

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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Gilgit-Baltistan budget
Annual Revenue Authority
Development **POK** tourism
Programme **Infrastructure**
Quran academies



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

It's terrorism on education to ban trust schools in 'IIOJK'

Pakistan Observer, June 27, 2022

The Hurriyat leaders and several other organizations have 'condemned' the imposition of a ban by the 'Hindutva government' led by PM Narendra Modi on schools run by the Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT) in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). The leaders of Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League, and All Party Hurriyat Conference- 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC AJK) in their statements, termed the ban as 'terrorism unleashed by the PM Modi regime' on education in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' The leaders further said that such 'discriminatory action' of the Indian government is a selective crackdown on 'IIOJK' institutions, adding that the crackdown on educational institutions is grossly unfair, unjust, anti-Kashmir, and anti-Muslim policy of the BJP government. They urged the United Nations (UN) and other global organizations working for education all over the world to intervene and put pressure on India to take back its decision.

<https://pakobserver.net/its-terrorism-on-education-to-ban-trust-schools-in-iiojk/>

International organizations to take notice of 'Indian terrorism'

Pakistan Observer, June 28, 2022

The PM of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has

urged the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and other international organizations to take notice of 'Indian state terrorism' in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' and play their role in ending the 'human rights violations' in the 'occupied' territory. He stated that India's contentious decision to hold the upcoming G20 summit in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) is a deliberate attempt to deceive the international community. He said that 'IIOJK' is an internationally recognized disputed territory and its solution lies in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR).

<https://pakobserver.net/intl-organizations-to-take-notice-of-indian-terrorism/>

JKLF leaders deliver a memorandum to UN amid baton charge by police in Muzaffarabad

Dawn, June 29, 2022

The leaders of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) handed over a memorandum to the UN military observers. The protestors decided to stage a sit-in there throughout the night and ended it only after holding dialogue with local administration and delivering their memorandum to the special representative of the UN secretary-general. The administration was left with no choice but resort to the use of batons and teargas shells and take some of them into custody to break up the sit-in. Meanwhile, some leaders and activists of JKLF presented a memorandum to the UN observers, in

which they urged the world body to play its role in the grant of an unconditional right to self-determination to the Kashmiris and before the immediate release of Yasin Malik and other political prisoners in India. The Central Bar Association of Muzaffarabad while condemning the 'worst torture' on peaceful JKLF demonstrators, urged the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) government to clarify whether it stood by incarcerated Yasin Malik or India's agenda.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1697276/jklf-leaders-deliver-memorandum-to-un-amid-baton-charge-by-police-in-muzaffarabad>

Burhan Wani 'martyrdom' day will be observed as Resistance Day

Daily Parliament Times, June 28, 2022

The chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali has said that the 7th 'martyrdom day' of 'freedom fighter' Burhan Muzaffar Wani will be observed as a 'pledge of resistance' for the 'independence' and right to self-determination of Kashmiris from India. While talking to the media in Muzaffarabad, Ghazali along with Pakistan People Party (PPP) leader Shaukat Javed Mir, among others said that after the 'martyrdom' of Khalid Wani, his younger brother Burhan Wani organized the resistance movement against 'Indian atrocities' in the most difficult circumstances, which not only challenged 'Indian authorities' and but also challenged 'Indian forces' particularly through social media.

He said that the Kashmiri people will never forget Burhan Wani's 'courage and bravery' in exposing India's 'war crimes to the whole world, and added that Burhan 'Shaheed' lived in the forests, mountains, and deserts of the Kashmir Valley just for the struggle of freedom. He further said that on July 8, 2016, the Kashmiri people lost their 'beloved Mujahid', a 'valiant and fearless commander' in the Kokarnag area of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). During the media briefing, other speakers said that on 8th July 'resistance day', an organized contingent of youth will salute the 'Kashmiri martyrs' including Burhan Wani Shaheed at the Burhan chowk (named after Burhan Wani).

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/06/28/burhan-wani-martyrdom-day-will-be-observed-as-resistance-day/>

G-20 event in disputed Kashmir is a misleading exercise: Farooq Rehmani

Pakistan Observer, June 29, 2022

The chairman of Jammu and Kashmir People's Freedom League and ex-convenor of All Parties Hurriyat Conference- 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani has appealed to the G-20 countries to read real intentions of India in her motive to call G-20 summit in the 'occupied territory' of Jammu and Kashmir. While in a statement issued in Islamabad, he questioned the rationale behind holding the G-20 meeting in the 'occupied territory, which is facing a

'horrible human rights' situation due to the 'war of terror' perpetrated by 'India' against its inhabitants after depriving it of its statehood in 2019.

<https://pakobserver.net/g-20-event-in-disputed-kashmir-futile-misleading-exercise-rehmani/>

Chairman of KIIR writes to G-20 countries about India's 'malafide intentions' behind holding G-20 Summit in 'IOK'

Daily Parliament Times, June 30, 2022

The chairman of Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Altaf Hussain Wani has urged G20 countries not to allow the Indian government to use them as its 'brand ambassadors' to project its 'normalcy narrative'. In a joint communique addressed to heads of G20 countries the KIIR chairman while highlighting the 'real motives' behind India's plan claimed that the Indian government's controversial decision to hold the high-profile summit in the region (IOK) was based on 'mala-fide intentions' aimed at deflecting the world attention away from the Kashmir issue, creating a 'cobweb of confusion' around the issue and minimize the 'legitimacy of Kashmiris' demands for holding plebiscite in the region in line with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. He said that the present-day government in India had 'unilaterally and unlawfully' changed the special status of Kashmir in 2019, and has since then been 'remorselessly peddling lies to promote so-called normalcy narrative on Kashmir'. While referring to the 'individual trips' of the

Members of the European Parliament to Kashmir last year, the letter said that 'EU parliamentarians' visits were presented by the Indian government as official EU delegations.'

He further added that a similar trip of 'foreign envoys' stationed at New Delhi to the disputed territory was arranged to keep the 'charade of normalcy alive', adding that the 'guided trip' has been more or less a replica of the past visit wherein the delegates were taken on a brief tour of 'Naya (new) Kashmir', which was 'skillfully carved out from the war-torn city overnight and decorated as per the visitors' contentment by removing temporarily the barricades, barbed-wires, and bunkers that one can normally see dotted all around the city.' While urging the heads of G20 countries to take a holistic review of the situation, he added that 'rather than getting swayed by India's propaganda what the world, in particular, the heads of G20 countries need to know about Kashmir is that it has been classified as the world's most militarized zone. It is also the largest region occupied by Indian forces illegally.'

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/06/30/wani-writes-to-g20-countries-about-indias-malafide-intentions-behind-holding-g20-summit-in-iok/>

China 'opposes' India's plans to hold the G20 summit in 'IIOJK'

Pakistan Observer, July 1, 2022

As per the Pakistan Observer newspaper, China has expressed

‘opposition’ to India’s reported plans to hold the 2023 G20 summit in ‘illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistan observer (newspaper) noted that in a regular presser, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that China’s position on the ‘issue of Kashmir’ has been ‘consistent and clear-cut’, added that the Kashmir issue, a dispute left from the past, should be addressed peacefully and properly as per the United Nations (UN) charter, Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreement.

While stressing the need for a peaceful resolution to the dispute, Zhao said that the involved parties need to ‘avoid unilateral moves’ as this might ‘complicate the situation.’ Zhao further said that ‘efforts should be made to settle the dispute through dialogue and consultation to maintain regional peace and stability.’ While referring to the significance of the G20 summit, Zhao clarified China’s position and urged everyone to ‘avoid politicizing’ it, adding that the G20 is the premier forum for international economic and financial cooperation and all major economies need to focus on the steady recovery of the world economy.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-opposes-indias-plans-to-hold-g20-summit-in-ijok/>

[Economic Developments](#)

‘AJK’ government boosts spending on infrastructure

Dawn, June 26, 2022

The finance minister of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) government,

Abdul Majid Khan said that the share of social and productive sectors in ‘AJK’ Annual Development Programme (ADP) has been fixed at 19 percent (pc) and 12 pc, respectively, but the infrastructure sector would still get the major share of 69 pc. While giving details of the 28.5 billion ADP for 2022-23, the finance minister said that Communication and Works (C&W) would get the highest share of 12 billion followed by 3.3 billion for physical planning and housing, 2.8 billion for local government and rural development, 2.25 billion to energy and water resources, 2.17 billion to education and 1.8 billion to health. In addition, 600 million would go to tourism, 550 million to industries and minerals, 500 million to agriculture and livestock, 400 million to forestry and watershed, and 380 million to information technology. The minister said that to promote tourism, digital mapping of the territory was also being introduced in the next fiscal year.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1696760/ajk-govt-boosts-spending-on-infrastructure>

Over 119.3 billion GB Budget Unveiled

The Nation, Jun 28, 2022

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) government presented the budget for the financial year 2022-23 with a total amount of over 119.3 billion. The GB finance minister Javed Ali Manwa, who presented the budget in the GB assembly, said that 61.4 billion rupees have been proposed for the outgoing expenditures while 47.8 billion rupees for new development schemes, added

that 2 million rupees for education and 1.2 million rupees allocated for health in the proposed budget. Similarly, 5.39 million rupees have been allocated for the works department, and one million rupees earmarked for local government.

The office of the GB chief secretary in a series of tweets said that the assembly of 'GB has taken a giant step towards self-sufficiency by unanimously supporting the creation of Gilgit-Baltistan Revenue Authority (GBRA). GB has a huge potential for collection of sales tax on services because of its booming tourism industry and other affiliated service-based industries like transport, food, etc.' He further added in his tweets that: 'GBRA will perform this function and immediately after its creation, revenue collection of billions of rupees can be envisioned. For GB this revenue collection potential can be a game-changer. Today all parliamentarians supported the creation of GBRA across party lines. GBRA will ensure that the incidence of taxes on the local population is minimized and its primary focus will be to raise the tax on tourism and its associated industries. Goal to make GB self-sufficient.'

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/28/over-rs119-3b-gb-budget-unveiled/>

Ahsan Iqbal says no cuts in 'AJK's Budget

The Nation, June 29, 2022

The government of Pakistan's minister for planning and development, Ahsan

Iqbal has said that despite all the financial difficulties, the federal government would not reduce the development budget of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK). During his meeting with the 'AJK' president, Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary, Ahsan Iqbal said that we will provide a full share of the development budget and will also try not to impose cuts on the region's non-development budget. The federal minister assured the president that the central government would continue to provide funds to ensure timely completion of the ongoing development projects in 'AJK', besides supporting new projects. The 'AJK' president, while briefing the federal minister about the 'AJK's financial difficulties said that there was a 'dire need' and that the center should pay special attention to 'AJK' so that ongoing development projects could be completed in time and new projects could be initiated so that the process of construction and development in the region continued without any hindrance.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/29/ahsan-iqbal-says-no-cuts-in-ajks-budget/>

The Planning Commission of Pakistan has approved two major mega projects for GB

UrduPoint, June 29, 2022

The Planning Commission of Pakistan has approved two major mega projects for Gilgit-Baltistan (GB): Life Skill Development and Rehabilitation Centers in Gilgit and Diamer. In this regard, the planning commission has

approved a 300-bed hospital in Diamer's Chilas district at 6.698 billion while Life Skill Development and Rehabilitation Centers in Skardu, Gilgit, and Diamer. The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif announced a 300-bed hospital in Chilas during a site visit to the Diamer-Bhasha Dam project recently (a week after taking oath as PM).
<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-3187381.html>

Rupees 164 billion 'AJK' budget approved amid an opposition boycott

Dawn, July 1, 2022

The 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Legislative Assembly approved a 163.7 billion budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 in the absence of the 20-member opposition. The finance minister of 'AJK', Abdul Majid Khan Demands for grant of 135.2 billion for recurring expenditures and 28.5 billion for developmental activities. Since the opposition persisted in boycotting the budget session, the finance minister had an easy ride because he was not subject to any cut motions. The house also accorded approval to the revised budget for 2021-22 to the tune of 135.7 billion, including 22.8 billion for developmental activities. Demands for a grant for additional expenditures beyond the approved budget for fiscal years 2019-20 to 2020-21 were also approved. During the earlier part of the budget session, the Prime Minister (PM) of 'AJK', Sardar Tanveer Ilyas made dozens of announcements in his speech about different sectors and

stressed improving the living standards of the people of the state.

He announced an increase of 1,500 per person in the monthly subsistence allowance of post-1989 Kashmiri refugees. He added that 1,303 independent houses, as well as a residential complex, would be built for their rehabilitation with the assistance of the federal government. He said houses would also be built with the help of the private sector and donors for the deserving families of martyrs from the army and police. He also announced a sum of Rs 3,000 given to Zakat recipients once a year and said it would be raised to Rs 12,000. He also announced increasing the dowry fund for poor girls to Rs 75,000. While announcing the establishment of Quran academies in Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, and Bhimber, PM said that vacant posts of muftis would be filled next year. He also announced providing free electricity to mosques holding five prayers a day. While asserting to improve the education sector on modern lines, the PM said that 86 primary, 56 middle, and 61 high schools and 45 intermediate colleges would be upgraded. He further said that the government would provide 1,000 scholarships to deserving students and impart vocational training to 1,200 people in the first phase in Punjab for the promotion of the cottage industry.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1697625/rs164bn-ajk-budget-approved-amid-opposition-boycott>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Japan can play a vital role in resolving the Kashmir dispute: 'AJK' president

Mahasib, June 28, 2022

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that Japan can play important role in resolving the prolonged Kashmir dispute that can trigger a war between the two nuclear states. He said that the Japanese can better understand the dire situation in the South Asian region as they had witnessed the terrible consequences of the nuclear war in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. He noted that being a close friend of both countries, Japan can play an important role to help resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully, adding that Kashmiris were looking forward to Japan's proactive role in resolving the long-pending dispute. The 'AJK' President made these observations while talking to Nakagawa Yasushi, the Political Counselor, and Embassy of Japan at the presidency.

<https://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/muzaffarabbad.php>

The Wahdat Kashmir Conference is being held at a crucial time for the Kashmir independence cause: Former 'AJK' PM urged people to attend

Nawaiwaqt, June 29, 2022

The former Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) and Member Legislative Assembly, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan has said that Kashmir Independence Movement is going through a critical phase at

present, added that in these circumstances, the Wahdat Kashmir Conference is of utmost importance. He noted that 'Azad Kashmir' is a base camp that has always made sacrifices for the movement and added that partition of Kashmir would not be accepted under any circumstances. He emphasized that by fully participating in the Wahdat Kashmir Conference, the people of the region could prove that they are ready to repeat the sacrifices of their forefathers even today. He said that the people of the base camp stood by the Kashmiri brothers and now let the world community show seriousness and play its role in ending the 'lockdown' in Kashmir which has lasted for more than a thousand days.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2022-06-29/page-1>

PM of 'AJK' approves 100 million aid for quake victims in Afghanistan

Jammu and Kashmir Times, June 30, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has approved 100 million in aid for earthquake victims in Afghanistan. While expressing his heartfelt sympathies with the people of Afghanistan, he said that the entire nation is saddened by the loss of life and property caused by the recent earthquake in Afghanistan, and added that the people of Pakistan and 'Azad Kashmir' stand shoulder to shoulder with our Afghan brethren. He said that the government of 'Azad Kashmir' will send 100 million to Afghanistan to help the earthquake affect the country. The PM further said that a special

delegation representing the government of 'Azad Kashmir' would also visit Afghanistan soon to deliver the aid package to the government of Afghanistan, and added that the procedure for sending aid would be decided in consultation with the Foreign Office and national security agencies of Pakistan. While appreciating Pakistan's relief and rehabilitation efforts in Afghanistan, he said that Pakistan is playing important role in rehabilitating earthquake-affected in Afghanistan and noted that in addition to the 100 million aid, the 'Azad Kashmir' cabinet and top bureaucracy also donated a month's salary for the relief.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-30.jpg>

'AJK' opposition locks the entrance to the assembly hall

Mahasib, June 30, 2022

The opposition lawmakers in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Legislative Assembly locked the main hall and blocked the entry and exit of treasury members throughout the day. The 20-member opposition is on a boycott of the budget session in protest against an amendment to the Rules of Procedure of Assembly, empowering the government to appoint cabinet members as heads of the standing committees as well as apparent denial of development funds to them on a par with treasury members. While a meeting between four each member from both sides was also held in the

opposition chamber, but to no avail. The leader of the opposition, Chaudhry Latif Akbar told news reporters that their side did not press for the grant of funds and instead made just one demand about withdrawal of the 'unlawful amendment' to the Rules of Procedure but the government refused to accept it.

<https://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/muzaffarabad.php>

India has no right to hold a G-20 conference in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir:' Speakers at a Webinar

Urdupoint, July 01, 2022

The speakers at a Webinar said that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed regions and therefore Indian government under PM Modi's 'fascist regime' has no right to host the G-20 conference in the 'occupied territory.' The speakers include Azma Gul, chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Solidarity Movement, Professor Maqsood Jafari, columnist, Sheikh Abdul Matin, general secretary of All Party Hurriyat Conference-'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter, leaders of Ittehad-e-Islami Party Jammu and Kashmir. Syed Manzoor Shah Mohammad Ghalib, president of Tehreek-e-Kashmir Europe, Raja Sikandar, chairman, Global Pak-Kashmir Supreme Council, Syed Adib, Editor-in-Chief of Adib Media Group and Syed Adib Alimi, Senior Journalist based in the United States (US) were present in the webinar.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3188915.html>

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Disclaimer

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