

# POK NEWS DIGEST

A MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST ON PAKISTAN OCCUPIED KASHMIR

Volume 3

Number 12

December 2010

## • Political Developments

Kashmiri Militant Groups Still Recruiting in Pakistan

Neither Azad nor Kashmir

Quake-hit Kashmiri Kids Still Awaiting Assistance

Parliamentary Committee Formed for Peace

## • Economic Developments

Income Tax Imposed for the First Time in G-B

Cross-LoC Trade Reaches Rs 70 Million

WAPDA Initiates 20 Projects to Meet Water & Electricity Needs

## • International Developments

Chinese Extend VIP Treatment to Gilgit-Baltistan C.M.

Azad Kashmir Minister Calls for Promotion of Domestic Tourism

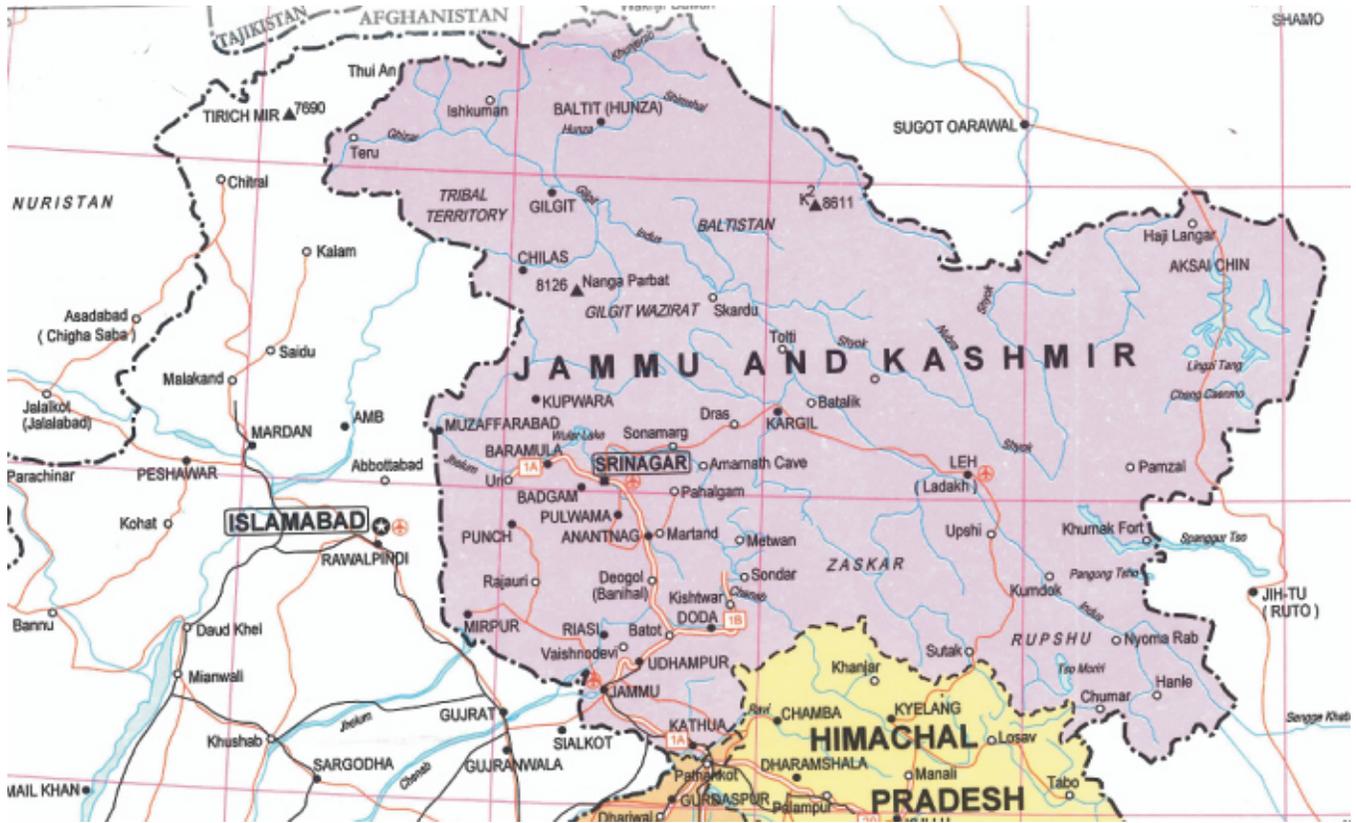
## • Other Developments

Call to Promote Endangered Mountain Cultures, Languages

Bunji Bridge Yet to be Reconstructed

Compiled & Edited  
by  
Dr Priyanka Singh

**INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**  
No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg  
New Delhi-110 010



## Jammu & Kashmir

(Source: Based on the Survey of India Map, Govt of India 2000 )

## **In this Edition**

*The current issue brings out twin trends emerging in PoK- militant jihadi ideology and the increasing Chinese influence in PoK. BBC reported that militant camps in PoK still exist to the detriment of regional security and recruitment process is underway. The Foreign Ministry in Islamabad was quick to issue a rebuttal on the claims made by the BBC report and this by equating Pak borne militancy with so called freedom struggle. Hence, Pakistan continues to be in a state of denial even if such reports emerge from credible sources in the western media.*

*The incumbents in PoK speak a language similar to their counterparts in Pakistan. They want to involve US on Kashmir and assert that China too has a role in Kashmir. This does not come as a surprise as evidently they hold office during the pleasure of Islamabad and therefore what the prime minister of the so called AJK says is a natural extension of Islamabad's misplaced policies.*

*On the increasing Chinese interference in the PoK, it could be argued that the state of development and infrastructure is largely responsible for this. It is obvious from most of the reports on the issue related to earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation in the so called AJK. The reports note that post earthquake relief work has been a clumsy process that failed to give the victims their due even after 5 years. In the absence of proper channels which could redress the grievances of the people, the Chinese have found a ripe opportunity to make forays in the otherwise underdeveloped region.*

***Priyanka Singh***

# Political Developments

---

## **Aleem Maqbool, 'Kashmiri militant groups still recruiting in Pakistan', BBC News, November 8, 2010**

MUZAFFARABAD: "There are different types of duties I can now be sent to do," says the man we have come to meet, but whose identity we have to conceal. "I can be kept here in the reserves, be asked to recruit new members, or they can send me across into Indian-held Kashmir for jihad," he says. Until the spring, this 25-year-old had been studying engineering; now he is a militant. As he describes why he left his studies, he quotes from the Koran and repeats justifications for his choice, which have clearly been taught to him.

"While I was at university, I started going to sermons given by preachers and, thank God, I joined a jihadi group," he says. "I went to a training camp with hundreds of others for three months. Now I'm ready to do whatever they ask me, to win all of Kashmir for Pakistan.

"The intelligence agencies in Pakistan are still fully supporting and financing militant groups here and the government is completely aware," says Zahid Habib Sheikh, from the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). "They will tell you there are no training camps but, of course, there are. This has always been Pakistan's Kashmir strategy, but it is a selfish policy that has only damaged our cause," he adds.

Mr Sheikh says he feels Pakistan is supporting militancy here not for the sake of Kashmiris, but to keep India engaged in conflict, and to use the militants as a bargaining chip in negotiations.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11697782>

## **Luv Puri, 'Neither Azad nor Kashmir', The Times of India, November 24, 2010**

While emphasising the involvement of Pakistan in any initiative on Jammu & Kashmir, Centre-

appointed interlocutors recently expressed a desire to involve the people and leadership of Pakistan-administered J&K (PAJK) in the resolution process. It is an idea that has remained integral to several official as well as civil society initiatives between India and Pakistan.

While the Indian side of J&K has hogged international attention for the recent youth unrest, there seems to be a paucity of scholarship and information about the political, ethnic and economic aspects of PAJK.

An objective study will better explain the patron-client relationship between the ruling Pakistani elite and the PAJK political elite. In 1949, the Muslim Conference, one of the political outfits in J&K, was recognised as the permanent representative of PAJK, with powers to strike agreements with the sovereign country of Pakistan. It was seen as a political reward for the Muslim Conference, a political outfit that supported J&K's accession to Pakistan in its July 1947 executive body session at Srinagar. In the political system that existed from 1947 to 1960, the person at the helm of the Muslim Conference was nominated as the president of PAJK. The major constitutional change came in 1970 when adult franchise was introduced to elect the president. In 1974, the parliamentary system was introduced in PAJK.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/opinion/edit-page/Neither-Azad-Nor-Kashmir/articleshow/6976892.cms>

## **'Quake-hit Kashmiri kids still awaiting assistance', Gulf Times, November 23, 2010**

The earthquake that devastated Pakistan-administered Kashmir five years ago continues to disrupt routine life, especially for thousands of children who are yet to see their schools rebuilt. Since the 7.6 magnitude temblor flattened a significant part of the territory in October 2005, students from government schools are studying in

tents. For some, there are no tents either and the classes are held without any shelter. The earthquake had razed to the ground hundreds of schools in Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Rawalakot districts of Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) and killed 18,000 children. The extent of destruction reflects the poor quality of construction under government supervision.

[http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=400234&version=1&template\\_id=41&parent\\_id=23](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=400234&version=1&template_id=41&parent_id=23)

### **November 11, 2010**

**DOTHAN (RAWALAKOT):** Prime Minister of AJ&K Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that it is the prime priority of Muslim conference to bind the new generation with the motto of Kashmir accession to Pakistan. Muslim conference is the real successor of Kashmiri martyrs. Prime Minister was addressing a public crowd here at Dothan Rawalakot. The session was presided over by Sardar Haleem Khan. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, Sardar Said Muhammad, Sardar Muhammad Raheem, Sardar Hanif, Sardar Nayaz Tabasim, Syed Azhar Shah, and others also addressed on this occasion.

[http://www.ajk.gov.pk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=239:prime-minister-of-ajak-sardar-attique-ahmed-khan-said-that-it-is-the-prime-priority-of-muslim-conference-to-bind-the-new-generation-with-the-motto-of-kashmir-accession-to-pakistan-&catid=2:latest-news](http://www.ajk.gov.pk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=239:prime-minister-of-ajak-sardar-attique-ahmed-khan-said-that-it-is-the-prime-priority-of-muslim-conference-to-bind-the-new-generation-with-the-motto-of-kashmir-accession-to-pakistan-&catid=2:latest-news)

### **Shabbir Mir, 'Parliamentary Committee formed for peace', Tribune, November 27, 2010**

**GILGIT:** Chief Minister Mehdi Shah has formed an 8-member parliamentary committee to ensure peace and sectarian harmony in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) during Muharram, officials stated on November 26. The committee will deal with cases of sectarian nature,” further stated an official. Giving the rationale behind establishing the committee, the official said that the members will use their influence to maintain an atmosphere of congeniality during Muharram.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/82491/parliamentary-committee-formed-for-peace/>

### **'Wattoo for joint efforts to fight poverty', Associated Press of Pakistan, November 27, 2010**

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo on November 26 said poverty, inflation and unemployment were the common enemies of the country and urged joint efforts to face these challenges. In a statement issued in Islamabad, he noted the dream of prosperity could not be translated into reality without eradication of illiteracy and poverty. “It is the utmost responsibility of the government to provide basic necessities of life to the people, eradicate poverty, promote education, control inflation and unemployment besides eradicating terrorism from its roots,” he stated.

Wattoo said the PPP-led coalition government was making utmost efforts to resolve these issues on priority basis. He said the government believes in provincial autonomy and the 18th amendment was the manifestation of its policy, adding that it was also building new dams. The minister said the government believed in politics of reconciliation and all decisions were made in consultation with all political parties.

[http://app.com.pk/en/\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=122927&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en/_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=122927&Itemid=2)

### **'Pak-China friendship: Post Eid party organised', Tribune, November 25, 2010**

**GILGIT:** The Gilgit-Baltistan Chinese Overseas Association [G-BCOA] arranged a post Eid party for their fellow citizens who had migrated to Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B). Sponsored by the Chinese Embassy, the party was arranged at a local hotel and was attended by officials of the Chinese Road and Building Company [CRBC], a company currently working on the expansion of the Karakoram Highway.

Chairman G-BCOA, Syed Sultan Agha, thanked the Chinese government for arranging the party and said that such gestures will further strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations in the days to

come. China has always taken keen interest in the development of G-B, a region through which Pakistan is connected to China via the Karakoram Highway, he noted.

Secretary General of the G-BCOA, Adur Rehman Bukhari, termed the gathering as a chance to 'develop understanding between the people of the two countries'. Representatives of the G-BCOA and the media were also present at the occasion

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/80481/pak-china-friendship-post-eid-party-organised/>

### **November 8, 2010**

MIRPUR: Network of Rescue 1122 will be extended to all the districts of AJ&K stated Prime Minister of AJ&K Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan. He noted that in its first phase, services will be provided on districts level and in second phase it would be enhanced up to the division level. Emergency services would be equipped same as in Punjab. Prime Minister said that government will provide the facilities to national and international investors. He further added that there is a big saturation for investment in sectors of hydel generation, tourism and timber industry. Sialkot chamber of Commerce should provide assistance in improvement of Muzaffarabad air port.

[http://www.ajk.gov.pk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=236:network-of-rescue-1122-will-be-extended-to-all-the-districts-of-ajak-said-prime-minister-of-ajak-sardar-attique-ahmed-khan&catid=2:latest-news](http://www.ajk.gov.pk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=236:network-of-rescue-1122-will-be-extended-to-all-the-districts-of-ajak-said-prime-minister-of-ajak-sardar-attique-ahmed-khan&catid=2:latest-news)

### **Roshan Mughal, 'Child protection law soon', Tribune, November 12, 2010**

MUZAFFARABAD: Children living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) will soon have a law to protect their rights and privileges. AJK's cabinet already approved a child policy and the government has started the process to frame the necessary legislation, Sardar Sarfraz Abbasi, the director for Social Welfare and Women Development stated in a meeting on November 10. He added the law will be in compliance with national and international obligations.

The Child Protection Bill, once prepared, will be placed before the AJK Commission for Child Welfare and Development, which will give it final touches before submitting it to cabinet and state legislature for approval. After bill is approved, the state will be responsible for ensuring that every child has equal and unhindered access to education, health and other rights.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/75994/child-protection-law-soon/>

### **'China has role in Kashmir: Attique'**

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir stated China, being contiguous regional country, is destined to play a crucial role in efforts for settlement of Kashmir dispute. "In fact strategically there are seven parties to this dispute now: Pakistan, India, Kashmiris, China, UN Security Council, European Parliament (EP) and Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). Kashmir is being debated as active dispute on the yearly agendas of EP and OIC who have passed strong resolutions supporting Kashmiris right to self-determination", he noted while talking to a group of legal experts meeting him in Kashmir House in Islamabad.

[http://www.kashmirwatch.com/showheadlines.php?subaction=showfull&id=1289485381&archive=&start\\_from=&ucat=1&var0news=value0news](http://www.kashmirwatch.com/showheadlines.php?subaction=showfull&id=1289485381&archive=&start_from=&ucat=1&var0news=value0news)

### **'Obama's visit averted a looming nuclear war', Tribune**

MUZAFFARABAD: The prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) stated that US President Barrack Obama's visit to India prevented a looming nuclear war in the subcontinent. "President Obama's visit averted a nuclear war in the subcontinent," Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan noted during his address to a public gathering in Hajira, a town near the Line of Control (LoC) in the southern district of Rawalakot.

His statement reportedly came amid the prevailing frustration over the US president's remarks. Obama, during his visit, offered his support to India in its bid

to gain permanent membership in the United Nations' Security Council.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/77139/obamas-visit-averted-a-looming-nuclear-war/>

### **'Islamic Militants emerging in Pakistani Kashmir'**

Islamic militants have started re-emerging in various cities and towns of Pakistani administrated Kashmir. The key activists of banned Islamic groups Jaish-eMuhammad (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) have reportedly been active since last few months. They have been addressing public gatherings and meeting people openly. During last two decades, the public sentiment against Islamabad is not very much different. People in Azad Kashmir have been cautiously witnessing political, administrative and social interventions by the federal government after the catastrophic earthquake in 2005. They have been protesting through local media that Islamabad is intentionally pushing hardcore Islamists to the territory of Kashmir who have reorganized their activities under the garb of earthquake rehabilitators.

The movement of banned outfits has been observed mainly in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan administered Kashmir. In past, this mountain-clapped city has been sanctuary of different Islamic groups waging war against India in Kashmir. Nevertheless, they had apparently limited their activities or ceased to function openly and aggressively when former Pakistani president Pervez Mushraf put pressure on them after US and Indian intervention.

Recent media reports have indicated that there has been increased Jihadi activity in some of the major cities in Pakistan administered Kashmir. People are once again witnessing the increased magnitude of public gatherings and processions as they had observed during late nineties. They are cautiously putting arguments that how Pakistan can afford re-emergence of militant Islam in a highly disputable area which itself is very close to the federal capital posing threat to its own integrity.

<http://www.groundreport.com/World/Islamic-emerging-in-Pakistani-Kashmir/2931004>

### **'Two officers from Gilgit-Baltistan promoted as Major-General for first time', Sri Lanka Guardian, November 16, 2010**

The Promotion Board of the Pakistan Army, chaired by General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), approved on November 15, 2010, the promotions of 23 Brigadiers to the rank of Major-General.

According to the "Pamir Times", two of the new Majors-General -Major-Gen.Salman Ali of the Army Medical Corps and Maj-Gen. Hidayat-Ur-Rehman of the Infantry- are natives of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). This is the first time since Pakistan occupied the Northern Areas (now known as GB) of India's Jammu & Kashmir in 1948 that two natives of the Pakistan-occupied territory have risen to the rank of Major-General.

<http://www.srilankaguardian.org/2010/11/two-officers-from-gilgit-baltistan.html>

### **Shabbir Mir, 'Government should buy guns from Gilgitis', Tribune, November 26, 2010**

GILGIT: An opposition party leader on November 25 proposed a Nato-style de-weaponisation drive in Gilgit-Baltistan that would involve purchasing weapons from gun-owning residents. Hafizur-Rehman, the regional chief of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), dared the provincial government to adopt the measures if it wanted to sincerely de-weaponise the area. "Nato applied this strategy in Afghanistan and succeeded in disarming the people," Rehman stated in a news conference.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/81999/govt-should-buy-guns-from-gilgitis/>

### **Shabir Choudhry, 'Plight of Kashmiri militants in 'Azad Kashmir', November 1, 2010**

Story of Kashmiri struggle is a long and tragic story of suffering of human beings on both sides of the forcibly divided State of Jammu and Kashmir. During our study tour of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, I met a 'leader' of Kashmiri militants who still live in Azad Kashmir. Before giving details of their plight it is imperative to give short summary to

the on going armed struggle.

They were young, energetic and full of life; but they were frustrated and not satisfied with what life had to offer them. They wanted change; and they were led to believe that the change could only come from a barrel of gun, which did not grow on Kashmiri trees. The gun and training needed to bring about the desired change could only be gained from Azad Kashmir and Pakistan, so they crossed the Line of Control to get guns, training and ammunition that they could fight the Indian forces stationed in Kashmir.

Between 1989 and 1991 tens of thousands of Kashmiri youths crossed over the Line of Control and went to a land of their dreams Pakistan, which many of them thought was a place where there was justice, peace and tranquillity. Pakistan, for many of them, was just like a second Makkah, a country established in name of Islam and where, according to them, all was well.

[http://australia.to/2010/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4776:plight-of-kashmiri-militants-in-azad-kashmir&catid=103:dr-shabir-choudhry&Itemid=140](http://australia.to/2010/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4776:plight-of-kashmiri-militants-in-azad-kashmir&catid=103:dr-shabir-choudhry&Itemid=140)

### **'Mehdi Shah slams graft in public sector', Tribune, November 27, 2010**

GILGIT: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Mehdi Shah stated on November 26 the endemic culture of corruption in the public sector, especially in the public works department (PWD), was posing a huge risk to the region's promising economic development. "A corrupt culture has developed in the society but we will have to fight it at all costs," he noted. Shah was critical of the corruption in the PWD, saying that with the connivance of contractors and department officials money intended for public welfare had been siphoned off.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/82433/mehdi-shah-slams-graft-in-public-sector/>

### **'Gilgit-Baltistan Governor distributes cheques among displaced people', Business Recorder, November 28, 2010**

HUNZA: The Governor Gilgit-Baltistan, Wazir

Baig distributed cheques among displaced persons of Ataabad and Sarat in Hunza on November 27. Addressing the gathering in Hunza, the acting Governor said that federal government had transferred the amount for the affected families, which would be distributed transparently with the help of the concerned authorities.

He said that the amount released by the government would be utilised for rehabilitation of the affected people. He was accompanied by Minister of Food and Agriculture Muhammad Jaffar. Wazir Baig stated that the region holds great geo-strategic importance and the Government of Pakistan had contacted the Chinese government for launching development projects in the G-B areas.

<http://www.brecorder.com/news/general-news/pakistan/1128372:news.html>

### **'I have faced Pakistani oppression and intimidation - Shafqat Inquilabi', November 8, 2010**

During our Study Tour of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir, we interviewed many people and among them was Shafqat Inquilabi, a leader of Balwaristan National Front. A report on the visit is being compiled, but for the interest of people interview of Shafqat Inquilabi is released.

Shafqat Inquilabi was also of the opinion that their 'fight is not against India. Those who are occupied by India and suffer at the hands of India should struggle against them according to their conditions. We are occupied by Pakistan and oppressed by their army and their secret agencies, so our fight is here and not on the other side of the LOC.'

He said, 'Like my colleagues my first priority is to get independent Balawaristan independent Gilgit Baltistan; and second choice is united and independent Jammu and Kashmir. However, if only two options are available, I will vote for India and not for Pakistan. I know what Pakistan is like. I have faced Pakistani oppression and intimidation. I was expelled from my home town just because I challenged government of Pakistan over the issue of

Gilgit Baltistan Ordinance.

[http://australia.to/2010/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5049:i-have-faced-pakistani-oppression-and-intimidation-shafqat-inquilabi&catid=103:dr-shabir-choudhry&Itemid=140](http://australia.to/2010/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5049:i-have-faced-pakistani-oppression-and-intimidation-shafqat-inquilabi&catid=103:dr-shabir-choudhry&Itemid=140)

### **'UAE ambassador to Pakistan meets AJK Premier', November 30, 2010**

ISLAMABAD: UAE ambassador to Pakistan Ali Saif Al Awani met with Sardar Atique Ahmed Khan, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The AJK Premier offered greetings and gratitude to President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his noble gesture by setting up the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Hospital in Rawalakot.

"This hospital, besides being a symbol of hope and new life for the people of Rawalakot and other earthquake affected areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, epitomizes the time tested friendship between the brotherly peoples and governments of Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates," said Gilani at the opening.

<http://www.wam.org.ae/servlet/Satellite?c=WamLocEnews&cid=1289830852054&p=1135099400124&pagename=WAM%2FWamLocEnews%2FW-T-LEN-FullNews>

### **'Gilani reiterates govt resolve for rehabilitation of AJK earthquake affectees', November 30, 2010**

RAWLAKOT: Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani reiterated the government's resolve to stay on course for the complete rehabilitation of earthquake affected areas. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zaid Al Nahyan hospital in Rawalakot on November 29, he stated the 2005 earthquake besides causing human loss, render millions of people homeless, adding that the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the affected areas in a short span of five years would not have been possible without the assistance of fraternal countries and international donors.

<http://www.sananews.net/english/2010/11/30/gilani-reiterates-govt-resolve-for-rehabilitation-of-ajk-earthquake-affectees/>

### **Shabbir Mir, 'Mehdi Shah hints at all parties conference', Tribune, November 1, 2010**

GILGIT: The chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan has hinted at calling an all parties conference in Gilgit to improve and strengthen the self-rule package extended by the federal government last year. "We will invite all parties in Gilgit to discuss the ways in which we can improve the existing constitutional package that empowered the region and improved the quality of the peoples' lives," stated Mehdi Shah on October 31 at the launch of a national Urdu daily, 'Ausaf', which started its edition from Gilgit-Baltistan with a resident editor based in Gilgit.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/70652/mehdi-shah-hints-at-all-parties-conference/>

### **A H Nizami, 'AJK SC declares Ch. Rukhsar election void'**

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu & Kashmir Supreme Court here Saturday dismissed appeal of an AJK minister of incumbent Prime Minister Sardar Attique's cabinet Ch. Rukhsar Ahmed keeping intact the earlier verdict of AJK Election Tribunal disqualifying him from the membership of AJK Legislative Assembly from LA IV-Mirpur on the grounds of holding fake certificates of 'O' and 'A' level issued by a UK university. The AJK Election Tribunal, in its decision earlier this month of October 2010 had held that Ch. Rukhsar is not qualified to be elected as a member of AJK Legislative Assembly on the grounds that 'O' and 'A' level certificates produced by him to contest July 2006 AJK LA polls were fake and fictitious.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=59718>

### **'Interlocutors' Claim Baseless: UJC', November 1, 2010**

SRINAGAR: The United Jihad Council (UJC), the Muzaffarabad-based alliance of militant groups operating in Kashmir, stated that New Delhi's interlocutors had been appointed to weaken the freedom struggle in Kashmir and sow doubts in the minds of the people, and stressed that the reports of detained militants having expressed a desire to

propose a peace plan were totally baseless and negative propaganda.

“Having failed to garner support and endorsement from Kashmiris, New Delhi's interlocutors have taken undue advantage of the helplessness of detained militants in an unsuccessful bid to prop up their falling credibility,” UJC spokesman, Syed Sadaqat Hussain, noted.

“The detained militants have been condemned to a struggle of life and death. The peace plan claim has been thrust on the heads of these helpless people under a planned conspiracy,” the spokesman noted.

[http://www.kashmirobsrver.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6123:interlocutors-claim-on-peace-plan-baseless-ujc&catid=2:local-news&Itemid=3](http://www.kashmirobsrver.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6123:interlocutors-claim-on-peace-plan-baseless-ujc&catid=2:local-news&Itemid=3)

### **Aftab Chaudhry, 'MC, PPAJK plan to appoint 5 new changes in Superior Judiciary' NNI, November 3, 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The Ruling Muslim Conference and Peoples Party Azad Kashmir hatched a conspiracy to bring large scale changes in AJK superior Judiciary by appointing the five new judges of their own choice.

According to the plan, the incumbent Chief Justice of High Court would be appointed as Ad-hoc Judge of the Supreme Court. Ex-Chief Justice Supreme Court, Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry would be accommodated as Chairman Ehtasab Bureau.

It was noted that Saeed Akhtar Chairman Ehtasab Bureau would occupy the seat as permanent judge of AJK Supreme Court, whereas the Chief Justice of High Court Mustafa Mughal would be appointed as Ad-hoc judge of the Supreme Court and Shariat Court and Judge Iftikhar Butt will hold the post of Chief Justice High Court.

[http://www.kashmirwatch.com/showheadlines.php?subaction=showfull&id=1288819259&archive=&start\\_from=&ucat=1&var0news=value0news](http://www.kashmirwatch.com/showheadlines.php?subaction=showfull&id=1288819259&archive=&start_from=&ucat=1&var0news=value0news)

### **'Independence Day of GB celebrated', Associated Press of Pakistan, November 1, 2010**

DIAMER: The Independence Day of Gilgit

Baltistan (GB) celebrated on November 1 with great zeal and zest by the people of area. A ceremony was held in the People's Secretariat Diamer and local leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) addressed the party workers and common people. District president PPP Mr. Taifor Shah while addressing the participants stated that this day reminds us about the great efforts of our leaders and martyrs who played an important role for the independence.

[http://app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=120806&Itemid=2](http://app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=120806&Itemid=2)

### **'APHC-AJK appeals Obama to help settle Kashmir dispute', Kashmir Media Service, November 4, 2010**

ISLAMABAD: The Convenor of APHC-AJK Chapter, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar has appealed to the US President, Barack Obama, to impress upon India to resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully in accordance with the Kashmiris' aspirations.

Mehmood Ahmad Saghar, in a memorandum addressed to the US President, said that the USA could play an important role by engaging Pakistan, India and the real Kashmiri leadership to initiate talks on Kashmir for an amicable solution of Kashmir. The APHC leader said that Kashmiris had lost three generations as a result of the conflict.

<http://www.kmsnews.org/news/aphc-ajk-appeals-obama-help-settle-kashmir-dispute>

### **Arun Sharma, 'Shah wants troops out of Pak-held Kashmir too', Indian Express, November 5, 2010**

Asking visiting US President Barack Obama to mediate between India and Pakistan for resolution of the Kashmir issue, separatist leader and chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) Shabir Shah stated on November 4 that both countries should withdraw their troops from the entire area of Kashmir, including Gilgit and Baltistan as of August 15, 1947.

“When we talk of withdrawal of troops from Kashmir, we mean that the same exercise should be

done in areas of Kashmir occupied by Pakistan. And when we talk of Pakistan, we mean areas of Gilgit and Baltistan as well, which also formed part of undivided Jammu and Kashmir,” Shah noted.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Shah-wants-troops-out-of-Pak-held-Kashmir-too/707166>

### **Roshan Mughal, 'Kashmiri youth call for US arbitration', Tribune, November 6, 2010**

MUZAFFARABAD: The children of the martyrs of the Kashmir liberation movement visited the graveyard in an attempt to seek the attention of the US president, towards Kashmir. The state's largest graveyard, where renowned leaders and workers of the Kashmir liberation movement, including Mirwaiz Yousaf Shah, the uncle of APHC leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and former president of Azad Kashmir (AJK) are buried, orphans of the Kashmir conflict spoke against atrocities in held Kashmir. The event was organised by the Sawera Education Foundation.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/73272/kashmiri-youth-call-for-us-arbitration/>

### **Shabbir Mir, 'Draft laws to be tabled in GBLA's next session', Tribune, November 6, 2010**

GILGIT: Gilgit-Baltistan Law Minister, Wazir Shakeel, stated that legislations to curb the sale of substandard food items and domestic violence against women and children would be presented in the legislative assembly soon.

“I am going to present this bill in the assembly in its next session,” the minister told *The Express Tribune* on November 5. He noted that work in this connection has been done and that lawmakers will refine it. Shakeel also noted that once the bill was passed, those involved in the sale of substandard food items and spurious medicines would be charged and punished accordingly. Similarly, the minister said that the law would also help eliminate domestic violence as well as the violence taking place in schools against students.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/73183/draft-laws-to-be-tabled-in-gblas-next-session/>

### **Shabbir Mir, 'Disaster Resource Centre in Gilgit soon', Tribune, November 7, 2010**

GILGIT: The government is planning to set up a well equipped and modern Disaster Resource Centre in Gilgit to react quickly against natural and manmade disasters, government officials stated on November 6. “The resource centre will help authorities react quickly and timely,” the officials noted. Though the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) already exists in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) it is ill-equipped as it lacks proper human resources to face challenges timely and efficiently.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/73439/disaster-resource-centre-in-gilgit-soon/>

### **Roshan Mughal, 'Departments urged to meet deadlines in Azad Kashmir', Tribune, November 7, 2010**

MUZAFFARABAD: The British Department for International Development (DFID) urged officials of the AJK's earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Departments to meet the deadline set for the completion of rebuilding projects in earthquake-affected areas.

A review meeting on the DFID funded projects was held on November 6 in which Choudhary Liaquat Hussain, Director General State Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction agency (SERRA), briefed a five-member visiting delegation on the progress of DFID-sponsored projects.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/73379/departments-urged-to-meet-deadlines-in-azad-kashmir/>

### **'G-B CM orders scrutiny of public records', Tribune, November 7, 2010**

GILGIT: The records of Public Works Department (PWD) were seized and scrutinised on the orders of Chief Minister Mehdi Shah for corruption and have no mention of contracts given out after July 2010, sources stated on November 6.

Sources further noted that the record seized before July was being scrutinised to ascertain if the charges

were true. Just recently, dozens of government contractors took to the streets for two days to protest against corruption in the department, demanding inquiry into their affairs.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/73607/g-b-cm-orders-scrutiny-of-public-records/>

**'Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry planning international peace moot on Kashmir', Associated Press of Pakistan, November 7, 2010**

LONDON: Former prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and chief of People's Muslim League, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry plans to convene an international peace conference on Kashmir. "In my recent tour of ten European countries as well as USA, I have mooted the proposal with officials, parliamentarians and other stake holders and found their response encouraging," he informed the media persons at the conclusion of his recent month long US and European trips.

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/\\_index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=121415&Itemid=2](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=121415&Itemid=2)

**Roshan Mughal, 'Kashmiri militants plan joint campaign to breach LoC', Tribune, November 8, 2010**

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir-based militant organisations initiated a joint campaign with the support of different politico-religious parties to mobilise the people for an en masse breaching of the Line of Control- the de facto border that separates Indian and Pakistan..

Militant outfits and politico-religious parties have

already stepped up their efforts to mobilise the people for what they call 'an unprecedented' move in the face of continuing Indian atrocities in the region. These parties, including the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Azad Kashmir chapter of PML-N, Muttahida Jihad Council and refugees' organisations believe that the Indian troops would not be able to confront when tens of thousands of people would cross the LoC en masse.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/73934/kashmiri-militants-plan-joint-campaign-to-breach-loc/>

**Shabbir Mir, 'Withdrawal of sedition cases sought' Tribune, November 8, 2010**

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan United Movement (GBUM) on November 7 condemned the sedition charges against residents of Hunza-Nagar and demanded their immediate withdrawal. About a dozen residents of the Hunza-Nagar were charged with sedition after they protested against the government during Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's visit to Hunza in the wake of the Attabad landslide disaster.

"The government has registered sedition cases against the progressive nationalists rights' defenders," Chairperson of GBUM Manzoor Parwana stated. The activists were holding a peaceful rally demanding that relief goods and funds be provided for the victims of the floods and the landslide of Hunza-Gojal, Parwana noted.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/73959/withdrawal-of-sedition-cases-sought/>

# Economic Developments

## **Shabbir Mir, 'Income tax imposed for the first time in G-B', Tribune, November 5, 2010**

GILGIT: People in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) have gotten so rich that the government, it seems, has been 'forced' to levy income tax on them for the first time in the region's history. In a press conference on November 4, government officials showed their pay slips to journalists. The government had deducted 3 per cent of their basic salaries as income tax. However, the tax has not yet been levied on government employees recruited under the federal government.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/72593/income-tax-imposed-for-the-first-time-in-g-b/>

## **Noor Muhammad, 'Taxes important for true governance in Gilgit-Baltistan', Tribune, November 14, 2010**

ISLAMABAD: All over the world governments tax their citizens and use the collected amount for the betterment of society, through investment in development projects. The government of Pakistan has set an ambitious tax revenue target of Rs1.779 trillion for the fiscal year 2010-11, 19 per cent more than the target for 2009-10. Everyone pays taxes every day, directly or indirectly.

Consumers in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) also pay billions of rupees in indirect taxes every year. Whether the amount is spent on the development of G-B, or other regions for that matter, is a different story altogether.

G-B is not taxed directly by the government because, constitutionally, the people of the region are not a part of the country. Since they are not represented in the national legislative bodies, according to the universal principle of 'no taxation without representation', the federal government cannot levy direct taxes in the region.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/77138/taxes-important-for-true-self-governance-in-gilgit-baltistan/>

## **'Cross-LoC trade reaches Rs 70 million', Business Recorder, November 26, 2010**

MIRPUR: Cross-LoC trade between Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) and J&K through Poonch-Rawalakot route this week reached Rs 69.5 million, official sources stated. The permitted items worth Rs 46.2 million have been supplied from Rawlakot to J&K, while the items worth Rs 23.3 million have been traded from Poonch to Azad Kashmir, official sources stated on November 25.

Sources noted said 39 trucks exchanged sides at aitrinote-Chakan-Da-Bagh zero line at the LoC on November 3 as against the quota of 50 trucks a day, 25 from each side. Some 18 trucks reached Rawalakot from Poonch on November 3 carrying coconut and red chilly worth Rs 23.3 million, while from Rawalakot, 21 trucks loaded with almonds, dates and embroidery items worth Rs 46.2 million moved for Poonch, sources added. Parvez Akhter, Trade Facilitation Officer Hajeera, Rawlakot and GM DIC Poonch were present at Taitrinote-Chakan-Da-Bagh crossing point from their respective sides during exchange of the trade.

<http://www.brecorder.com/news/business-and-economy/pakistan/1127780:news.html>

## **Altaf Hamid Rao, 'WAPDA initiates 20 projects to meet water & electricity needs', Pakistan Times, November 27, 2010**

MIRPUR: In view of increasing demand of water and electricity in the country, WAPDA is executing about 20 projects in water and hydropower sectors. This was stated by WAPDA Chairman Shakil Durrani while addressing a delegation of PAF Air War College Karachi, headed by Air Vice Marshal Azher Hassan, at WAPDA House on November 26.

The WAPDA Chairman stated that per-capita availability of water in the country has gone down to an alarming level due to increase in population and

decrease in the existing water storage capacity because of the natural phenomenon of sedimentation in Mangla and Tarbela reservoirs, turning Pakistan into a water-stressed country, noted a press release on November 26. Ours will be water-starved country, if water storage capacity is not developed by constructing new dams, he further added.

<http://www.pakistantimes.net/pt/detail.php?newsId=16708>

### **'Plan chalked out to boost business sector', Business Recorder, November 27, 2010**

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government has chalked out a plan to utilise locally-available raw material for producing finished goods, official sources stated. Meanwhile, the state government was also paying special attention to boost business sector including cottage industries of the state through maximum involvement of local and foreign investors, sources stated on November 26.

The plan is also aimed at generating profit through maximum utilisation of locally-available raw material on business grounds. The AJK government has advised the Azad Kashmir Logging and Sawmills Corporation (AKLASC), forest and industries to utilise maximum resources in this regard. AKLASC has further been directed to expand the functioning of AKLASC mills in the district by producing quality furniture and other wooden products.

<http://www.brecorder.com/news/business-and-economy/pakistan/1128099:news.html>

### **Shabbir Mir, 'Price hike denting PPP's credibility in G-B', Tribune, November 4, 2010**

GILGIT: The effect of the 'bomb' dropped on the masses by the 'people-friendly' and democratically elected government in the shape of a price-hike in petroleum products has been deadly in Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B).

This increase in prices has led to a decrease in the creditability of the PPP government. The joy that

most people had felt after the inception of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has turned into anger, with people now questioning the sincerity of the government towards the people who voted Asif Ali Zardari into power.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/72087/price-hike-denting-ppps-credibility-in-g-b/>

### **Roshan Mughal, 'ERRA releases over Rs1b for AJK reconstruction', Tribune, November 9, 2010**

MUZAFFARABAD: The Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority (Erra) released Rs1.077 billion for the completion of ongoing reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in earthquake-hit areas in Azad Kashmir.

This amount was released to Azad Jammu and Kashmir's (AJK) State Earthquake and Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (Serra) from the Rs5 billion released to Erra by the federal Ministry of Finance. Erra has also released Rs1.5 billion for the Provincial Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority (Perra). Serra has been experiencing a financial crunch since April 2010.

Erra is currently reconstructing 13,000 schemes in quake-hit areas of Azad Kashmir and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, of which over 6,000 have so far been completed. As many as 4,000 projects were delayed because of the shortage of funds.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/74382/erra-releases-over-rs1b-for-ajk-reconstruction/>

### **'Businessmen asked to invest in Azad Kashmir: Attique', Business Recorder, November 8, 2010**

SIALKOT: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan stated that a strategy has been formulated for the promotion of industrial sector on modern lines in Azad Kashmir. The step was being taken for bringing economic stability and prosperity of the people he noted.

Addressing the members of Sialkot Chamber and Industry (SCCI) on November 7, he stressed upon

the members that they should invest in Azad Kashmir and help business community of the area on modern production lines.

The businesspersons of Sialkot could invest in the field of hydel power, windmills, timber, bio-diesel and Kashmiri garments projects he pointed out. Sardar Attique assured the members that investors

would be given incentives for setting up their industrial units in Azad Kashmir he noted.

<http://www.brecorder.com/news/business-and-economy/pakistan/1122394:businessmen-asked-to-invest-in-azad-kashmir-attique.html>

# International Developments

---

## **'Chinese PM to visit Pakistan next month', Dawn, November 13, 2010**

GUANGZHOU: Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao will visit Pakistan next month to “deepen strategic cooperation” and establish a mechanism for formal and structured dialogue to ensure smooth and real time communication on all issues of common interest.

“We are looking forward to establishing contacts between leaderships of the two countries,” Mr Jiabao said here during a meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari on November 12. Two rounds of talks were held first between top officials of the two countries and the second between the two leaders.

The meeting was attended by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Malik Amad Khan, Ambassador Masood Khan, Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Syed Mehdi Shah, Board of Investment Chairman Saleem Mandviwalla and president's spokesman Farhatullah Babar. Mr Babar told reporters that the Chinese premier announced that the second instalment of commodity aid for the flood-affected people in Gilgit-Baltistan would be provided from next week.

<http://www.dawn.com/2010/11/13/chinese-pm-to-visit-pakistan-next-month-2.html>

## **'Chinese extend VIP treatment to Gilgit-Baltistan C.M.', Sri Lanka Guardian, November 13, 2010**

Syed Mehdi Shah, the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), who accompanied President Asif Ali Zardari to Guangdong in China to attend the inaugural function of the 16th Asian Games at Guangzhou, was extended VIP treatment by the Chinese authorities. He is being treated on par with the other members of the Pakistani delegation, which has accompanied Zardari.

He was invited for a welcome banquet hosted by

State Councillor Madam Liu Yangdong for the foreign dignitaries, who have come to participate in the inaugural ceremony of the Asian Games. He was also a member of the Pakistani delegation headed by Zardari which held bilateral talks on Sino-Pakistani relations on November 12, 2010, with a Chinese delegation headed by Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.

The Pakistani media reported that Syed Mehdi Shah would be separately visiting Kashgar in the Chinese-controlled Xinjiang Province, at the head of a 17-member delegation, to attend an international fair on precious stones and explore the possibility of selling precious stones found in G.B in the international market.

<http://www.srilankaguardian.org/2010/11/chinese-extend-vip-treatment-to-gilgit.html>

## **'Azad Kashmir Minister calls for promotion of domestic tourism', Associated Press of Pakistan, November 11, 2010**

LONDON: Stall set up jointly by Azad Kashmir Government, Sarhad Tourism Corporation and Gilgit-Baltistan Tourism attracted lot of attention at the international travel exhibition at Docklands in East London. This is the first time that provincial tourism set-ups have come together to participate in an international travel moot which has drawn over 500 private and official exhibitors from all over the globe in the cavernous halls of the exhibition centre. Azad Kashmir Minister for Tourism, Culture and Archaeology, Tahir Khokhar called for more input both by Federal and provincial authorities into tourism sector and said the scenic spots offer excellent tourist attraction.

[http://app.com.pk/en/\\_index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=121837&Itemid](http://app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=121837&Itemid)

## **'UN removes J&K from list of unresolved issues'**

ISLAMABAD: the omission of Jammu and Kashmir from the list of disputes under the observation of the UN Security Council was noticed

by Pakistan whose envoy has lodged a protest on the move. “Jammu and Kashmir was not mentioned in the context of unresolved long-running situations,” said Amjad Hussain B Sial, Pakistan's Acting envoy to UN. “We understand this was an inadvertent omission, as Jammu and Kashmir is one of the oldest disputes on agenda of the Security Council,”

he added. Sial was speaking at the UN General Assembly session, which was discussing the functioning and reform of the Security Council.

<http://pak-news.net/un-removes-jk-from-list-of-unresolved-issues/>

# Other Developments

---

## **Shabbir Mir, 'Call to promote endangered mountain cultures, languages', Tribune, November 12, 2010**

GILGIT: The cultural heritage of Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B), including its native language Shina, will perish if concrete steps are not taken to conserve it. Shina, Brushasi, Khwar, Wakhi and Balti, spoken in G-B, are among the 3,000 languages identified by Unesco in its red book that are facing extinction in the next 50 years if steps are not taken to preserve them. The general secretary of the Shina Language and Cultural Promotion Society (SLCPS) stated on November 10 that though Shina is widely spoken in G-B, its orthography is not officially recognised. The society aims to make a “breakthrough” in their preservation efforts by launching a recognised orthography of Shina. Ishtiaq Yaad, general secretary of SLCPS, considers this to be their real success. “The orthography of the Shina Language will be launched soon as well as the Mother tongue Literacy Education (MLE) programme, which is meant to promote the writing and speaking of Shina in the region,” he noted. Emphasising the need to safeguard the language and the culture of the region Yaad stated, “We need to have a museum at least to conserve our precious cultural heritage”.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/75995/call-to-promote-endangered-mountain-cultures-languages/>

## **'Bunji bridge yet to be reconstructed', Tribune, November 27, 2010**

GILGIT: Four months on the people of Bunji are still reeling under the impact of the devastating floods that destroyed communication network and bridges, including the Bunji suspension bridge that remains unrepaired. The bridge was swept away by the torrent waters of the Indus in September cutting off the garrison town from rest of the region. Residents of Bunji and other adjacent towns complained that the road and works department of Gilgit-Baltistan has failed to repair the bridge

causing them a lot of inconvenience.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/82469/bunji-bridge-yet-to-be-reconstructed/>

## **Roshan Mughal 'Archeological sites neglected', Tribune, November 29, 2010**

MUZAFFARABAD: Famous archeological sites in Azad Kashmir damaged by devastating earthquake of 2005 are falling apart owing to the government's lax attitude towards its maintenance and up keeping. The Neelum Fort, one of the most popular archeological heritages of Azad Jammu Kashmir, situated along river Neelum in the capital Muzaffarabad, shows the government's indifference towards the preservation of these buildings. The building was severely damaged in the October 2005 earthquake and is yet to be repaired.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/83198/archeological-sites-neglected/>

## **'Gojalis for early distribution of Chinese relief goods', Tribune, November 30, 2010**

GILGIT: As more relief assistance reaches for the people of Gojal upper Hunza, people express their dissatisfaction about the distribution process adopted by the local authorities. Chinese authorities brought the second tranche of relief goods, including coal for the people of Gojal earlier this month. The distribution of the relief goods has been started after the approval of the government, a senior official stated on November 29

Earlier, the disaster-hit people complained about the distribution of the relief items and described it 'unfair' as most families had not received aid yet. “They only give aid to those families who are influential, we have not been given any relief goods as yet,” Saleem Khan, a resident of the Hunza-Nagar District, complained.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/83723/gojalis-for-early-distribution-of-chinese-relief-goods/>

**Roshan Mughal, 'Neelum Valley faced with shortage of food, medicine', Tribune, November 4, 2010**

MUZAFFARABAD: Thousands of flood victims in Neelum Valley are currently faced with a shortage of food and medicine owing to the non-reconstruction of dozens of link roads that had been washed away by the floods.

The northern valley, also hit the worst by shelling from India, now faces the austere threat of power shortage as the water channel which transfers 32 megawatts of electricity from the Jagran hydro electric station was washed away in the floods. The flood also inundated several roads linking remote villages to main towns along the main road, which had the chance of being restored several weeks after the floods.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/72239/neelum-valley-faced-with-shortage-of-food-medicine/>

**Shabbir Mir, 'NGO in court for 'child trafficking', Tribune, November 4, 2010**

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan Supreme Appellate Court on November 3 took strong exception to a Gilgit-based NGO Sina Health and Welfare society accused of sending nearly 50 children abroad for adoption over the years without fulfilling legal formalities. The children were sent without birth certificates. The two-member bench, comprising Chief Judge Justice Nawaz Abbasi and Justice Mohammad Yaqoob, heard the suo motu case that was brought to the court's notice by the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra).

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/72238/ngo-in-court-for-child-trafficking/>

# Fact sheet on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

Total area of Jammu and Kashmir	222,236 sq kms
Area of under illegal Pakistani occupation (PoK = AJK + Gilgit Baltistan)	78114 sq kilometres
Area of J&K under Chinese occupation <i>Area ceded to China by Pakistan</i>	42,685 sq kms 5,130 sq kms
Together Pak-China	120,799 sq kms
Area with India	101437 sq kms

**Administrative Divisions:** Two, namely Mirpur-Muzaffarabad (referred to as Azad Jammu & Kashmir or AJK by Pakistan) and Federally Administered Gilgit-Baltistan (FAGB).

**Area ceded to China by Pakistan:** 5180 sq. kilometres (Area of Shaksgam Valley)

(Source: Jammu & Kashmir Government website at <http://www.jammukashmir.nic.in/>, accessed on November 14,, 010)

## Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)

**Area:** 13,297 square km

**Population:** 2.973 million (1998 population census), Male, 1.850 million; Female, 1.832 million

**Capital:** Muzaffarabad

**Kashmir** (Muzaffarabad Division) comprises of 3 districts: Bagh, Muzaffarabad and Neelum, Hattian

**Jammu** (Mirpur Division) comprising of 5 districts: Bhimber, Kotli, Mirpur, Sudhnati/Pallandari and Rawalakot/Poonch, Haveli

**President:** Raja Zulqarnain Khan

**Prime Minister:** Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan

**AJK Council:** Total 12 members

**AJK Legislative Assembly:** Total seats are 49

**Ethnic Groups:** Gujjars, Jats, Mughal, Rajputs, Sudhan, Awan, Qureshi, Pashtuns, Shins, Ladakhi, Baltis etc.

**Religious Groups:** Sunni, Ahlehadith, Shia, Nurbakhshi, Christians, Qadianis, Hindus

**Languages:** Punjabi, Hindko, Pahari, Kashmiri, Balti, Puriki, Shina

**Political Parties and Groups:** United Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' National Party, AJK Muslim Conference, International Kashmir Alliance, JK National Party, Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (Amanullah), Peoples United Action Committee, All Parties National Alliance (APNA)

(Source: Azad Jammu & Kashmir Government website at <http://www. www.ajk.gov.pk/>, accessed on November 14, 2010)

## Gilgit-Baltistan

**Area:** 72,496 sq. kilometers

**Population:** 870,347 (1998 population census)

**Capital:** Gilgit

**Districts:** Seven

**Baltistan** Region (part of Ladakh) is divided into Ghanche and Skardu districts

**Gilgit** Region is divided into Astore, Diamer, Ghizer, Hunza-Nagar and Gilgit districts

**Ethnic Groups:** Shin, Balti, Puriki, Ladakhi, Wakhi, Yashkun, Tibetan, Mongol, Tatar, Mon, Pashtun, Khowar, Dom, Gujjar, Rajput and Kashmiri

**Religious Groups:** Shia (Twelvers), Nurbakhshi (Twelvers), Ismaili, Sunni, and Ahlehadith

**Languages:** Shina, Balti, Wakhi, Khowar, Gujjari, Burushaski, Puriki, Kashmiri, Pashto

**Gilgit-Baltistan Council:** Total 15 members

**Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Council:** 24 members directly elected

**Governor of G-B:** Wazir Baig (officiating)

**Chief Minister G-B:** Syed Mehdi Shah of Skardu district.

**Political Parties and Groups:** Balwaristan National Front (BNF), Gilgit-Baltistan Thinkers Forum, Gilgit-Baltistan, United Movement (GBUM), Baltistan National Movement, Karakoram National Movement, Gilgit Baltistan Democratic Alliance (GBDA), Gilgit Baltistan National Alliance (GBNA), All Parties National Alliance (APNA)

(Sources: Jammu & Kashmir Government website at <http://www.gilgitbaltistan.gov.pk>, & website of the Balwaristan National Front, <http://www.balawaristan.net>, accessed on November 14, 2010)

**Disclaimer**

*PoK 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 as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit Baltistan' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been abridged to provide clarity. IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.*

# POK NEWS DIGEST



***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](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [lbscidsa@gmail.com](mailto:lbscidsa@gmail.com)