made to 3,826 of the 4,102 affected families. Additionally, the verification process was ongoing through the district administration for additional applicants who submitted their claims in 2024.

However, many premises including shops and petrol pumps for which Wapda has already paid compensation have not been vacated by the occupants till date, the spokesperson said. In response to certain allegations levelled by protesters in Diemer recently, the spokesperson clarified that Wapda launched several major socio-economic development and basic infrastructure projects under confidence-building measures to enhance the quality of life of locals. The CBMs include projects worth Rs78bn in the education and health sectors as well as infrastructure development.

The spokesperson said that Wapda gave preference to locals in hiring for the dam project, recruiting locals for positions up to grade 16. Many also work with project consultants and contractors. Currently, he explained, thousands of employees were from the project area.

A total of 298 people from Gilgit-Baltistan are working on the Diamer-Bhasha Dam (reservoir part) while 354 are employed in LA&R and security section. In total 2,120 people from GB are working with Wapda, consultants and contractors of whom 1,600 are from Diamer.

Diamer-Bhasha Dam has a gross water storage capacity of 8.1MAF to irrigate 1.23 million acres of land. Power generation capacity of the project stands at 4,500MW, with annual energy generation of 18 billion units.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1891430>

India smuggles IEDs and weapons in Rawalakot areas to target people across LoC: Minister Waqar Ahmed Noor

Daily Parliament Times, 13 February 2025

The most senior minister and interior minister Colonel (R) Waqar Ahmed Noor has said that India is smuggling IEDs and weapons in Poonch, Bagh, Kotli and Rawalakot areas of 'Azad Kashmir' to target people across the Line of Control and demoralize the people. Pakistan has provided evidence to UN officials about these incidents. Yesterday, India fired indiscriminately to spread panic in

civilian in Baghsar sector, which the Pak army responded too. Two Pak army personnel were also injured in the cross firing. Indian indiscriminate operations on the Line of Control have jeopardized the peace of the area.

He added that India has always made efforts to destroy the peaceful environment of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' on the Line of Control. In recent days, India has been indiscriminately using the IEDs with indiscriminate firing on the Line of Control's civil population. The trend of Indian Army IEDs has been increasing since 2016.

He said that India has been indiscriminately using the IEDs with indiscriminate firing on the Line of Control's civil population in recent days. The trend of Indian Army IEDs has been increasing since 2016. He expressed these views while briefing the media along with Chief Secretary Muhammad Khushal Khan, Inspector General Police Rana Abdul Jabbar and Information Secretary Sardar Adnan Khurshid at the PID Complex.

He said that IEDs were recovered in Battal sector and Rawalakot area during February 2025 when a civilian was also martyred in an explosion. He said that Indian Army has always created a one-sided narrative and accused the Pakistan Army of disrupting regional peace by carrying out false flag operations, although the facts on the ground are contrary to this.

He said that a recent example of this was the incident of IEDs in Battle sector

which is obvious to all. Many units and officers of the Indian Army were found involved in the illegal movement of drugs and they were also punished.

He said that the soldiers of the Indian Army smuggle weapons through their own agents, then these weapons are shown in the media through fake recovery operations, and later, by killing the targets of these same agents, they show the false essence of their success so that they can get honors and appointments in the army.

He said that India should be institutional that such activities could increase the crisis which could endanger regional security. India should not forget that Pakistan is capable of responding in the same way. India is a terrorist country and all its movements are focused on terrorism. He said that it is clear evidence that the struggle of Kashmiris is riding on the nerves of the Indian Army. The purpose of Kashmiris is freedom and affiliation with Pakistan. He said that according to the 47th resolution of the Security Council, it is necessary to have a resolution and we are confident that the people of 'occupied Kashmir' will only be affiliated with Pakistan. For security, Kashmir's decision must be in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiris, which is actually affiliated with Pakistan.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/02/13/india-smuggles-ieds-and-weapons-in-rawalkot-areas-to-target-people-across-loc-minister-waqar-ahmed-noor/>

Economic Developments

China-Pakistan cooperation

Business Recorder, 16 February 2025

President Asif Ali Zardari has recently concluded a visit to China, overseeing signing of more than a dozen agreements, covering diverse fields. The gist of the discussions and agreements reached during the visit as per a joint statement, issued by the Foreign Office on Thursday, was that "the China-Pakistan relationship remains of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine it is bound to fail" - apparently, a reference to hostile forces-inspired attacks on Chinese nationals and interests as well as sanctions the US imposed last December on a Chinese research institute and several companies, it said, were involved in supplying ballistic missiles-applicable items to Pakistan.

Both sides also reiterated their commitment to upgrade the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by incorporating in its second phase industrial growth, innovation, green energy and some other open corridors. That could be the real and much talked-about game changer.

The bond between Pakistan and China, based on mutual respect and cooperation, has stood the test of time for over seven decades. Relations with certain other countries, both transactional and interventionist in nature have not been very dependable.

China has been a strategic partner and truly an 'All Weather Friend', which adheres to a policy of non-interference in internal affairs of other nations. Aside from mutually beneficial expansion in trade, agriculture, private sector linkages, regional connectivity through the CPEC, the two sides have agreed to enhance collaboration in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

China having decided early on not to remain the world's factory, focused its attention on research and development of innovative technologies with the result that it has emerged as the global leader in green energies while its electric vehicles industry is not only the largest in the world but has been giving tough competition to Elon Musk's Tesla company.

What's more, its open-source AI app DeepSeek has taken the world by storm. We can and must benefit from these technologies to address our multifaceted challenges. The advancements in the field of AI thus far hold indeterminate but huge possibilities for progress and development.

The president's visit was also an occasion for reiteration of support for the two countries' respective positions on geopolitical issues such as China's stance on Taiwan and policies vis-a-vis Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong, and the South China Sea; and Pakistan's dispute with India over Kashmir.

China reaffirmed that it should be resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions, and bilateral agreements. As regards the more immediate problem, both sides urged the interim Afghan government to take "visible and verifiable" action against terrorist groups.

They also called for increased international effort to stabilise Afghanistan and integrate it into the global economy. Hopefully, this will encourage moderate elements within the Afghan Taliban leadership to rein in terrorist groups, particularly the TTP using Afghan soil to launch attacks into Pakistan.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40348251/china-pakistan-cooperation>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

We provided cheap electricity and flour to the public; subsidy which can't be matched in the world: Prime Minister 'AJK'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 11 February 2025

'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Prime Minister Chaudhary Anwar ul Haq said that India should stop ongoing atrocities in 'occupied Kashmir' otherwise no one will be able to stop young men of twenty-camp to draw blood. Army Chief, General Asim Munir has categorically expressed his stance on Kashmir conflict that "we have fought three wars and if we have

to fight ten more, we will fight". The destiny of Kashmir is Pakistan and God willing 'occupied Kashmir' will soon be independent and will reach its logical end, Pakistan. Mission of people's service, construction and development is ongoing. Such thoughts were shared by Prime Minister during an inauguration ceremony in Bhimber. On this occasion senior minister Colonel (Retd.) Waqar Ahmad Noor, Chaudhary Irshad Husain, Chaudhary Izhar Sadiq were present. Prime Minister Chaudhary said that for service of the people he has been working 18-20 hours daily, and has provided people cheap electricity and flour, a remarkable grant of subsidized services, that won't match be anywhere on the world.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-11-1.jpg>

'AJK' Supreme Court quashes ex-PM Tanveer Ilyas' disqualification

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 13 February 2025

The Supreme Court of 'Azad Jammu Kashmir' (AJK) quashed the disqualification of former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, allowing him to contest elections to any public office. The court accepted Ilyas' appeal against his disqualification, which was awarded by the 'AJK' High Court in a contempt of court case. Ilyas had sought forgiveness from the court and was granted relief after a full bench of

the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan terminated the sentence. The verdict makes Ilyas eligible to participate in elections after a month.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-13.jpg>

From Social Media

JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri

14 February 2025

Education crisis, #Gilgit_Baltistan. government has been facing severe criticism over the poor education standard in public schools after most students in grades five and eight failed the regional exams.

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1890259691395219490>

ASIM SAJJAD AKHTAR @AasimSajjadA

16 February 2025

While khakis & their puppets further ecocide & dispossession in the name of #GreenPakistan, popular resistance grows.

Massive protest against #DiamerBhashaDam in Chilas.

Thousands of peasants in BhitShah declaring #NoMoreCanalsonIndus.

The people united will never be defeated!

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/AasimSajjadA/status/1891094458038428039>

JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri

16 February 2025

Massive protest started in Chilas of Diamer against WAPDA for rights of Diamer Basha Dam affected people, announced to stage sit_in at KKH for indefinite period till their demands met.

Link to the video:

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1891048592023986346>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

13 February 2025

The celebration of Imam Mehdi's birth and Shabe Barat in Gilgit is being observed with utmost faith, respect, and religious zeal.

#imammehdi #ShabeBarat
#Jashanewiladat #jashan #Gilgit

Link to the video:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1890062854860296574>

JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri

11 February 2025

Usually, in Pakistan, intellectuals serve in government

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1889027793264263503>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

13 February 2025

Students who scored 33 instead of 40 will pass. The Department of Education has implemented a new formula.

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1890062680062668888>

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Compiled by

Mohd. Usman Bhatti and Muneeb Yousuf

Edited By

Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

Disclaimer

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg
New Delhi-110 010

Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191

Website: www.idsa.in; Email: pokdigest@gmail.com