

# POK NEWS DIGEST

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Compiled & Edited

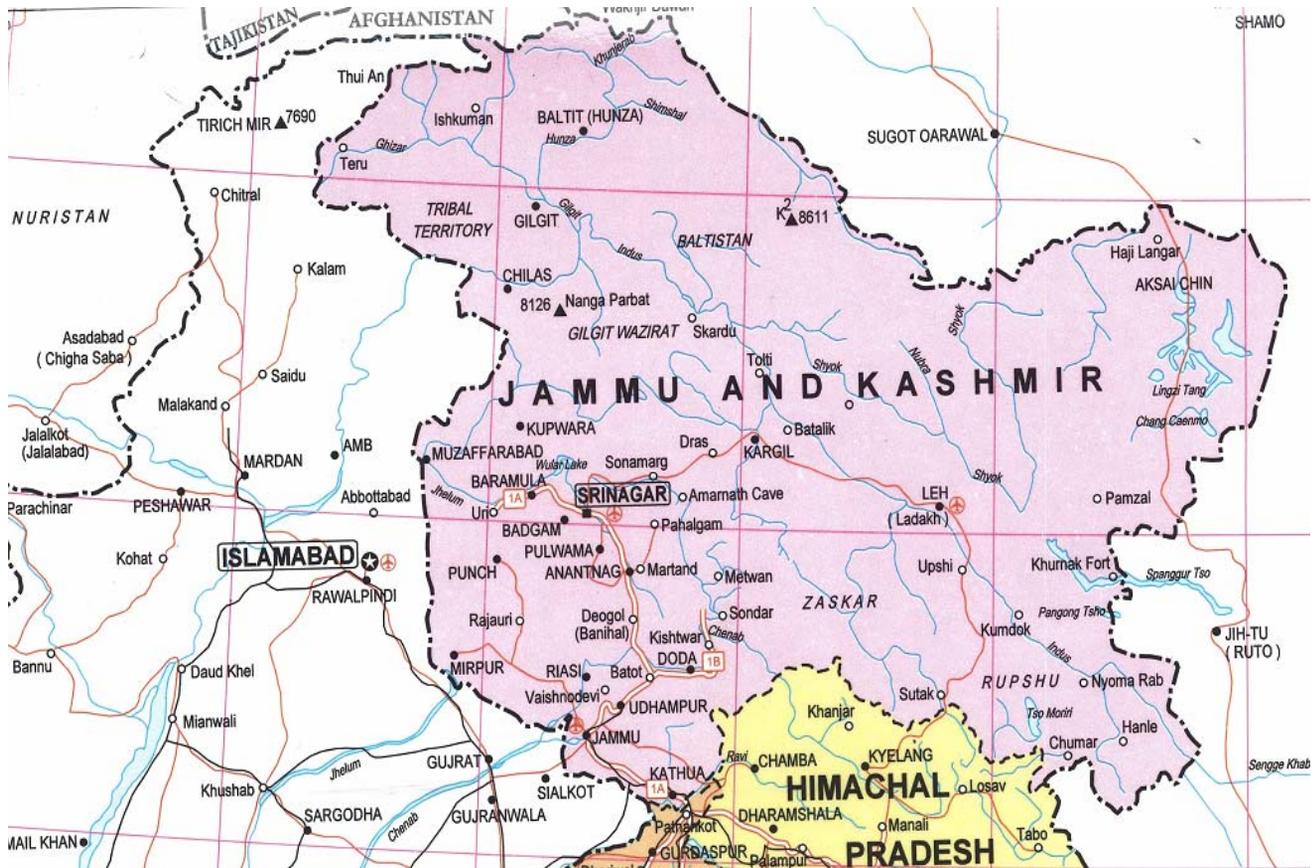
by

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## Jammu & Kashmir

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

## About this Issue

*A congregation of militants was held in Muzaffarabad in the first week of February. Apart from prominent terrorists from the Jamaat ud Dawa (JuD) and the Lashker, former chief of the ISI, Hamid Gul was present on the occasion. The nexus between the ISI and these militant groups operating against India is not a new piece of information. However, the audacity with which such groups hold meetings in places under Pakistan's control reiterates that they have full blessings not only of the army and intelligence agencies but also of the civilian government. How could a fully functional democratically elected government dissociate itself from supporting militancy if such events occur in broad daylight?*

*There is a great deal of unrest in PoK over the highhandedness of authorities. The government of Pakistan is paying little heed to the concerns of the local population on construction of the Diamer Bhasha dam. The indifference has forced people to come out on streets. The police opened fire on the protesters and at least 3 people were killed leaving several injured. There were dissenting voices in the National Assembly of Pakistan over indiscriminate firing on the protesters in Chilas. As a cover up, the government ordered a judicial enquiry into the incident and announced compensation for the dead.*

*In AJK, the Chinese New Year was celebrated in the presence of the Pakistan's Interior Minister Rehman Malik, the prime minister of AJK, Sardar Farooq Haider and the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Luo Zhoahui, as is stated in one of the reports. Chinese workers involved in a mega energy project in PoK were present on the occasion. Besides, the Pakistani establishment is in the process of sprucing up the security measures for the Chinese workers in PoK.*

**Priyanka Singh**

## **Pakistan's High-handedness in the case of Diamer Dam Dispute**

*Senge Hasnan Sering\**

It was May 1977 and the people of Shinaki-Kohistan, part of Gilgit-Baltistan under Pakistani occupation, were demanding royalty and compensation for loss of their land and resources towards the construction of the Karakoram Highway. As part of their rights' campaign, they demonstrated in front of the make-shift camps, where around 1,500 Chinese and 1,200 Pakistani construction workers were residing. The authorities responded by employing jetfighters to bombard the villages killing an unknown number of people. The message was clear: local rights are secondary to Pakistan's strategic needs.

On February 18, 2010, Pakistani security forces opened fire at the demonstrators of Diamer district of Gilgit-Baltistan, killing three and injuring seven. Like the people of Shinaki-Kohistan, they were demanding royalty and compensation for the loss of their land and resources for the construction of Pakistan's Diamer Dam. The message this time was: government's high-handed policy to address Pakistan's strategic and economic needs will continue even if it comes at the cost of land, resources and people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

A stern reaction to innocent deaths in Diamer came from the people of Gilgit, as thousands poured on the streets, declaring war on Pakistani regime and condemning the brutality and illegal occupation. They burnt government buildings and vehicles and held traffic on the Karakoram highway for several hours. Members of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly and President of Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GBCCI) joined the protestors and declared solidarity with the residents of Diamer.

Diamer Dam is a water storage facility which will benefit Punjab rather than the local people. The dam will inundate large parts of Diamer destroying local cultural base, social identity, livelihoods, and the ecosystem. The demands of the people of Diamer are reasonable, which include market-rate

compensation for land loss, payment of royalty, preference to locals for jobs, and demarcation of the boundary between Pakistan and Gilgit-Baltistan before the full-fledged initiation of the project. As many deadlines have passed, government still refuses to pay any heed to these demands and brutally suppresses their voice. Even the promulgation of the so-called self-governance and empowerment package has failed to provide solace in this regard, which is rather a tool to tighten government control over local resources. Locals claim royalty over their rivers and other water bodies which benefit Pakistan. They claim that while they are denied such royalties and user compensation over water resources; federal government pays 6 billion rupees annually to NWFP for River Indus; the same river which flows through Gilgit-Baltistan for a distance of 900 kilometers but fails to attract any monetary benefit for the locals. They argue that since Gilgit-Baltistan lacks membership in the national institutions like Indus River System Authority (IRSA) and National Hydro-electric Board (NHEB), they lack the ability to protect their resources from Pakistan's exploitation.

Pakistan is adamant to sustain the occupation of Gilgit-Baltistan. The venture has been extremely profitable, since it allows generating billions of dollars worth of revenues from local resources, but without being answerable to the locals; paying any usage compensation; and granting political and judicial rights to the inhabitants. It is this incentive that is compelling Pakistan to pursue time-tested tactics of divide and rule by provoking sectarianism rather than listening to the just demands of the people of Diamer. For instance, just two days after the Diamer incident, a bomb was hurled at a Shia mosque in Gilgit city injuring five people.<sup>1</sup> This is happening at a time, when the people of Gilgit-Baltistan belonging to all shades of ethnicity and religion are uniting on a single platform to demand their political rights and control over their resource. Such a strategy may not succeed this time since locals are sending clear message that Diamer Dam issue is not an issue of one district, but affects the entire region. Further, they also impress upon Pakistan that the right

of the locals should be the priority when it comes to using the resources of Gilgit-Baltistan. However, such an achievement may only come after Pakistan withdraws from Gilgit-Baltistan and transfers its civil administration and control over resources to the locals.

### **Endnotes**

- 1 [http://www.samaa.tv/News17247-Hand\\_grenade\\_attack\\_at\\_Gilgits\\_Mosque.aspx](http://www.samaa.tv/News17247-Hand_grenade_attack_at_Gilgits_Mosque.aspx)

\* *The Author is Visiting Fellow at IDSA. The views expressed are his personal and not that of IDSA.*

# Political Developments

## **‘JuD holds Terror Meet in Muzaffarabad, PoK’,**

*February 4, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: The Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) held a conference of extremist groups at Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to express “solidarity” on the Kashmir issue. The latest development yet again proved that anti-India activities are still going on in Pakistani soil.

It was the first-ever major conference of jihadi elements after 26/11 Mumbai attacks. The ‘Yakjaiti-e-Kashmir’ (Kashmir Solidarity) conference was organised by JuD, which is said to be front organisation of banned Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). According to Pakistani media reports, JuD chief Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen commander Syed Salahuddin, Jamaat leader Abdul Rehman Makki and former ISI chief Hamid Gul attended the terror meet. The militants leaders reportedly agreed to support the jihadi cause in Kashmir. They also concluded that any dialogue with the Indian government on Kashmir issue would be futile and jihad is the only option left to attain freedom, sources stated.

<http://www.breakingnewsonline.net/regional/676-jud-holds-terror-meet-in-muzaffarabad-pok.html>

## **‘Pakistani terror groups raise jihad slogan at POK rally’,**

*IANS, February 5, 2010*

MUZAFFARABAD/NEW DELHI: The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) jihadi outfit through its banned frontal organisation the Jama’at-ud-Dawaah (JuD) on February 4 vowed to revert to the “Kashmir freedom cause” and continue supporting a separatist campaign in the insurgency-riven state of Jammu and Kashmir. It was announced at an anti-India jihadi rally organised to express “solidarity with Kashmir” in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) by the JuD, where United Jihad Council chief Syed Salahuddin said they would settle for “nothing less than complete freedom of Kashmir from India”.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/pakistani-terror-groups-raise-jihad-slogan-at-pok-rally/109682-2.html>

## **‘AJK is Indian territory, says Chidambaram’,**

*Daily Times, February 12, 2010*

NEW DELHI: Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram said on February 11 Azad Kashmir is an Indian territory and “we should facilitate the return of Kashmiris who have crossed over the Line of Control (LoC) for some reasons”. Talking to media persons, he confirmed an amnesty scheme for militants who had gone to Azad Kashmir and stated India was ready to “welcome” them if they are ready to return after giving up militancy. “The idea is accepted... This idea must now be translated into a scheme,” he noted. Sources said that at least 800 “militants stranded across the LoC have conveyed their desire to surrender” through their relatives.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C12%5Cstory\\_12-2-2010\\_pg1\\_6](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C12%5Cstory_12-2-2010_pg1_6)

## **Dr Shabir Choudhry, ‘Pakistan army harass Deputy Commissioner in Azad Kashmir’,**

*February 6, 2010*

Once again Pakistan army has demonstrated that they are the real masters of Kashmiri territory under their control; and that they are not accountable to anyone for their actions. It is they who call shots in this region and there is no law which is applicable to them. Pakistan army behaves like an army of occupation although at times they try to pretend to be ‘defenders’ of this territory. They commit human rights abuses and are never held accountable for anything; because unlike on the other side of Line of Control where every human rights abuse is reported and flashed in media, no one even dares to report anything against Pakistani soldiers on this side of the LOC.

[http://australia.to/2010/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=959:pakistan-army-harass-deputy-commissioner-in-azad-kashmir&catid=103:dr-shabir-choudhry&Itemid=140](http://australia.to/2010/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=959:pakistan-army-harass-deputy-commissioner-in-azad-kashmir&catid=103:dr-shabir-choudhry&Itemid=140)

## **Abbas Ali, 'Hunza is Sinking but Government of Pakistan is Ignorant',**

*Gilgit Baltistan Times, February 28, 2010*

One of the most important bridges on Karakoram Highway (KKH) that links Pakistan with China, the Shishkat Bridge submerged into the Lake on Hunza River after two months of Attabad Disaster which has blocked the fast flowing Hunza River. It was second longest bridge on Karakoram Highway and first being the Danyour Bridge. Because of submerging of the bridge, the settlements of Shishkat and Ayeenabad have turned into islands as they have lost any dry land connections with the rest of the world.

There are acute problems facing the people of Upper-Hunza (Gojal) in general and people in Shishkat and Ayeenabad in particular as their lands, homes and all sort of property (Orchards, agricultural fields) which they established over centuries in harsh condition have been lost. It has destroyed their economy, health facilities, schools and trade opportunities. Consequently, they are completely dependent on outside help and support for survival.

<http://gbtimes.wordpress.com/2010/02/28/news-hunza-is-sinking-but-govenment-of-pakistan-is-ignorent/>

## **'AJK Govt to launch rescue 1122 like service: Farooq',**

*Balochistan Times, February 18, 2010*

LAHORE: Prime Minister Azad Jammu & Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan stated that a facility like Rescue 1122 will be launched in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, initially in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur. An independent Rescue, Fire and Ambulance Services would be established in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur with the technical cooperation of PESAPESA Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia.

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/AJK+Govt+to+launch+rescue+1122+like+service:+Farooq.-a0219333067>

## **Press Release: Muzaffarabad, February 16, 2010**

The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan took strict notice of the defective construction of Muzaffarabad to

Chakothi Road and ordered the concerned department to present him a detailed report about the faulty construction of this road. The Prime Minister further noted, "My Government will not compromise on the defective construction of roads. The drainage must be constructed on both sides of the road or at least on one side of the road. Roads are being destroyed due to lack of proper drainage system. The collapse of supporting walls and erosion of coal tar after first rain provides evidence of substandard construction by FWO and NHA.

<http://www.pmajk.gov.pk/press%20release2.asp?id=171>

## **Marvi Memon, 'Diamir Dam letter to PM H.E. Honorable Prime Minister Islamic Republic of Pakistan',**

*Subject: Request to revisit Ministerial Committee formed on Diamer Dam, February 24, 2010*

In the May 14, 2009 meeting of PML delegation which called on you headed by myself, you had committed that Gilgit-Baltistan parliamentarians would be part of the Gilgit-Baltistan committee for Diamer Dam compensation and net hydel profit. It seems that the current committee has 5 Federal Ministers, 2 bureaucrats and 1 representative from Gilgit-Baltistan. We take exception to your Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan ignoring your May 2009 commitment. We would request you to include Gilgit-Baltistan legislators including representatives from each party based on party numerical representation in Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly.

<http://marvimemon.wordpress.com/2010/02/24/diamir-dam-letter-to-pm/>

## **'More autonomy for AJK', Pakistan Observer**

President of the AJK ruling Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan pointed out that the internal autonomy of the AJK is inviolable. Speaking at a reception of the overseas Pakistanis/Kashmiris in Dubai, he said except foreign affairs, currency, and defence, Azad Kashmir has had the privilege of managing its affairs autonomously.

Sardar Attique heads a Party, which is known for its pro-Pakistan credentials and, therefore, his cautious

remarks are understandable. Otherwise, being a former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, he must be fully aware of the existing arrangement and undue interference in the internal affairs of the state by the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs. It was only after the change of the Government in Islamabad that a coup was engineered by the then Minister for Kashmir Affairs and some of his colleagues, at the behest of the top PPP leadership as a result of which Sardar Attique had to forego power. No doubt, the Muslim Conference has regained his power but the basic question of the role of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs remains there. After grant of substantial autonomy to Gilgit-Baltistan, which now has its own Governor and Chief Minister, there is hardly any reason not to grant more internal autonomy to AJK.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=17157>

### **‘UPA to give amnesty for Kashmiri terrorists from PoK’,**

*February 28, 2010*

The Centre is willing to grant amnesty to Kashmiri militants in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) who want to denounce militancy and join the mainstream, stated Home Minister Shri P Chidambaram. “The idea of granting amnesty to Kashmiri youth in PoK has been accepted. The idea must be translated into action,” Shri Chidambaram further noted. The Home Minister said that the government will hold consultation with various political parties about the return of the militants. “Those Indians who had crossed over to PoK and now wish to return to India are certainly welcome,” Shri Chidambaram stated.

<http://www.organiser.org/dynamic/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=333&page=28>

### **‘Abbas Ali Resistance to Bhasha dam’,**

*Gilgit Baltistan Times, February 8, 2010*

Pakistan is currently facing acute shortage of water including reduced outflow of water from Tarbela Dam which is adversely affecting the agriculture sector. According to estimates, shortage during the Rabi crop could go up to 35 to 40 per cent. People are already

facing worst ever high prices of flour, rice and sugar which are the basic necessities of the population including 35 per cent extremely poor who can hardly afford to buy them. Experts say that in order to overcome the shortage of water the requirement is to build a Tarbela-type dam (world’s largest rock filled dam) after every seven years. But since 1976, the year Tarbela dam was built; Pakistan has not been able to construct even a single major dam due to political discord among the provinces over Kalabagh dam and lack of visionary leadership.

<http://gbtimes.wordpress.com/2010/02/08/resistance-to-bhasha-dam/>

### **‘Govt attaches top priority to AJK uplift: President’,**

*February 11, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari said that the government attaches high priority to the development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Zardari was speaking to a delegation of Azad Kashmir, who called on the President at Aiwan-e-Sadr on February 11. The delegation comprised of Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Chaudhry Abdul Majid, Latif Akbar and Ghulam Sadiq.

<http://www.geo.tv/2-11-2010/59034.htm>

### **‘34,000 families are affected by Diامر Bhasha Dam, Hope for Compensation after the recent barbaric police shooting’,**

*Dardistan Times, February 20, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: On the heels of a tragedy during a rally of Diامر-Bhasha dam affectees on February 18, the government summoned a crucial meeting on February 23 to thrash out a compensation package for the proposed dam’s affectees. Sources stated that Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani had taken exception to the firing incident and asked Federal Minister for Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs Mian Manzoor Wattoo to hold a meeting to finalise a compensation package for the affectees.

<http://dardistannews.wordpress.com/2010/02/20/34000-families-are-affected-by-diامر-bhash-dam-hopes-for-compensations-after-the-recent-barbaric-police-shooting/>

## **Shabbir Ahmed Mir, ‘Prosperity in Gilgit Baltistan, says Mehdi Shah’,**

*Hunza Times, February 14, 2010*

GILGIT: In order to put Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) faltering economy on track, the GB Chief Minister Mehdi Shah February 13 unfolded priorities of his government that he believed would usher the region into prosperity. “As a first step we will soon be holding a mega business conference in Gilgit, participants of which will be coming from all the four provinces,” he stated while addressing a ceremony organised by the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) in his honour. The participants would see themselves the existing conditions and opportunities prevalent in the region that has immense potential for tourism and mining sector, he further added.

<http://www.hunzetimes.com/archives/4419>

## **‘Cop injured in attack on Gilgit mosque’,**

*The Nation, February 22, 2010*

GILGIT: A policeman was injured in a terrorist attack on Zain-ul-Aabideen mosque situated at Airport Road in Gilgit on February 21, said a senior police official.

The policeman Fida Hussain, guarding the mosque, was wounded when a terrorist opened indiscriminate firing. When the policeman retaliated, the terrorist hurled a hand grenade and escaped.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/22-Feb-2010/Cop-injured-in-attack-on-Gilgit-mosque>

## **‘Bus service to PoK resumes after 3 weeks’,**

*Press Trust of India, February 25, 2010*

SRINAGAR: Weekly bus service between the city and Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir resumed after remaining suspended for three weeks due to landslides, official sources noted. Forty four passengers from both the sides of the Line of Control crossed the border. Nineteen passengers - ten fresh and nine returnees - crossed over to Muzaffarabad from J&K while 25 - 19 returnees and six fresh - came to this side from PoK, they stated. The bus service was suspended since February 11 due to road

blockades following landslides triggered by heavy snowfall in early February at several places along the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road.

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/536790\\_Bus-service-to-PoK-resumes-after-3-weeks](http://www.ptinews.com/news/536790_Bus-service-to-PoK-resumes-after-3-weeks)

## **‘Truck services resume between PoK, Kashmir’,**

*Press Trust of India, February 23, 2010*

SRINAGAR: After remaining suspended for three weeks due to blockade of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road, truck service between J&K and Pakistan occupied Kashmir resumed with a variety of items exchanged near the line of Control (LOC). While 54 trucks loaded with dry fruits and chillies crossed the line of Control (LOC) into Muzaffarabad from this side, 50 trucks came from across the border and unloaded vegetables and dry fruits at Salamabad in Uri sector, official sources noted.

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/533118\\_Truck-services-resume-between-PoK-Kashmir](http://www.ptinews.com/news/533118_Truck-services-resume-between-PoK-Kashmir)

## **‘Chidambaram has offered to streamline cross LoC trade: PDP’**

SRINAGAR: The PDP today said Union home minister P Chidambaram has assured the party leadership of taking steps to streamline the cross LoC trade in Jammu and Kashmir. The assurance came during a meeting between Chidambaram and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti in New Delhi. It was also assured that adequate banking facilities would be set up to facilitate trade, a PDP release stated.

[http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report\\_chidambaram-has-offered-to-streamline-cross-loc-trade-pdp\\_1350453](http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report_chidambaram-has-offered-to-streamline-cross-loc-trade-pdp_1350453)

## **‘Women in Gilgit Protest Atrocities of Pakistani Army’,**

*Kashmir News, February 20, 2010*

GILGIT: The women of Gilgit Baltistan, who seldom come out of their houses, have now become the face of protests against Islamabad’s oppressive rule and the military’s high handedness in the region.

<http://blog.travel-culture.com/2010/02/20/kashmir-news-women-in-gilgit-protest-atrocities-of-pakistani-army/>

## **‘Dam troubles ’,**

*The News, February 20, 2010*

Although only in its very early stages, the building of Bhasha dam appears fraught with difficulty, death and disruption. The police fired on protesters in Chilas who were angry at the way in which those affected by the building of the new – and essential – dam were being treated. They were demanding a share of the royalties generated by the dam, an increase in the compensation awarded to them and resolution of the border dispute between Gilgit-Baltistan and NWFP. Two protesters died in the firing, others were injured and the local population displayed their displeasure by burning down the offices of the assistant commissioner, the superintendent of police and two police checkpoints. They also burned government vehicles and blocked Karakoram Highway in both directions for several hours – and all this before work on the dam has got into top gear. Paramilitary forces and police reinforcements have been sent to ‘stabilise’ the situation.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=225218](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=225218)

## **‘Diamer Bhasha Dam project affectees’ demands to be accepted: Kaira’,**

*Associated Press of Pakistan, February 18, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on February 18 assured the affectees of Diamer Bhasha Dam project that all their genuine compensation demands would be accepted by the government. The Minister stated while speaking after the unfortunate incident resulting in death of two persons and injuries to as many people during a protest at Chilas. The Governor Gilgit-Baltistan assured the people that strict action would be taken against persons responsible for the incident.

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=96686&Itemid=1](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96686&Itemid=1)

## **‘Gilgit-Baltistan soon to have OPF office’,**

*The News, February 19, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Government will establish Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) office in Gilgit-Baltistan

soon to facilitate the expatriates and their families. Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar stated this on February 18 while addressing a meeting with the elders of Gilgit-Baltistan. Over 20 member delegation headed by Haji Abdul Aziz apprised the minister about the major problems of the areas and appealed for the early resolution of such problems.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=225019>

## **‘Police opened fire at Bhasha Dam protesters, 3 killed, 4 injured’,**

*Gilgit Baltistan Tribune, February 19, 2010*

CHILAS: Three persons were killed and four others injured when police opened fire at a protest rally of Diamer Bhasha Dam affectee at the district headquarters Chilas. Affectees of Diamer Bhasha Dam held a protest demonstration in Chilas for the fulfillment of their demands regarding the land compensation and their rehabilitation. Hundreds of enraged protestors turned violent when they reached near the hostel of WAPDA officials working on the dam project and attacked the hostel, which led to a clash between the protestors and police. The police baton charged the stones pelting protestors and later opened fire at them, which killed two persons and injured four others.

<http://gbtribune.blogspot.com/2010/02/police-opened-fire-at-bhasha-dam.html>

## **‘PM announces compensation for Chilas police firing victims’,**

*Associated Press of Pakistan, February 18, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on February 18 announced payment Rs 500,000 for each person who was killed in police firing in Chilas during a protest demonstration held for compensation of land falling under Diamer Bhasha Dam. A judicial inquiry is already underway on the issue,” said the Prime Minister while responding to the points of order raised by members in the National Assembly.

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=96723&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96723&Itemid=2)

## **Amir Wasim, ‘National Assembly session marred by protests,’**

*Dawn, February 19, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly tried to return to its main legislation job on February 18 and adopted three bills, but the session was dominated by angry speeches from all sides on what some lawmakers called “unjustified” use of force against “innocent people” in Chilas and Bajaur Agency.

Members from both the treasury and opposition benches condemned the incident in which two people were killed and several others injured when police opened fire on a procession in Chilas in Gilgit-Baltistan. They were demanding an increase in compensation for their land being acquired for Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/19-na-session-marred-by-protests-920-hh-02>

## **Sayed Abid Hussain, ‘AJK may not allow WAPDA to fill Mangla Dam’,**

*The News, February 19, 2010*

MIRPUR: The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has decided not to allow Water and Power Development Authority to fill Mangla Dam up to its new capacity until the issues related to the relocation of affected persons and allocation of water are not resolved.

Government of Pakistan’s reluctance to allocate 614 cusecs of water from Mangla Dam to the AJK may put off raising the water level in the dam next summer causing annual loss of Rs18 billion to WAPDA. The delay in rehabilitation of persons affected by the Mangla Dam raising project is already increasing mistrust between the affectees and Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan is dilly-dallying on the allocation of drinking and irrigation water for areas developed for the people evicted from their ancestral homes to accommodate the increase in Mangla Dam capacity not for the AJK but for enhancing water and power supply to Pakistan.

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/print1.asp?id=225005>

## **Masood Rehman, ‘AJK Council to resolve judicial crisis there, SC told’,**

*Daily Times, February 18, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General Anwar Mansoor told the Supreme Court on February 17 that a meeting of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Council would be convened to resolve the “judicial crisis” in AJK. A three-member Supreme Court bench of Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, Justice Chaudhry Ijaz Ahmed and Justice Ghulam Rabbani was heard identical petitions against the appointment of the AJK chief justice. Appearing on notice, Attorney General Mansoor asked the court for some time to present the government’s stance on the issue, as the matter was to be discussed in an AJK Council meeting.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C18%5Cstory\\_18-2-2010\\_pg7\\_3](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C18%5Cstory_18-2-2010_pg7_3)

## **Ahmad Faruqui, ‘View from Pakistan: How ‘Azaad’ Is ‘Azaad Kashmir’?’,**

*Outlook, February 16, 2010*

‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) in Pakistan was supposed to serve as a ‘model state’ whose ‘liberty and freedom’. What happened? AJK was created within two months of Pakistan’s independence with high expectations. Nestled in the mountainous western region that abuts the vale of Kashmir, it forms an archer’s bow that is about 100 miles long and about 20-40 miles wide.

The Pakistani security elite hoped that an arrow fired from the bow would bring about the instant liberation of the vale of Kashmir from Indian control. The first arrow was fired almost within days of creation. It plunged the entire region of Kashmir into armed conflict. Fourteen months later, a ceasefire sponsored by the United Nations took effect on Jan 1, 1949. The ceasefire line remained stationary despite several attempts to move it. But after the 1971 war which saw the secession of East Pakistan, it was renamed the Line-of-Control (LoC). That militaristic designation persists to this day since the line which separates the two Kashmirs has not been formalised as an international border.

<http://outlookindia.com/article.aspx?264306>

## **‘SC can rule on AJK CJ’s appointment: govt’,**

*Dawn, February 17, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General Anwar Mansoor told the Supreme Court on February 16 that it had the jurisdiction to rule on a dispute relating to the appointment of the AJK chief justice. In July 2009, his predecessor Sardar Latif Khan Khosa had taken a diametrically opposed view before the apex court that it lacked jurisdiction to decide matters relating to the appointment of AJK judges because it was a sovereign state having its own president, prime minister, legislative assembly and speaker.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/06-sc-can-rule-on-ajk-cjs-appointment-govt-720-rs-04>

## **‘Women in Gilgit Protest Atrocities of Pakistani Army’,**

*ANI, February 16, 2010*

GILGIT: The women of Gilgit Baltistan, who seldom come out of their houses, have now become the face of protests against Islamabad’s oppressive rule and the military’s high handedness in the region.

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/139/20100216/808/tnl-women-in-gilgit-protest-atrocities-o.html>

## **‘Pak govt. yet to pay promised funds to Gilgit Baltistan’,**

*ANI, February 13, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government is yet to pay the promised five billion rupees to the Gilgit-Baltistan government to run its affairs, officials have said. It pertinent to mention here that the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) government pledged to give the above mentioned amount to the Gilgit Baltistan administration following the promulgation of the Empowerment and Self-Governance Order in 2009. “The amount was part of a transition plan so that the new order could be implemented in letter and spirit,” a senior administrative official said on conditions of anonymity.

<http://balawaristantimes.blogspot.com/2010/02/pak-govt-yet-to-pay-promised-funds-to.html>

## **Tariq Naqash, ‘Kashmiri refugees in PaK flay surrender policy’,**

*Rising Kashmir, February 15, 2010*

MUZAFFARABAD: Refugees from this part of Kashmir residing in Pakistan administered Kashmir have dismissed the surrender policy pursued by J&K Government and New Delhi as a “new trap”. On February 11, Home Minister, P Chidambaram said the Indian government was ready to welcome Kashmiris who had crossed over to PaK if they were ready to return after giving up militancy. “Nearly 35,000 Kashmiri refugees of 1990 and onwards strongly condemn and reject all such announcements by the Indian government,” said a written statement read out by a refugee leader Uzair Ghizali during an interaction of a group of Kashmiri migrants with media in Muzaffarabad on February 15.

[http://www.risingkashmir.com/?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=20805](http://www.risingkashmir.com/?option=com_content&task=view&id=20805)

## **‘Plan afoot to revive sick units’,**

*Pakistan Observer*

MIRPUR: The AJK government has worked out a plan to revive of dozens of sick industrial units located in various parts of AJK including Mirpur, Bhimbher and Kotli districts, official sources stated. The plan was approved in a high level meeting chaired by AJK minister for commerce and industries and attended among others by senior officials of the state industries department and representatives of the local business fraternity, sources further stated. They said that the government would extend latest facilities to the existing and upcoming investors in the trade and industrial sectors in AJK.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=15537>

## **Tariq Naqash, ‘Major security plan on anvil for protection of foreigners in PaK’,**

*Rising Kashmir, February 14, 2010*

MUZAFFARABAD: A comprehensive security plan for the protection of foreigners, particularly the Chinese, executing mega development projects in Pakistan administered Kashmir will be devised within three weeks in consultation with the PaK government,

Wapda and the concerned construction companies, Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider stated on February 14. He was talking to journalists on his return from Chattar Klas, some 20 kilometres south of here along Muzaffarabad-Kohala road, where Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik, Chairman Wapda Shakil Durrani and Chinese ambassador to Pakistan had arrived to have firsthand knowledge of the pace of construction work, security plan as well as problems of the families affected by the execution of Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project (NJHP).

[http://www.risingkashmir.com/  
?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=20784](http://www.risingkashmir.com/?option=com_content&task=view&id=20784)

### **‘Chinese New Year celebrated’,**

*Associated Press of Pakistan, February 14, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Senator A. Rehman Malik along with AJK Prime Minister Sardar Farooq Haider and Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhoahui visited Chalas Chattar AJK to celebrate Chinese New Year with Chinese workers working on the largest Mega Energy Project. According to a press release, the Project Director briefed about the progress achieved on the largest mega Energy Project.

[http://www.app.com.pk/en/  
index.php?option=com\\_content  
&task=view&id=96370&Itemid=1](http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96370&Itemid=1)

### **‘Kashmir is jugular vein of Pakistan: Zulqarnain’,**

*The Nation, February 12, 2010*

LAHORE: Kashmiris have no idea of the present Kashmir Policy of the Pakistan Government as not a single Kashmiri has been included in the Standing Committee on Kashmir in the Senate, said President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Zulqarnain while addressing Nazria Pakistan Conference on February 11 at Aiwan-e-Karkunan Tehreek-e-Pakistan. Raja Zulqarnain noted Kashmir is jugular vein of Pakistan and the future of Kashmiris is attached with Pakistan.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Lahore/12-Feb-2010/Kashmir-is-jugular-vein-of-Pakistan-Zulqarnain>

### **‘Govt attaches top priority to AJK uplift: President’,**

*The News, February 11, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has said that the government attaches high priority to the development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. This he said, while speaking to a delegation of Azad Kashmir, who called on the President at Aiwan-e-Sadr February 11. The delegation comprised of Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Chaudhry Abdul Majid, Latif Akbar and Ghulam Sadiq. On this occasion, President Zardari issued directives for timely completion of the development projects in Azad Kashmir. The president also inquired the delegation about the reconstruction of quake-hit areas, expansion of Mangla Dam project and condition of its affectees, and construction of new Mirpur city.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=98424>

### **Kashif Abbasi, ‘Mystery shrouds killing of PPP-AJK activist’,**

*The Nation, February 10, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: The killing of PPP-AJK activist, who was gunned down in federal capital at a polling station, goes shrouded in mystery as some circles are claiming that he was killed by a worker of PPP instead of Muslim Conference.

An activist of PPP-AJK, Captain (R) Tariq, was shot dead in the clash of the two parties’ workers at a polling station on February 7. The clash was caused when MC activists accused President Asif Ali Zardari of backing PPP-AJK for rigging purposes in by-polls. On this, workers of both parties chanted slogans against each other and later their “words war” turned into a battlefield as they threw chairs and pelted stones at one another.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Islamabad/10-Feb-2010/Mystery-shrouds-killing-of-PPPAJK-activist>

## **‘AJK PM for calculated response on Indian talks offer’,**

*The News, February 6, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider has urged Pakistan not to make a hasty decision regarding Indian proposal to hold bilateral talks. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on February 6, he stressed that the government should call a joint session of the Parliament to frame a unanimous policy on the Kashmir issue. He said former president Pervez Musharraf had caused a major harm to the cause of Kashmir. He called for the review of Kashmir’s policies devised during Musharraf regime.

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/updates.asp?id=97994>

## **‘Pakistan, China enjoying strong bilateral relations’,**

*Associated Press of Pakistan, February 6, 2010*

DIAMER: Chief Minister for Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly Syed Mehdi Shah stated on February 6 that Pakistan and China were enjoying strong and time-tested relations. He added foolproof security had been provided to China’s engineers and workers who were engaged in renovation work of Karakorum Highway. He also appealed the people of Gilgit Baltistan to cooperate with Chinese engineers and workers at every stage. He further said China had always stood with Pakistan at every stage and any forum during critical hour. He added he would meet Pakistani community staying in China during his visit and discuss their problems if any.

[http://www.app.com.pk/en\\_/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=95845&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=95845&Itemid=2)

## **‘Watto welcomes Indian proposal for talks’,**

*The News, February 6, 2010*

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Mian Manzoor Watto on February 6 welcomed the Indian proposal for resumption of foreign secretary-level talks. Addressing a news conference in Lahore, he said the people of two countries want to see better trade and cultural ties. He hoped that progress could be made on the Kashmir issue after resumption of bilateral talks.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=97999>

## **‘AJK government directs authorities for timely completion of uplift projects’,**

*Business Recorder, February 5, 2010*

MIRPUR: The Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider led, AJK government has reportedly directed the heads of all the nation-building departments to utilise all possible available quality resources to ensure the timely completion of the development projects of public welfare through a constant monitoring system throughout AJK. Official sources stated on February 4 that the government has also directed the heads of various departments to redress the grievances of the people by resolving the issues within minimum possible time.

<http://www.brecorder.com/index.php?id=1016255>

## **Khaleeq Kiani, ‘Filling of Mangla, hydropower projects in jeopardy’,**

*February 2, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: The filling of Mangla Dam’s additional 2.33 MAF (million acre feet) storage capacity built at a cost of more than Rs90 billion and construction of cheap hydropower projects of about 4,500MW are in jeopardy because of non-implementation of the dam’s up-raising agreement and three provinces’ opposition to allocation of water for Azad Kashmir. The controversy has resulted in cancellation of a scheduled visit of President Asif Ali Zardari for inauguration of the Mangla dam up-raising project at the eleventh hour when AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider and his government threatened to boycott the ceremony and declined to receive the president at Mangla.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/13+filling-of-mangla,-hydropower-projects-in-jeopardy-220-za-07>

## **Press Release: Muzaffarabad,**

*February 19, 2010*

The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan that his Government would leave no stone unturned to resolve the problems of the state capital. The matters of Muzaffarabad City Development Programme had been settled down. Work on that Project would start

soon. They would not compromise on the honour and prestige of Azad Kashmir and would take necessary steps to increase the income of the state and to curtail their expenditures. He further said that goals could not be achieved with resentment and sullenness.

<http://pmajk.gov.pk/press%20release2.asp?id=155>

### **‘Omar for rail link between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad’,**

*Indian Express, February 2, 2010*

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has advocated a rail link between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). “Such a move (rail link between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad) will help make this route between the two parts of Kashmir more viable, popular and worth all types of trade and commerce”, Omar said addressing a public meeting at Aloosa, 100 kms from Kupwara district on February 1.

<http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Omar-for-rail-link-between-Srinagar-and-Muzaffarabad/574516/>

# Economic Developments

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## **‘Rs50b betterment plan for AJK’,**

*Pakistan Observer*

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir government has formulated a comprehensive Rs. 50 billion five-year plan to improve the standard of living of the common man in the liberated territory, official sources noted. Sources further noted that the aforesaid amount will be exclusively spent during next five years period for the welfare and uplift of the people across AJK.

The AJK government has fixed the priorities to overcome the unemployment through the promotion of tourism and hydel power generation sectors, since huge potential was available to promote the two areas in AJK, they added. In the hydel power projects, the AJK government was expected to receive the royalty of Rs. one billion from the Neelam Hydel Power project.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=15136>

## **‘Gemstones of Rs. 500 mln extracted annually from Gilgit-Baltistan’,**

*Balochistan Times, February 7, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Around Rs. 500 million value of gemstones are extracted annually from Gilgit-Baltistan and efforts are underway to explore other precious minerals. It has been confirmed that nearly all valleys in Gilgit-Baltistan are shedding gold and base metals but the need is investment to explore them in order to change fate of the area.

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/>

Gemstones+of+Rs.+500+mln+extracted+annually+from+Gilgit-Baltistan.-a0218492302

## **‘UK to give £35m for AJK development’,**

*Pakistan Tribune, February 18, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: The British government has announced to donate 35 million pounds to Pakistan for the development and social welfare of Azad Kashmir and also bringing improvement in the grant of visas. These views were expressed by Chief Secretary of Britain, Liam Bern while talking to former AJK Prime Minister and President, People’s Muslim League, Barrister Sultan Mehmmud during a meeting in Islamabad on February 16. British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Adam Thomson, Political Counsellor Alister King Smith, Martin Daltry Member Kashmir Council, Chaudhry Abdul Hameed Pothi, Chaudhary Afsar Shahid Advocate, Sardar Abid Hussain, Nazir Shah, Sardar Imtiaz Khan, Shaukat Kiani, Chaudhary Aziz Bukhsh, Qari Hafeez, Naseem Abbasi besides senior officials of British High Commission were present on the occasion.

<http://paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?224690>

## **‘NGO to get Japanese aid for GB projects’,**

*Daily Times, February 17, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: The Japanese government will provide Rs 14 million to a non-government organisation (NGO), the Himalayan Green Club, for a school and water supply in two villages of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). An agreement was signed on February 16 between Japanese Ambassador HE Chihiro Atsumi and Tadshi Ieyama of the Himalayan Green Club. The grants would improve educational facilities for around 180 students and sanitary conditions for around 500 residents of Hoto and Pakola villages in GB.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C17%5Cstory\\_17-2-2010\\_pg7\\_19](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C17%5Cstory_17-2-2010_pg7_19)

## **‘Food items import from China’,**

*Pakistan Observer*

DIAMER: Chief Secretary of Gilgit-Baltistan, Babar Yaqoob Fateh Mohammad has stated that 200 tons of food items had been dispatched to Sust border for

distribution among the affectees of Atta Abad area, Hunza at cheaper rates. The traders brought the food items from China to supply here so that the people of the affected area could purchase the commodities at nominal rates. The Chief Secretary added that these food items would be available for the affectees on subsidized rates.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=15364>

## **‘SDF finances new projects in Pakistan’**

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Development Fund (SDF) has initiated a study on financing new viable developmental projects in Pakistan and sent its delegations to the country for the progress as noted in a Saudi embassy statement. “The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is always keen to extend all avenues of help and assistance to the brotherly Islamic Republic of Pakistan in various fields,” the statement said.

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentID=2010020562388>

# Other Developments

## ‘GB skier Abbas qualifies for Vancouver 2010’,

*Gilgit Baltistan Tribune, February 10, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Skier from Gilgit Baltistan Mohammad Abbas became the first man in Pakistan’s history to qualify for the the Winter Olympics, to be held from February 12 in Vancouver, Canada. A ceremony was arranged at the Canadian High Commission in Islamabad to honour Abbas. Canadian High Commissioner Randolph Mank, office-bearers of the ski federation, Abbas, politicians and diplomats attended the ceremony in large number.

<http://gbtribune.blogspot.com/2010/02/gb-skier-abbas-qualifies-for-vancouver.html>

## ‘£1.64 million school reconstruction project launched’,

*The News, February 12, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: A school reconstruction project worth 1.64 million pounds has been launched by Save the Children, providing access to 2,200 students in the districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir and NWFP, affected by the 2005 earthquake. Funded by the UK’s Department for International Development (DfID), the project will facilitate 600 boys and 900 girls to primary education, followed by 250 girls to middle and 450 girls to secondary schools. Under this project, 18 schools will be reconstructed in one and a half years, as stated in a press release.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=223790>

## ‘30 houses washed away in AJK lake breach’,

*The Nation, February 10, 2010*

MUZAFFARABAD: An earthquake-created lake crumpled on February 8 and inundated 30 houses in Hattain Bala, officials stated. According to details, at least 30 houses were washed away in the sharp currents of water from a natural Zilzala Lake near Chakar in Hattiyian district, some 50 kilometres south of Muzaffarabad, official sources further informed. Raja Sajad Ahmed, Director Disaster Management Authority of AJK Govt, stated that Zilzila lake, which

*(Other Developments continued after Abbreviations)*

### ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AJKHEB</b>	Azad Jammu and Kashmir Hydro Electric Board
<b>AJK</b>	Azad Jammu & Kashmir
<b>APHC</b>	All Parties Hurriyat Conference
<b>BNF</b>	Balawaristan National Front
<b>CBM</b>	Confidence Building Measures
<b>CDP</b>	Community Development Programme
<b>FATA</b>	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
<b>FBR</b>	Federal Board of Revenue
<b>GBDA</b>	Gilgit-Baltistan Democratic Alliance
<b>GBUM</b>	Gilgit Baltistan United Movement
<b>ISI</b>	Inter Services Intelligence
<b>JIAJK</b>	Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Jammu & Kashmir
<b>KAC</b>	Kashmiri American Council
<b>KKH</b>	Karakoram Highway
<b>KNM</b>	Karakoram National Movement
<b>LoC</b>	Line of Control
<b>NLI</b>	Northern Light Infantry
<b>NALA</b>	Northern Areas Legislative Assembly
<b>NAEDC</b>	Northern Areas Executive Development Committee
<b>NWFP</b>	North West Frontier Province
<b>PoK</b>	Pakistan Occupied Kashmir
<b>POGB</b>	Pakistan occupied Gilgit Baltistan
<b>PPP</b>	Pakistan Peoples’ Party
<b>UJC</b>	United Jihad Council
<b>WAPDA</b>	Water and Power Development Authority

naturally emerged after October 8, 2005 disastrous earthquake, developed a breach following the torrential rains in the upper catchments.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/10-Feb-2010/30-houses-washed-away-in-AJK-lake-breach>

### **‘New plan prepared for SAP schools’,**

*Pakistan Times*

SKARDU: A plan is being prepared for establishing SAP Schools of Gilgit-Baltistan, Deputy Director National Education Foundation Skardu Amanullah has stated. The schools where number of students was less than 25 would be wound up. However, he added some time would be given to increase the enrolment of students.

<http://www.pakistantimes.net/pt/detail.php?newsId=8442>

### **Sayed Abid Hussain, ‘Manhandling by encroachers MDA employees go on indefinite strike’,**

*The News, February 3, 2010*

MIRPUR: The employees of Mirpur Development Authority (MDA) including anti-encroachment staff continued their indefinite pen-down strike on the second consecutive day on February 2 against the manhandling of some of their colleagues by a group of unlawful encroachers belonging to the ruling Muslim Conference. The striking employees staged a demonstration in front of the MDA office complex to protest against the thrashing of some of their colleagues including Senior Inspector Encroachment Chan Pervez, Inspector Raja Shehzad Pervez, Watchman Sufi Fazal Hussain and Security Guard Muhammad Meherban by a group of alleged encroachers of the MDA land.

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=222157](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=222157)

### **‘Meeting to review AJK tourism’,**

*Daily Times, February 1, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: A high level meeting was held on February 1 regarding promotion of tourism in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) under the chair of AJK Tourism Minister Sardar Siyab Khalid. Matters to

organize Kashmir festival and tourism conference were slated to be discussed in the meeting, as noted in a press release. The committees would be formed for organizing the festival in a befitting manner, it stated.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C01%5Cstory\\_1-2-2010\\_pg7\\_22](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C01%5Cstory_1-2-2010_pg7_22)

### **‘Five BHUs completed in quake-hit areas’,**

*Pakistan Observer, February 3, 2010*

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Public Assistance for Pakistan Earthquake Victims has completed five Basic Health Units in quake-hit Azad Jammu Kashmir and NWFP of Pakistan. Thousands of earthquake affected people would avail the medical facility from these Health Units built in Abbottabad, Muzaffarabad and Balakot areas. While, the construction work of two BHUs is in progress and shortly, the units would be opened for public. The total seven-Basic Health Unit which is part of Saudi reconstruction project, would help solve the medical problems of the locals living in earthquake-affected areas.

<http://pakobserver.net/201002/03/news/business05.asp>

# Pakistan Occupied Kashmir-An Overview

## Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoK): An Overview

Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoK) is constitutionally an integral part of the Indian Union and remains under Pakistani occupation since 1947<sup>1</sup>, when Pakistan's Army engineered a tribal invasion and took control of more than 114,500 square kilometers of J&K. Pakistan declared its occupied part as 'Azad' or free and conferred to J&K Muslim Conference, a pro-Pakistani local political party, to constitute its first titular government.

Subsequent to occupation, Pakistan embarked on the agenda of usurping J&K. First to be annexed was Gilgit-Baltistan, which went under the direct control of Pakistan in 1949, as the leaders of AJK Muslim Conference were forced to hand over these regions of J&K through the 'Karachi Agreement'. Likewise, Shinaki Kohistan and Chitral, which constituted parts of Jammu & Kashmir before its partition in 1947, were also annexed and merged into the NWFP of Pakistan in 1955 and 1970 respectively. Later, when Pakistan and China agreed to demarcate 'international border' in 1963, Pakistan provisionally ceded 19,313 sq. kilometers of trans-Karakoram track of J&K including the segment of Baltistan known as 'Shaksgam' and part of Gilgit called 'Raskam' to China.<sup>2</sup>

Salient features of PoK are as under:

**Total Area of PoK (under the current form):** 85,793 sq. kilometer

**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:** 19,313 sq. kilometer

**Area of Chitral:** 14,850 sq. kilometer

**Area of Shinaki-Kohistan:** 5,398 sq. kilometer

## AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR (AJK)

The Muzaffarabad district of Kashmir province, Mirpur and parts of Poonch districts of Jammu

province have been under Pakistan's control since the tribal invasion of 1947. Pakistan amalgamated these districts together and created the so-called AJK. AJK is the south-western political entity of the former princely state of Jammu & Kashmir. It borders the present-day Kashmir province to the east, Jammu province to south-east (both separated from it by the Line of Control), the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan (NWFP) to the west, the Federally Administered Gilgit-Baltistan Region (FAGB) of J&K to the north, and the Punjab Province of Pakistan to the south. AJK is envisaged as an autonomous region by Pakistan. The government of AJK is considered as a parallel government, which was established to challenge the legitimacy of the J&K government in Srinagar. Despite the fact that AJK is neither a country nor a province of Pakistan, it has its own President, Prime Minister, High and Supreme Courts, Penal Code, national anthem and a flag. These structures and the designations are only titular in nature and real authority lies with the federal government of Pakistan. Significant matters such as defence, tax revenues, supposed 'foreign policy', rehabilitation of refugees and the financial control have been carefully placed under the discretion of the political establishment of Pakistan.

Currently, the parts of Kashmir province under PoK is divided into three districts of Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Neelum, while the parts of Jammu province under PoK is divided into five districts namely Poonch/Rawalakot, Sudhnati/Pallandari, Bhimber, Kotli and Mirpur.

**Area of AJK:** 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

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

**President:** Raja Zulqarnain Khan

**Prime Minister:** Raja Farooq Haider Khan

## Political Structure

### **Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan:**

Pakistan's KAGB is the de-facto supreme authority in both AJK and FAGB in regards to matters on finances, project approval, resource control and key political decisions.

**AJK Council:** Total 12 members, selected by Prime Minister of Pakistan, six each representing governments of AJK and Pakistan. The AJK Council is headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

**AJK Legislative Assembly:** Total seats are 49, of which 29 are directly elected from the AJK, 11 are elected from various districts of Pakistan under the provision for the 'Kashmiri refugees', whereas 8 seats are reserved for females, overseas Kashmiris and the technocrats.

**Judicial System:** AJK has its own High and Supreme Courts, which are assisted by district session and magistrate courts. Further, AJK has a Bar Council and Penal Code. However, approval of chief justices for High and Supreme Courts comes from Pakistani-dominated AJK Council. In addition, Pakistan's military tribunals, Hudood Ordinance and Shariat Courts also function in AJK. The Chief Secretary, regional commissioners, and Inspector General of Police are also appointed by Pakistani minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan (KAGB), previously known as Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas (KANA).

**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 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)

## Federally Administered Gilgit-Baltistan (FAGB)

Gilgit-Baltistan was previously referred to by Pakistan as the Federally Administered Northern Areas (FANA). It is the northernmost political entity within the Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoK) and is under direct control of the Islamabad government. The area, after separation of Chitral and Shinaki Kohistan, is still five and half times bigger than AJK. It borders Ladakh and Tibet to its east; East-Turkestan to its north; Afghanistan and Tajikistan to its north-west; Chitral to its west; Dir, Swat, Kohistan and Kaghan districts of NWFP to its south while AJK and the Kashmir Valley lie to its south-east. Before 1947, Baltistan was part of Ladakh region and ruled through the Jammu provincial government, while Gilgit was ruled under the authority of Kashmir province. When Pakistan occupied these regions, they were amalgamated under the garb of so-called 'Northern Areas' and thereby received the status of federally controlled region in 1974. However, the status of Gilgit-Baltistan is left undefined in the successive constitutions of Pakistan. Pakistan accepts Gilgit-Baltistan as part of the Princely State of Jammu & Kashmir, however, does not consider it as part of AJK. Due to a direct control imposed from Islamabad, the locals still await constitutional and judicial rights. For instance, they lack representation in the Pakistani Parliament, Council of Common Interests (CCI), Hydro-electric Board, Indus River System Authority (IRSA), National Judicial Council and National Finance Commission (NFC). Further, they cannot access the provincial high courts and the Supreme Court of Pakistan for justice. The Judicial Commissioner exercises judicial powers in Gilgit-Baltistan who is a political figure nominated by the Minister for KAGB.

After occupation of Gilgit-Baltistan in 1949, Pakistan administered the region under the draconian and inhumane Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) for around 20 years.<sup>3</sup> PM Z.A. Bhutto of Pakistan abolished FCR in 1974 and introduced an ad-hoc presidential ordinance to govern the region. Since then, Gilgit-Baltistan has been ruled by presidential ordinances, which have come under repeated

amendments. In 1994, PM Benazir Bhutto promulgated Northern Areas Governance Order which was later renamed as Legal Framework Order (LFO) by President Musharraf in 2007.<sup>4</sup> In essence, they all remained as ad-hoc ordinances without any constitutional cover.<sup>5</sup> As pressure from both local and international political and human rights organizations increased with demands of genuine political and judicial rights for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan announced the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self-Governance Order' on October 26, 2009.<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, this order is yet another presidential ordinance with no parliamentary backing, and replaces the current LFO with some amendments.<sup>7</sup> The term 'self governance' is coined as a strategic move to defuse pressure of the international organizations, which promises to introduce administrative, political, economic and judicial reforms in Gilgit-Baltistan. Although the ordinance is claimed as a replica of the AJK political and judicial system; it refuses the post of president, prime minister to the locals and establishment of penal code, and High and Supreme Courts. Further it lacks provisions to re-instate State Subject Rule.

According to the order, Northern Areas will be called Gilgit-Baltistan and the current Northern Areas Legislative Assembly (NALA) will be replaced by Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA), which will have the right to legislate and choose a chief minister. Further, Pakistan will replace the existing Chairman of NALA with a governor to ensure federal government's control over the region. Gilgit-Baltistan would also have its own public service commission, a chief election commissioner, an auditor general, and a boundary commission to settle boundary dispute between Pakistan and J&K. The legislative assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan would have a total of 33 members, including six reserved seats for women and three for technocrats. Further, similar to AJK Council, Gilgit-Baltistan Council will be constituted to ensure representation of federal government in the region. The council will enjoy legislative powers over 60 odd subjects. It will have 15 members which shall be presided over by the prime minister of Pakistan. While the Assembly is given the powers to propose the budget, approving authority will be ministry of KAGB

in Islamabad. Compared to the provinces of Pakistan, where the chief minister is the supreme authority, the newly proclaimed order rests all administrative, political and judicial authority with the Pakistani governor which will eventually make the assembly a toothless tiger. Governor will be the executive authority and custodian of tax and revenues. He will administer Gilgit-Baltistan council on behalf of the prime minister of Pakistan, and oversee public service commission, election commission, boundary commission, judiciary, and auditor general's office. He will be the authority to appoint heads of public service commission, election commission, boundary commission, commissioner of excise and taxation, chief judge of appellate court, auditor general, regional cabinet members and advisors. He will have the right to approve the budget, and dissolve the assembly and impose emergency under prescribed conditions. Further, the Inspector General of Police, Chief Secretary and all departmental secretaries, directors of departments, and commissioner and deputy commissioners of districts will be appointed by the governor. Likewise, it will not be the Assembly but the Council under the governor, which will legislate on natural resources of Gilgit-Baltistan, including minerals, forests, electricity and water storage, industries, school curricula, tourism, cinematography etc.

Salient Features of FAGB are as under:

**Area of FAGB:** 72,496 sq. kilometer

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

**Capital:** Gilgit

**Districts:** seven

Baltistan Region (part of Ladakh) is divided into Ganche 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

**Political Structure:** In July 2009, NALA was dissolved before it could complete its 5-years term, and along with that, advisors to the Chairman including the Chief Executive were also sacked. Subsequently, election for GBLA was held on November 12, 2009 under the newly proclaimed self-governance and empowerment order. Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the ruling party of Pakistan, won two-third majority in GBLA and formed government.

**Gilgit-Baltistan Council:** Total 15 members, selected by Prime Minister of Pakistan; 7 representing government of Gilgit-Baltistan and 8 representing government of Pakistan. The Gilgit-Baltistan Council is headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Further, Chief Minister, Governor, Minister for KAGB and Prime Minister of Pakistan are voting members of GBC.

**Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Council:** GBLA has 24 directly elected members while 6 female and 3 technocrats come through selection.

**Acting-Governor of G-B:** Ch. Qamar Zaman Kaira, a Member of Parliament from Gujrat ditrict of Punjab is the current governor of Gilgit-Baltistan.

**Ministry of Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan:** Pakistan's KAGB is the de-facto supreme authority in both AJK and FAGB in regards to matters on finances, project approval, resource control and key political decisions.

**Minister for KAGB:** Mian Manzoor A. Wattoo, who is currently a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan elected from Okara district of Punjab province.

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

**Political 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)

**Judicial Structure:** Instead of High and Supreme Courts, Gilgit-Baltistan will have an appellate court which will be headed by the chief judge. The chief judge, as well the session and district judges will be appointed by the Pakistani prime minister. In addition to the appellate court, there will be a chief court in Gilgit. The number of judges has been increased from three to five. In addition, Pakistan's military tribunals, Hudood Ordinance and Shariat Courts will continue to function in Gilgit-Baltistan. Further, Pakistan's Penal Code applies in FAGB.

**Literacy rate:** 15% male; 3.5% female (World Bank estimates of 1997)

**Per Capita Income:** PCI of Gilgit-Baltistan is around one-fourth of Pakistan's average (US\$264 compared to Pakistan's US\$ 1,071).<sup>8</sup>

**State of Infrastructure:** More than two-thirds of the villages lack potable water, electricity, telephone, health units, girls' schools, paved roads, ration depot, and pony tracks.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Baltistan was occupied by Pakistan a year later in 1948
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2754976?seq=7>
- <sup>3</sup> <http://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/world/pakistan/law.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> <http://ips-pk.org/content/view/234/259/>
- <sup>5</sup> <http://www.kashmirnewz.com/a0012.html>
- <sup>6</sup> <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/national/gilgitbaltistan-package-termed-an-eyewash-089>
- <sup>7</sup> <http://www.kashmirnewz.com/a0012.html>
- <sup>8</sup> AKRSP Socio-economic Survey of Northern Areas and Chitral (SESNAC) 2005; [http://www.finance.gov.pk/finance\\_blog/?p=238](http://www.finance.gov.pk/finance_blog/?p=238); <http://finance.kalpoint.com/pdf/highlights/todays-pick/per-capita-income-falls-to-1071.pdf>

**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.*

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