

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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Gilgit-Baltistan sustainable tourism Kashmir POK Development Foundation



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

Listen to Kashmiris

Editorial, The Express Tribune, 5 September 2022

While expressing deep concern for the 'condition' of more than 10 million people living under Indian rule, Amnesty International has bluntly said that Kashmiris are subject to 'repression' and that their rights have been violated. The human rights organization claimed that 'harassment' and 'torture' were commonplace in the 'occupied state' and that New Delhi was committing 'grave violations' of people's rights and 'subjugating' a community who were fighting for their inalienable right to life and self-determination. The fact that the leading human rights organization concentrated on the previous last three years is significant since they highlighted the BJP regime's 'prejudiced' abrogation of legislation that restricted Kashmiris' constitutional rights.

It is 'treason' for New Delhi to invalidate Articles 370 and 35A. Additionally, it is against international law because Kashmir is a recognized dispute at the UN and no attempt may be taken unilaterally to alter the reality on the ground. But New Delhi, 'intoxicated' by 'Hindutva fervor', thinks it can continue to discriminate against Kashmiris at the whim of its majority. Because of this, the report 'we are being punished by the law: Three years since the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir' is nothing less

than a fact sheet documenting the atrocities done by India in the held valley. The human rights watchdog further noted that in recent years, members of civil society, journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders have been 'punished', 'interrogated', and given prison sentences and travel restrictions. Since August 2019, the Internet has been cut off for 18 months in a row, in addition to other methods of coercion including 'forced disappearances', changing the demographics, and meddling with the voting process.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2374830/listen-to-kashmiris>

Defense Day is observed with zeal and zest in 'AJK'

Pakistan Today, 6 September 2022

While paying tributes to the 'martyrs' as well as 'ghazis' of the historic India-Pakistan war of 1965, speakers said that Kashmiris' struggle for freedom' was actually the movement for the 'completion of Pakistan.' The convener of Jammu Kashmir Free Media Association with coordination of other local social and political organizations including the journalists, Pakistan People Party (PPP), 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Chapter's president Munir Hussain Chaudhry, 'AJK' government's secretary information, Shoukat Majeed Mallick Advocate and others spoke on the occasion to mark the defense day of Pakistan. While addressing the ceremony, speakers including Shoukat Majeed Mallick said that the Defense Day of Pakistan

(September 6) was the day of renewal of the pledge by the entire nation to remain alert and vigilant to make the defense of the country in case of any threat from across the frontiers.

While expressing ‘grave concern’ over the fast ‘deteriorating’ situation of ‘human rights’ violations in ‘Indian Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir’ (IIOJK) following the continual ‘indefinite curfew,’ ‘lock-down’ and ‘communication blockade’ and other heavy restrictions by over a million of Indian ‘occupying forces,’ speakers urged the United Nations and the global human rights organizations to intervene immediately to save the lives of the innocent ‘freedom-loving’ Kashmiri population who have been caged since over past one year into their houses by the ‘hardliner’ Indian-Prime minister Modi-led ‘military, paramilitary and puppets’ state administration.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/09/06/mir-pur-ajk-congregation-pays-rich-tribute-to-the-martyrs-ghazis-of-indo-pak-war-1965/>

The hearts of the people of Kashmir and Pakistan beat in unison: ‘AJK’ PM

Daily Parliament Times, 6 September 2022

Tanveer Ilyas Khan, the prime minister of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), stated at a public gathering in his Bagh electoral constituency that the people of the Poonch region of ‘AJK’ have consistently made unmatched sacrifices for the ‘freedom movement’ as well as for the defense of inch by inch of Pakistan, and no power on earth

could ever defeat them. He said that we stand shoulder to shoulder with our brethren in the ‘Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their just struggle for the right to self-determination.

During the occasion, he announced a host of historic development packages worth billions of rupees including 1 billion interest-free loans for the residents of Bagh, the establishment of a Veterinary College and Army Public School, providing additional funds to the Bagh Development Authority, opening Kashmir University campus in the city, construction of concrete houses for the post 90s Kashmiri refugees. On the occasion officials of Medical Transcription and Billing Company (MTBC) and Information Technology (IT) Board ‘Azad Kashmir’ signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the development of the IT sector in ‘AJK’.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/09/06/hearts-of-people-of-kashmir-and-pakistan-beat-in-unison-ajkpm/>

FO asks Delhi to allow Yasin Malik to meet family likewise Kulbhusan Jadhav

Pakistan Today, 8 September 2022

During a weekly briefing, the Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) spokesman, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said that Pakistan has allowed Kulbhusan Jadhav to meet his family, while Yasin Malik is being ‘illegally detained’ by the Indian authorities and they should also allow his family to meet him as per

international norms. He urged the international community to take notice of such an 'inhumane act.'

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/09/08/fo-asks-delhi-to-allow-yasin-malik-meet-family-like-wise-kulbhushan-jadhav/>

Another dubious death

Editorial, Dawn, 7 September 2022

In recent days, the 'controversial murder' of a second Pakistani prisoner in 'Indian-held' Kashmir has raised serious concerns. To express its displeasure over Tabarak Hussain's 'murder' after being 'mercilessly shot' by Indian soldiers, the Foreign Office summoned India's charge d'affaires. According to reports, mentally handicapped Tabarak 'accidentally' crossed the LoC in 2016. The FO in its statement said that all 'extrajudicial killings' must be opposed, but the 'murder' of a person with special needs by 'Indian forces' is especially despicable. Mohammad Ali Hussain, a second Pakistani prisoner at 'India-held Kashmir' was reportedly killed in a 'staged encounter,' according to claims that surfaced late last month.

The FO further said that it must be made abundantly clear that Pakistani detainees both in Indian prisons as well as those in the disputed territory must be treated with respect and decency, and they must also have their basic rights upheld. Such events, wherein inmates are tortured or murdered under 'questionable circumstances', cannot be permitted. The FO has cast doubt on the Indian side's account that Tabarak Hussain passed away from a

heart attack. Both contested deaths require an open investigation by the Indian government, which also needs to punish those responsible and make compensate the men's families.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1708868/another-dubious-death>

Residents of 'Indian-occupied' Kashmir who 'mistakenly crossed' LOC refuse deportation, fearing for their lives

Pamir Times, 8 September 2022

Noor Muhammad Wani and Feroz Ahmad, two natives of the Bandipura District (Gurez Valley) in Indian 'occupied Kashmir,' have stated that they are afraid to go back to their native state because Indian authorities might torture or 'murder' them. The two Kashmiri youths were detained by GB Police in June 2020 after they crossed over the Line of Control (LOC) and entered the Gilgit-Astore region, which borders Gurez Valley. In 2020, both the youths were brought before the media and charged with espionage during a press conference. The local police reportedly found Indian money, cellphones, and a few student ID cards. Throughout the interview, Wani and Ahmad reportedly insisted that they had strayed into Gilgit-territory Baltistan and that they were not spies. Since claims of espionage could not be established, a Gilgit session Judge issued an order on April 20, 2022, directed the GB government to deport the two individuals to 'Indian Occupied Kashmir' (IOK). However, the two Kashmiri youths have lodged a plea asking the Gilgit Session Court to

reverse its decision on deportation because they fear for their life if they are taken back to Kashmir without their will. Raja Farooq Haider, the former prime minister of 'AJK' has urged that the decision to deport the two youths be overturned and that they instead be permitted to reside within the jurisdiction of 'Azad Kashmir.'

<https://pamirtimes.net/2022/09/08/residents-of-indian-occupied-kashmir-who-mistakenly-crossed-border-refuse-deportation-fearing-for-their-lives/>

'AJK' president seeks America's pro-active role to end 'bloodshed in IoK'

Daily Parliament Times, 9 September 2022

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that the United States should support the right of Kashmiris to self-determination so that they can decide their future following their desires. He discussed these views with the American Embassy's Political Officer Robert Keane and Political Consul Bradley Parker. While informing the team of the deteriorating political and human rights situation in the 'occupied area', the president of 'AJK' claimed that there had been a sharp rise in cases of 'state-sponsored terrorism' and human rights 'abuses' in Jammu and Kashmir, which India has 'occupied' since 1947. He emphasized the need for a speedy resolution of the Kashmir dispute and stated that the US has a crucial role to play in resolving the ongoing conflict.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/09/09/president-seeks-americas-pro-active-role-to-end-bloodshed-in-iok/>

Economic Developments

Rising trend of water level in rivers flows and reservoirs in the country including 'AJK' continues

Daily Parliament Times, 5 September 2022

The position of the river inflows and outflows at the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK)-based Mangla dam, Tarbela dam, and Chashma barrage, as well as the reservoir levels and the barrages in the nation's major rivers and reservoirs, is continuing to rise as a result of torrential rains and the melting of glaciers in various parts of the upper reaches. The Indus at Tarbela receives inflows of 163700 cubic seconds and outflows of 162900, the Kabul at Nowshera receives inflows of 53700 and outflows of 53700, the Jhelum at Mangla receives inflows of 28200 cubic seconds and outflows of 10,000 cubic seconds, and the Chenab at Marala receives inflows of 68800 and outflows of 38300.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/09/05/rising-trend-of-water-level-in-rivers-flows-and-reservoirs-in-the-country-including-ajk-continues/>

Kashmir Development Foundation approves one million rupees Climate Emergency Fund for GB

Daily Parliament Times, 6 September 2022

The Kashmir Development Foundation (KDF) approved a 01 million Climate Emergency Fund for the relief and rehabilitation of people affected by recent floods in the Bubar area, Puniyal, District Ghizer in Gilgit Baltistan (GB). The KDF is a UK-based international

development organization working in partnership with local communities and organizations within all the regions of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Sardar Aftab Khan, Executive Director of KDF has appealed to all the organizations to cooperate in delivering humanitarian aid in a coordinated manner. KDF is encouraging individual donors, volunteers, and community groups to join hands with each other to avoid duplication and deliver Emergency relief to the affected people with dignity and respect.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/09/06/kashmir-development-foundation-kdf-approves-one-million-rupees-climate-emergency-fund-for-gb/>

A meeting of the Mangla Dam Housing Authority was convened in Islamabad

Daily Parliament Times, 6 September 2022

A meeting of the Mangla Dam Housing Authority was presided over by the president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. It was asserted at the meeting to expedite all project-related activities, including land acquisition and town planning, to finish the project as quickly as feasible. Additionally, it was agreed that residential construction projects for Mangla Dam victims will shortly get underway in Islamgarh, Chakswari, and Siakh. Sultan Mehmood instructed the authorities to settle Mangla Dam victims' subfamilies in Mirpur as soon as possible to lessen their pain. He said that the victims' long-standing request

for subfamilies to be accommodated in Mangla Dam would soon be met.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/09/06/an-extra-ordinary-meeting-of-mangla-dam-housing-authority-held-in-islamabad/>

GB has vast investment opportunities in the tourism and energy sectors: GB CM

Dailyk2, 8 September 2022

While speaking to the investor delegation of the Pakistan Executive Forum, Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Khalid Khurshid stated that there are several investment prospects in the tourist and energy industries in GB, and added that his government will offer luxurious facilities to the investors. He said that there will be a one-window facility set up so that investors interested in GB can make investments quickly and conveniently through the Board of Investment rather than contacting various forums and departments. He said that in terms of tourism, GB occupies a distinctive position, and added that many domestic and foreign tourists travel to GB to experience its natural splendor and climate, as well as the greatest glaciers in the world.

He emphasized that to promote tourism and investment in GB, the government is making special efforts to promote sustainable tourism, and added that the investors will receive full support in their efforts to advance the hotel sector in various tourist spots. He claimed that the Department of Electronics is examining whether it is

feasible to use solar energy to provide electricity to hotels and commercial buildings in a variety of tourist destinations, which will aid in resolving the current and upcoming power shortages that these destinations will experience. The group of investors from the Pakistan Executive Forum complimented Khalid Khurshid for his vision and his government's endeavors in the areas of technology, agrotourism, power, and investment in GB. The delegation expressed interest in investing in a variety of industries, including agriculture, and predicted that future foreign and local investors would come to GB if one-window operations and other amenities were made available.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/8195>

PM of 'AJK' visited MTBC Bagh

UrduPoint, 9 September 2022

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanvir Ilyas Khan paid a visit to the Medical Transcription and Billing Company (MTBC) in the Bagh area and inquired about the effectiveness of the organization in advancing the socio-economic development of 'AJK.' While speaking at the event, Ilyas Khan emphasized the importance of private sector involvement for 'Azad Kashmir' growth and prosperity. While terming MTBC a welcome addition to the region's private sector, the PM stated that it is a matter of honor for MTBC to acquire the first airline license for 'Azad Kashmir.' He said that MTBC

was excelling in other areas of 'Azad Kashmir.'

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3272488.html>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Kashmiris will continue to achieve their goal despite India's oppression: 'AJK' Minister

UrduPoint, 5 September 2022

Muhammad Rafiq Nayar, the special assistant to the PM of 'Azad Kashmir' for information, small businesses, and the environment, asserts that Kashmiris would continue to fight for their goal, which is the 'freedom' of 'occupied' Kashmir, regardless of how badly India 'oppresses' them. While referring to the Pakistan Defense Day on September 6, he added that at this pivotal point in the history of our nation, we must show our togetherness and solidarity and that no force in the world can prevent Jammu and Kashmir from joining the God-given Pakistan. I humbly pray to Allah to accelerate the day when the Muslims residing in the 'occupied' region of India would be able to liberate themselves and join the nation of Pakistan.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3268070.html>

The events of September 1965 are not only a source of pride for us but also a source of instruction: 'AJK' president

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 6 September 2022

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood

Chaudhry said that Pakistan Defense Day on September 6 has come to represent the unity of our country as a result of the resistance that Pakistan's people and military mounted against external aggression in 1965. The nation accepted the challenge of the war in September 1965 and deployed its resources to thwart the aggressive objectives of power many times its size. He said that the Pakistani military forces destroyed the arrogance of an 'invader' who was many times bigger than them on September 6, 1965, and in the days that followed, they crushed his 'filthy' objectives.

He claimed that the events of September 1965 were not only motivating and inspiring but also a source of national pride. Our military forces have demonstrated acts of bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice in addition to having the best fighting strategies, tactics, and discipline in history. He further claimed that the Kashmiri people in 'occupied Kashmir' have made endless sacrifices for their rights and that India has continued to 'oppress' and 'persecute' the helpless Kashmiris. The Kashmiri people, he continued, are taking great care to stop these crimes, and their spirits are high. Inshallah, they will achieve their goal of 'independence' soon. He said that India should create the conditions necessary for the Kashmiri people to breathe a sigh of relief and for the Kashmir issue to move forward rather than complicating it, adding that the negotiations between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir problem

will not be effective until Indian soldiers stop 'persecuting Kashmiris.'

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-06.jpg>

A concerted effort is required to prevent Kashmir from disintegrating: MQM leader

UrduPoint, 7 September 2022

Muhammad Tahir Khokhar, a former parliamentary leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) 'Azad Kashmir' and a former minister of tourism and transportation, has stated that all political parties and human rights groups, including those supporting the Kashmir 'Azadi movement' must unite to prevent the 'division' of Kashmir. He claimed that self-centered individuals have their sights set on Kashmir, hence it is imperative that everyone needs to come out from their parochial goals and joins 'forces' in the fight to preserve Kashmiri ethnicity. He alleged that the common people and the youth of Kashmir are currently in 'despair' and they believe that their future is being pushed toward darkness. Therefore, everyone must work together to fight for Kashmir's rights to inspire hope in them. He claimed that no foreign politician, vassal, or feudal politician could change the status of Kashmir. Kashmir belonged to the Kashmiri people. He also claimed that even MQM will not permit any changes that will alter the status of Kashmir or its cause. He declared that the 'Azad Kashmir' Liberation Movement will

continue to raise the Kashmir issue and the bloody frontiers of the state of Jammu and Kashmir would be destroyed and that 'occupied Kashmir' would soon gain its 'freedom.'

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/mirpur/kashmir/live-news-3270868.html>

Pakistan is always ready for meaningful talks with India: FO spokesperson

Jasarat, 8 September 2022

The spokesperson for the Foreign Office (FO) of Pakistan, Asim Iftikhar Ahmed stated that Pakistan always believes in and is prepared for conversations with anyone including India. He claimed that although Pakistan is always open to serious discussions with India and wants to discuss all outstanding issues, including the Kashmir conflict, however, the tense situation has been made 'worse' by India's unilateral actions in 'occupied Kashmir.' He said that India should 'repeal' the laws and foster a friendly environment for discussion and added that Pakistan never backs out of negotiations. The spokesman said that the last week the security forces in 'Indian-occupied Kashmir' killed seven innocent Kashmiris while also slaughtering Pakistani inmates in 'extrajudicial encounters.' In this instance, he has demanded India to provide Pakistan access to Tabarak Hussain, a Pakistani prisoner who was 'executed extra-judicially.'

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/09/08/foreign-office-spokesman/>

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Disclaimer

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